

Lydgate Junior School
NEWSLETTER
January 2018



Dear Parents / Carers,

Diary Dates

29 th January & 2 nd February	Y3 Stone Age Day (in school). Voluntary contributions (£5.50) requested please.
7 th February 12.30 p.m.– 3.30 p.m.	MAST advice sessions – appointments available, please contact the school office.
9 th February	All Y6 visiting ‘Crucial Crew’. Voluntary contributions (£12.50) requested please.
19 th – 23 rd February	Half term holiday
12 th February, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Emotional literacy workshop (will be held at Lydgate Infant School)
26 th February	School re-opens for the second half of the Spring Term
9 th March	FOLA film night – details to follow
14 th March, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Anger management workshop (will be held at Lydgate Junior School)
27 th & 28 th March, from 3:30 p.m.	Parent Consultation Meetings *please note change of date*
18 th April, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Self-esteem and resilience workshop (will be held at Lydgate Junior School)

Staffing Update

We are in the very fortunate position of having had no leavers amongst our permanent staff since last July. The stability and continuity this affords pupils is noteworthy, bringing very significant benefits for teaching and learning.

Late Arrival in the Morning

The school day starts when the bell rings at 8:45 a.m.

Children should be in class and ready to learn by this time: any child arriving through the school gate after the bell is late.

The external doors to the classrooms are locked at 8:45 a.m. and pupils arriving after this time must report to reception to ensure they are registered.

Staff will, on occasion, remain outside on duty after 8:45 a.m. to remind pupils (and parents if they are dropping them off) that they are late and to direct them to the office.

We contact parents if their child is late twice (or more) in any week to make them aware of their child’s late arrivals and to ask for their support.

Attendance at School

Average pupil attendance so far this year stands at 97.9%, with 181 pupils achieving 100% attendance since September. This amounts to 37% of the total. The overall attendance figure is much higher than the national average and target.

Unfortunately, 14 pupils have attendance of less than 90% and are thus considered to be “persistent absentees”. If your child does not attend school regularly, the Local Authority can take action against you which will be through a Fixed Penalty Notice or a summons to appear at Court.

There is an established link between good school attendance and a high level of attainment. Regardless of the reason, if your child is absent from school it will impact on their learning.

If you would like to know your child’s attendance percentage, please enquire at the school office.

Parents may be interested to know the figures on staff absence too: average staff attendance for the school year so far is 94.9%, with just over half the staff achieving 100%.

We monitor and respond to staff absence, just as we do for pupil’s absence.

Year Group Blogs

One way to keep in touch with the learning children are engaged in is to visit the Blogs on the website. Each Year Group posts something weekly. In the most recent posts you can read about Stone Age learning in the school woods, Year 4 swimmers, Viking weaponry and a frenzy over fractions. The Year 3 blog had 400 visits in November, more than 3 per pupil!!

Arrangements for Adverse Weather Conditions

A reminder about the school's policy for adverse weather conditions: in the event of snow / ice, school will still open and close at the usual times.

Parents need not phone the school to check; please assume that school is open from 8:35 a.m., and will remain open.

Many of our staff live relatively locally and are therefore able to walk to school. Mr Sharrock, the buildings supervisor, is on site from 7 a.m. and is able to check the site and begin working to make it safe for pupils.

In the unlikely event of circumstances beyond our control forcing us to close (the last time this happened was in 2009 due to 'swine flu') this will be communicated via text / email / local radio.

Parent Consultations, Spring Term *please note change of date*

These will be on the last week of the term, **Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th March 2018**. Information on how to book an appointment will be sent home soon.

Please note that the dates have changed since we published them in the December newsletter. Our teaching staff are all attending subject leadership training in various venues across the city during week commencing 19th March, which was when we had originally planned to hold our Parent Consultations.

On a similar note, a small number of parents do occasionally need to see their child's teacher at other times during the school year. Teachers will always see any parent who has a concern, however please do contact the office first and a mutually convenient time will be arranged for you. Please do not go directly to the classroom.

Safety and Security

Following a regrettable incident, we must remind parents that we will not tolerate any form of abuse towards staff members by any visitors (which includes parents) to school. We will take proportionate action to make our staff feel safe and secure. This may include arranging chaperones for meetings.

MAST (Multi Agency Support Team) News

Following our successful 'in school' advice sessions, we are pleased to announce that we have arranged three workshops for parents and carers. They will cover:

- emotional literacy – supporting children to understand their emotions and how to deal with them;
- anger management – supporting children who find anger difficult to cope with and how to express it appropriately;
- self-esteem and resilience – supporting children to develop these skills to use throughout their life.

The first one of these will take place on 12th February at Lydgate Infant School.

Parent Governor Vacancies

We have vacancies for the role of Parent Governor: could this be you? This is a chance for you as a parent to have an influence over the education the school provides for all its children. Governors make decisions about many aspects of the school including the curriculum, staffing and the school's finances. This term, Governors will discuss (amongst other topics)

- what (if anything) we should charge for clubs, so costs to school are covered?
- the whole school budget and staffing model: there is a potential £40,000 deficit in the planning for 2018-19, so where do we find that saving?
- how school can make the best use of pupil premium income so that 'disadvantaged' pupils make better progress?

We have sent an email to parents with more information. Please contact the school office if you have any queries or if you would like to speak with Mrs Rosemary Fletcher (Vice Chair of the Governors) for more information.

Paying for School Meals, Milk and Trips

As a result of the Parentpay contract coming to an end, Sheffield City Council, have selected 'sQuid' as their new online payment system provider. We have accepted the local authority recommendation and will be moving from Parentpay to sQuid next half term. No action from parents is required at the moment. More information will be sent home shortly.

School Meals

Lydgate Junior School enjoys the second highest uptake of all primary and junior schools across Sheffield for pupils who pay for lunches. For pupils who are entitled to free school meals, we have a higher than average uptake across the city.

Education City

This resource provides children with fun educational games in the form of online activities, with modules in maths, literacy and science. All pupils have access to this during school hours.

Parents are able to subscribe to 'home access' which allows your child to access the site 7 days a week for a whole year.

If you would like to take advantage of the home access option, please make payment of £2.50 payment via ParentPay before the deadline of **31st January**.

FOLA News

Thank you to everyone who has supported FOLA events, and to the committee for their work with fundraising. The school has received £3500 from FOLA which was put towards installing the new kitchen (which is now located where the library used to be).

Lost Property

We sort through all lost property once a week. All named items are returned to their owner. Unnamed items are kept for two weeks only because we simply do not have the capacity to store the volume that is collected.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

Thank you to all families who donated Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers to school – we 'bought' a selection of PE equipment with them.

Fencing Club

The fencing club has a number of spaces available for new members with a start time/date of 7:40 a.m., Friday 2nd March, i.e. first week back after half term.

Initially it will be for 4 sessions at a cost of £12.00 (£3/per session), payable at the start of the first session. Sessions will continue thereafter. Coaching and all kit is provided.

Contact: Peter Ellinger, British Fencing Registered Coach, peter.ellinger@thefencingcoach.org.uk

Applications for membership will be processed on a first come first served basis. Closing date: 16/02/2018

Contact Details

Have you changed your mobile phone number or email address? If so, have you let the office know?

Well done to

Alfie (Y3), who recently ran his **100** parkrun with a personal best time of 25:37.

Josh and Martha (Y5), who raised more than £200 with a very impressive 12.5 mile / 6 hour sponsored walk. The money will be donated to help children affected by the Syrian crisis.



Headteacher