

Lydgate Junior School

NEWSLETTER

December 2016



Dear Parents / Carers,

Diary Dates

Thursday 15 th December, 1.30 p.m.	Whole school trip – “The Snowman” at the City Hall
Friday 16 th December, 3.15 p.m.	School closes for Christmas holiday
Tuesday 3 rd & Wednesday 4 th January 2017	INSET days, school closed for pupils
Thursday 5 th January 2017	School re-opens for the Spring term
Thursday 12 th January 2017, 7 p.m.	FOLA meeting, Sportsman pub, Crosspool, all welcome
Wednesday 18 th January 2017	MAST liaison worker in school, appointments available

Parent survey

We received 183 replies to the questionnaire we sent out last month – this amounts to 38% of our families. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill it in. We are in the process of putting together all the responses and we will report back to you in the January newsletter.

Raising concerns appropriately

Following an incident on-site, I need to remind parents and carers about an expectation over their conduct. Any parent/carer who wishes to address a problem over the behaviour of another child towards their own child/children should always do so through school staff. Issues should be raised with relevant class teachers first. Year Leaders, the Deputy Headteacher, and myself can be involved if that first stage is not successful.

Parents/carers should not take up the matter directly with the other child. This, at best, looks intimidating, and could easily lead to serious concerns over safeguarding.

Music News

Thank you to all the children who took part in the Christmas Service at Ranmoor last night – what a wonderful occasion! These things do not happen without a great deal of practice so many thanks to parents and carers and also to all the staff who dedicated a great deal of time and energy to help make it so successful.

Accountability and Governance

This month, Governors have reviewed progress on school development priorities. We maintain our focus on children’s skills development in spelling and handwriting, and on teachers’ development of the ‘mastery in maths’ approach. Governors reaffirmed school’s commitment to a rich, broad, engaging curriculum that gives time and effort to learning in arts alongside learning in key skills within maths, English, science and IT.

School profile – changes to our ‘context’

School data returns show that ‘disadvantage’ within our pupil body continues to fall. There is a lower percentage of pupils recorded as ‘Ever6FSM’ (eligible for free school meals at any time during the last six years) now than two years ago - 9.8% down to 7.9%. Due to funding through Pupil Premium (at £1,320 per pupil recorded as being ‘Ever6FSM’) being directly driven by that number, we have a drop in income of £11,880.

I urge every parent who might be entitled to register for free school meals so that we can protect and maximise our income and provision. Thank you.

MAST advice

The school-MAST link worker will be in school next on Wednesday 18th January between 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Do you have concerns about any of the following in your family: sleep, emotional well-being, stress management, housing problems, finances, family relationships, family breakdown, school attendance? If you would like to see her, please telephone the office to make an appointment.

Bags2school fundraising

Year 6 pupils would like to thank everyone who supported their bags2school collection. Our bags weighed a very impressive 340kg, which raised £136 towards our Edale residential trip.

News from FOLA

- ❖ We are still looking for two people to take up the positions of Treasurer and Secretary – at the moment both roles are being covered by the Chair – please contact the school office if you would like more information.

- ❖ The next FOLA meeting will be held on 12th January at 7 p.m. All parents are very welcome to attend.

Well done to...

Leo Harrison (Y5) who competed in the Rotterdam Open Taekwondo Championships and came in an amazing third place!! Leo is a member of the Nottingham Taekwondo club, and travels there to train 2-3 times a week.

School closes at 3.15 p.m. on Friday 16th December, for the Christmas holidays. I hope that everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Please note that school is **closed** to children on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th January; we look forward to seeing pupils on Thursday 5th January for the start of the Spring Term.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Jones
Headteacher