



Lydgate Junior School

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Acting Deputy Head: Mrs B Noble
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Tuesday 14th March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Snow in March

A new record was recorded in Sheffield on Friday for the most snow on record in March. In true Lydgate Junior style we were able to keep school open for those that had to come into school. When it's a snow day you have to risk assess the safety of the situation for all. We were able to be open as we have an onsite Caretaker who starts early and gets clearing paths as soon as he can on a snow day. We also have staff who live local and are prepared to take the hike into school. On Friday this was some hike, so a huge thank you to all our staff for their time, effort, aching legs and commitment.

Thank you to all the parents for supporting us in this decision. It was a delight to see so much enjoyment and playful learning taking place in the snow on Friday.

Teacher Strikes - Wednesday and Thursday

We are aware that the teacher strikes are impacting some classes more than others. We understand this is frustrating and we continue to do everything we can to minimise the impact on our children. Every member of our team is finding it hard to make the decisions to strike, however we all support the reasons for the strike, there is not enough money in education at the moment. The strike is not just about teachers' pay, it is about the increased lack of resources and support staff in schools, alongside the increased demands of the Curriculum and needs of our children. But we genuinely do apologise for the inconvenience and thank parents for their ongoing support.

Headteacher

Unfortunately I have not been in school the last few weeks due to severe back pain, I have never known anything quite like it! Mrs Noble, our Acting Deputy Head, has been incredible and has been supported by our SLT (Senior Leadership team) Mrs Shaw (Y6 Lead), Mrs Loosley (Y5 Lead), Mrs Purdom (Y4 Lead) and Mrs Dutton (Y3 Lead). As ever the office staff, Miss Furness (Business Manager), Mrs Cooke and Miss Clack have been amazing. All of team Lydgate Junior have been helping and supporting each other and it makes me very proud what a strong team we have in school.

I am still in regular contact with school and hoping to be back in school very soon.

Parents Evening

All or most parents should have now booked a parent evening appointment with their class teacher. The signs on where to go will be up again in school to help you with your directions to find the classrooms. We hope you have a supportive and helpful meeting.

WhatsApp Groups

Class and parent WhatsApp groups are so useful and are a communication life line. They are great for reminding each other when it's PE day etc. If you are communicating about concerns at school please let school know as we do want to help. WhatsApp and any social media can increase issues by the chats that occur. If there is a concern that is about something happening in school we do strongly recommend you contact school as soon as possible. We can usually sort out things a lot quicker this way and if your child is struggling about anything connected to school we do want to know. We want to be open, honest, respectful and supportive to each other and communication is crucial to this.



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Staffing

A huge thank you to Mrs Frost for teaching Y3F/dB whilst Ms Hayden has been on maternity leave, she will be here for parents evenings and will continue to be at Lydgate Junior as a regular supply teacher in school. Ms Hayden has been enjoying her transition with the class and starts teaching the class next week.

Miss Nicholson has been covering Y6SH for the last few weeks as she knows the class well and is experienced at teaching the Y6 curriculum. Ms Reasbeck has increased her hours in Y3N/R and when she has not been able to teach we have used our regular supply teacher, Mrs Finney.

Code of Conduct

Please see the attached our Code of Conduct poster. I worked with our RRS council to produce our new Code of Conduct for school, this will sit alongside our Positive Relationships Policy. We wanted clear guidance for all in school. We discussed the wording we wanted and felt that these three key phrases covered everything.

Be Safe

Be Kind

Be Respectful

These phrases fit with being a Rights Respecting School, our new Thrive approach and our new school strapline Respect/Learn/Thrive.

If children are not being safe, kind or respectful then they are reminded and challenged to talk through what has gone wrong, how we can repair and how we can change to try to prevent it from happening again. We understand this can only happen when a child is calm enough to talk. We want to support our children to take responsibility. The code of conduct applies to all adults in school too. If staff are safe, kind and respectful this impacts our school too.

Thanks as ever for everyone's support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Rachel Hurding
Headteacher



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