

Lydgate Junior School
NEWSLETTER
February 2019



Diary Dates

15 th February	School closed for pupils (INSET day)
18 th – 22 nd February	School closed (half-term holiday)
4 th March	All Y5 visiting the Space Centre, Leicester. Packed lunch required
6 th March, 12:30p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	MAST advice/support session. Appointments are available, please contact the office for information
7 th March	World Book Day
12 th March	Y3EC & Y3W/W visit to Pooles Cavern, packed lunch required
13 th March	Y3D/dB & Y3AR visit to Pooles Cavern, packed lunch required
22 nd March	FOLA film night
26 th & 28 th March	Parents' evenings – appointments will be available to book after the half term holiday

Staff news

We have appointed a new lunchtime supervisor this week: Mr Mockford. He is, incidentally, an ex-pupil of Lydgate Junior School and I know that the children will appreciate his help and support.

Stone Age activity day

Pupils in Year 3 greatly enjoyed their Stone Age activity day, which was part of their History and Geography learning. The second part of the topic is a trip to Poole's Cavern in March. Thank you very much for the contributions we have received for this so far; if any parents who have not yet paid are able to do so, it would be greatly appreciated. As it stands there is a shortfall of £332.50.

“Little Extra” funding

We have been granted an extra £18,000 of funding, for one year only, as part of a budget announcement of £400 million for schools.

We will ensure that it is used for purpose, rather than to plug a funding gap, or address a core function. Our first two spending plans will be a major curriculum IT upgrade and renewal (computers for children to use) and a total library re-fit. We want to make our library the place every child wants to be, where books are irresistible.

Donations received, with many thanks

A very parent kindly donated two bags of very good condition books that their child no longer wanted. The books were immediately swept up by teachers and placed in class reading areas. I want to say thank you, and unashamedly plant a thought.....

Medical appointments during the school day

We do ask that appointments are arranged outside school hours, wherever possible. If your child needs to attend an appointment first thing in the morning we do need to know their school meal order for that day before 9 a.m. please.

Homework: discussion group

Would you like to share your thoughts on our draft Homework Policy? There are 12 places available for parents to join a discussion group, taking place on Thursday 14th February at 9:00 a.m. Reserve a place [here](#).

School opening during adverse weather: a reminder of our policy and procedures

As a general rule, you can assume that Lydgate Junior School will be open, and remain open, even during times of adverse weather. We have been able to do so continually for at least the last ten winters and so expect to do so this winter unless some significant degradation occurs to site, services or staffing.

We will do this in order to provide continuity of education for the children, and so parents can have confidence in being able to continue with their daily plans and work commitments.

We give the safety of our whole school community the greatest priority and accord it serious consideration at such times. We do not open without careful reflection and survey of site conditions, sufficient staffing and proper services.

The vast majority of our school staff live fairly close to school and so can and do get in on time even on days with poor or challenging weather conditions. It may be that some of our staff has difficulty in reaching us on time for the start of the school day: if this happens, it may result in some disruption to the normal timetable. Staff do, however, make every reasonable effort to be here on time (as parents and pupils do). We have never in the last ten years had a class without a member of staff with them at the beginning of the day. Our long experience tells us that we will almost certainly be able to open.

If there is a decision NOT to open, or to open later than normal, we will text parents, post on the school [website](#) and on the council website (opt in to receive alerts [here](#)) and use local radio. The city council website is the one central information point for school closures.

If there is no announcement of closure, parents / carers should assume school is open as normal.

Please do not telephone school to find out if we are open as it ties up a member of staff when we need to be planning and preparing for the day. You do not need to telephone to ask – we either will not have made a decision at that point (hence no announcement) or we have decided to open as normal. Be assured that we will inform you if we do have to close or not open as usual.

Many families have children at more than one school. The other school might make a different decision about opening to us – maybe they will open later. You might decide it is not practical to get to both schools for different start times and so only make one journey. A late arrival here will be understood (even though it will be marked as 'late').

We do understand that some parents, especially those who do not live within easy walking distance, may feel that it is unsafe to try to get children to school. In these situations, please make your own decision with the best interests of your child in mind. Whatever that decision is, we will be supportive. However, all pupil absence will be recorded as such. In line with the Attendance Policy a decision about authorising absence is made by the Headteacher.

Please ring (0114 2669500) or email enquiries@lydgate-jun.sheffield.sch.uk to let us know about absence.

Other than in highly exceptional circumstances school will not close during the course of the school day. There will always be supervision of children until the end of the normal school day. We would never allow children to go home without clear parental consent, which includes going with another parent / carer, unless we have specific agreement.

We would like all children to leave at the normal end of school time, where possible. Please only consider collecting them early if you are unable to ensure your child is collected safely at the normal time.

If you are going to be late, or are unable to make arrangements for someone else to collect, please telephone to let us know and we will obviously provide safe accommodation inside school until you arrive.

We will do our best to enable the children to play in the snow if it is safe. The children are asked not to make slides on snow or ice in the playground, but our intention will be to go outside, if only for a portion of the breaks. We ask, therefore, that you send your child appropriately dressed to play out in the snow (perhaps even provide a change of clothes) and that they have waterproof footwear and a coat.

We may let the children out when there is ice on the playground; we may cordon off areas deemed unfit to use, we will provide necessary additional supervision and we will ask the children to be extra careful.

We hope that the children can enjoy the snow while ensuring that their education is not disrupted.

Mobile phones and smart watches in school

A reminder of our policy on mobile phones in school: if they must, and with your knowledge, pupils may bring phones to school but they must be switched off and put away during school hours. They must either be brought to the office or handed to their teacher at the beginning of the day for safe keeping.

Smart watches with in-built cameras are not allowed in school because of the possibility of photographs being taken in the playground.

Year 6 residential trip to Edale

The remaining balance for this trip is £145, which should be paid by 29th March please. Payments may be made in instalments, via sQuid.

A parents' meeting will be held on 14th March between 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. where we will give further information about the timings, activities etc.

FOLA news

- FOLA have agreed to continue funding replacement play equipment. Your PTA will also be half-funding our Science Week in March, granting £1,000 to school. Governors asked FOLA for their opinions on funding site security work – FOLA will be asking for your thoughts.
- The next FOLA event will be a film night on 22nd March – details to follow.
- Do you know about the FOLA draw? Its purpose is to support the children's education by raising funds for school which are used to provide equipment, resources and opportunities for pupils

The winners for January are:

1st - Melissa Hill

2nd - Angelina Welsh

(joint) 3rd - Roger Lewis

(joint) 3rd - Paul Griffiths

If you would be interested in being part of the draw for the rest of the academic year please email foladraw@gmail.com It's a really a simple way of helping the school.

World Book Day – 7th March

We will be celebrating World Book Day with lots of different activities in school, including pupils invited to dress up as their favourite book character. We will be sending more information home soon.

Parking around school

We have had complaints from residents, particularly on Vernon Terrace, regarding parking and dropping off at the beginning and end of the day. **Please respect our neighbours by parking considerately and not in 'resident only' bays and car parks.** Please also avoid parking over the dropped curbs on Vernon Terrace as they are used by wheelchair users. Thank you.

School Governors

Thank you to Marelize Joubert and David Kyffin for putting themselves forward for the role of School Governor. A full list of Governors can be found on the school website.

Sports news

- Well done to the Y6 athletics team who came 4th in the schools' athletics tournament. Several members of the squad were unfortunately ill on the day, however the rest of the team pulled together to produce an impressive performance. This is the culmination of many hours of before school training sessions and several qualifying stages; the teamwork and cooperation they displayed throughout was very impressive.

- Congratulations to Oscar, Will, Sam, Albert, Charlie, Max, Eddie and Alfie who took part in the South Yorkshire cross country competition. They qualified for this event by being in the top six highest scoring schools in Sheffield in the first four cross country season races (that occur on Saturday mornings at different venues around Sheffield). On this occasion they represented both Lydgate Junior School and Sheffield against other schools around the whole of South Yorkshire. They won bronze medals for obtaining the third best finishing position total as a team. We are very proud of them!

Please see the venues for the remaining cross country races of the season below.

During the winter these may change, sometimes at very short notice. For an up-to-date picture, see the Sheffield Federation for Sports website:

<https://www.sfss.co.uk/index.php/men/featured-shops/cross-country>

New members are very welcome – you do not have to commit to every race.

Please look out for letters the week before each race confirming individual race details. Generally, we ask parents & children to meet at the venue at 9.30 a.m.

If any parents are able to help on the day of the races, it would be much appreciated – please leave a message at the school office for Mrs Wymer. Thank you.

2 nd March	City Championships at Graves Park
9 th March	Y3/4 Relays at Shirebrook Valley
23 rd March	Y5/6 Relays at Limpsfield Junior School

Yours sincerely



Headteacher