



Newsletter Friday 15th December 2023

Headteacher News

Dear all,

We are here. We have made it through the glitter, the chaos, the beauty and the buzz of the Christmas term in school. What a week it has been too! It really has been an absolute delight to be here and to see the joy in the children's faces every day, it has really set myself and the team up for the festive break.

The effort that has gone in to our nativities, the Christmas dinner, the tree decorations, pantomimes and parties is a real credit to the team here. A team which really has pulled out the stops, and which stretches beyond the classroom. Our wonderful PTA have also made this term feel exceptionally special with the Christmas fair and the golden ticket prizes. In a way, I'm quite sad to be going on holiday but equally am definitely running on empty!

After over a decade of dedicated service to our school, the wonderful Mrs. Woods has decided to embark on a new journey and take on a fresh challenge in a smaller primary school. Mrs. Woods has

been an integral part of our school for many years, offering exceptional support and care to the pupils under her guidance. Her unwavering commitment to their growth and development has left an indelible mark on our community, and we will forever be grateful for her contributions. We wish her all the very best in her new school and we will all really miss her.

The church service was gorgeous and a real reminder of why we are here and what is special to us. The singing, the awe and wonder and the sense of community and pride in what we do was evident throughout. I'm sure I cried a few times over with the signed version of Silent Night. Beautiful!

Our values of compassion have been shining brightly this term. Our children have been visiting the elderly and playing recorders, singing to our volunteers and was also well modeled by our year 6 pupils as they spent some time with their buddies in Year R, they also made them Christmas presents too. It was delightful to see and the sense of responsibility and care for others was tremendous. Our Year 2 pupils and their families have also been working hard to support those in need this Christmas. They have amassed a huge amount of support together as a team and we are so very proud of them. Our Christmas jumper day has also raised a large sum of money for Save the Children too.

We have so much to be proud of and are so incredibly blessed with a caring community of children and their families. Thank you all for doing what you do. Enjoy reading our news with what I trust is a sense of pride, in what we all do here at Loose.

On behalf of the team here at Loose Primary, we wish you a **very, very Merry Christmas !!!!**

See you in the New Year bright and breezy with aspirations that unleash your potential...

Christmas blessings,

Trevor North



Deputy Headteacher News

We've made it! The end of Term 2 is here and what an amazing term it has been. The school always comes alive around Christmas time with the many events happening around the school. There is so much to celebrate but one thing I must mention is the amazing act of compassion from our Year 2 children. After our assembly this week, they came up with the idea to collect and donate toys and gifts to a local charity. What a show of one of our fundamental values, compassion, from some of our youngest students. We are so proud of the wonderful young people you are.

This term has seen the start of our journey with our curriculum and how we want to involve our community in the curriculum we deliver. We've seen this through inviting parents in to see our bird exhibition and various other events. This is something that is going to become a cornerstone of Loose Primary School because we want our school to sit at the centre of our community. Please do not feel overwhelmed by the invites into school and if you're unable to attend this is absolutely okay but we will continue to invite you as part of our school life on a regular basis.

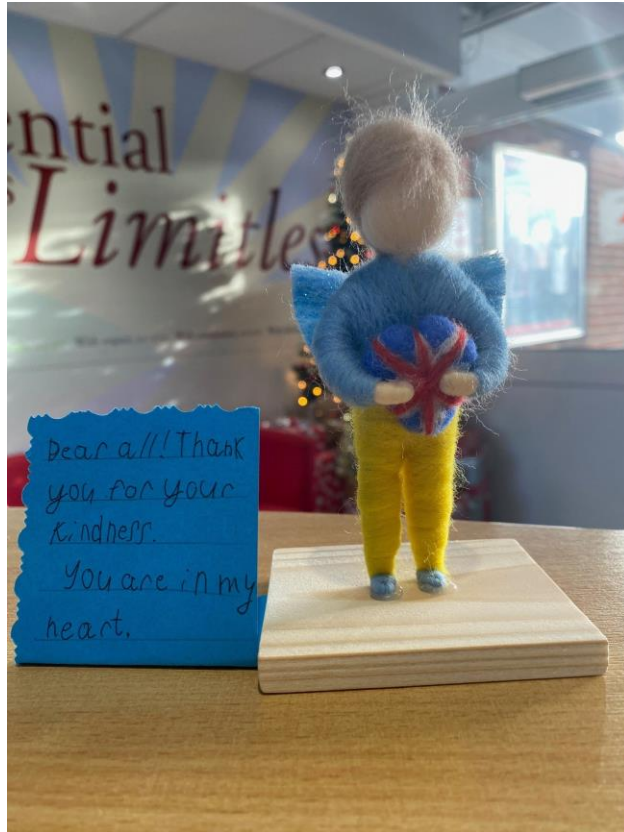
Lastly, a massive thank you to Mrs Woods and Mrs Oliveri who led a phonics session for parents. There were significantly fewer parents in attendance than we expected. We understand that circumstances change and you may be unable to attend an event you signed up for. However, please can you inform us of your absence as we may then be able to move and adapt the session according to the numbers. Thank you.

Sean Johnson



Touching Gift

We received the most beautiful gift from one of our lovely Ukrainian children that returned home in the summer.



The Aviary

After school on Thursday this week, we held our beautiful bird exhibition. It was a wonderful moment to invite the school community in to see some of the stunning art work being produced here at Loose Primary. Events like this are only able to happen due to the hard work of staff so I want to say a huge thank you to Mrs Planck and Mrs Taylor for making this beautiful exhibition happen. As we develop our curriculum here at Loose, we will be looking to hold more exhibitions like this so feedback on them is always appreciated. We have already learnt a few things that we will look to change next time. If you have any feedback please use the form below to provide us with it:

<https://forms.office.com/e/mwNeWV3ZuY>



National Christmas Jumper Day

We raised an amazing **£580** for our Christmas Jumper Day on the 7th December. This money all went straight to the Save the Children charity, helping children in need in the UK and around the world. Huge thanks to everyone that donated.



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 3

02 Jan - Staff Training Day - children not at school

03 Jan - Children back to school (choir club is on)

08 Jan - Family Trust Assembly KS1

08 Jan - Year 6 Magistrates Talk

15 Jan - Shaun the Sheep Assembly KS1

16 Jan - Shaun the Sheep Assembly KS2

23 Jan - Sunstone Class Assembly 9am Orchard Hall - families invited

25 & 26 Jan - Captain Wonderweb & the Esteem Machine workshops for whole school

30 Jan - Young Voices Trip for choir

30 Jan - Topaz Class Assembly 9am Orchard Hall - families invited

05 Feb - Onyx Art Exhibition - Landmarks - more info to follow

06 Feb - Safer Internet Day

06 Feb - Amethyst Class Assembly 9am Orchard Hall - families invited

06 Feb - Ruby Art Exhibition - Landmarks - more info to follow

07 Feb - Parents in to watch the Young Voices Choir performance - more info to follow

07 Feb - Emerald Art Exhibition - Landmarks - more info to follow

09 Feb - Last day of term - children return to school Monday 19th February



Ethic of Excellence

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

Week ending 8th December

Jamie M/W - Topaz Class

Rosie P - Sunstone Class

Liam H - Amethyst Class

Amelie D - Peridot Class

Caius A - Zultanite Class

Iris W - Quartz Class



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

We raised an amazing **£764.12** for this years poppy appeal. Huge thanks for all your donations.



Phonics Workshop

Phonics Workshop

We held a phonics parent session on Friday 8th December in Orchard Hall. A huge thank you to Mrs Woods and Mrs Oliveri who ran the session for the parents who attended. Building an understanding of phonics within our parent community and how you can support at home is a hugely important piece of work. Thank you as well to those parents who were able to attend. To see the PowerPoint if you missed the session please click [here](#).



Year 5 News

This term, Year 5 have been reading the narrative poem 'The Highwayman' and have produced some incredible work about this text.

To begin, the children were met with a crime scene in the quiet area of the Key Stage 2 playground. They were asked to determine who they believed the victims and the perpetrators were – who had killed the Highwayman's love?

The children then used this information to gather quotes from witnesses, which they have included in their newspaper reports to round off their work on the text. The outcomes are brilliant – well done Year 5!



Queen's Green Canopy Project

On Tuesday 5th December the eco council helped plant 21 trees on the field. These trees are part of the Queens canopy initiative. Each class has their own tree and we will need to care for them so they grow and prosper. We have a selection of native trees that will create a new woodland on our site. Keep an eye out on the field for growth!





Shout Outs

This week in our school assembly, Mr. Johnson spoke to KS1 about Christmas and the joy of giving, spending time with our nearest and dearest and having fun. We are very proud to say that after class discussions and instead of receiving a small gift at the end of term from the yr2 team, the children have decided to re-gift these presents to local children who may be not as fortunate at Christmas time. The Year2 team have made up a box and will be delivering these to a local charity on 16th December, just in time for the volunteers to re-distribute the gifts. We just wanted you to know how very proud we are all

of your children in Yr2. We have been absolutely blown away that the children and families of YR2 have added to our small gesture of gifts we were originally going to donate to a local charity for children less fortunate at Christmas.

Please find attached a photo of toys, toiletries and books collected in the last 48hrs. The children of Yr 2 and (their families) have truly shown how kind, caring and compassionate they are. We in Year 2 are very lucky to work with such a wonderful bunch of children.



We are extremely proud of one of our Year 6 children, Caius, in Zultanite Class. Since his mum was diagnosed with ovarian cancer earlier this year, Caius has been saying that he wants to find a cure for it. His mum said that maybe they could help to fundraise for an ovarian cancer charity to help them with their research. So earlier this week after school Caius went up to London Bridge station to help raise money for Target Ovarian Cancer. A total of £531.87 was raised which is amazing! He really enjoyed it, especially the card machine! His family are all very proud of him and his kind and caring ways, and we at school are extremely proud of him too.





On Sunday 3rd December Lucy S (Amethyst class) and Sophie S (Onyx class) achieved a new swimming distance badge. Lucy swam 2000 metres and Sophie swam one mile. Both girls worked really hard to achieve the distance and considering they had already played hockey for an hour and a half in the morning. Some well earned relaxing time the rest of Sunday was required!

The unfortunately photo doesn't include Lucy's 2000 certificate as they had run out of stock!



Nativity

Last week, Yr R's performance of 'Baarmy Bethlehem' was a bleeting success! The children had worked so hard to put an incredible show together and we were so proud of them! As the lyrics in the opening song said, Bethlehem certainly had gone bonkers - there were noisy wiggling sheep, grumpy innkeepers, a bossy Caesar and one of the Kings even tried to give the baby Jesus a cheese sandwich! There were tears of laughter and pride across the audience and everybody had a fabulous time. Thank 'ewe' to all

the parents for their support with costumes and learning lines. From the EY Team and their incredible flock! 🐑



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.

Letter from Ex-Loose Pupil

Please see below a lovely letter we received this week from an ex-Loose pupil we thought parents might like to read.

Dear Headteacher, Staff and all pupils,

(This letter will be composed so that it could be read out perhaps at an assembly)

Last weekend my wife and I revisited Maidstone and Loose in order to visit some old friends and to see how places have changed.

On Saturday we were passing your school when my wife shouted out "stop the car" because she had seen lots of people coming and going. She was thrilled that there was Christmas Fair in progress so we found a place to park and came in. The stop was of great interest to me because it was my old primary school. I am now eighty and a half years old so my schooling was over seventy years ago. The school has changed tremendously because I remember only the brick built classrooms that surrounded the quadrangle together with two "temporary" wooden huts for the first two years. One thing that was the same was the wall at the bottom of the yard. Years ago it appeared very tall but not so now. Also the boy's toilets were out in the yard and also open to the wind and rain. The school seems to have exploded sideways venturing into the neighbouring properties.

My headmaster was Mr Waldron who ^{we} with treated with respect and awe. My first two teachers became stalwarts, namely Miss Stockwell first and then Mrs Jarrett. They must have done well because by the time I got to eleven I passed the eleven plus and I went on to the grammar school. During the last year I was allowed to bang the gong to announce the end of the lesson and also ring a hand bell out of the window to stop the play time. However my last year report says that if I stop looking out of the window and stop daydreaming I would get on better in life. When I left school and university I went to work for two years in the Antarctic and on returning to the UK worked for the UK Met Office until I retired.

So if you look out of the window at times you too could have a wonderful long life.

Soon it will be Christmas so I send you all my best wishes for this festival and the forthcoming new year.

You former pupil from 1948 to 1953

Michael Durrant



House Points Winner for term 2

1st - Parks

2nd - Donaldson

3rd - Curie

4th - Attenborough

Well done to Parks for being the term 2 winner!

Huge thanks to Remedi Medispa

A huge thank you to Remedi Medispa who have raised a massive £430 for our Sensory Garden Project. They held a special Hydra Facial event to raise this amount. We really are very grateful!

Community News

Soundsteps are supporting a campaign to help more students in primary school from Reception Year up to take an interest in learning a Musical instrument and will be holding a number of Free Music lessons

across the local area and online in January. We would like to invite your students and parents to attend a session and learn more about options for learning a musical instrument and music theory.

Please find attached PDF of some of the free local and online sessions that we are holding and would like to invite your students and parents to attend. If possible please feel free to pass this information on and we look forward seeing them in January.



FREE TASTER SESSIONS AVAILABLE AT
Tonbridge and Malling
and Maidstone

St Peters Church Centre
New Road, Ditton, ME20 6AE
Monday 15th and 22nd of January at 4.30pm
Wednesday 17th and 24th of January at 4.30pm and 5.30pm

Tonbridge Road Methodist Church
106 Tonbridge Rd, Maidstone ME16 8SL
Tuesday 16th and 23rd of January at 5.30pm and 6.30pm
Saturday 20th of January at 9.15am and 10am
Saturday 27th of January at 10.15am and 11am

Online via Zoom Lessons available Monday to Saturday
Please contact us to arrange a **FREE TRIAL** at your preferred location
or to enquire about any of our other locations in surrounding areas!

office@soundstepsmusic.co.uk
07926371583



Parent Workshop

SUPPORTING AND EMPOWERING YOUR ANXIOUS CHILD ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, PROVENDER WAY, BEARSTED

23 JANUARY 2024 9.30AM - 11.30AM YOUR FACILITATOR - NIKI GREEN

'Anxiety is a thin stream of fears trickling through the mind. If encouraged, it cuts a channel into which all other thoughts are drained.'

Arthur Somers Roche

Since Covid 19 we have seen a dramatic rise in young people experiencing anxiety. The daily pressures on our children are increasing from targets and testing in the classroom to the rise of pressure

advertising and social media. For many of our children the world, or certain aspects of it, is overwhelming, complex and scary.

From separation and social anxiety to performance and health anxiety, an increasing number of children now benefit from direct support to manage their worries.

This workshop will introduce you to the current thinking around children's anxiety and move onto exploring ways to support young people to manage their anxiety more. Strategy led and with a useful resource pack we aim to help you support your child moving forward.

PARENT REVIEW

'I was amazed by how many parents are experiencing the same types of anxiety issues in our children, made you feel like you were not alone. I have searched the internet myself for solutions but Niki, the trainer gave us some great techniques and tools to try and recommended resources such as books, tools and exercises. Also useful is how Niki explained how anxiety affects the different parts of the brain and how this translates into my child's brain, made me think of when I really see my daughter struggling with her anxiety.

Totally recommend, great value'.

BOOKING LINK

<https://thecontentedchild.co.uk/product/supporting-a-childs-emotional-regulation-on-demand/>

Find us on Facebook and Instagram.

Kent Locality Model for SEN Inclusion

We would like to draw your attention to a live full public consultation for parents, schools, stakeholders, charities and other services known as the 'Localities model for SEN Inclusion' which **closes on the 24th January 2024**. This is your opportunity to have your voices heard in a level playing field.

Kent are proposing to establish a Locality Model for Special Educational Needs (SEN) Inclusion in Kent, to help drive necessary countywide improvements to mainstream inclusion and education, for children and young people aged 5 to 16 years old with SEN. It seeks to raise the profile of SEN Inclusion and the benefits of children with SEN being educated with their peers.

The proposed Model, would mean:-

- SEN support and services being accessed and delivered in a new way
- Children's needs being identified accurately and assessed in a timely and effective way.
- KCC, schools, the NHS and other SEN service providers working together locally to secure improvements
- Helping all pupils to thrive at school
- Helping parents to have confidence in a mainstream offer for their child.

Should you wish to read the consultation document the link below will take you to an easy read option and the more detailed document.

www.kent.gov.uk/localitymodel

Once you have read and considered the proposal you can create an account and complete the questionnaire. The account creation is a quick and easy process.

Thank you for taking the time to look at and read this.

Jo Black

(SENCo)

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

Phone Number 01622 743549

