

# *Lydgate Junior School*

# **NEWSLETTER**

## *December 2020*



Dear Parents / Carers,

The return to school has been very successful. Pupils have settled to lessons, and the rest of school life, immediately. I am sure parents have noticed children's confidence over new arrangements and classes. Our new Year 3 pupils have been really impressive in the way they have quickly adapted to our routines. Clubs, trips and activities have restarted, with school running to near normality. With limited access into school for parents, Parents' Consultations and SEND reviews have taken place via ZOOM. On the whole, these ran very smoothly asking us to question whether this may be the way forward in future too! Children are happy to be back and attendance is very high – even higher than before the first lockdown in March.

### **Diary Dates**

Friday 4 December	Catch up session for flu inoculations
Thursday 10 December	Y6 Carol Singing at Porterbrook Care Home
Wednesday 16 December	Christmas Dinner
Friday 18 December	Last day of Autumn Term
Monday 4 January 2021	First day of Spring Term
Tuesday 5 January	Y6 Crucial Crew
Wednesday 6 January	Y6 Crucial Crew

**Y4 Roman Day** was very different this year, with a Zoom video call to the whole year group. The performance was brilliant - they could not come in so we did a virtual talk with a Roman centurion!

**Y4** have also had the opportunity to take part in karate, with each Y4 class having a session each. It was fantastic fun.

### **We are a Rights Respecting School**

Lydgate Junior is a Rights Respecting School. This means that we are actively working to make sure that children's rights (as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) are taught, learned, practised, respected, protected and promoted.

**There are four general principles that underpin all of the rights. These are:**

1. **Article 2: Non-discrimination** – all children are entitled to all of their rights without discrimination of any kind
2. **Article 3: Best interests** – the best interests of a child or group of children must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children
3. **Article 6: Life, survival and development** – all children have the right to survival and development, and governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential
4. **Article 12: Participation** – all children have the right to express their views in all matters affecting them, and their opinions are given due weight in keeping with their maturity and evolving capacities. This right applies at all times.

We are currently working to achieve the Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award. This will be achieved through making sure that the Rights of the Child are at the heart of our school's planning, policies, practice and ethos.

If you want to find out more or get involved in helping to promote children's rights in our school, please get in touch with the RRS Leaders, Steph Holden and Alix Wall via [enquiries@lydgate-jun.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@lydgate-jun.sheffield.sch.uk)

## **Attendance**

We would like to thank the whole school community for making the return to school run so smoothly. Our Y3 parents use an alternative entrance to school via the Tapton field, reducing the number of people at the top gate entrance and therefore helping with social distancing. The relaxed opening period (rather than staggered starts) allow parents to judge the time when they feel most comfortable arriving to school. New outdoor hand washing facilities have been installed with the children now readily accepting our expectation to wash their hands with soap and running water regularly. Parents are also being really supportive of our minimal onsite visits, telephoning and emailing us rather than entering the premises, keeping contacts as low as possible and reducing risk all round.

We have had very few COVID19 cases within the school community and have stayed open throughout this term, along with 99% of all state schools. Our whole school pupil attendance this term to date is 98% significantly higher than the national average comparison of 87% (Primary Schools). Our children feel safe, lessons are underway and friendships have been re-established.

## **Impact Ed**

This term we have been using a diagnostic assessment platform called ImpactEd to help our school better identify and understand pupils' wellbeing and learning needs. We wanted to understand how the present period during COVID 19 has affected pupils' learning and social and emotional needs, identify concerns with individual pupils and target any intervention and support. We asked the children to take part in two online surveys, one as they returned to school in September and one completed more recently.

We have been able to compare our findings to national benchmarks and offer pastoral support for those with this need. We were also able to check how different school groups compared; boys and girls and pupil premium versus non pupil premium, for instance.

Overall pupil wellbeing is slightly higher than the national average, with girls reporting a higher level of anxiety than boys. Pupil anxiety has remained lower than national average. However, some children have reported a dip in wellbeing in the more recent survey; something for us to keep monitoring. All our school results, in the main, reflect the picture nationally. This is good to hear.

As part of our wellbeing focus in school all pupils are accessing weekly 'Mind Up' sessions in class. These lessons foster social and emotional awareness, enhance psychological wellbeing and promote academic success. The series of lessons are designed to promote an optimistic classroom that promotes mutual attention to oneself and others, tolerance of differences and enables each child to grow and flourish as a learner. This work will continue next term, too.

## **National Tuition Programme (NTP)**

Many of you will no doubt have heard that schools have been allocated money to use on the NTP. This programme aims to support teachers and schools in providing a sustained response to the coronavirus pandemic and to provide a longer-term contribution to closing the attainment gap.

NTP Tuition Partners have initially been funded to provide subsidised high quality tutoring for many pupils some of whom are deemed to be disadvantaged, including those eligible for Pupil Premium funding. However, our school will be able to decide which of their pupils will most benefit from additional support, and which type of support is more suitable.

Tutoring is designed to provide additional support, as a supplement to the high-quality classroom teaching that is the most powerful way to support children.

We are aiming to support some of our pupils early next term. Details of how this will be done and when will be sent to individuals who are to receive the tutoring.

### **Refocus in curriculum on writing**

When school was interrupted in March, staff were focussed on developing teaching & learning in writing – particularly at ‘greater depth’ for boys. We are now returning to this gender gap, looking to enhance boys’ encouragement, interest and progress in writing.

### **School Intercom**

This term we have installed a new intercom on the Shore Lane entrance, the only route into school during the school day between 9.00 a.m. – 3.15 p.m. The process is simplicity itself: come to a gate; buzz to get in; wait patiently for a member of the admin team to answer, check who you are and your reason for attending the school site, and to release the lock, push the gate open and close it behind you.

### **End of the day staffing and security**

Parents and other adults at the top gate at the end of the day will have noticed how many staff come out at the end of the day, every day. We accompany some individual pupils, meet parents, pass and receive information, but most importantly support children at this key hand-over moment. There will always be a member of staff available at the gate in case a child is not collected as expected. By 3:30 p.m., we will bring any children still uncollected back into the main building where a member of the admin team will contact parents.

### **Text messages from school**

A reminder that the school’s text & email messaging service, Teachers2Parents, has an app, which can be downloaded. The advantage of this is that every text message we send to you is accessible in one place. If you use the app, please ensure that ‘allow notifications’ is enabled in your phone’s settings. If you prefer not to use the app, or your phone is not compatible, messages will continue to be received as texts.

### **Before and after school clubs and activities**

As always, the demand for both before and after school clubs and activities has been phenomenal. The indoor space we have free for such activities is limited and this unfortunately dictates both the number of clubs we can offer and the number of places available for participants. Available clubs are notified to parents with an electronic link for parents to express an interest, via email. We are even more limited now due to the current COVID distancing rules too.

### **Home Learning**

If pupils need to isolate briefly due to family members or themselves being in contact with a possible COVID case, we are able to direct families to our [website](#) where the weekly year group topics are available with suggested home learning. If a class is identified as needing to be sent home, emails and Zoom lessons will be set-up. We are aware some families may struggle with their current IT or internet facilities at home and we would always ask parents to inform the office if this is the case. We may be able to help: school has been allocated three laptops from the government national scheme to support remote learning.

### **Parking around school**

We have had complaints from residents regarding parking and dropping off at the beginning and end of the school day. A particular concern is the parking of cars on the pavement, where our children walk. Local Councillors recently toured the area to identify areas of concern. Please think carefully before parking and dropping off children. Thank you.

### **Community Flu Immunisations**

This term some pupils had their nasal flu immunisation in school. If your child missed the immunisation and you would like your child to have one, pupils can attend a drop in session at [one of the listed clinics](#). Please contact IntraHealth on 0333 3583397 (option 7) to book an appointment.

### **Christmas lunch**

On **16<sup>th</sup> December**, we will be serving Christmas lunch at school. The menu will be roast turkey, stuffing, and chipolata sausage, or roast Quorn, stuffing and vegetarian sausage, served with roast potatoes, peas & carrots. Dessert is a Snowball Crispy or fruit salad.

If your child would like to have Christmas lunch but does not normally have school meals, this is not a problem. Please make payment via [Parentpay](#), or send £2.00 in cash to the office (please put your child's name & class on the envelope, and mark it Christmas lunch). There is no need to order a dinner in advance.

### **New Governors**

Following the announcement of our Parent Governor vacancies in October, we are happy to inform you of the appointment of two new Parent Governors, Miss Ruth Tully and Mr Tom Finnemore, whose children are in years 3 & 5. All our Governors are appointed to serve the school community and can be approached by parents contacting the school office.

### **Staff Changes**

We have a phenomenally stable staff, with changes being significantly lower than expected. There are some changes coming next term, however, due to maternity leave. Details of each will be sent out to the relevant pupils' parents where specific classes are affected.

We also have four new Teaching Assistants, Mr Bartholomew, Miss Mahon, Mrs Mulqueen & Mrs Du Fresne, who are supporting our pupils both in the classroom and in with interventions. Our lunchtime staff also have new team members, Mrs Benelmokhtar, Mrs Hallaj & Miss May who joined the team this term.

### **Trainee teachers, placement students, work experience and volunteers**

We feel an obligation to support training and learning at all ages and stages, and so we offer placements in school. We are proud to have received recognition from Sheffield Hallam University for the 'inspirational mentoring' our staff provide for student teachers. We will, again this year, offer a carefully limited number of placements for students from SHU. Placements will be starting in the spring term and will be working in Y4JD, Y4CW & Y6S/W & Y6HN & Y3SH. The class teacher remains responsible and accountable for the class, and the class teacher remains your point of contact.

### **FOLA - Welcome to Lydgate Junior School's lottery!**

This lottery has been set up specifically to raise money and make a difference for our children!

It's a fantastic way to bring Parents, Carers, Teachers and the wider community together, in partnership with our school, and at the same time give something back. We hope to raise funds that can support and enrich the education of our children - we aim to provide extra resources for the children, improve the school environment as well as run extra-curricular activities such as music, art and sport.

The lottery is a fun and effective way to raise money to improve our school. However, we need your help to make the lottery the best it can be, so please support the lottery today - and who knows maybe you'll be the next £25,000 winner!

A ticket costs £1 per week and **all** funds raised go directly to **our** school. Each ticket will also enter you in **TWO** draws:

1. A jackpot prize draw for **£25,000.00**.
2. A local draw with a **guaranteed** prize for one of the supporters of our school. The size of the prize will depend on the number of tickets bought for the school that week (average prize is around £16 per week).

To support this school and buy tickets see the [Lydgate Junior School Lottery](#) website.

Your support is greatly appreciated and we wish you good luck.

## Music News

At this time of year, we would normally be busy rehearsing the choir, windband and handbells for the Christmas Concert. We're all very sad that these events can't go ahead but have been working hard to ensure that music can still happen within our bubbles. All year groups have had a chance to learn to play a range of pieces on the xylophone and plenty of (gentle) singing is still going on. Y6 are currently getting stuck into some Christmas carols and hope to be able to sing them outside the Porter Brook Care Home soon. Special thanks goes to those children who volunteered to learn parts of the carols on their own musical instrument and practice them at home in order to accompany our singing: **Annabel, R Cartwright, Amelia, Reuben, Kate, Laila, Ellie, Vladi, Chloe, Lucy, Immi, Thomas, Will, Sophie, Mannat, Shreya and Maisy.**

## FOLA – Fundraising

Thank you to all our parents who have contributed to FOLA Fundraising activities last year and helped raise funds for school. The contributions have helped FOLA purchase books (£500) and iPads (£5,000) to support the children in school.

## Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who supported our Children in Need fundraising activities. There were Pudsey biscuits, sponsored silences, non-uniform day and Children in Need wrist bands to purchase. We raised the grand total of £804, which has been sent to the charity. We once again promoted our Rights Respecting School ethos.

## A shout out too for:

**Anya D (6HN)** who over the years has raised £1,191.25 for Children in Need, WWF, Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre and Sheffield Hospitals Charity, by taking part in a 24 Hour Fast, No Phone January, 1 Million Step Challenge and a Triathlon. **Well done Anya!**

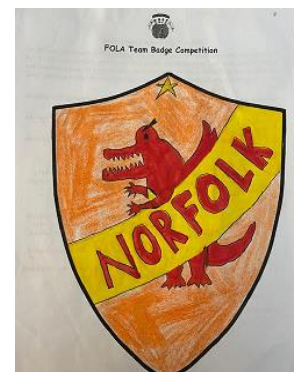
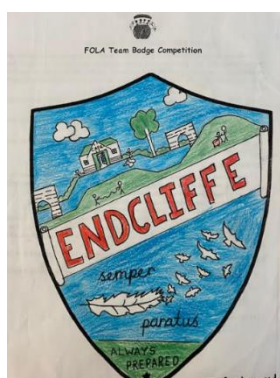
**Eddie H (6HN)** ran 13 miles and raised £300 for children in need. **Well done!**

**Oliver B (4CW)** who passed grade 4 piano with distinction and **Claudia K** who passed grade 1 piano with distinction. **Well done!**

## Congratulations

Earlier in the year, before lockdown, FOLA ran an exciting competition linked to our school teams - Endcliffe, Western, Meersbrook and Norfolk. The aim was to help the children have fun and encourage enthusiasm for their teams AND to raise more money for school resources and projects. To take part the children needed to design a badge or emblem to represent their team and initially FOLA are hoping to use the winning designs (one per team) on team caps that parents will be able to buy for their children to wear in the summer and at sports day etc.

Many children took part and thoroughly enjoyed the design challenge. The independent panel have now chosen the winners for each team - Endcliffe, Divyam B (5RJ), Western, Iona R (4JP), Meersbrook, Sotirius B (5NL) & Norfolk, Jess S (6CP). Well done to our well-deserved winners and everyone who entered!



## Community

St Columba Church have invited parents to take part in a safe trail with their children around Crosspool. [The Crosspool Nativity Trail](#) supports our community shops at this tough time and provides exercise! All completed entries will receive a prize too.

## Coronavirus Absence Guide

Can I just remind parents of the governments '[Quick Guide to Parents](#)' with regard to when to isolate. Keep safe!



**S R Jones**  
**Headteacher**

