

LETCHMORE

INFANTS' AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Newsletter



Week Commencing 08 September 2025

This week from the Headteachers-

We are so pleased to be welcoming our wonderful Letchmore students new and old to the start of another academic year. It has been lovely to be able to meet so many of the new children along with their families throughout this week and we look forward to sharing with you all the adventures they have during their time at Letchmore.

Along with many new families and children we have been delighted to welcome two new members to Team Letchmore. We are sure you will join us in welcoming Miss Gleeson and Mrs. Goodship, who have settled quickly into their new roles and it feels like they have always been here.

We are always conscious that six weeks is a long time for school to be closed and so much can happen in that time for our community. Please let us know if there is anything that has changed for you as a family or your child in order that we can continue to support everyone in the new academic year. Changes might be a new medical need, allergies developing or a change in family circumstances. We have an exceptional Pastoral Team at school who support many families and children across the school to manage a wide range of changes or concerns. We also run a school Foodbank so if you are able to contribute or need support please speak to one of the team on the gates.



**Mrs Jo Harding & Mrs Eleanor Williams
Co-Headteachers**



Attendance

This weeks overall attendance is:
98.49%

**The winner of this week's attendance
award is all of Year 1
with 100%**

Please be aware that we have taken into account
illness and exceptional circumstances.

Thought of the Week



*If you have good thoughts they will
shine out of your face like sunbeams
and you will always look lovely."*



- Roald Dahl



This month's value:

Love and Care

What does it mean to 'love'?

LATEST NEWS



For all the news on this weeks events in school follow the link below to our 'Latest News' page-
[Letchmore Infants' and Nursery School - Latest News](#)

DIARY DATES



To view the latest calendar please follow the link below-

[Letchmore Infants' and Nursery School - Calendar](#)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Mental Health Day - Friday 10th October

To mark World Mental Health Day, we will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 10th October. Children are invited to wear something yellow to help raise awareness.

Throughout the day, children will be taking part in a range of activities to support understanding of mental health and wellbeing.

We are kindly asking for a £1 contribution, which can be made through Arbor Parent portal, with all proceeds going towards resources to support the social, emotional and mental health of our children in school. Thank you for your support.

Attendance and Punctuality

As a school a key focus of ours is on attendance and punctuality. All absences must be reported to the school office by emailing admin@letchmore.herts.sch.uk or calling 01438 234400 by **8.30am**. If we do not hear from parents/guardians with a reason for a child's absence someone from our office team will contact you. We ask everyone to aim for a good attendance of 95%+. If you have any concerns over your child's attendance, please email the school where we can offer you any support as needed.

The school day begins at 8.30am. Once the gates are closed any late children will need to be brought into school via the office. Please be aware that lateness impacts both your child's overall attendance and can be unsettling to them and the class. Please strive to be on time.

Site Safety

Please can we remind everyone that the use of mobile phones, bikes, scooters, smoking and vaping devices is not permitted anywhere on school grounds. Thank you!

Parent courses

Please check the website regularly for information about useful parental courses being provided locally to support a range of topics including SEND, behaviour and more.

Collection

Please be reminded that anyone collecting children must be over the age of 16. If someone other than the legal guardian or those listed on your authorised collection list, is going to collect your child you **MUST** email admin@letchmore.herts.sch.uk to notify the school of this. We will never release a child without the consent of a legal guardian. Please do not email the class email addresses as these are not monitored throughout the day.

School Lunches

Please make sure you pre order your child's lunches on Schoolgrid. If you have not registered please contact the school office on 0438 234400 or admin@letchmore.herts.sch.uk and we can send you a link to create an account. If you do not pre order your child's lunch then they will be offered the cold lunch option that day. This is to prevent food wastage.

If your child has any food allergies this **MUST** be recorded with Herts Catering. If it has not been recorded then it is the parent/carers responsibility to order an appropriate meal. The school cannot be held responsible for the choices made. To make an application please use the link- <https://specialmenu.hcl.co.uk/>

Please can we remind all parents that we are a **NUT FREE** school. Please can you ensure all packed lunches are free from any nuts or products containing nuts i.e hazelnut chocolate spreads.

Sickness and Diarrhoea

Just a reminder that students with sickness and diarrhoea **MUST** remain off school for 48 hours from the last episode of sickness and/or diarrhoea. There are no exceptions to this as our main priority is to protect our school community.

Easyfundraising

Welcome back to a new school year of using Easyfundraising we are pleased to say that last year it has brought in additional **£363.22** for school funds. Easyfundraising is so easy to use. All you need to do is download the donation reminder to either your PC, laptop or phone and every time you shop somewhere that supports the cause you will get a reminder pop up asking would you like to receive a donation to your chosen charity. This costs you **nothing** and there are over 8,000 brands who take part and donate when you spend! These donations really mount up and make a **BIG** difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely **FREE** and only takes a moment. You can find our easyfundraising page at-

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/letchmore-infants-and-nursery-school/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=gs-email1

Birthday Sweets

Following direct guidance from the local authority, we have decided it is right to end the tradition of children bringing sweets or treats into school to give out to classmates to celebrate their birthdays.

We have an increasing number of children in school with severe allergies or other dietary needs and it is an unnecessary burden on staff to be checking for allergens every time treats come in from home. In contrast, when we are making and tasting food at school as part of the curriculum, we are able to carefully ensure that all allergies and other dietary or cultural needs are catered for appropriately when purchasing food and risk assessments are written and shared before any event to ensure all members of staff are aware of any specific needs and to limit risks.

We appreciate that some will be disappointed by this decision and others will be very pleased. We can assure you that if your child wants their birthday to be celebrated at school, we will still do this through class-based traditions and the celebration section of the weekly newsletter.



Dates for your Diary Autumn Term



We have lots of exciting events planned over the coming term. Please find a list of dates for your diary. Full information will be sent out about each event nearer the time. If you have any queries please do speak to your child's class teacher.

Tuesday 16th September
Thursday 18th September
Tuesday 23rd September
Wednesday 1st October
Thursday 2nd October
Monday 6th October
Tuesday 7th & Thursday
9th October
Thursday 9th October
Friday 10th October
Tuesday 14th October

Tuesday 21st October

Year 1 welcome meeting (8.45-9.45am)
Year 2 welcome meeting (8.45-9.45am)
Reception welcome meeting (8.45-9.45am)
Nursery welcome meetings (9am & 12.45pm)
Census special lunch menu
Harvest Festival themed lunch menu
Parent consultations 3.30-6.30pm

Flu immunisations
Mental Health Day- Wear something yellow
Nurture afternoon tea 2.00-2.20 & 2.30-2.50
(invite only)
School photographs



Monday 27th October-Friday 31st October 2025 HALF TERM

Tuesday 4th November
Monday 10th November
Monday 17th November
Wednesday 19th November
Tuesday 25th November
**Friday 28th November &
Monday 1st December**
Wednesday 10th December
Wednesday 17th December
Thursday 18th December
Friday 19th December

Bonfire themed lunch menu
Remembrance walk
Flu immunisation catch up
Letchmore Open Evening for new families 4-6pm
Nurture visit to café
INSET DAYS (School closed for staff training)

Panto (in school)
Christmas jumper day and Christmas dinners
Class Christmas parties and Santa visit
End of term (time tbc)

Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January 2026 Christmas holidays

Monday 5th January 2025

Inset day (School closed for staff training)

Tackling Attendance

Be a Letchmore Attendance H.E.R.O.!



H- Here
E- Everyday
R- Ready
O- On Time!



The effects of late arrival to class

- Our school day begins at 8.30am
- Classroom doors and the playground gate will be closed promptly at 8.40am so that the teacher on door duty can return to their class.

Why is punctuality so important?

Attendance statistics-

- **100% - 96% = Excellent attendance**
- **95% - 90% = Cause for Concern**
- **89% and below = This will have a drastic effect on academic achievement**

Arriving 5 minutes late each day:

- 5 days a week = 25 minutes lost learning time a week
- 39 weeks a year = 16 hours and 15 minutes lost learning time a year
- 3 years (Reception-Year 2) in our school = 48 hours 45 minutes learning time lost OR 1½ school weeks

Why is punctuality a GOOD thing?

Being on time:

- Gets your child's day off to a good start so he/she can settle straight into school day
- Sets positive patterns for the future
- Leads to good attendance
- Leads to better achievement
- Leads to understanding that school is important and education is valuable

Why is LATENESS such a BAD thing?

Being late:

- Gets your child's day off to a bad start
- Can be really embarrassing for your child to walk into class late
- Will be noticed by other children who might make negative comments
- May lead to your child feeling confused all day! He/She will have missed out on vital instructions, information and bits of news at the start of the day.
- Disrupts the lesson for everyone
- Creates a bad habit that is hard to break
- Can lead to poor attendance- If your child thinks that it is okay to be late for school they can soon think it's okay not to go to school at all

What should you do if you have a problem getting your child to school on time?

- Talk to your child
- Talk to the school
- Ask for help- remember it's better to get help early on to stop little problems from becoming big ones!

PTA News



Welcome (back)!

Welcome to the new school year, and a special welcome to new members of the school community!

The PTA helps support the school in enriching the children's experience throughout the year. We run many fundraising events, including discos, present rooms and the summer fete, and also manage preloved uniform to help keep your little one's wardrobe fitting without breaking the bank or the environment. A big thank you to those who supported us last year, and especially to the volunteers that lend their time to helping at events or organising through the committee.

We're looking forward to an exciting year ahead, and need some help to make it happen. The PTA will be at each year group's welcome meeting, so please come and say hi. We'd love to chat about our plans for this year, and hear any suggestions you may have. We will also have our preloved uniform with us to top up the needs you find.

The PTA needs your help!

With the new school year, the PTA have had to say a fond farewell to several long time committee members that contributed so much to the school and PTA over many years and children. They will be dearly missed and we find ourselves in need of volunteers who can help carry the amazing standard that has been set.

To help us continue to run enriching events like discos, present rooms, the summer fete, animal days and more, and to help us raise much-needed funding for the school, we need your help.

There are lots of ways you can get involved:

- Joining our "[Friends of the PTA](#)" WhatsApp group to help on an ad-hoc basis, for example offering your time at events (or the QR code)
- Joining our committee, to help organise fundraising events. This is a great way to get stuck in and shape the direction of PTA activities this year!
- Contributing your special skills behind the scenes. If you're creative, good with numbers, enjoy talking to people, a craft-whizz or shopping ace, or have another skillset to offer we'd love to hear from you!
- Or even just sharing some words of appreciation if you've enjoyed the hard work from the volunteers.



Please reach out to pta@letchmore.herts.sch.uk, say hi during the welcome meeting, or via the Friends-of WhatsApp, if you can lend a hand or if you have any other questions.

We wish you all a wonderful school year!

The PTA Committee

Friends of Letchmore PTA
WhatsApp group



CELEBRATION *Corner*



Star of the Week



Hummingbird

Will commence shortly

Sparrow

Will commence shortly

Woodpeckers

Will commence shortly

Starling

Will commence shortly

Wren

Will commence shortly

Kingfisher

Will commence shortly

Goldfinch

All of Goldfinch for such a terrific start to Year 1. I am so proud of you all!

Chaffinch

All of Chaffinch for settling in so quickly to Year 1!

Greenfinch

All of Greenfinch class for such a brilliant start to Year 1. You are all stars!

Snowy Owl

Tate for his great listening skills this week.

Tawny Owl

Olivia for her amazing detailed map in Geography this week.

Barn Owl

The whole of Barn Owl for settling into Year 2 so well. I am so proud of your enthusiasm and effort!



Good Learning (Growth Mindset)



Goldfinch

John has been working super hard this week and is always happy to come and work on his learning with a grown up.

Chaffinch

Hallie for some excellent independent sentences this week!

Greenfinch

Isobel for excellent participation in all our learning and beautiful writing in phonics.

Snowy Owl

Ocean for her lovely independently writing in her own learning time.

Tawny Owl

Rory and Louis for always trying their best in all of their work.

Barn Owl

Noah for using his imagination and some great vocabulary in his writing this week.



Values Champion



| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Hummingbird Will commence shortly | Sparrow Will commence shortly | Woodpeckers Will commence shortly |
| Starling Will commence shortly | Wren Will commence shortly | Kingfisher Will commence shortly |
| Goldfinch Love & Care - Grayson Grayson has played kindly with all his friends. Keep it up Grayson! | Chaffinch Eli for 'showing respect' by listening well and sitting so beautifully on the carpet! | Greenfinch Ayaanah -Love and care For always being kind and helpful. |
| Snowy Owl To all of Snowy Owl class for showing love and care to each other as we settle into Year 2. | Tawny Owl Izzy for always helping to keep the class tidy without being asked. | Barn Owl Finley for showing great care in his work by independently choosing to add more detail. |



Sports Achievement



| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Starling Will commence shortly | Wren Will commence shortly | Kingfisher Will commence shortly |
| Goldfinch Vihaana did a great job in PE yesterday with her balancing. Well done. | Chaffinch Nia for great listening to instructions in P.E this week! | Greenfinch Ebenezer for excellent balance and movement in PE. Well done! |
| Snowy Owl Atipashe for his great work in our movement breaks this week. | Tawny Owl No PE Last Week | Barn Owl No PE last Friday |



Birthdays

Sporting Shout Outs & Other Achievements

Nursery-

Alfie 23rd July
Chelsea 24th July
Hudson 30th July
Abdullah 30th July
Albie 22nd August
Noah 29th August
Albert 31st August
Imogen 3rd
September
Lennon 5th
September
Haris 8th September

Reception-

Filip 18th July
Dougie 18th July
Eshana 22nd July
Avin 23rd July
Ayden 23rd July
Grace 29th July
Cairo 30th July
Elsie 31st July
Laurence 5th August
Eden 6th August
Vivaan 15th August
Serhad 15th August
Riley 16th August
Raphael-Christian
30th August
Cuba 3rd September

Year 1-

John 15th July
Alyssa 28th July
Ronnie 31st July
Oliver 31st July
Yusuf 4th August
Leon 5th August
Ivy 5th August
Albert 7th August
Helena 10th August
Vihaana 13th August
Audrey 15th August
Vienna 20th August
Isobel 20th August
Erin 23rd August
Paul 24th August

Year 2-

Toby 29th July
Teddie 29th July
Laura 29th July
Bella 30th July
Jassa 31st July
Dollie 31st July
Sidney 8th August
Muntadar 9th August
Orla 13th August
Oliver 23rd August
Adriel 25th August
Alba 29th August
Sophia 1st September
Ocean 2nd September
Gracie 3rd September
Peyton 4th September

If you have any achievements you would like us to share please email admin@letchmore.herts.sch.uk

Apply for school on time

Applying for a school place for September 2026

Secondary/Upper/Studio/University Technical
College Application deadline: Friday 31 October 2025

Primary (Reception)/Junior/Middle
Application deadline: Thursday 15 January 2026

Apply online at
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

