

*Lydgate Junior School*  
**NEWSLETTER**  
*December 2019*



**Diary Dates**

20 <sup>th</sup> December	School closes for the Christmas holiday – 3.15 p.m.
6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	School re-opens for the Spring term
6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	3AW, 3SH & 3D/dB – Forest Schools
7 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Y3N/R – Forest Schools
9 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Y6 Crucial Crew
25 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Cross Country – Norfolk Park

**Autumn Term 2**

As part of the Y3's RE topic on 'Food in Religion and Religious Festivals', the children learned about the meaning of The Children's Society Christingles. The children have thoroughly enjoyed making their own Christingle to take home.

The children also enjoyed their day at Kelham Island Industrial Museum, learning about Sheffield's industrial history. They attended the 'Steel City' Exhibition, discovering how steel is made and enjoyed a day handling objects, exploring and investigating through the art of storytelling.

Y4s were visited by a Roman soldier & a Roman citizen, who spend the day showing the children about life in the Roman times, as both a citizen and a soldier. Mock battles and army drills took place in the Hall, with replica shields to create the tortoise formation that was used by the Roman army.

The Y4s had an adventurous day in our fantastic woodland making dens; various art and craft activities, as well as drama and games. These fun activities taught the children the rules of the woodland, team building and problem solving. It was cold and wet, but the children had a great time, and loved the hot chocolate to warm them up!

Autumn term revisited bread baking for our Y5s. Having made a plain white loaf, the children then progressed to designing and baking their own flavoured bread. A great fun activity that teaches the children the different types of bread that are eaten throughout the world and the importance of a balanced diet.

Thank you for your support (and understanding!) in helping us provide such a rich range of learning activities at school.

**School Council**

Congratulations to our new school council representatives, who were elected this term. Thank you to all the children who put themselves forward, we were incredibly impressed by their campaigns and speeches. We borrowed some 'proper' polling booths and boxes from the council to add some authenticity to the voting procedure.

The newly elected councillors recently had their first meeting where they learnt more about their roles as school councillors. They put their names forward for specific roles within the council and these will be announced at the next meeting in the New Year. As well as this, in the upcoming meetings they will find out what the previous school council had been doing and what they achieved, as well as being given advice, tips and tricks from former members.

### **Packed lunches and playtime snacks**

Several children in the school have a nut allergy, which can cause a severe reaction, in some cases. Could I therefore ask parents not to include nuts or nut products in their child's packed lunch or snack, to reduce the risk of cross-contamination? Thank you for your help with this.

### **Attendance at school**

Average attendance for this term stands at 97.5%. I am delighted to report that 195 pupils (from 485) have 100% attendance; 25 pupils, unfortunately, have attendance of less than 90%. This may well be for genuine reasons, however it means that they are classed 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 schools' concerns regarding their child's attendance. Parents may be asked to provide evidence of medical appointments to support the reason for the absence and 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. If parents fail to ensure their child's regular attendance at school, this may result in a fixed term penalty notice.

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

On a similar note, several pupils regularly arrive late. The teacher on duty blows the whistle at 8.35 a.m. and the children then go into their classrooms so they have 10 minutes to hang their coats, put away their bags and lunchboxes and say good morning to their friends before 8.45 a.m. when the register is taken and teaching begins.

The problem with children arriving late is not just that they miss the register and any important information that is given out about the day; I am just as concerned about the disturbance to the rest of the children in the class and to the teacher who invariably has to then repeat everything that s/he has already said.

### **Bags2School**

Thank you to all our pupils and families who contributed clothing for the Bags2School initiative. We raised £144 to support the fundraising for Y6 Edale Residential.

### **FOLA -Welcome to Lydgate Junior School's lottery!**

The lottery has been set up specifically to raise money and make a difference for our children. Since its implementation on the 6th of July, it has raised over £500.

It is a fantastic way to bring Parents, Carers, Teachers and the wider community together, in partnership with our school, and at the same time give something back. We hope to raise funds that can support and enrich the education of our children - we aim to provide extra resources for the children improve the school environment as well as run extra-curricular activities such as music, art and sport.

The lottery is a fun and effective way to raise money to improve our school. However, we need your help to make the lottery the best it can be, so please support the lottery today - and who knows maybe you will be the next £25,000 winner!

A ticket costs £1 per week and **all** funds raised go directly to **our** school. Each ticket will also enter you in **TWO** draws:

1. A jackpot prize draw for **£25,000.00**.
2. A local draw with a **guaranteed** prize for one of the supporters of our school. The size of the prize will depend on the number of tickets bought for the school that week.

To support this school and buy tickets see the [Lydgate Junior School Lottery](#) website.

Your support is greatly appreciated and we wish you good luck.

## Site Security

As a temporary measure, we are padlocking the gates on the Shore Lane entrances at both playtimes and at lunchtime. We know that this is an inconvenience for site visitors (about twenty adults enter or leave the site during each lunch break). I hope you will accept any delay, as the measure has been a necessary step in preventing pupils leaving the site unsupervised.

## School Performance Tables

The Department of Education has published the 2019 Key Stage 2 school performance '[tables](#)'. You can look at our data from assessments in summer term 2019 and compare our position with any and every other school, locally or nationally. See [my blog](#) for my selection of highlights.

## Staffing Change

Staffing stability is a recurring feature of our school. We have very low staff turnover by comparison with other schools. Of our 56 colleagues, just one, Mrs Pauline Dale, is leaving this term, as she retires. A measure of the profile and perception of our school is that we received more than 45 applications for Teaching Assistant vacancies this term, and have filled the lunchtime supervisor vacancy at the first advert.

## Music news

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Carol Concert at St John's Church, Ranmoor so wonderful. Members of the Choir, Wind Band, Hand Bells, Year 3 Nativity Players, and Readers all took part. Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and friends who attended and who helped to raise money for charities that School Council will select.

## Foodbank collection

The collection is immense once again and it will be gratefully received whilst doing some great work.



## Poppy Appeal

Many thanks to all who donated as part of our poppy appeal in early November - a total of £175.57 was raised as a result, with a district total of £17,169.37.

## Community

Due to the popularity of local 'Back to Netball' sessions. 'England Netball' we will be running new Bee Netball sessions, U13's and Adult netball (back to netball) at Mercia School S7 2DY. The sessions will be running from Tuesday 14 January 2020.

Bee Netball is England Netball's new programme for U11's: Buzzers - 5-7yrs Fliers - 7-9yrs Stingers - 9-11yrs	5.30 – 6.30 p.m.	£25 for 6 weeks
U13's netball	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	£30 for 6 weeks
Adult netball (16+)	7.30 – 8.30 p.m.	£5 per sessions

For more information & to book sessions, please contact Beccy Lewis by email [blcoachingnetball@gmail.com](mailto:blcoachingnetball@gmail.com)

## Well done to...

Gustave Joubert (Y4CW) who recently was awarded a brown belt in Ju-Jitsu. He is now able to assist some of the younger children.

We wish everyone a very happy and restful holiday. School closes at 3:15 p.m. on 20<sup>th</sup> December and re-opens for the spring term on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Yours sincerely



Headteacher