



1<sup>st</sup> September 2023

Dear Families,

Welcome back to a new school academic year-I hope that you have had an enjoyable summer break and are feeling ready and excited for what this term will bring. Starting with this summer holiday, we have had a few premises works to include: a very newly refurbished Year 1 outside area which includes a newly reinstated fence, some newly laid turf in our Early Years outside provision, general maintenance throughout the school and a deep clean.

As you will have noted from the last communication at the end of last term from our Chair of Governors, we are currently working within a financially challenging period of time, where significant savings have had to be made. This has resulted in a reduction in the number of support staff that we have working as general teaching assistants, with more deployed to work with our younger children and children with an Education and Health Care Plan. We have also deployed our Deputy Headteachers to be working in the classroom for a greater percentage of the week. With a new academic year about to start, I am now in a position of being able to inform you of our complete staffing structure so please find below our staff teams for this academic year to include support staff, midday supervisors, the site and office team and our Breakfast and After School Club staff.

**Lonesome Staffing Structure  
2023 – 2024**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Support Staff</b>
Einstein	Mrs Murray	Miss Yeats Mrs Powell Mrs Cook Miss Mak Mrs Akande
Livingstone	Miss Sarmiento	Miss Minns Mrs Thomas



		Mrs Bashir Mrs Rahman Mrs Akande
Ennis	Miss Bull (EYFS/Year 1 Phase Leader)	Mrs Paget Mrs Sammut
Donaldson	Mrs Smith	Miss Thurston
Palin	Miss Quinn	Miss Lindsey Mrs Thompson
Wonder	Mrs Evans Miss Holliday (Deputy Head)	Mrs Olley
Lincoln	Miss Ward	Mrs Ward
Milne	Miss Thomas (Assistant Head – Year 3 and Year 4 phase leader)	Mrs Callaghan Mrs Wise
Mandela	Miss Mallcott	
Pankhurst	Mr Boylan	
Wilberforce	Miss Daft	Miss Bolton
Roots	Mrs Compton	Mrs Bateman Mrs Gould
Buble	Mr Stone	
Da Vinci	Miss Oliver-Tate (Year 5 and Year 6 phase leader)	Mrs Dobson

Midday Supervisors – Mrs Okande and Ms Chevannes

Breakfast Club Team – Mrs Paget

After School Club Team – Miss Newman, Miss Minns, Mrs Lee and Miss Bolton

Site Manager – Mr Davey

Office Team – Mrs Davey, Miss Searle, Mrs Begg and Mrs Mohan

Kitchen Team – Mrs Williams, Ms Gallimore, Ms Jones and Miss Walsh

Inclusion Leader – Ms Revell

Inclusion Admin Support – Mrs Newman

### Points of contact and how to best communicate with us

If you have any concerns about your child's welfare or ability to learn successfully, please do make an appointment with your child's classteacher. If you feel that after this initial contact that you would like a leader to be involved in a meeting about your child, then the leader to make contact with, based on their phase responsibility will be:

Year group	Day
Early Years/Year 1	Thursday Miss Bull
Year 2	Thursday Miss Holliday



Year 3 and Year 4	Tuesday Miss Thomas
Year 5 and Year 6	Tuesday Miss Oliver-Tait

If you would like to discuss concerns that may link to a specific learning/emotional need then please make contact with Ms Revell.

Miss Holliday will be working at Lonesome on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Miss Holliday will be available on those days, should you have a more serious concern that needs her attention. Our Head of School Ms Revell will be available to discuss any further concerns relating to your child's education or any concerns that you may have about your child's behaviour and please do contact myself, if you have any further concerns related to school matters.

May we remind you all that all staff welcome respectful engagement so that any discussion about your child or school matter is solution focussed and professional.

### **The revised timings of the school day**

I am sure that you will be pleased to have been made aware that an 8.30 am start to the school day for everyone will mean that you will be able to bring your child/ren to school more conveniently and that you will be able to walk your child round to the back door of your child's classroom to drop them off every morning. School will finish for all at 3.15 pm on a Monday to Thursday and at 2.30 pm on a Friday. You will be able to collect your child/ren from the classroom door, once school has finished.

### **Enjoy a free school lunch**

Please may I remind you that any child in Reception – Year 6 will be entitled to a free hot lunch on a daily basis. We will also continue to fund a hot school lunch for our fulltime Nursery children too.

You do not need to do anything to ensure that your child has their free school meal. Each morning, your child's classteacher will ask them if they are having a school dinner or a packed lunch on that day and the kitchen will then prepare and cook enough meals for all of the children to enjoy. You may choose for your child to have a hot meal every day of the week or on given days, there is no expectation or limit on how many days your child can enjoy a school lunch.

We have revised our lunch menu to reflect some of the children's favourites, as well as offering greater vegetarian choices. Please do share our menu, which may be found on our website with your child to encourage them to have one.

### **Uniform**

We believe that wearing a smart and practical uniform allows all children to feel equal to their peers and confident in their appearance. We also believe it is important for children to



wear clothing that is conducive to a successful learning environment, including activity-appropriate clothing, such as sports attire.

We expect our children to be wearing the following in terms of uniform:

School colour fleece or jumper with or without the school logo

Grey/black skirt, pinafore, shorts or trousers

School colour checked summer dress

White polo shirt with or without the school logo

Black shoes or trainers.

Children are also expected to bring in:

School colour book bag or rucksack with the school logo

Water bottle.

Children are expected to come into school with their PE kits on, the day that they have PE.

Please see below:

<b>Day of Week</b>	<b>Classes</b>
Monday	Livingstone Ennis Palin Buble
Tuesday	Einstein (am/pm) Donaldson Pankhurst
Wednesday	Wonder Milne Mandela
Thursday	Lincoln Roots Wilberforce Da Vinci

A PE kit will include:

School colour PE t-shirt with logo on

Grey, blue or black shorts or tracksuit bottoms

Black trainers or plimsolls.

We will have second hand uniform sales the last Friday of every month, starting Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 2.30pm.

### **Relationships and Behaviour Policy review-detentions**

This term welcomes the review of our Relationships and Behaviour Policy to support our belief that developing strong relationships enable us to work together with the common purpose of helping everyone learn. In order to achieve this, we apply restorative approaches to low level arising incidents such as, friendship breakups, disputes over games, running in school etc. which encourages everyone to take responsibility for their behaviours.



By promoting positive behaviour throughout the school the majority of our children will develop self-discipline and learn to co-operate with others at all times. It is, however, acknowledged that sometimes children may exhibit inappropriate behaviours from time to time and that some form of sanction may be necessary, e.g. a text home, detention etc. A text message sent from school will alert you to the fact that we are concerned about your child's behaviour and this in turn could lead to a face to face discussion about some additional support mechanisms that we may apply. A detention will only be given to any child in Years 3-6 who displays any physical behaviour or a behaviour that is emotionally or verbally harmful to others. We will inform you on a Thursday each week, if your child is to have a detention, as this will take place on a Friday from 2.30 pm-3.00 pm with a Senior Leader. If a child in Year 1 or 2 displays similar behaviours, then they will have some reflection time with a Senior Leader instead of a playtime with their friends in order to regulate and reflect on the behaviours seen.

### **Celebrating achievement**

All children will have the opportunity of earning themselves an 'ask me what I have achieved today' sticker during the school day. Children may be sent to visit the Head of School or myself to share their learning successes. They will then receive an Achievement Certificate to take home at the beginning of the following week.

'Wow' cards will still be sent home fortnightly as recognition of some wonderful learning, fabulous attitude to a challenge, impeccable manners, friendly and supportive attributes etc.

Attendance certificates for classes who achieve the weekly target of 94% will be delivered to each class on a Monday ready for staff to display prominently in their classrooms.

### **Covering a class when there is staff absence**

As we work hard to reduce a substantial deficit in our budget, our focus continues to prioritise learning and teaching that inspires and challenges our children to achieve their very best. With our most Senior Leaders spending a greater percentage of their week in the classroom and our cover staff now class based, we do not have as much capacity to be able to cover staff, as we have had previously. This has meant that we have had to devise a cover plan to ensure that children have a teacher in the classroom, in the event that their classteacher is absent. On the first day of absence we will be linking children if they are in Years 1-6, which will involve 2 or 3 children joining another class/year group with pre-prepared learning tasks to complete in the presence of the classteacher of the class that they are joining. The children will know which class is their 'link' class and will go to this class anytime that their classteacher is absent for the period of one day. If a teacher in our Early Years is absent, we will cover the class with a leader that isn't scheduled to be in class that day, a Higher Level Teaching Assistant, the Inclusion Leader or the Head of School. This is manageable, as long as we do not have many staff absent all at once. If a member of staff is due to be absent for a longer period of time, then we will have no option but to book a supply teacher. This would be the last resort.



## Eco Schools Green Flag Award

Please see below the feedback that we have had regarding our Green Flag Award application:

Your Eco-Committee was elected democratically, whilst ensuring an even spread across classes and year groups, which is a fair and inclusive approach – well done to selected members on their appointment! The involvement and attendance of your Deputy Headteacher at meetings is very encouraging. It sends a clear message to your Eco-Committee that its work is vital and valued and this is very empowering for young people. It's wonderful to read that carrying out the Environmental Review inspired ideas for future eco-activity and was able to illustrate how small actions (and people!) can have a big, positive impact. What really stood out is how you proactively sought input from diverse school stakeholders, which demonstrates an inclusive and collaborative approach and will help to build a broader and more comprehensive picture of your school's sustainability. Terrific work! Your broad range of Action Plan projects, from family gardening days to visits and talks from outside organisations, shows that your Eco-Committee has thought carefully about how it can involve and engage the whole school and wider community. Rolling up your sleeves and tackling areas where there is greatest potential for impact or improvement shows you have an ambitious, confident and dedicated Eco-Committee. Well done! Your Reception and Year 6 topics are brilliant examples of building on the projects that you have worked on in your action plan. This is a great way to add context to your Eco-Schools work and means that young people at your school are given the opportunity to learn about important environmental issues and then the chance to work on these issues – a great dual approach. Your Eco-Committee members have done an excellent job of keeping the school community updated on their projects through assemblies, newsletters, posters and drop-ins, which shows that they are working hard to involve and educate all around them. Involvement and collaboration with a whole multitude of organisations and initiatives, such as CSC and Veolia, demonstrates an outward-looking approach and your parent quotes are further testament to how successfully you have engaged and brought greater awareness to parents and your local community. Your achievements this year have been fantastic. What really shines through in your application is the passion and engagement of your pupils and we have no doubt that the way you are guiding them along their path to becoming environmentally-aware and socially-engaged young eco-citizens must be an immense source of pride for you all at Lonesome. Congratulations on earning an Eco-Schools Green Flag!

A very big thank you to Miss Holliday and our fabulous Eco Warriors.

### Extra-curricular opportunities

Our slightly more extensive programme of extra-curricular activities will resume for the children, with staff and outside providers taking the lead in a variety of creative, physical, social and academic activities this coming term. These will start the week beginning the **18<sup>th</sup> September 2023**. Information detailing what is on offer will be sent home on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023**. Please do make sure that you check your parentmail for this information in order to register your child/ren.



Details of the autumn term events will be with you in separate fortnightly BeDifferent Bulletins and as you know, we do like to be busy.

Looking forward to a successful term ahead,

Mrs Bull

