

*Lydgate Junior School*  
**NEWSLETTER**  
*November 2016*



Dear Parents / Carers,

**Diary Dates**

Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> November, 2.30 p.m.	Y6CW Parents' Assembly
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December, 2.30 p.m.	Y6CP Parents' Assembly
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Bags2school collection (see details overleaf)
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December <b>(to be confirmed)</b>	Christmas Discos – volunteers urgently needed please
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December, 9.30 a.m.	Y4 performance of Cinderella – all parents welcome
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December, 2.30 p.m.	Y6JP Parents' Assembly
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December, 7.15 p.m.	Christmas Concert at St. John's Church, Ranmoor
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December, 1.30 p.m.	Whole school trip – "The Snowman" at the City Hall
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December, 3.15 p.m.	School closes for Christmas holiday
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> & Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	INSET days, school closed for pupils
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	School re-opens for the Spring term
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	MAST liaison worker in school, appointments available

**Pupil voice in action**

Several girls from Y6JP wrote to me explaining that they wanted to have a quiet area to sit at break and lunchtimes (the existing quiet area was set up for Y3 & Y4 pupils). Following a discussion, it was decided that the 'quad' could be used; the girls then contacted FOLA who agreed to donate £500 to buy outdoor furniture. They also spoke at a Y6 assembly, and at a school council meeting where they asked for ideas on how to organise and use the area. All this has been achieved at no cost to the school.

Thea said "I feel proud to have created a change in the school and that Mr Jones has listened to our pupil voice. If we carry on we can achieve many great things in the future." Lydia said "I am quite proud that we managed to create a quiet area for everyone in Y5 & Y6 to enjoy."

**Parent questionnaire**

Please look out for the parent questionnaire which has been sent home. This is your opportunity to give us feedback on what you think we do well and what you think we could do better. We have previously tried to encourage online parent feedback via a survey monkey questionnaire, but received only 10 responses. We would really like to hear your thoughts, so may I urge you to fill it in and return it? Thank you.

**News from FOLA**

- ❖ The Christmas Discos are planned for Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, after school. Y3 & Y4 from 4.30 p.m. – 6 p.m. and Y5 & Y6 from 6.30 p.m. – 8 p.m. However we are desperate for volunteers; unfortunately the discos may have to be cancelled if we do not have enough offers of help.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ And finally, some good news!! We were very pleased to help with a cash donation to buy outdoor furniture for the new Y6 quiet area. Thank you to all the families who made this possible by supporting FOLA and our fundraising activities. It was wonderful to receive a request directly from the pupils; hopefully we will be able to support many more initiatives like this one.

## Music News

♪ On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November the choir have the honour of opening the Tapton Masonic Hall Charity Christmas Tree Festival. They will be singing at 10.40 a.m. – parents/carers are welcome to go along.

♪ Our Christmas Concert will be on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at St. John's Church Ranmoor. It will begin at 7.15 p.m. Please note that, due to an earlier activity being held in the Church, you will not be able to go in until after 6.30 p.m. Members of the choir, orchestra, wind band, art club and hand bells will be involved, along with a Nativity play performed by some pupils from Year 3. All parents and carers are very welcome to join us.

♪ On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December some choir members will be singing at the St. John's Church Ranmoor Pensioner's Christmas lunch.

♪ On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December the whole school will be going to the City Hall to watch a performance of "The Snowman," which will be performed by a live orchestra. There will be **no cost** to parents for this event. The school has some money in a fund, which has to be spent entirely on music. By taking the whole school, those children who would not normally go to such an event will be able to benefit from the experience just as much as our choir members and musicians.

## Lunchtime Activities

We are pleased to have added another activity to our lunchtime 'offer': a dance teacher is coming in every Wednesday to lead a dance/aerobics session for ALL the children to join in with, if they wish. It's proving to be popular with all year groups; it's keeping the children active (and warm) and some of our staff are joining in too. Other activities available at breaks and lunchtimes include: indoor games club, basketball and table tennis.

## MAST advice

The school-MAST link worker will be in school next on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December we will be having a Bags2school collection; we would be very grateful for donations of:

- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie
- Socks
- Soft toys
- Curtains
- Towels
- Bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

We will send out collection bags the week before; the amount of money we receive is calculated by weight so the heavier the better!

## Attendance at school

### *Is your child a persistent absentee?*

Any child with attendance below **90%**, even if the absence is authorised, is considered by the Local Authority to be a persistent absentee. This equates to just 2 days each month. The Attendance Officer visits the school regularly and discusses the details of all persistent absentees.

### *Holidays in term-time*

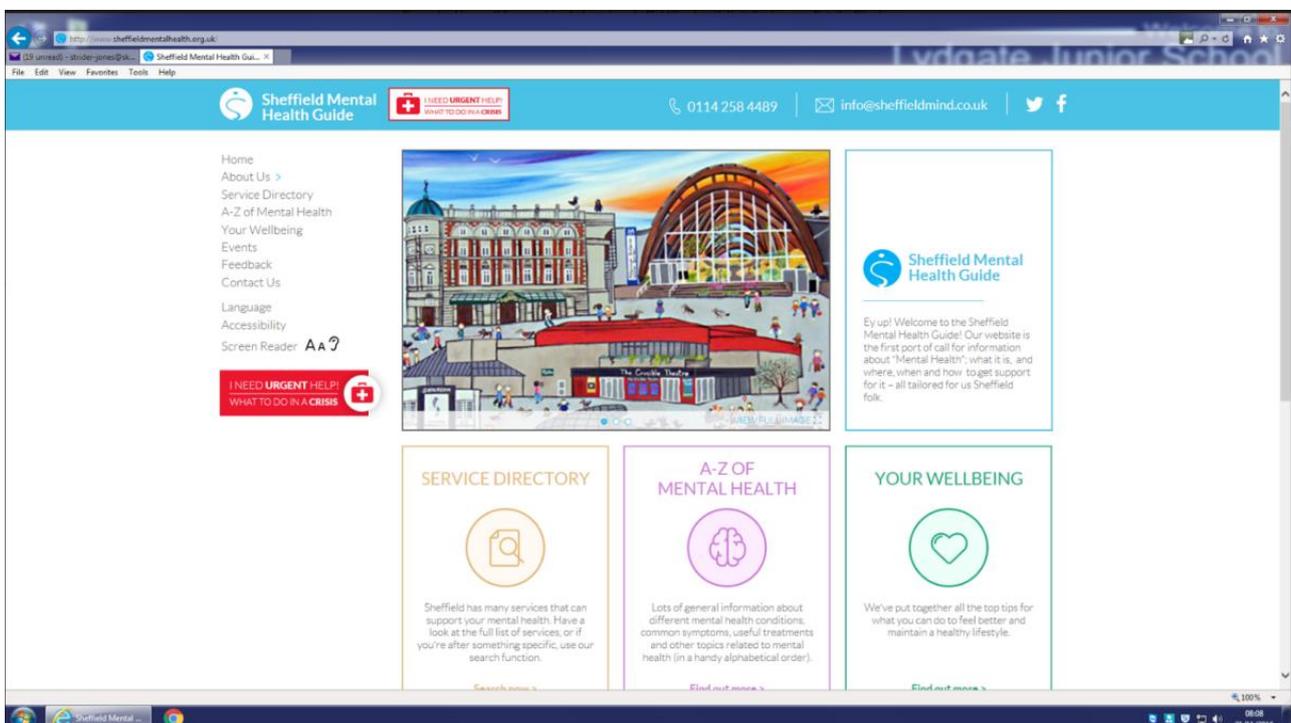
Children are not entitled to holidays in term time. Taking time out of school for holidays is disruptive for children's learning; if feel you have no alternative, the application must be submitted in writing to the Headteacher be at least 20 days before the proposed start of the absence. If you choose to take your child out of school and it is not authorised (very few requests are), the Local Authority may take legal action which may make you liable for a Penalty Notice/fine of £120.

*There are **190** days in the school year which leaves **175** days to spend on holidays, family time, shopping, appointments and other things.*

## Healthy Minds

At one time or another one of us will experience a period of mental health problems.

Knowing where to go for help can be difficult at such a time. There is a Sheffield-wide database available online that anyone can use to get instant signposting to services, including crisis intervention.



The webpage address is:

<http://www.sheffieldmentalhealth.org.uk/index.php/services-directory>

## Well Done To...

These children who have achieved the following belts in Karate: Fatima (Y4) red belt; Harry (Y3) yellow belt; Jasper (Y3) yellow belt; Noah (Y4) orange belt; Matt (Y5) orange belt; Aryan (Y3) orange belt.

Anna, Daisy and two friends (from Y4) who raised £20 for the PDSA charity by running a sale at playtime.

Well done to our Year 6 athletics squad who came **FIRST** at the indoor athletics tournament at the EIS, where they competed against six other schools. They are: Dannii, Cassidy, Esme, Gabrielle, Ellie, Lauren, Thea, Lydia, Mia, Grace, Ryan, Oliver G, Oliver A, Tom, Scott, Joe, William, George, Joshua and Andrew. They are now through to the next round, to be held on November 25th.

Theo (Y5) who has represented Sheffield at diving AND trampolining championships; he came first in both competitions! He also took part in the Yorkshire trampolining championships on 12/13 November and came second. He was competing against British champions so this is a fantastic achievement. Theo trains with Bryony Page, the Rio Olympics silver medallist.

Max and Emily (both Y5) who have both won medals recently for their swimming. Max won 3 golds, 3 silvers and a bronze. Emily won 2 golds and a silver. They are members of the City of Sheffield Swimming Squad and are dedicated to their sport – they train for 5 hours a week at weekends and after school and take part in competitions on top of that.

Anjali, Stella, James, Lyla, Hannah, Miles, Joseph, Elsie, Carys, Jess, Fatima, Emilia, Eve R and Evie (from Y4) who held a bake sale in aid of the Children's Hospital.

Daisy (Y4) who raised an amazing £68.50 by selling bottles of perfume she had made herself. She donated the money to the Weston Park Cancer Charity.

Maryam (Y3) who has been awarded her red belt in Judo; Jed (Y3) who received a medal for the long jump in the Children's Olympics and Alex (Y3) who achieved his yellow belt in Kickboxing.

Evie (Y5) who has achieved level 4 in the British Gymnastics Proficiency Awards.

All the children who are arriving early at school three times a week to take up the 'Lexia' programme.

Everyone who brought or bought a cake for Children In Need where we raised, collectively, £1240.25!

Every child who has made progress in English and Maths this term, through their hard work and concentration.



Mr S Jones  
Headteacher