

Lydgate Junior School

NEWSLETTER

January 2020



Diary Dates

8th February	Cross Country – Concord Park
13th February	Y4 Performance of the Emerald Crown to Parents (9.15 -10.30 a.m.)
13th February	Y5 Viking Day
14th February	School closed for pupils (INSET day)
17th – 21st February	School closed (half-term holiday)
24th February	Y6 - Mr Frostbite (am)
29th February	Cross Country – Graves Park
6th March	Y5 – Halle Orchestra Concert @ Sheffield City Hall
12th March	Y6 Edale Meeting for Parents (4.30 – 5.30 p.m.)
13th March	FOLA Film Night (3.15 – 5.45 p.m.)
17th March	Y3D/dB & Y3AW visit to Pooles Cavern, packed lunch required
18th March	Y3SH & Y3N/R visit to Pooles Cavern, packed lunch required
21st March	Cross Country – Castle Dyke
24th & 26th March	Parents’ evenings – appointments will be available to book in early March.
27th March	Last day for pupils before the Easter holiday
30 March – 13 April (Inclusive)	Easter holiday

Staff news

Welcome back to Mrs Phillips who returns from maternity leave. She has returned to Y6 to her class Y6CP. We have also appointed three new members of staff this half term. Ms Ibrahim & Ms Gooljar have joined our lunchtime supervisory team. Mr Gartrell has also joined our staff as a Teaching Assistant, supporting teachers in the classroom and individual pupils as required. I know that the children will appreciate their help and support.

Stone Age activity day & Poole’s Cavern

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 £646:- which school will have to cover, or decide to cancel.

The Rainforest

Y4 are well under way with their Rainforest topic. Sarah Hardy, from Performix has been teaching the children some Amazon dances for their performance of 'The Emerald Crown'. Y4 parents are invited to watch this performance at 9.15 – 10.30 a.m. on Thursday 13th February. Next half term the children will also be visiting the Leeds Tropical World, which they are looking forward to. Two classes will visit on 13 March and two on 20 March, further details to follow.

Crucial Crew

Year 6 had a fantastic start to the new term by taking part in Crucial Crew, an interactive safety initiative run by the South Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue. The venue hosts a replica playground, pub, roads, transport and even a courtroom. The children took part in different scenarios, from learning what to do if you hear a smoke alarm go off in the night, to the consequences if you break the law.

School Council

The children have settled into their new roles as School Councillors and have already been involved in making a whole school decision to raise funds for the Australian Red Cross and Australian WWF. It was great to be given this responsibility to approve this fundraising event and it was a huge success! As well as this, we are now working with our classes to come up with future fundraising ideas, deciding on the uses of composting if we were to begin making our own and ways in which we could use FOLA donations.

Medical appointments during the school day

We do ask that appointments be arranged outside school hours, wherever possible. If your child needs to attend an appointment in school time, we ask parents to contact the school office prior to the appointment, to record, their expected time of arrival, departure and if their appointment is first thing in the morning, their school meal order.

Going home arrangements

Sometimes events happen during the school day, which may mean we are asked to pass a message on from parents to their children about a change to going home arrangements. Although we are able to do this, with nearly 500 pupils it can be challenging as sometimes the children may be out of class, in P.E., ICT, or even the woods!. Wherever possible we would like to keep this to a minimum, however, if parents do need to change their arrangements, we ask parents to allow as much time as possible please.

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

As a 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 eleven 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 have 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). In the last eleven years, we have not 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 or not at all when we might open as usual. 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 safekeeping. Smart watches with in-built cameras are not allowed in school because of the possibility of photographs being taken in the playground.

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 next to the "No idling engines!" sign erected by Sheffield City Council and on the double yellow lines spanning from Shore Lane up to the school gate on Manchester Road. We also remind parents by placing a "Polite – think before you park" sign at the entrances to school. We have had worrying reports of parking dangerously across the pavement, with a motorist reversing and nearly hitting a child. This inconsiderate parking is putting our children and other pedestrians at risk. On occasions when motorists have parked illegally, the police have and will be notified. Thank you.

Friends of Lydgate Association (FOLA) News

FOLA is a parent and teacher association that supports and fundraises for Lydgate Junior School. We put on social events throughout the year, fundraising to help buy things such as books and playground equipment. There are many ways to get involved, helping at an event, making or donating items or taking on a committee role. It is also a great way to meet other parents and to help raise funds for your child's school. For further information, please see our Facebook page – FOLA – Friends of Lydgate Association or email fola.pta@gmail.com

FOLA Events

Look out for our up and coming events including film and chips night on Friday 13 March and our all-new School Food Festival on Friday 15 May, more details to follow.

FOLA New Library

A huge thank you to all the parents that have supported FOLA. One of our recent projects is to assist school in the funding of the new library. The structure is in place, and when the shelves have been fully filled with books, it will be a great addition for the children.



FOLA School Lottery

Thank you to everyone who support the lottery. Since its launch in July 2019 FOLA have raised **£633.20** for the school. If you would like to support the school and be in with a chance of winning up to £25,000 each week for as little £1 a week please sign up [here](#).

Sporting News

We have three Cross Country teams who have qualified for the Cannon Hall South Yorkshire championships! This means we came in the top six schools in Sheffield. An amazing achievement by the whole Cross Country team.

We need more year 5/6 girl runners to attend the remainder of the season and next academic year. A special mention to those 5/6 girls who currently attend with no guarantee of a full team each time. Iona in Y6, Sophie in Y6, Millie in Y5, Imogen in Y5 and Sophie in Y5. You have shown real commitment.

The next event is Concord Park on Saturday 8th February and an opportunity for all to take part in the stand-alone event at Graves Park Cross country Championships on Saturday 29th February. Well done all.

Online parenting course

Every parent has challenges. Would you like to discover effective strategies to help? Would you like to get tips and ideas to help your kids grow up to be happier and more resilient, and your teenagers to be more respectful, more confident, and more able to cope with life? Sheffield City Council are now providing all Parents with the opportunity to complete an accredited programme called Triple P Online (TPOL). The Triple P – Positive Parenting Program® is available free through selected schools in Sheffield, thanks to [Sheffield City Council](#) and the Sheffield Parenting Hub.

There are two programmes available:

- Toddlers to Tweens (0 – 12)
- Pre-teens & Teens (Teen)

If you would like access this online support, please see [Triple P - Positive Parenting Program®](#)



Step up your child or teen for success

Online parenting course for parents of Toddlers, Teens and In-Betweens!

Triple P Online (for toddlers to tweens) can help you:

- Encourage good behaviour
- Manage misbehaviour
- Settle tantrums
- Tackle disobedience
- Teach your child new skills
- Take the stress out of shopping



Sign up now

www.triplep-parenting.net/sheffield

For more information, please contact Sheffield Parenting Hub

0114 2057243

sheffieldparenting@sheffield.gov.uk



The Gambia

A big thank you to the Lydgate Junior School community who have once again supported a local campaign. We are pleased to tell you that a large container containing many of the items Lydgate Junior School and yourselves donated is now on its way to The Gambia via Liverpool docs. Janet Stain the local charity campaigner has assured me that she will let me know when the lorry arrives at its destination and able to support the children in receiving quality education. We fully support the RRS Articles 28 & 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, whereby "Every child has the right to education, which must develop their personality, talents and abilities to the full". If you look closely at the photos, you may see the drawers used in the Y5 base up until recently, that we were fortunately able to replace. What a lovely thought to know that the children in The Gambia will be using these in about a months time. A special thank you to our children who were keen to give both their own things and provide new items. One of our pupils even gave her time to make much needed cot liners for the babies' cots that were also donated. What a great attitude our pupils and our community have. Well Done!



Fundraising

Well done to our pupils who raised over **£625** for the bushfire emergency in Australia, during a non-uniform day.

In our October Newsletter, we asked if you could help Simeon (5R/J) reach his fundraising target of £100 for CICRA (Crohn's in children research association) by the end of 2019. Simeon would like to pass on a huge thank you in helping him smash his target. He actually raised **£162.13**, which has been sent to the charity.

Congratulations

Well done to Oliver B (3N/R) who has successfully auditioned for the role of Oliver in the [Manor Operatic Society's](#) performance of 'Oliver', which will be performed at the City Hall in May.

Well done to Mason (4R/D) who has been selected to be part of Diving Skills 2 squad. He is now ready for competitions in 2020.

Well done to Anna-Maria R (5EC) who has recently passed her Grade 2 Violin Exam.

Community

Stephen Hill Methodist Church (S10 5PL) are hosting the youth pantomime 'Thumbelina' in half term, between Wednesday 19 – Saturday 22 February 2020. Some of our pupils will be performing in this tale of fairies, bugs & baddies. If you would like to watch the performance, tickets are available [online](#) or from the ticket line: 07707840895 at a cost of £6 (£5 for 11 years and under). For more information, see the Facebook page 'Stephen Hill Panto'.

Yours sincerely



S R Jones - Headteacher