

Lydgate Junior School

NEWSLETTER

September 2017



Dear Parents / Carers,

Diary Dates

26 th September, 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Meeting with staff from King Edward VII School for Y5 & Y6 families, see "what's on" for more information
26 th September, 5.30 p.m.	Notre Dame School Open Evening for Y6 families
27 th September	Y6 trip to the Holocaust Centre
27 th September	School photographer for Y3, 4 & 5 pupils
3 rd October, 6 p.m.	King Edward VII Open Evening for Y6 families *Upper School Site*
4 th October, 2.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Information café event, see below for more information
4 th October, 6 p.m.	Tapton School Open evening for Y6 families
Weeks commencing 9 th & 23 rd Oct	Y6 Bikeability training
13 th October	FOLA Film Night
17 th & 19 th October, 3.30 p.m.	Parent consultation meetings
26 th October	Y5 Egyptian Day
27 th October, 3.15 p.m.	School closes for half-term holiday

Information Café

On Wednesday 4th October, from 2.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m. we will be holding an information café, here in school. This is an informal drop-in event for parents, carers, and families who may welcome advice and support. Children are welcome to join in after 3.15 p.m.

Some of the organisations with information stalls will be: MAST (advice, solutions and signposting on many issues such as finance, housing, family breakdown); ACCT (Asperger's Children and Carers Together, a parent led support group); CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service). Mrs Noble (SENCo) will also be attending. We will send out more information next week.

Trips out, visitors in, and 'theme days'

The first school trips of the year have started this week (Y3 to Alfred Denny Museum, Y6 to the Holocaust Centre next week). Year 5 have their 'Egyptian Day' planned for October and Year 4 have started their swimming lessons. We do appreciate that, with more than one child potentially in school, too many events can be a nuisance for parents. This is why we limit their frequency, ensure that they are essential and high quality, and we do all we reasonably can to reduce any costs.

Parent Consultations

Parent consultation meetings will take place this term on 17th and 19th October, starting after school between 3.30 p.m. – 6.20 p.m. We have implemented an online appointment booking system for this and will send details home next week.

New Starters

Our new Year 3 classes are a delight – all the staff working with them are enjoying themselves, and we are seeing some great work going on every day. I believe they have already settled in successfully and are progressing at a good rate.

While we have Parent Consultations arranged for the penultimate week of the half term you might want to raise any remaining concerns with staff before then. Class teachers will always do their very best to listen to any parent who needs to see them.

🎵 Music News 🎵

All our usual musical activities are getting under way for the new school year. It was great to see so many keen and dedicated children at our first orchestra rehearsal. As a result of wider school timetable changes, orchestra will be taking place on Wednesday afternoons this year. Playing in the orchestra is a key part of the musical tuition we offer, developing vital skills in ensemble musicianship. All children from Y4 and above, who are deemed ready by their instrumental teacher, are encouraged to take part in orchestra. This year we will be celebrating the commitment shown by children in orchestra by awarding them with an 'Orchestra Badge'. So if your child comes home later in the term with a shiny purple badge, this is in recognition of their hard work!

Other musical extra-curricular activities are continuing as last year. Hand bells will be open to Y5 pupils on Wednesday lunchtime with Mrs Jones, choir after school on Thursdays with Mrs Ridsdale, and wind band after school on Fridays with Mrs Jones.

Medical Appointments during the school day

We realise it is not always possible to make appointments after school; if you must take your child out of school during the day please send a note to the school office well in advance. Please allow time on the day for office staff to send for your child to come to the reception area. For safeguarding reasons we cannot allow parents / carers to take children directly from the classroom.

'Behaviour Policy'

I am hosting a round table discussion on the subject of our new 'Positive Relationships Policy' in early October. I believe that the best behaviour will come from the best relationships, built on mutual, and self, respect. We are proud of, but not complacent about, the high standard of every day behaviour standards at our school. The aim of the policy is to sustain and enhance this standard, if at all possible.

- We will continue to teach the language and meaning of the Rights Respecting School.
- We will continue to richly reward good behaviour, and respond to all behaviours proportionately and appropriately.
- We will continue to show understanding and compassion.
- We will always consider the context of all behaviour incidents.
- We will never accept behaviours that hurt others or deny them their rights.

The policy is available via our website, or on paper on request.

Premises changes and improvements

Over the summer there were many site and premises improvements completed:

- Air con and ventilation repairs in Year 5,
- New teaching kitchen,
- Improved library placement and fitting,
- Steps between Year 6 mobiles,
- Curriculum IT replacements in all teaching areas,
- Internal remodelling, reshaping and extending of one teaching area,
- Internal decorating in places.

The site looks better, works better and supports learning even better.

End of the day staffing and security

Parents and other adults at the top gate at the end of the day will have noticed how many staff come out at the end of the day each day. We accompany some individual pupils, meet parents, pass and receive information, but most importantly support children at this key hand-over moment. There will always be a member of staff available at the gate in case a child is not collected as expected. By 3:30 p.m. we will bring any children still uncollected back into the main building where a member of the admin team will contact the parent(s).

(The start of the school day is 8:35 a.m, when we open the doors. Children are not supervised before this time, and really should not be on-site unless they are attending one of our clubs. Registration is at 8:45 a.m)

SPAG, Spelling and Arithmetic

Our priorities for developing teaching and learning this year are in parts of grammar, spelling and arithmetic. We want to see our children performing strongly ahead of both national and local averages, something we are sure they and we are capable of. We'll continue with daily practice, to target interventions, look to how we can improve our teacher knowledge and skills, consider whether we need more specifically focussed lessons on these areas, and get your help through activities at home.

Road Safety – crossing that road

The large open space outside our top gate helps make the children's departure from school safe each day. Traffic moves fairly slowly on Manchester Road, in part due to the volume of traffic of all sorts. However, pedestrians and cars don't always mix very well, and risks are present. We teach road safety, including simple pedestrian safety rules. Our children are reminded to be alert and aware as they cross roads, and to not blindly follow other children, or adults, without due care.

Cross Country Races

The cross country season is once again with us. We are looking forward to repeating and building upon our successes of last year. Old and new members all welcome!

Below are the venues for the races this year. Please be aware that *these may change, sometimes at very short notice*. For an up-to-date picture, see the Sheffield Federation for Sports website: <http://www.sfss.co.uk/associations/36/prim-cross-country>

We will try to keep you up to date with cancellations due to bad weather, but please keep looking at the website too. Year 3 children are allowed to take part in the Year 4 races once they are eight years old. All Year 3 pupils, regardless of their age, may run after Christmas.

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.



14 th October	Parkwood Springs
11 th November	Bradfield School
25 th November	Shirebrook Park
9 th December	Longley Park
27 th January	Concord Park
10 th February	Brunswick Primary School
10 th March	City Championships at Graves Park
17 th March	Y4 Relays at Ecclesfield Primary School
24 th March	Y5/6 Relays at Limpsfield Junior School

Staff Absence

Occasionally colleagues are absent, whether planned or unplanned. They might be away training, involved in working with colleagues from other schools, or off sick. Obviously we can put arrangements in place in advance of one sort of absence but only prepare options for the other.

What we try to do is provide consistency, continuity and quality of provision. We cover teacher absence with qualified teachers. We try always as first option to use our own teachers or our regular supply staff. If possible we employ teachers who know the school and the class. We support their work with the class by sharing planning, resources and preparation. Timetabled activities still take place, and all lessons proceed as normal. By using regular supply staff we can make sure that they work the way we want with our children, that they know our expectations and they can support each individual as needed.

We avoid 'doubling up', splitting classes, using holding activities, using Cover Supervisors, asking teaching assistants to cover, or using Unqualified teachers, all in an effort to maintain the quality of our total provision.

Obviously we cannot always book cover far ahead, and sometimes our regular supply teachers are not available, but our aims are the same, and we do monitor the quality of interactions on the classrooms.

FOLA BBQ

I'm sure everyone who came to the BBQ last week will agree it was a great success. I can't tell you how much it raised for FOLA's funds, but that is not really what I mean. It was an event that had a great feel, that attracted and entertained a huge number of people and it gave a fabulous introduction and welcome to the parents of our newest pupils. Thank you to everyone who ran and supported the evening's activities (even those who hit me with a wet sponge).

PE & Jewellery

A reminder that only watches and sleeper/stud earrings are allowed to be worn at school and that they must be removed for P.E. and swimming lessons.

What's on.....

- Broomhill Library are celebrating their Diamond Jubilee. Events are ongoing throughout September and October; see <http://www.broomhill-library.org.uk/whats-on> for more information.
- Sheffield Junior Singers (www.sheffieldyoungsingers.org.uk) is a choir for junior aged boys and girls that has been running for 10 years. There are no auditions - all children who love singing and would like to develop this musical skill are welcome. When? Thursdays (in term time) 4 - 5pm. Where? Ashgate Room, Broomhill Methodist Church. Cost? £5 per session (paid either half termly or termly). Children may attend 2 free sessions to help them decide whether they wish to join. For further information please contact Helen on 0780 7741976 or email hcowan11@gmail.com
- Are you the parent of Y5 or Y6 student? Would you like to find out more about King Edward VII School? Come to a meeting **here** at Lydgate Primary School to meet teachers and students from King Edward VII School on Tuesday 26th September between 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- The Christian prayer group meeting takes place every week on Thursday mornings at 8.45 a.m. – 9.00 a.m. Meet by the Manchester Road entrance. Everyone is very welcome to drop in, including parents with small children. Prayer requests are encouraged too, whatever your beliefs. Contact: lucy.smith@doctors.org.uk 07799263258.

Regards



Mr S Jones
Headteacher

Lydgate Junior School

School Terms and Holidays, 2017 - 2018

September 2017

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October 2017

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November 2017

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December 2017

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January 2018

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February 2018

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March 2018

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April 2018

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May 2018

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June 2018

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July 2018

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August 2018

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 Denotes School Holidays

 Denotes Bank Holidays

 Denotes Staff Training (school closed to pupils)