

Lydgate Junior School
NEWSLETTER
October 2018



Diary Dates

29 th October – 2 nd November	School closed for the half term holiday
5 th November	School closed to pupils – INSET day
6 th November	School re-opens for the second half of the autumn term
14 th November (morning)	Macbeth performance for Y6 pupils
16 th November	Children in Need activities
17 th November	Cross country race at Bradfield school
20 th November (afternoon)	Pantomime performance for Y3 & Y4 pupils
28 th November	MAST advice session for parents, appointments available
1 st December	Cross country race at Longley Park school
5 th December, 7 p. m.	Choir concert in aid of Breast Cancer Care, Sheffield Cathedral
6 th December, 2:30 p.m.	Round table discussion: adverse weather & school opening, see following page for more information
12 th December	'Bags2school' collection
19 th December	MAST advice session for parents, appointments available
19 th December, 7 p.m.	Carol Concert, with Nativity - St Mark's Church, Broomhill

Thank you to Mrs Benelmokhtor, a Y3 parent, who joined us in assembly to share her knowledge of Libyan culture and traditions. We look forward to welcoming a visitor from the Jewish faith who will be sharing information about the Hanukkah celebration. We are still looking for people with experience of different faiths who would be willing to share their customs and beliefs with the children during assembly. Could this be you, or someone you know? Please contact Mrs Farrell if you think you can help.

Site security

Governors continue to keep site security, for the safety of all pupils, under review. Governors toured the school site recently with staff from the Council's Health & Safety team, asking questions and being open to suggestions and directions for improvements.

We are very aware that our site is different in both layout and access to that of any other school our pupils have come from. The Health & Safety staff made no directions for school to implement, happy that arrangements are suitable.

Despite this, we will make further improvements around the site to enhance current systems and facility. Currently:

- All school visitors should report to Reception
- Staff are 'on duty' from 08:35 (ten minutes before school starts)
- Staff are 'on duty' at three points around the site, including at the top gate, after school
- All out of hours activity leaders take, check, and follow up on registers
- All exterior doors have keypad or fob-lock access
- Staff placement at playtimes and lunchtime is planned to ensure visibility. At these times we greet/challenge all site visitors as they enter the site
- Children who are not collected as planned at the end of the day are taken to Reception. Our admin team contact home to establish a plan for collection
- At least one senior staff member is present on-site until every child is collected and all out of hours activities are finished

I will keep you informed as we install or put places in change.

'Round table' discussion

No parents attended the meeting regarding school trips, and why they (sometimes) cost so much. This was an issue raised by a few parents in the 'Feedback' process last year.

The coach hire is frequently the highest cost element of a trip. We use a company we trust and have served us very well, but we do still ensure competitive pricing.

Where possible we walk to venues or use smaller, more appropriate transport such as a minibus to limit the cost.

We are not allowed to make a surplus or to offset the cost of non-contributions by increasing the amount asked per pupil. All shortfalls have to be met by school (or, we may cancel if the shortfall is too great).

What we do is total the costs (transport and entry costs, largely) subtract any subsidy (from Sports Premium or Private Fund, for example) and divide that by the number of children in the group. There is a small (1.2%) administration fee added to cover our sQuid online payment charge.

School may, and does, ask for 'voluntary contributions' up to that per pupil amount. Unfortunately the number of voluntary contributions received rarely covers the costs of visits or school-based activities: for example, the recent Roman day activity in school attracted 88 voluntary contributions out of a possible 120 in the year group. The shortfall of £243.20 was met by school funds.

The next round table discussion will consider the topic of school opening during 'adverse weather' (such as heavy snow) and the school's policies and procedures around it. Parents are welcome to join me to ask questions and to give opinions. It will take place on Thursday 6th December at 2:30 p.m. Please reserve a place [here](#); restrictions on space mean that we have to limit the number of places to twelve.

Year 6 transfer to Year 7

If your child was born between 1/9/2007 - 31/08/2008 they will transfer to secondary school in September 2019. The deadline for applications is 31st October. The council sent information about how to apply to your home address. Please contact the admissions team on 0114 2735766 if you have any queries.

Homework

Staff have been looking at our current homework policy. We will be putting out revised guidance shortly. There will be differences in expectations between groups but we expect to be consistent within each. The guidelines will also show how we support children who find it hard to complete tasks at home, and how we reward engagement and completion. I will be asking for your opinions on the topic before presenting a revised policy to Governors.

Children in Need Day – 16th November

We will be fundraising for Children in Need this year by selling wrist bands and pin badges, bun sales and holding a lucky duck competition. We will also have an assembly and a whole school photograph. We will send out more information when we return to school after the half term holiday.

Music news

We are thrilled to announce that the school choir will be singing at Sheffield Cathedral as part of Breast Cancer Care's 'Carols by Candlelight Concert' on 5th December at 7 p.m. It is a wonderful evening with seasonal readings, festive carols and special musical performances along with complimentary mulled wine and mince pies. All money raised from this special event will help Breast Cancer Care continue to support the 10,500 people currently living with breast cancer in South Yorkshire.

Please click [here](#) for more information on how to buy tickets; the charity has advised that the concert is usually sold out well in advance. Choir members do not need to buy a ticket for the concert.

The choir are also rehearsing for the school's Carol Concert on 19th December, to be held at St Mark's Church, Broomhill at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend; we do not issue tickets for this concert.

Bags2school collection

Our annual Bags2 school collection will take place on Wednesday 12th December. We would be grateful for donations of good quality items (i.e. which can be re-used). Bags will be sent home after the half term holiday. All the money raised is put towards paying for the Edale residential trip.

Items accepted are:

- Men's, ladies' and children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie
- Socks
- Belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen, curtains, towels
- Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

Sorry, these items are not accepted:

- Duvets and blankets
- Pillows and cushions
- Carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)
- Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing
- School uniforms with or without logo
- Corporate clothing and workwear
- Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material

Crosspool Community Litter Pick

This will take place on Saturday 3rd November: everyone is welcome to join in and all equipment will be provided. Gather at the corner of Sandygate Road and Selbourne Road at 9:45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start.

Thank you.

Christmas card competition

St. Columba and Stephen Hill Churches are running a Christmas card competition this year. To enter all you need to do is [print](#) the A4 template, fill in your name, age, contact phone number, school and year group, and create a bright, colourful card and drop it into your school office by Monday 19th November.

There will then be a small prize for the best entries and the best two, one from the Infant and one from the Junior school, will be made into a Christmas card.

Text messages from school

A reminder that the school's text 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.

Lost property

We have a huge amount of lost property handed in every week and we spend a significant amount of time sorting through it. **Any items which are found and are named will be returned to their rightful owner.** Unfortunately around 80% of items which are put into lost property are unnamed.

We will keep unnamed items for two weeks before recycling them: unnamed items of school uniform will be washed and sold by FOLA to raise funds for school. Mrs Rougvie (Y5 teacher) is looking for parent volunteers who might be able to help with this on a rota basis; please contact her via the school office if you can help. Unnamed items of non-school uniform are donated to charity shops.

Well done to.....

- ❖ Anish (Y5) who took part in the Sheffield Junior marathon and ran 2.5 km in 22 mins
- ❖ Sophie and Isabel (Y3) who ran 10k non-stop around Rother Valley.
Sophie, Isabel and Anish were all rewarded with medals.
- ❖ Lola, Pranavi, Stella, Carys, Ellen, Freya and Eve (all Y6) who came first (out of sixteen teams!) in the Sheffield Forge Girls 5-a-side football tournament! The trophy is on display in school.
- ❖ Jacob (Y3) who won the Sheffield and District Junior Sunday League Dove Trophy with his team, Crosspool Junior Under 8s.
- ❖ Simeon (Y4) who competed in the White Rose Diving Invitational Championships; he came second in a 12 dive preliminary round and then he came first in the finals.
- ❖ Our Y6 athletics team who competed in a schools' tournament at the English Institute of Sport: they won their heat and will take part in the next round at the end of November. They showed impressive determination and superb team spirit.

I hope all our families enjoy the half term break. I look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Tuesday 6th November 2018.



Headteacher

Lydgate Junior School Calendar Academic Year 2019 / 2020 (next academic year)

September 2019						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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October 2019						
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November 2019						
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December 2019						
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January 2020						
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February 2020						
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March 2020						
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April 2020						
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May 2020						
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June 2020						
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July 2020						
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August 2020						
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INSET days – school closed for pupils
 School holidays
 Bank holidays