



# Lydgate Junior School

Headteacher: Mrs R Hurding  
Acting Deputy Head: Mrs B Noble  
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Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and Happy New Year to you all!

We are excited about the developments we have for school for 2023 and wanted to share these with you.

## **DFE Funding - School Rebuilding programme**

Lydgate Junior school has been selected for the DFE funding for schools rebuilding programme. We do not know any timings or plans yet, but we are delighted to be on the list. We have shared this with the children but we don't want to get too giddy yet as we do not know the details. It was a fantastic piece of news to receive on the last day of the Autumn term.

*'Dear Colleague,*

*Today, the government announced the next round of schools which will have buildings replaced or refurbished as part of the School Rebuilding Programme (SRP). The programme addresses buildings in the worst condition across England.*

*I am pleased to confirm that, following careful consideration based on the condition of its buildings, the following school has been provisionally prioritised for the programme.*

*School name: Lydgate Junior School'*

As many of you know the history of the school building it was built in the mid 1970s as an open plan school. The school is now twice the size it was and as a result half the school classes are in temporary porta cabins, which we have had for over 20 years. The open plan style classrooms do impact on the current Education expectations and system. The hall is not big enough for the school and has high demand which impacts on its availability and the after school clubs we can offer.

The school is not fit for purpose.

We will continue to use and develop our current space, all our staff and children are amazing at making the best of the building and as I always say our school community is the people in it.

We will keep you posted on any developments.

## **Feedback from the Parent Survey**

### **Curriculum and Topic**

Improving communication with parents is one of our key areas of development. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill in the OFSTED style questionnaire before Christmas.

The feedback is really useful. We have set up Curriculum/Topic overviews for each year group so you can see at a glance the learning for the Topic. These will be put on the website under the year group page. We will also email them out to you so you have them available. It is fantastic that you want more information and want to support your child's learning journey.



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## Welcome

If parent's need to speak to teachers, all staff, unless on training or PPA, come out to the gate at the end of the day. However, if you need to arrange a phone call or a meeting, please contact the office during school hours through our Enquiries email. It is really important to all of us that we have opportunities to communicate. If you are concerned about your child's well-being or learning please let us know so we can support them.

## Clubs/Experiences

We do understand the frustration around limited numbers for many of our clubs which is why we try to put on clubs that can have increased numbers too, like the choir.

We are also increasing our experiences that we can offer our children such as sporting opportunities, theatre and concert trips, out of school hours.

We will continue to look into further solutions.

## Covid-19

I have spoken to a few parent's recently about concerns with their children's learning. We are still noticing the impact of Covid on all our children. I think it is important we still recognise that. Two years of disrupted education, however brilliant home and school learning was is significant. As well as delayed emotional development and learning gaps, many of us have a lower immune system too. Our role is to continue your child's learning journey from where they are now. We want to work together with parent's to support and nurture learning in school. The children have certainly come back, raring to go.

## School Developments

### Thrive

The whole school had Thrive training on our first day back and this means we are now a school that is 'embracing Thrive'. We are delighted to be recognised as a Thrive school.

### About Thrive:

***Our mission is to help children and young people become more emotionally resilient and better placed to engage with life and learning.***

***We do this through our whole-school approach to wellbeing - proven to improve attendance, behaviour and attainment.***

As a school leader I have always seen the importance of having a focus on mental health and understanding our emotions. Since Covid this need has increased in all schools. The Thrive approach will help us all support your children emotionally, which will impact on their confidence and ability to learn.

### Pastoral Lead

We have a school Pastoral Lead, Mrs Mandy Allen, who has nearly completed the full Thrive training. As well as the Thrive approach, throughout school we will be able to offer groups to have Thrive activities which focus on emotional learning.

Mrs Allen is also now leading the Lunchtime Supervisor Team, this will ensure we have a consistent approach to supporting our children throughout the whole day. The Rights Respecting School (RRS) Council met with Mrs Allen yesterday to discuss further improvements to school.



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## Phonics lead

Many of our children are needing extra support with their reading and we are delighted to say the 'Little Wandle' Phonics scheme we have bought is working really well. Our Phonics Lead, Mrs Harriet Kaur, is working full time and is working alongside children and staff to improve reading confidence. We are now calling the Phonics intervention room **The HIVE**. It certainly is a Hive of activity!

## Lexia

Mrs Jo Hill is supporting Lexia in school. Lexia supports Literacy skills and gives extra English support when needed. It is fantastic that so many of our children come early to school to access this provision.

## Curriculum Lead

Jayne Purdom, our Curriculum Lead, is continuing to support all our subject leads. We now have clear progression documents for all subjects so that the learning journey is clear for each subject in school. These will be added to the website when finalised.

Please also remember we have class Twitter accounts that regularly share class learning. These are connected to the class pages on the school website too.

## Forest School

Mrs Alice Webb, our Forest School Lead, will be receiving the full Forest School training this year which will enable Lydgate Juniors to officially be a Forest School. We are very excited about the future possibilities this will give our school.

## Attendance

Attendance continues to be an issue for all schools since Covid. Sheffield City Council have prioritised school attendance as an issue to support and sort.

Miss Lucie Clack is our school attendance officer and will be working together with Mrs Mandy Allen to support families to improve our school attendance.

Being late to school is impacting children's learning. The first part of the day staff can check in with all children and do well-being checks. Morning work is also crucial recap work and can often be used to explain concepts that were not understood the previous day.

If you are struggling to get your child into school on time we want to help so please contact school.

As ever, a huge thank you for everyone's support.

We are hopeful for 2023.

Kind regards,

**Mrs Rachel Hurding**  
Headteacher



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