



# Lockington CE VC Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Julie Cattle

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Tuesday 3rd September, 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Welcome!

I hope you had a restful summer break. It has been a pleasure to welcome all of our pupils and families back to school this morning, including our new starters. The children all look smart in their school uniforms and have returned from their holidays ready and eager to learn – thank you for all that goes into achieving this. Curriculum letters from your child’s class teacher, including information about the learning planned for them this term, will follow later this week.

## Christian Values

This term, we will focus on ‘compassion’ and ‘generosity’. I have attached the ‘Home School Values: Compassion and Generosity’ with this letter. These are for you to share with your child and work through together at home if you choose to do so.

## Attendance

Our school attendance compares very favourably to schools nationally (97.1% compared to 93% nationally) and we are proud of this achievement. New attendance regulations have been introduced by the Department for Education, in ‘Working together to improve school attendance’ (DfE, 2024), which aims to ensure all pupils can fully benefit from their education by reducing absenteeism.

This update requires schools to monitor attendance more closely and report absences to local authorities more frequently. Stricter penalties for unauthorised absence have been put in place and parents may face higher fines or legal action if their child has significant unauthorised absences: the threshold is “10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks” (DfE, 2024) including when pupils arrive late after the register has closed. Half a day is a ‘session’.

Parent information can be found via the following link:

<https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2024/07/aaa-guide-for-parents-on-school-attendance-19th-Aug-version.pdf>

Here are some ways you can help:

- Ensure your child arrives on time every day (by 8.55 am).
- Schedule appointments outside of school hours where possible.



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2023 - 2024

- Communicate promptly with the school regarding any absence and provide necessary documentation/medical evidence.
- Work with us to address any issues affecting your child's attendance.
- Aim for 100% attendance.

For consideration to be given, requests for absences must be for exceptional circumstances only and must be received before the child is absent. 'Exceptional Circumstance' forms are available from the office. There is no provision for headteachers to authorise absence for a family holiday but provision is made to issue fines. Exceptional circumstances include:

1. Service personnel returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with the school holidays.
2. Where an absence from school is recommended by a health professional as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue.
3. The death or terminal illness of a person close to the family.
4. To attend the wedding or funeral of a person close to the family.
5. Where there are exceptional and unforeseen circumstances that fall outside the above, the Headteacher consults with the principal education welfare officer prior to any authorisation being given to the parent. The principal education welfare officer will make a recommendation to the school.

I hope you find this information helpful and informative and thank you for your cooperation and continued support in providing the best education for your child.

### **Statutory Assessment Dates**

The 2025 Year 6 SATs week will take place from Monday, May 12 to Thursday, May 15. The test schedule is as follows:

- Monday, May 12: English grammar, punctuation, and spelling papers 1 and 2
- Tuesday, May 13: English reading
- Wednesday, May 14: Mathematics papers 1 and 2
- Thursday, May 15: Mathematics paper 3

The Year 1 Phonics screening check takes place during the week beginning Monday 9th June 2025 for all pupils in Year 1. The Year 4 multiplication tables check will take place from Monday 2 June in a three-week window from that date.

Good attendance throughout the year and a close partnership with parents/carers will help to ensure pupils are able to achieve their best results. We are unable to authorise absence during Key Stage 2 SATs week. The weeks leading up to SATS and immediately following are also crucial weeks for the Year 6 writing assessments, where pupils produce a collection of teacher-assessed and moderated written work. Please avoid booking holidays at this time or during the important weeks leading up to these tests/assessments.

## For Action

This week you should receive a school data collection booklet including:

- 'Data Collection' sheets,
- 'Blanket Permission' slips and
- A copy of the 'Home/School Agreement' to read and sign.

It is important that we have the correct information. Please return these to the school office, once completed, by Monday next week. Please provide at least **two** contacts who we can reach you in case of emergency – this will help to safeguard your child. We will contact you again to request a second contact if this is not initially provided.

Pupils who are eligible for **free school meals** should apply through the East Riding Website. If you believe you qualify please do complete the forms, even if your child is in Class 1 and receiving free meals due to their age, as this will also ensure the school also receives 'Pupil Premium' funding which can benefit your child and the school.

Please also check that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with either permanent marker or permanent name labels. This saves hours of teacher time in reuniting lost clothing with its owner.

## Clubs

School clubs begin during the week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> September and continue for the remainder of the term. A 'clubs letter' for this term will be sent to you soon.

## Diary Dates

Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Gardening Afternoon (please provide your child with a change of clothing suitable for gardening in)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	3.45pm Friends of Lockington School (FOLS) meeting in school
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	6pm, FOLS' Wizard of Oz' at Lund Village Hall – please see attachment
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	FOLS Annual General Meeting in school
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	9.45am, Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church, Lockington (parents/carers welcome)
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent/Carer Consultation Evening
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes for half term
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	4pm – 6pm Open Evening for New Starters 2025 (please spread the word)
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week: Odd Socks Day
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Children in Need Day (details to follow)
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	FOLS Christmas Fair

Friday 6th December            Christmas Production Dress Rehearsal (details to follow)

Tuesday 10th December        2pm School Christmas Production (parents/carers welcome)

Thursday 12th December       6pm School Christmas Production (parents/carers welcome)

Wednesday 18th December    2pm Christingle Service at St Mary's Church, Lockington  
(parents/carers welcome)

Thursday 19th December       Achievements from Home Collective Worship (pupils invited to share  
this terms achievements, certificates etc. from home)

Friday 20th December           2pm Achievements Collective Worship (parents/carers welcome)

School closes for Christmas

I hope this information is helpful and will share more dates with you as they are added to the diary.

We are looking forward to a great autumn term. Thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Cattle". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Julie Cattle

Headteacher