



Newsletter Friday 2nd December 2022

Headteacher News

It seems unbelievable that we have only 2 weeks left of the term. Again this year (for different reasons to recent years) times are difficult and worrying given the current cost of living crisis, worldwide issues, the ongoing war in Ukraine, and all the worries that these bring to families. However, we (as we are sure you are too) are delighted that we can see the festive season in sight. A wonderfully exciting time in schools, the wonder of the season is continually reminded to us by your children who are an absolute delight and joy to be around. We try to remember and are thankful for our health and reflect on those experiencing difficulty, poor health and those who are lonely at Christmas time. It is also a time to take care of ourselves and our loved ones and to remember to be grateful for the little things that bring us pleasure in life.

Everywhere you look there are Christmas lights, songs on the radio and TV and we find ourselves as adults reminiscing and thinking of Christmases past and future. The delight of working in a primary school is that children live very much in the 'here and now'. They are just thinking of advent calendar chocolates (whatever happened to the ones just with a picture behind?!), what the elf may do tomorrow and what Father Christmas will be bringing them very soon.

The wonder of Christmastime is definitely coming very soon at Loose for the children, there are wonderful decorations in and around the school and we thank Kingswood Trees for the trees they have kindly donated for our halls.

Christmas Cards

If your child wishes to bring in cards for their friends, please do ensure they have full names and classes on them so the elves take them to the right place! Although magical, they will not be able to guess which Henry, Josh, Amelia or Sophie you mean as we have so many children with the same name in our large school. Final date for guaranteed delivery is Friday 9 December so get writing!

Christmas Fair

Huge thanks go to our fabulous PTA for the fair last weekend. Children loved visiting Santa and so many of you enjoyed the raffle, tombolas and wonderful stalls that really got us in the festive mood. 900 of you came along and supported the event, we are grateful to each and every one of you.

Such events take many hours of careful planning and organisation and the time and dedication of a great PTA team. Massive thanks go to them but also to you all for coming and spending your pennies. I also want to thank the staff and parents who helped on the day.

Please do take the time to look at our dates below as so much is going on at this time of year - we do not want you to miss out. The panto, Christmas dinner and jumper day, church services, open afternoon and much more coming soon!

Along with all things Christmas, normal school is in full swing of course. We had a Year R review this week with a visiting specialist teacher so we can continue to review and improve our early years provision and we have also had in the last few weeks a DT and Science review and a review of reading and phonics. Six months on from our Ofsted visit we see many strengths and improvements in our reading provision at Loose and, whilst a work in progress, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our English team, teachers and teaching assistants for ensuring high quality opportunities are offered to children at Loose.

Have a wonderful weekend

Sarah Holman



Assistant Headteacher News

Hello, Mr Hogwood here this week. It became very exciting in school this week with the 1st day of December yesterday! It was fantastic to see so many people at the Christmas Fair and supporting the school community. The school council have met last week to discuss maths with Miss Whitlock and they shared some great ideas. The majority of children enjoy maths, and like using manipulatives to support their learning. Some suggestions were to have a World maths day, so watch this space for news about this.

A new project we will be embarking on as a school in January is OPAL play. Research shows that children's mental and physical health is getting worse and that great play can make it better. During seven years at primary school, children spend 1.4 years at play. We will be basing our January INSET day for all staff and this is an 18-month journey to improve the philosophy of play throughout the school. We need at least 2 parents to join a working party as a Parent Play Champion. The commitment would be attendance at 5 meeting over 18 months with the first one being on Thursday 12th January 9.30am-12noon. If you are interested then please drop the office an email for the attention of Mr Hogwood.

Brief for Parent Play Champion Role

The Parent Play Champions will:

- Observe and assess playtime within the school at least once a year
- Sit on the OPAL Working Party and attend development meetings once a term
- Support other parents to understand the school's approach to play
- Advocate OPAL's approach and for children's play within the PTA and school community
- Share contributions and ideas from parents the wider community
- Support the ongoing resourcing of loose parts from the parent and wider community



Leader in School

In the first instance, most queries should be addressed with the class teacher but if you need to speak to a leader, we are happy to catch up informally with a phone call. We have three Assistant Headteachers who are available if you have any concerns. Miss Burman for Year 1 or Year 2 queries, Mr Hogwood for Year 3 and Year 4 queries or Mr Farley for Year 5 & Year 6 queries. Mrs Oliveri (also teacher in Year R – Pearl) is our Early Years leader and is always happy to speak with you about any child or concern in Year R. Please do talk to us if you have any worries or concerns so we can sort them as soon as possible.

One reason for highlighting this is we urge you to contact us with any concerns that you have. Whilst social media (including What's App) has many advantages and is used by all of us, there have been situations where issues have been raised and made other parents unnecessarily anxious, often with incorrect information shared. Please think before you post and contact us to find out more about any issues you may have to resolve your concerns in the expected way.

Diary Dates

Term 2

05 Dec - Year 2 Phonics Workshop for parents Orchard Hall 2.30pm -3.15pm

06 Dec - Flu Vaccinations Year R - 6

07 Dec - Year R Nativity Performance to parents & siblings - Brook Hall 9.30am
08 Dec - PTA Gifts for Parent - more information to follow
08 Dec - Year R Nativity to parents - Brook Hall 2.00pm
08 Dec - PTA Meeting 8pm
09 Dec - PTA Gifts for Parents
09 Dec - Parent Council meeting 2.15-3.00pm
13 Dec - KS2 Pantomime in Canterbury - KS1 Panto in school for Years R-2
14 Dec - Piano Concert (Joanne Wilson) - parents invited
14 Dec - Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day - PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE
16 Dec - Christmas Church Services at All Saints Church, Loose
16 Dec - Open Afternoon 2-3.30pm - children can be signed out from 2pm onwards
16 Dec - Last day of term - children due back on school Wednesday 4th January



Change to Year 6 SATS dates

Due to the additional Bank Holiday on the 8th May 2023 for the Coronation, the Year 6 SATS dates have been changed. Please see revised dates below.

- Tuesday 9 May: English grammar, punctuation and spelling
- Wednesday 10 May: English reading paper
- Thursday 11 May: Mathematics papers 1 (arithmetic) and 2 (reasoning)
- Friday 12 May: Mathematics paper 3 (reasoning)

Year 6 children are expected in school each day that week so they can complete them with their peers.

Late Collection at End of Day

We understand that occasionally there may be circumstances when you cannot get to school for 3.20pm to collect your child on time. If this is the case please always make sure you call us in plenty of time and before the end of the day so we are aware and can catch the class before they head out to the playground.

If your child is not collected at 3.20pm they will be brought to the main office where we will hold onto them for 15 minutes until 3.35pm. If your child has still not been collected at this point they will be sent to one of the extended services clubs and there will be a charge. For children in Years 2 to 6 this will be Homework Club Monday to Thursday for a charge of £3.00 and for children in Years R & 1, from Monday to Friday and children in Years 2 to 6 on a Friday only, this will be after school club for a charge of £10.00.

Collection times are:

School finished at 3.20pm

Extra curriculum clubs and Homework club finishes at 4.20pm

After School Club finishes at 6pm

Please note that non-collection at 3.20pm should be in exceptional circumstances only. Should this occur on a regular basis, this arrangement will be reviewed and may be altered.

Thank You Kingswood Christmas Trees!

We would like to say a huge thank you to Kingswood for kindly donating 2 very lovely Christmas Trees for the children in each hall. The pleasure the children get from these once decorated is lovely to see. Their Christmas Tree Farm is open 7 days a week from 9am to 5pm and we have leaflets on reception with a £5 off voucher if you'd like one. Their website is www.kingswoodchristmastrees.co.uk . There is also a Santa's Grotto, a shop with Christmas decorations, a lovely café and some cute reindeer!



Drop-In Come and Talk Sessions

Don't forget our new weekly 'DROP-IN, COME AND TALK' sessions.

These will be held every Friday from 2.15pm till 3.15pm in the staff-room on the school site.

There will be coffee, tea and biscuits and a listening ear for any questions or situations for which you may want our support.

As well as guidance and signposting, you will have access to pre-loved uniform and other provisions which may support you, should you need them.

Please come and pop in, even if it's just to meet other parents, have a chat or a warm drink. You are ALL very welcome.

I look forward to seeing you.

Ingrid Dutch

Families and Community Leader

Certificate of Excellence Awards

Well done to the following children who got Certificate of Excellence awards this week and last.

Week ending 25th November

Theo W - Topaz

Sienna K - Sunstone

Ted T - Amethyst

Anwaar Naqeebah I - Peridot

Evie N - Zultanite

Olivia F - Quartz

Week ending 2nd December

Theo W - Coral

Oliver M - Amber

Kieran G & Olivia C - Jade

Lucy S - Emerald

Jasper H - Onyx

Isla K - Ruby



Poppy Appeal & Children in Need

We have received a thank you from the Royal British Legion - your donations for poppies raised **£262.91** at Loose for this very worthy charity and a total of **£12,447** was raised across the Maidstone Schools. They are very grateful for all your donations which will help them provide support for members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, veterans and their families.

We also managed to raise an amazing **£620.47** for Children In Need so huge thank you to everyone that donated!



In School Testing

During this term, the children have been completing some tests in school. We complete a set of tests (Maths, Reading, SPAG and Spelling) twice a year in November and March and these tests are used for teachers to identify gaps in children's knowledge and plan next steps for children. These tests are completed across Years 3,4 and 5. Other year groups follow different assessment timetables in line with national statutory assessments which we provide more detailed information about. These tests are a part of usual school practice and we use this alongside quizzes, mini-tests and other assessment opportunities during everyday lessons to ensure we have a solid understanding of where are children are academically.

School Vacancies

Please see below links for the vacancies we currently have in the trust. All applications should be made via the Kent Teach Website.

Loose Caretaker:

<https://www.kent-teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/VacancyDetails.aspx?VacancyId=109929>

Loose Class Teacher:

<https://www.kent-teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/VacancyDetails.aspx?VacancyId=110357>

Coxheath Primary Site Manager:

<https://www.kent-teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/VacancyDetails.aspx?VacancyId=110225>

Travelling Book Fair

We are very pleased to be welcoming The Traveling Book Fair back to Loose Primary School for our Christmas Book Fair. As a special promotion, all books will be sold at half price so this is a great opportunity to stock up on some super holiday reading books or Christmas presents, with some of our favourite authors and characters. From Monday 12th December to Thursday 15th December, the book fair will be based in Orchard Hall. All dates will start at 3.25pm and you can pay by both cash and card.

Miss Spelman



House Points

1st - Attenborough

2nd - Parks

3rd - Donaldson

4th - Curie

Well done to Attenborough!

Take Away tubs still needed by Mrs Plank

Mrs Planck, our resident artist, is looking for donations of clean plastic take-away tubs with lids please as they make for good art material storage! Please bring them in for her attention. This will be on going, so are gratefully received any time.

Bad Parking

The vehicle below was parked on the double yellow lines at the bottom of Lancet Lane by the corner of Anglesey Avenue on Monday morning. This is extremely dangerous and inconsiderate. The photo has been sent onto the local PCSO.



PTA Events & Dates

Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas fair - from helpers to stall holders to people who came and joined in. We had nearly 900 visitors come through the doors which created a great atmosphere. We have raised an amazing £2500+ to donate to the school. Thank you for being part of such a great event!

Christmas Gifts for Parents and Carers

The deadline for this event is **TODAY Friday 2nd December**. If you would like your child to take part please see previous email for details on how to pay online. The event will take place on Thursday 8th and Friday 9th December. Please email the PTA loosepta@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to help - the children love choosing their secret gifts!

Next Meeting

The next PTA meeting will take place on Thursday 8th December, 8pm at the Chequers pub, Loose village. All welcome.

Lucky Lotto

Congratulations to Angela Batt & Keith May who won Novembers Lucky Lotto!

Amazon Smile

Don't forget to sign up to this easy way of raising funds for school whilst shopping online from the comfort of home!

Loose Primary School Running Club

Community run next date - 4th December Sunday 2022, £1 to join in, 5km distance but can go longer or shorter! All abilities welcome. Meet at the Anglesey Avenue bus stop, 8am or 9am outside school.

Website Link for PTA Reports & Minutes

Please see the link below for the latest minutes, AGM report and treasurers report.

<https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=PTA+Minutes&pid=45&action=saved>



Community News

The Walkabout Advent Trail is back for 2022. Follow the trail to find the letters that spell out a festive phrase. There are 25 windows in Coxheath that have been decorated in the theme 'Christmas Traditions' for you to discover. We are raising funds for Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter appeal. Maps can be picked up from Londis for a suggested donation of £2. Windows will be lit until 9pm each evening. The trail runs from the 1st to the 25th December.

Contact Us

lasc.asc@loose-primary.kent.sch.uk - please use this email address for **ALL** extended services bookings/queries/requests etc. Please do not email the office with these.

absence@loose-primary.kent.sch.uk - please use this email for all absence related matters including illness and hospital appointments and holiday notifications.

office@loose-primary.kent.sch.uk - use this for all other emails and urgent matters

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