



Newsletter Friday 1st December 2023

Headteacher News

It's here. Whether you are a glitter fan or a minty humbug, the wonderful world of Christmas is upon us. Loose is alive with Christmas. The teachers are decorating trees for their classes and there are a couple of naughty elves running about playing practical jokes on the team. I walked into my office on Wednesday to find snow everywhere and a nice cuddly elf to keep me company until the end of the term. I'm sure he'll be chatty and be looking for all the children working hard so he can report back to the big man in a red suit.

I was teaching in Year 1 on Thursday afternoon and the children were so excited about the start of advent. We were talking about the Christmas story and what it felt like to wait for something so exciting. They talked about how they prepare for Christmas and the lovely traditions of their families - one of my favorites was "I like to bake Christmas goodies". It painted a lovely picture of the excitement of preparing.

Currently our EYFS team are working flat out preparing for the children's nativity play. The children are super excited and I know it'll be a cracker! Mrs Dutch has been ordering Christmas trees and the PTA have just finished organising the most amazing Christmas Fair. Over £1500 was raised for the school. They do so much and there is not a thank you big enough so I hope Father Christmas sees all of their hard work.

Christmas is about joy, peace and community. It's about the love we share for each other and the world around us. There will of course be families in our community who may well find this season a challenge for whatever reason and I hope they have the support around them that they may need. We are here if anyone needs support. Please just drop by for a conversation , it may help. If you know someone who may find this season a challenge, reach out too. It could really make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support.





Assistant Headteacher News

Mr Hogwood here this week. On the day that small white flakes fell from the sky the Christmas spirit is well and truly in Loose Primary now. Over the past few weeks the school council have been gathering thoughts and ideas about trips and experiences that they feel would benefit the children of Loose through their journey in the school. We had many great ideas such as visiting a museum, a trip to London, a trip on a train, author visits to school. There were even some bigger ideas such as Legoland, Harry Potter World and a foreign country! As a school, we are looking at what we deliver and ensure that it enhances the curriculum we offer and a wide range of experiences for the children. So watch this space for what is happening in your child's year group. The value of determination was discussed in assemblies this week and the children have shown that with testing happening across the school. I have my own determination challenge in April where I will be running the London Marathon for the first time,

supporting the charity Whizzkids (<https://www.whizz-kidz.org.uk/>). In March I will be organising a Loose mini marathon (alongside the school council) to raise funds for this amazing charity. Have a great weekend!



National Christmas Jumper Day

A reminder we will be taking part in the national Christmas Jumper Day 2023. Children can come to school with a Christmas jumper on for a donation to Save the Children next week on **Thursday 7th December**.

We have set up a school **Just Giving** page and have put the link below so all the monies raised goes directly to the charity. There is also a QR code on the website page you can scan with your mobile phone to make a donation too. See link:-

<https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fundraising/CJD230030122>

We're asking anyone who takes part to avoid buying a new jumper. Instead, you can craft an old jumper, buy from a charity shop or do a clothes swap with a friend. ***The children will also be able to wear their Christmas jumpers on Tuesday 12th December, the day of the Christmas lunch. They should wear their normal school uniform both days and just replace the school logo jumper/cardigan with the Christmas one.***

Let's see how much money we can raise for this amazing charity that helps children in the UK and around the world.



REMINDER RE MEDICINE POLICY

Medicines

We are only able to administer 'prescribed only' medicine during school hours (not 'as and when' medicines) and this should be in its original container, with the prescriber's instructions and child's name attached where relevant. All medicines must be labelled and handed into the main school office (please do NOT give to teachers) along with a completed medication form.

The form can be found on our website using the following link:-

<https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=17&type=pdf>

Antibiotics

If your child is on an antibiotic where 3 daily doses are required, please time these so that they are all done outside of school hours. For antibiotics where 4 doses are required, please time the dose that needs to be done in school for **11.45am when the school medicine medicine round is done.**

Asthma pumps and other critical medicines are kept in classes and are administered as and when required by the classroom staff.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter. As you will appreciate with over 660 children at Loose we need to adhere to these guidelines in order to keep children and medicines safe within the school environment.

Medical/Dental Appointments

Where possible all medical and dental appointments should be made **outside of school hours** or in the school holidays. We understand that hospital appointments may be during the school day. Copies of all appointment letters must be emailed into the school office for our files so the absence can be recorded as authorised.



Reminder re Maths & Phonics Workshops

Maths Workshop for parents/carers – 12th December 2.30-3.10pm

A reminder we are holding a Maths Workshop on Tuesday 12th December at 2.30pm till 3.10pm in Orchard Hall. We will discuss the importance of manipulatives and mastery and how you can support your child at home. **This workshop is suitable for parents of all children, but may be of particular use for parents of children in KS1 & lower KS2. If you are coming please click on the link below and complete the form.**

<https://forms.office.com/e/VqHgsqH2Up>

Phonics & Reading Workshop YR, Y1, Y2 – Friday 8th December 2023 – 2.00-3.10pm

A reminder we are holding a Phonics and Reading Workshop on Friday 8th December at 2.00pm, based on how we teach phonics and reading in school. This is a great opportunity to give you some tips and tricks on how you can support your child at home and get the best from them. We anticipate that the session will last approximately one hour and we will be finished by the time school ends. **If you are coming please click on the link below and complete the form.**

<https://forms.office.com/e/Uq0sFNviYL>

Year R Admissions September 2024

If you have a child due to start in Year R in September 2024 we would advise that online applications are now open for parents wanting to apply. The closing date is midnight on the 15th January 2024. Applications should be made online. Offer day is 16th April 2024 where you will be offered a school for your child.

Please see link below for full details and for the link to make your application. There is also a booklet with lots more information for parents to read.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places#tab-2>

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Thomson in the school office.

Diary Dates

Term 2

05 Dec - Jade Class Assembly Brook Hall 9am - families invited - please sign in at main reception

06 Dec - Year R Nativity to parents & siblings 9.30am Brook Hall

07 Dec - National Christmas Jumper Day - whole school - donations via Just Giving link

07 Dec - Guitar & Piano Assembly (Jo Wilson & Andy Davis) 9.00-9.45am Orchard Hall

07 Dec - Year R Nativity to parents 2.00pm Brook Hall

07 & 08 Dec - PTA Christmas Gifts in school

08 Dec - Phonics Workshop for parents of Year R, 1 & 2 Orchard Hall 2-3.10pm

08 Dec - Parent Council Meeting Staffroom 2.30-3.15pm (refreshments from 2.15pm)

12 Dec - Maths Parent Session Brook Hall 2.30pm - 3.10pm Orchard Hall - change of time

12 Dec - Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day - whole school

14 Dec - Year 1 & Year 4 Art Exhibition - after school - whole school invited to view it - more info to follow

15 Dec - Last day of term - school finishes at **3.20pm** - **Open afternoon cancelled**

15 Dec - Christmas Services at All Saints Church Loose

Back to school 3rd January 2024



Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day

A reminder if your child would like the Christmas lunch on Tuesday 12th December you need to book this online via School Money **no later than 9am on Wednesday 6th December**. You just book as normal - it's not marked as a Christmas lunch. There is no charge for Years R, 1 and 2. Please see the link below for the menu:-

<https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=678&type=pdf>

This meal must be booked in advance for all children in KS1 & KS2 so that the kitchen can cater accurately. The children are also invited to wear their Christmas jumpers for the day too.



Ethic of Excellence

A huge well done to the following children from their Ethic of Excellence Award!

Week ending 24th November

Katie W - Coral Class

Ruan T - Amber Class

Lars P - Emerald Class

Reuben C - Onyx Class

Faye P - Ruby Class

Lucy S - Amethyst Class

Week ending 1st December

Steve A - Diamond Class

Harper P - Sapphire Class

Cooper G - Moonstone Class

Aria M - Tanzanite Class

Aleksander W - Aquamarine Class

Kadie S - Turquoise Class

Martha F - Jade Class



Queen's Green Canopy Project

Back in 2022 the eco council applied for 21 trees under the 'Queen's Green Canopy' project as part of celebrations for the jubilee. The school has been gifted a standard tree for each class to plant in the school grounds by Plan Tree (KCC's Tree Establishment Strategy) to be a part of extending the UK's tree cover and reaching its 2050 carbon net-zero target.

Obviously, we have had to wait for the right planting time for these trees and that time is now upon us. We are excited to tell you that our trees were delivered today coinciding with National Tree Week and are being planted by the eco reps from each class over the following weeks. The Plan Tree team are also coming into school to help with planting the trees and to talk to the children in assembly about this exciting project. Each tree will have a plaque dedicating it to the class that planted it and it will be lovely for the children to go outside and check on their class tree and watch it grow over the years that they are at Loose Primary School. It is also very exciting to be taking such positive action to help the environment as well as making our school look even more beautiful. Well done Eco Council - keep up the green work!



Woodland Walk Visitor

Did you know we have a celebrity in the woodland walk/playground - a white albino squirrel. There are less than 50 of these in the country.



Shout Outs

Shout out to Year 5 who have worked very hard this week adding their positive affirmations to their mixed media sketchbook artworks. They showed great penmanship and really enjoyed using the variety of paint pens to add layers to their work.





We are **so proud** of Willem in Opal Class this week. Willem showed amazing determination especially when using the balance bike. There were times when he found the new skills really tricky and he fell off one or twice. But he kept getting back on and by the end of the session he was gliding like a pro.

Lily L from Pearl Class for taking part in Maidstone Roller Dance Club's 'Mini Club Competition'. She is very proud of her trophy!

We are really proud of Jude in Amber Class for being awarded a Blue Peter Sport badge for trying new sports and showing commitment to participating in a variety of sports. He constructed an application on his own and we are really proud of his achievements.





Amara A from Amber Class went through some clothes, toys and books that she could give to children who are less fortunate and they ended up in a school in Zambia. They were so thrilled they took pictures with Amara's things and sent a thank you note. We are very proud of her for showing such compassion!



Shout out to Staff

Huge congratulations to our very own Mr. Hogwood who last week won the Kent County Coach of the Year Award at the Kent Athletics Award Evening through his involvement in Athletics! He has held a key coaching role at the club for the last 15 years, leading them to a national final this year. He is also one of the club's Welfare Officer. We are very proud of him!



Copper Tree Court - Bad Parking

We have had more complaints from local residents about bad parking around the school site, especially in Copper Tree Court and Lancet Lane. Whilst we would really like to be able to help unfortunately this is

beyond our control as we have no authority over what happens on the roads around the school site. Please therefore continue to raise your problems with the local PCSO. Please think about where you park - this is for the safety of your children and the local residents too. Parents have been parking on the zig zag lines by the Lancet Lane entrance which is very dangerous as this is where children that walk to and from school themselves cross safely. See photos below. The vehicle registrations are **BL11 PFA** & **RY05 RYM**. Please park safely and considerately with your children and the local residents in mind.





Thank You to Kingswood Christmas Trees

A huge thank you to Kingswood Christmas Trees for their donation of two huge trees for our halls. We are very grateful for these - the children will be decorating these next week. There are 200 leaflets in reception with £5.00 off discount vouchers on them - please help yourself!



Maidstone Schools Football Tournament

On Friday 24th November 9 children from Years 3 & 4 represented our school in the Maidstone Schools Football tournament at Greenfields. The children played 4 games in the group, going through to the next round without conceding a goal.

We made it through the quarter-finals and then into the semi-finals where we lost on penalties but finished on a high winning the Year 3 & 4 play off to come away with **3rd** place.

Mrs Llewelyn and I couldn't be more proud of these children working so well as a team but with some individual flair

Wendy Carter

Sports Coach



New Mobile Number

There is a new mobile number for parents to call after 4pm if they need to reach After School Club or if they want to call Holiday Play Scheme during the holidays - it's **07429 807938**.

Lost Property

The Lost Property area is once again overflowing, with the vast majority of items being unnamed. There are approximately 30 unnamed school jumpers and cardigans and many other unnamed items. All of the Lost Property needs to be cleared by the end of term please. Any items that haven't been claimed by the last day of term will be recycled or donated to charity. Please do come along at the end of any school day and have a look if your child/children are missing any items. The Lost property area is located in the KS2 Year 3 & 5 cloakroom area (next to Orchard Hall), in 2 large white container boxes under the windows. Many thanks for your help.



Magazines Wanted!

Do you have magazines at home that you have read and no longer need? If so, they could be turned into an art collage resource! Several year groups use magazines as part of their art learning so please can you send in any suitable magazines (children's ones, gardening, craft, food, Good Housekeeping, sport etc) for the attention of Mrs Planck who will put them to good use. This is an on-going request so please feel free to drop them off any time. Many thanks, Mrs Planck, resident artist.



Children in Need

We managed to raise **£544** for Children in Need - thank you to those that donated to this amazing charity.



House Points

1st - Parks

2nd - Donaldson

3rd - Attenborough

4th - Curie

Well done to Parks!

PTA Events & Dates

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped at our Christmas Fair last weekend and to everyone who came along and supported us. It was a brilliant event attended by lots of the community, so thank you again.

Christmas Gifts are happening next week so make sure you've sent your payments by Friday to allow your child/children to pick you one of our fantastic gifts we have on offer this year.

North's Bars is coming to town! In honor of the new Wonka film, we are doing our very own North's Bars this Friday. So come and grab yourself a choccy treat and who knows, could you be one of our lucky golden ticket winners?

Don't forget to follow us on social media for our advent calendar where there are prizes to be won and jokes to be told in the countdown to Christmas.

Many thanks,

Lisa (on behalf of PTA)



Correct Contact Details

extended.services@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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