

Lydgate Junior School

NEWSLETTER

December 2017



Dear Parents / Carers,

Diary Dates

21 st December	INSET day, school closed for pupils
22 nd December	INSET day, school closed for pupils
8 th January 2018	School re-opens for the Spring term
18 th January	Choir practice resumes. Mrs Purdom's art club resumes.
19 th January	Windband practice resumes
24 th January	FOLA meeting, 8 p.m. Sportsman pub, Crosspool – all welcome
7 th February	MAST advice sessions – appointments available
9 th February	All Y6 visiting 'Crucial Crew'
9 th February	FOLA film night – details to follow
19 th – 23 rd February	Half term holidays

Carol Concert

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Carol Concert such a success. It was wonderful celebration of the talents of the children at this school and the hard work of the staff who have dedicated many hours of their time to help them practice. We are so proud of our musicians, choristers, artists and actors and hope that they are rightly proud of themselves.

Attendance at school

Average attendance for this term stands at 98%. I am delighted to report that 219 pupils (from a total of 484) have 100% attendance; a number of our pupils, unfortunately, have attendance of less than 90%. Whilst this may be for genuine reasons, any pupil who falls below the 90% threshold is categorised as a "persistent absentee" by the Local Authority.

What this means in practical terms is that the attendance officer is watchful of any absence, and the reasons for it. Letters are sent home to inform the parents of their child's attendance percentage. Occasionally, parents may be asked to provide evidence of medical appointments to support the reason for the absence. We may ask parents to attend meetings to discuss the problem, to agree a way forward to improve the situation.

Parents should also be aware that holidays taken in term time (even if authorised due to exceptional circumstances) add to their child's absence percentage.

Ultimately if parents fail to ensure their child's regular attendance at school, this may result in a fixed term penalty notice.

We know that pupils who have attendance of less than 90% generally do less well at school.

Lates 'at the gate'

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.

We have counted as many as twenty six children late some mornings. This causes interruption and lost learning: twenty children a day, five minutes late to class, 190 days a year adds up to a staggering **317 days lost learning each year!** (Or a possible gain of 317 days if we can get everyone here on time.)

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

We intend to contact parents if their child is late twice in any week from January 8th.

Parent Consultations, Spring term

These will be in the penultimate week of the term, Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd March 2018. Information on how to book an appointment will be sent nearer the time.

Performance tables

The Department for Education has published the 2017 school performance tables; you can use them to compare any schools in England, obviously including Lydgate Junior School:

<https://www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables>

If you centre on us, select KS2 schools in a 5 mile radius and rank by 'overall performance' you will find us at the top of page 3 of 10 pages of schools. Not too bad.

Parent survey

I have heard from none of the 29 parents who said that they did not find the information school provides about their child's progress to be 'valuable'. I'm still hopeful of receiving some clarity so I can plan a useful response.

Parents' assemblies

Year 4 welcomed parents to a performance of their own pantomime and all the Year 6 classes have been hosting assemblies this term to showcase their work and learning. I hope all who have attended have enjoyed and been informed equally.

Well done to

Paddy (Y3EC) who has won the Sheffield Star Superkids 'Wonder Writer' award. Paddy sold copies of one of his stories and raised £2,500 for the Children's Hospital.

Bob (Y6JP) who was a soloist in a performance of the Snowman at the City Hall.

A reminder that school closes at 3.15 p.m. on Wednesday 20th December and re-opens on Monday 8th January 2018.



Headteacher