



Lydgate Junior School

Headteacher: Mrs R Hurding
Acting Deputy Head: Mrs B Noble
Manchester Road, Crosspool, Sheffield, S10 5DP
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Friday 10th February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for all your support this half term. It has been wonderful to see all your children pushing themselves and enjoying their learning in school.

Y5 Residential

A huge thank you to Mrs Loosley, Mr Bradshaw, Miss Cunningham, Mrs Philips, Mrs Noble, Mr Barthlomew, Mr Gartrell, Miss Smith, Miss Furness and Miss Eddison, for giving up their time to take our Y5's to York for their residential. It is wonderful we can give our children these amazing experiences and it is the staff's commitment that makes it happen.

School Priorities

This half term we have:

- Improved our lunchtime experience with Mrs Allen, our Pastoral Lead, now leading the lunchtime team. We have improved our systems. Children are waiting for less time in the queues and as a result have more time to enjoy their play. We have organised different physical activities each day too so we have a variety on offer. Dance day on a Thursday is becoming a clear favourite!
- We have now set up regular Phonics sessions using the programme Little Wandle. Mrs Kaur, our Phonics Lead, has been working with children to support their reading skills. It has been a joy to see the progress and their confidence grow.
- Writing continues to be a teaching priority. Our English Leads Mrs Loosely and Mrs Rougvié have been supporting through creating clear systems for the sequence of writing. Teachers continue to think of creative ideas to support writing. We have been using engaging books to motivate and we have been supporting editing skills to improve writing. Children are proud of their improved writing.
- Mrs Hill has been leading Lexia and this continues to be a key programme to support English learning. Thank you for supporting us by bringing your children to school early.
- We are continuing to develop our curriculum and increase engaging experiences through trips and visitors in school.
- Mrs Allen has now finished the Thrive training and we are delighted that we are now a Thrive school. We will continue to develop using Thrive in school to support our children's emotional needs.
- Mrs Webb, our Forest School Lead, has been working hard submitting a bid to the National Lottery to develop our Forest School and hopefully get an outdoor learning classroom for the community. Watch this space!
- The RRS Rights Respecting Council are meeting regularly and are actively supporting school developments and improvements. Today we are going to be working together on our Behaviour Policy.



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Dates for next half term

- Parents' evenings are going to be on **Tuesday 14th March** and **Thursday 30th March**. We will use the same appointment system as last time. Information will be sent out soon about this.
- Possible strikes will continue on **Tuesday 28th February**, **Wednesday 15th March** and **Thursday 16th March**. We will inform you as soon as we have more information.
- **Thursday 2nd March** is World Book Day. An email has previously been sent to parents about this.
- **Friday 24th March** - School Disco is back! Y3/4 4.30-6pm & Y5/6 6.30-8pm. More information to follow soon.

Staffing

Ms Hayden is returning from maternity leave and will be job sharing with Mrs de Brouwer in Y3F/dB. Mrs Frost has been covering the maternity leave and will continue to do regular supply in school.

We have decided to keep the class name the same for the rest of the year to hopefully save confusion. Ms Hayden will be having transition days to meet the children and work with Mrs de Brouwer and Mrs Frost to enable a smooth transition. Ms Hayden's first day back with us to meet the children will be Monday 20th February. Ms Hayden will be back teaching from the Monday 20th March.

Selling in school

We have recently had children selling Prime drinks in school. As much as we want to encourage our children to be entrepreneurs, children can only sell things in school with adult agreement. Also, we do not allow energy drinks in school. A text has previously gone out to parents about this. Thanks for your support.

Gardeners Wanted!

Eco Club are wanting to develop the garden area within school. If we have anyone in the community that can spare some time to help us with the garden, please let us know by emailing the school office. All help greatly received.

Readers Wanted!

Reading continues to be at the heart of our curriculum, all children benefit from time to read with an adult. If you know of anyone that can commit to a couple of hours each week to help us please contact the school via email. We are always looking for more reading volunteers to help us.

Sickness

Just a reminder to all that if your child is sick and/or has diarrhoea, they do need to be off school for 48 hours please to stop the spread.

We thank you all for your continued support and hope everyone has a lovely half term holiday. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 20th February.

Kind regards,

Mrs Rachel Hurding
Headteacher



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