

Lydgate Junior School
NEWSLETTER
September 2019



Dear Parents / Carers,

Diary Dates

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| 26 September | Photographer in school for individual pupil photographs |
| 27 September, all day | Y6 trip to the National Holocaust Centre |
| 28 September | Cross Country – Parkwood Springs |
| 1 October (9 a.m. – 1 p.m.) | Y4 Horrible Histories (Film @ The Light Cinema) |
| 2 October (12.30 – 3.30 p.m.) | MAST Advice Sessions |
| 7 – 11 October | Y6 Bikeability cycle training |
| 8 October (1.30 – 2.30 p.m.) | Y3 (Admission 2020) Open Session |
| 12 October | Cross Country - Brunswick |
| 15 & 17 October (3.30 – 6.20 p.m) | Parent Consultation Meetings |
| 18 October, from 3.15 p.m. | FOLA Film Night (in school) – information to follow |
| 14 – 18 October | Y6 Bikeability cycle training |
| 22 October | Y5 Egyptian Day |
| 24 October | Flu vaccinations (nasal spray) for pupils |
| 25 October | School closed to pupils – INSET Day |
| 28 October – 1 November | School closed for the half term holiday |
| 4 November | School re-opens for the second half of the Autumn term |
| 6 November (8.00 – 9.00 p.m.) | FOLA Meeting @ The Sportsman Pub |
| 13 November | Y6 Macbeth Performance |
| 15 November | Children in Need |
| 16 November | Cross Country – Bradfield School |
| 19 November | Y3 & Y4 Pantomime |
| 20 November (12.30 – 3.30 p.m.) | MAST Advice Sessions |
| 26 November (9.00-10.a.m) | Y3 (Admission 2020) Open Session |
| 30 November | Cross Country – Longley Park |
| 9 & 10 December | Y4 Roman Days |
| 11 December (7.00 p.m.) | Christmas Concert |
| 18 December (4.30 – 6.00 p.m.) | Y 3 & Y4 Christmas Disco |
| 18 December (6.30 – 8.00 p.m.) | Y5 & Y6 Christmas Disco |

A very warm welcome back to school to everyone as we begin the Autumn term.

The return to school has been very successful. Pupils have settled to lessons, and the rest of school life, immediately. I am sure parents have noticed children’s confidence over new arrangements and classes. Our new Year 3 pupils have been really impressive in the way they have quickly adapted to our routines. Lessons are well underway. Clubs have restarted. Friendships have been re-established, Playtimes have been enhanced. Improvements to some arrangements, e.g. handovers to after school clubs and registration software and recording of late children in the mornings, have been implemented successfully. Informal parent drop-ins have been well received and attended. The new FOLA team have met to plan events. All in all it’s been quite a high speed start.

You’ll see from the extensive list above that many activities are already planned and booked; there will be more as more dates are confirmed. Many are provided at no cost to school or by school with no request for parental contribution. However, like every school, we do have to ask for voluntary contributions towards the

cost of some activities. I hope you will be able to support us, but rest assured that no child is ever prevented from attending an activity because no voluntary contribution has been made.

Parent consultation meetings

Parent–teacher meetings will take place this term on 15 & 17 October from 3.30 p.m. – 6.20 p.m. Appointments will be available to book online in the next few weeks – we will send an email with instructions on how to do this shortly.

Before and after school clubs and activities

As always, the demand for both before and after school clubs and activities has been phenomenal. The indoor space we have free for such activities is limited and this unfortunately dictates both the number of clubs we can offer and the number of places available for participants. Available clubs are notified to parents with an electronic link for parents to express an interest, via email.

RASCALS & Benty Lane After School Clubs

Can we remind parents whose children routinely attend the above child care facilities to keep them fully informed of any changes to their child's sessions. This is particularly necessary if children are ill and not able to attend their session, if they attend after school clubs in school or may require collecting later from one of our clubs. This will save undue worry to staff and unnecessary phone calls to parents trying to locate missing children.

School calendar

We do try to put events which are due to take place on the website: <http://www.lydgatejunior.co.uk/events-calendar>. I have also included the term dates for this year (2019-20) at the end of this newsletter. Sheffield City Council have recently set the dates for next year – 2020/2021. I have also agreed the dates for the INSET days with Lydgate Infant School. To avoid confusion we will publish these in the next newsletter, however they are also available on the website.

Year 6 transfer to Year 7

If your child was born between 1/9/2008 - 31/08/2009 they will transfer to secondary school in September 2020. You must apply for a place by 31st October 2019. The council will have sent information about how to do this to your home address. Please contact the admissions team on 0114 2735766 if you have any queries.

Sports news

The cross country season is once again upon us. We are looking forward to repeating and building upon our successes of last year. New members are very welcome – you do not have to commit to every race.

Below are the venues for the races this year. Please be aware that *these may change, sometimes at very short notice*. For an up-to-date picture, see the Sheffield Federation for Sports website:

<https://www.sfss.co.uk/index.php/men/featured-shops/cross-country>

Year 3 children are allowed to take part in the Year 4 races once they are eight years old. All Year 3 pupils, regardless of their age, may run after Christmas. Please look out for letters the week before each race confirming individual race details. Generally, we ask parents & children to meet at the venue at 9.30 a.m.

If any parents are able to help on the day of the races, it would be much appreciated – please leave a message at the school office for Mrs Drury. Thank you.

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| 28 September | Parkwood Springs |
| 12 October | Brunswick Community School |
| 16 November | Bradfield Secondary School |
| 30 November | Longley Park |
| 25 January 2020 | Norfolk Park |
| 8 February | Concord Park |
| 29 February | Graves Park |

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| 7 March | Bolehills Park |
| 21 March | Castle Dyke |

Beginning and end of the day staffing and security

Parents and other adults at the top gate at the end of the day will have noticed how many staff come out at the end of the day, every day. We accompany some individual pupils, meet parents, pass and receive information, but most importantly support children at this key hand-over moment. There will always be a member of staff available at the gate in case a child is not collected as expected. By 3:30 p.m. we will bring any children still uncollected back into the main building where a member of the admin team will contact parents.

The start of the school day is 8:35 a.m. when we unlock the classroom doors. Children are not supervised before this time, and really should not be on-site unless they are attending one of our clubs. Registration is at 8:45 a.m.

Quite a number of pupils are biking and scooting to school; just to let parents know that, as well as the racks near the Manchester Road gate, there is also storage in racks adjacent to Tapton School field.

Assemblies - could you help?

We are looking for people from different faiths and traditions who would be willing to share their customs and beliefs with the children during assembly. Could this be you, or do you know someone from a religious or community group who would do this? If you think you could help, please contact Mrs Farrell, Deputy Headteacher, to discuss further.

Small steps in premises improvements

Over the summer we have repaired a roof on one 'mobile' and the steps on another, completed refurbishment in two cloakrooms, replaced 12 chairs in classrooms and 150 in the hall, replaced the IT Suite hardware (31 computers) and carried out annual maintenance. We will continue with similar small steps to improve the presentation of our site and the pleasantness of visiting school.

FOLA news

Thank you to everyone who supported FOLA fundraising activities last year. The money raised will go towards providing more reading books in classrooms and also towards making improvements to the library area.

Free parent & child mini tennis session Hallamshire Tennis Club

The Academy @ ClubSpark (LTA accredited) would like to invite you to come and try a FREE parent & child Mini Tennis Session. The next local session will be held at the Hallamshire Tennis & Squash Club Ltd on Sunday 29 September. To find out more & sign up see their [website](#).



Headteacher