

Lydgate Junior School

NEWSLETTER

January 2022



Diary Dates

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|--------------------------|---|
| 25 January | Y3AW & Y3SH Stone Age Day |
| 26 January | Y3D/dB & Y3RH Stone Age Day |
| 27 & 28 January | FOLA – Second-hand uniform sale |
| 31 January – 1 February | Y5 York Residential |
| 5 February | Cross Country – Longley Park |
| 14- 18 February | School closed (half-term holiday) |
| 21 February | Y6 - Mr Frostbite (am) |
| 26 February | Cross Country Championships & Presentations – Graves Park |
| 8 March | Parents' Consultations (3.30 – 6.20 p.m.) |
| 10 March | Parents' Consultations (3.30 – 6.20 p.m.) |
| 12 March | Cross Country – Brunswick School |
| 19 March | Cross Country – Y5 & Y6 Relays @ Castle Dyke |
| 26 March | Cross Country – Y3 & Y4 Relays @ Hillsborough |
| 31 March | Last day for pupils before the Easter holiday |
| 1 April | School closed for staff training |
| 4 – 18 April (Inclusive) | Easter holiday |

Global Goals Actions

The new catering contract (Taylor Shaw) has come through to schools. It contains a number of initiatives that will support the city council's 'Green City' targets. For example: Three single use plastic items / disposable ware will be eliminated from the food preparation stage or customer service by August 2022. There will be a 5% to 10% reduction in plastic packaging or non-recyclable packaging by August 2022. Oil used in cooking is all collected by a contractor for energy reclaiming.

Attendance:

While Omicron / Covid-19 has impacted on pupil attendance since the start of the pandemic we are, as a school community, doing really well. Pupil attendance is continually well above the national and local picture, with only half the pupil absence rate seen more widely. In the first week of this term, for example, while pupil attendance was 89% nationally it was 95% at Lydgate Junior School. Let's keep going and keep safe.

Remote Learning

With absence rates so low, and teaching staff fully occupied with providing teaching and learning full-time in class, we simply do not have the resources or capacity to make the same remote learning provision we provided during 2021's 'lockdown'. We still publish on our website medium term plans for each half term, along with suggested web-based resources that children can use for the up to five - ten days they might be absent if isolating. I am sorry that we cannot do more than this, but we do have to concentrate on enabling every class to stay open every day and on managing staff workload.

Lost Property

It piles up at an amazing rate and with a range that would fully clothe a family of school children from head to foot. While we still cannot invite all our parents on to the school site (to look through) we can return items if they are named, and support children to have a look through our collection mountain. Please tell them to

come and look if you know they have left a very good coat (or a decent pair of boots or an expensive water bottle) in school.

Medical appointments during the school day

We do ask that appointments be arranged outside school hours, wherever possible. If your child needs to attend an appointment in school time, we ask parents to contact the school office prior to the appointment, to record, their expected time of arrival, departure and if their appointment is first thing in the morning, their school meal order.

Going home arrangements

Sometimes events happen during the school day, which may mean we are asked to pass a message on from parents to their children about a change to going home arrangements. Although we are able to do this, with nearly 500 pupils it can be challenging as sometimes the children may be out of class, in P.E., ICT, or even the woods!. Wherever possible we would like to keep this to a minimum; however, if parents do need to change their arrangements, we ask parents to allow as much time as possible please.

School opening during adverse weather: a reminder of our policy and procedures

As a rule, you can assume that Lydgate Junior School will be open, and remain open, even during times of adverse weather. We have been able to do so continually for at least the last thirteen winters and so expect to do so this winter unless some significant degradation occurs to site, services or staffing. We will do this in order to provide continuity of education for the children, and so parents can have confidence in being able to continue with their daily plans and work commitments.

We give the safety of our whole school community the greatest priority and accord it serious consideration at such times. We do not open without careful reflection and survey of site conditions, sufficient staffing and proper services. The vast majority of our school staff live fairly close to school and so can and do get in on time even on days with poor or challenging weather conditions. It may be that some of our staff have difficulty in reaching us on time for the start of the school day: if this happens, it may result in some disruption to the normal timetable. Staff do, however, make every reasonable effort to be here on time (as parents and pupils do). In the last eleven years, we have not had a class without a member of staff with them at the beginning of the day. Our long experience tells us that we will almost certainly be able to open.

If there is a decision NOT to open, or to open later than normal, we will text parents, post on the school [website](#) and on the council website (opt in to receive alerts [here](#)), and use local radio. The city council website is the one central information point for school closures.

If there is no announcement of closure, parents / carers should assume school is open as normal.

Please do not telephone school to find out if we are open as it ties up a member of staff when we need to be planning and preparing for the day. You do not need to telephone to ask – we either will not have made a decision at that point (hence no announcement) or we have decided to open as normal. Be assured that we will inform you if we do have to close or not open as usual.

Many families have children at more than one school. The other school might make a different decision about opening to us – maybe they will open later or not at all when we might open as usual. You might decide it is not practical to get to both schools for different start times and so only make one journey. A late arrival here will be understood (even though it will be marked as 'late').

We do understand that some parents, especially those who do not live within easy walking distance, may feel that it is unsafe to try to get children to school. In these situations, please make your own decision with the best interests of your child in mind. Whatever that decision is, we will be supportive. However, all pupil absence will be recorded as such. In line with the Attendance Policy, a decision about authorising absence is made by the Headteacher.

Please email enquiries@lydgate-jun.sheffield.sch.uk or ring (0114 2669500) or to let us know about absence.

Other than in highly exceptional circumstances school will not close during the course of the school day. There will always be supervision of children until the end of the normal school day. We would never allow children to go home without clear parental consent, which includes going with another parent / carer, unless we have specific agreement. We would like all children to leave at the normal end of school time, where possible. Please only consider collecting them early if you are unable to ensure your child is collected safely at the normal time. If you are going to be late, or are unable to make arrangements for someone else to collect, please telephone to let us know and we will obviously provide safe accommodation inside school until you arrive.

We will do our best to enable the children to play in the snow if it is safe. The children are asked not to make slides on snow or ice in the playground, but our intention will be to go outside, if only for a portion of the breaks. We ask, therefore, that you send your child appropriately dressed to play out in the snow (perhaps even provide a change of clothes) and that they have waterproof footwear and a coat. We may let the children out when there is ice on the playground; we may cordon off areas deemed unfit to use, we will provide necessary additional supervision and we will ask the children to be extra careful. We hope that the children can enjoy the snow while ensuring that their education is not disrupted.

Mobile phones and smart watches in school

A reminder of our policy on mobile phones in school: if they must, and with your knowledge, pupils may bring phones to school but they must be switched off and put away during school hours. They must be handed to their teacher at the beginning of the day for safekeeping. Smart watches with in-built cameras are not allowed in school because of the possibility of photographs being taken in the playground.

Parking around school

We have had complaints from residents regarding parking and dropping off at the beginning and end of the school day. A particular concern is the parking of cars next to the "No idling engines!" sign erected by Sheffield City Council and on the double yellow lines spanning from Shore Lane up to the school gate on Manchester Road. We also remind parents by placing a "Polite – think before you park" sign at the entrances to school. We have had worrying reports of parking dangerously across the pavement, with a motorist reversing and nearly hitting a child. This inconsiderate parking is putting our children and other pedestrians at risk. On occasions when motorists have parked illegally, the police have and will be notified. Thank you.

Friends of Lydgate Association (FOLA) News

FOLA is a parent and teacher association that supports and fundraises for Lydgate Junior School. We put on social events throughout the year, fundraising to help buy things such as books and playground equipment. There are many ways to get involved, helping at an event, making or donating items or taking on a committee role. It is also a great way to meet other parents and to help raise funds for your child's school. For further information, please see our [Facebook page – FOLA – Friends of Lydgate Association](#) or email fola.pta@gmail.com

FOLA Events

Look out for our up and coming events including [2022 January Get Active Challenge](#) details of further events to follow.

FOLA Second-hand uniform sale

On Thursday 27 & Friday 28 January, we will be holding a second-hand school uniform sale at the Manchester Road gate after school. If you would like to donate or buy some good quality second-hand uniform this is the perfect opportunity to donate, re-use and re-cycle uniform.

FOLA School Lottery

Thank you to everyone playing the school lottery. Since its launch in July 2019 FOLA have raised **over £3,000** for the school. Every week someone in our school wins a cash prize and everyone has the chance

to win up to £25,000. This term there is an additional prize; a Forest Staycation. If you would like to support the school and be in with a chance of winning each week for as little £1 a week please sign up [here](#).

Sporting News

Well done to all 20 of our pupils who took part in the cross country races on Saturday 22nd. It was a lovely crisp cold morning for a run. Special congratulations go to Olivia W (6R/J) and Beau (6R/J) who came first in the girls and boys Y5/Y6 races. We're very proud of all our pupils who come to cross country, some run quicker than others, some are more competitive and some run for the fun with their friends; all have an amazing positive attitude and are a credit to their parents and school. Well done!

The Gambia

We have once again received a big thank you for supporting our local charity campaigner Janet Stains. The goods donated have now arrived at the Nyofelleh School in The Gambia and are able to support the children in receiving quality education. We fully support the RRS Articles 28 & 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, whereby "Every child has the right to education, which must develop their personality, talents and abilities to the full. What a lovely thought to know that the children in The Gambia will be using these.



Well done to...

Libby D (5W/R), Phoebe C (Y5WR) and Alistair S (5BB) who competed in the City of Sheffield Swim Squad Swimming Gala at Ponds Forge on Sunday 9 January. They are team members of Hillsborough Leisure Centre Little Olympics swim squad. Amazing swimming and definitely something they should be proud of!

Josh H (Y6S/W) came second place (jointly with his brother Daniel!) in a music competition in the Christmas holidays. Josh played a grade 3 piece 'The Night of the Sleepy Panda' by Edric Tan which is entirely made up of sharps and flat keys only!

Community

Below is information about clubs or activities that you feel may be of interest to your child(ren).

The **Sheffield Library Service** offers a number of online and local library based opportunities for pupils during the half-term holiday.

- Meet award winning author Salma Zaman and hear her recite her latest children's book Sally and her Super Snot. Explore creative themes, illustrations, dance, music and make your own Slime!
- Come and join Sheffield author Suzy Senior for a funtastic time with Octopants!! Suzy will be introducing her new book Octopants and the Missing Pirate Pants and sharing her much loved Octopants. There will be lots to join in with pirate fancy dress optional!

For further information see their [website](#).



Vertex & Hallam Rangers Wildcats



are running two Wildcat sessions on Monday and Thursdays! Our sessions are specifically designed for girls aged 5-11 to be the best environment to fall in love with the game and develop a lifelong love for sport and activity. Please email Mike@vertexwellbeing.com to receive a booking link and a **free session voucher** to use at a Monday or Thursday session. Places are limited and are filling up already so please book early.



The coaching team of Mike, Beth and Chelsea cannot wait to see you at our sessions. Thank you !

Dear Parents/ Legal Guardians

We would like to invite your child to a free session with us at Hillsborough Leisure Centre, we will also provide everything needed to get your child started should they want to continue after this free session (Uniforms, Licence and Insurance)

Should your child want to continue after the free lesson- we just charge £29 a month for one child or £49 a month for two children. You just pay as you go one month at a time.

Choosing martial arts for your child will give you the following piece of mind

- Your child will learn how to protect themselves and learn street safety
- We aim for the children to enjoy each lesson whilst at the same time maintaining class discipline
- Your child will benefit from increased concentration and focus which in turn will help them with their academic studies
- Lessons will consist of fitness work, pad work, stretches and learning the Black Belt martial arts curriculum
- Each class has up to 5 fully qualified, first aid trained, insured, DBS checked male and female Black Belt instructors

Session details are

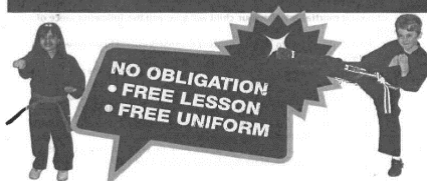

Sundays 2.45-3.30pm, 3.30-4.15pm or 4.15-5.00pm
Hillsborough Leisure Centre
Beulah Road, Hillsborough S6 2AN

Thursdays 4.15-5.00pm, 5.00-5.45pm or 5.45-6.30pm
City Limits Dance Centre
607-613 Penistone Road North, Hillsborough S6 2GA

- To book a free session please text message your child's name and date of birth and chosen session to 07933 559465 thereafter you will receive a phone call with a start date and to answer any questions you may have

NEW CLASSES FOR CHILDREN STARTING NOW!

HILLSBOROUGH LEISURE CENTRE

KARATE ZONE 空手道

RESPECT DISCIPLINE SELF-DEFENCE CONFIDENCE CONCENTRATION

FOR CHILDREN AGED 4-11



RECRUITING NEW PLAYERS



Give us a call on:

Little Hawks - 07887428006

U8's Y2/3 - 07581415709

U9's Y4 - 07746015654

U10's Y5 - 07746015654

BOYS AND GIRLS RUGBY LEAGUE



February Half Term Holiday Club Sheffield Girls': Junior School

These clubs are open to children aged 3-11 from all schools

Mon 14th Feb – Fri 18th Feb 2022

All clubs include dodgeball, dance, drama, yoga, multi skills, ball games, art and crafts, team and confidence building activities and much more.

Where: Sheffield Girls': Junior School Timings: 8.30am-5pm

Cost: £30 per day
All childcare vouchers accepted

We will follow all Government guidance on keeping everyone safe. To find out more or to book visit www.rattleandrollperformance.com or call 07722 014301



TheatreStarz Needs You!



Are you interested in musical Theatre, Plays and Performance?
Would you like to perform in real theatre productions?

Then TheatreStarz is for you.

Our Saturday theatre club will teach you Dance, Drama and Song. In fact, everything you need to get involved in musical theatre. Our fully qualified teachers regularly perform in theatres and you could too in our self-produced productions.

Could your Saturdays get any better? Come along and see what we do

No worries if you don't know anyone, you soon will.

Come and have a go

Come and have fun

King Edward VII Upper School, Main Hall Saturdays, 10:30am

For more information WWW.THEATRESTARZ.COM or call Melodie 0771 8951873

Yours sincerely

S R Jones - Headteacher