



*Loving one another, building each other up*

# Littledean C of E Primary School Newsletter 13

12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Parents,

## Pantomime – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025

A reminder that the whole school will be attending the Roses Theatre in Tewkesbury on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December** to see the Pantomime Jack and The Bean Stalk.

**We ask for a donation of £13.55** to cover the cost of the theatre ticket and transport to and from Tewkesbury, if you haven't already, please pay through our online payment system at [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)



**We aim to leave school at 8.50 a.m. We ask that everyone arrives on time on Monday so that we can get on the buses quickly.**

## Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper day

Our Christmas Lunch will be Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Children will enjoy a traditional or vegetarian Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. We encourage everyone to come to school in their Christmas Jumpers. If you haven't ordered a Christmas lunch then please remember to send your child in with a packed lunch as no other hot meals will be available.

Please remember to visit [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com) to pay for your meal in advance of the day. **Meals cost £2.85 for Year 3 – 6, and £2.89 for pre-school.**



## New Phone System

Our new phone system has now been installed. There are new options on the welcome message so please listen carefully when selecting.

All absences need to be reported by phone. Please do not email absences because emails may not be checked until later in the day. There is now a 24-hour voicemail service and an option to report an absence on the main menu when calling.



## Staff Changes

We are saying goodbye to a few members of staff this term. Today is Mrs. Ridgeway's last day with us, and next Friday we will be saying farewell to Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Richards from Holly Berries Class. We are grateful for everything they have contributed to our school community and wish them all the very best for the future.

We are pleased to share that a new full-time class teacher, Miss L. Jones, will be joining us to teach Holly Berries Class from 5th January. We look forward to welcoming her to our team.

In addition, Mrs. Zimbalatti will also be joining us from 5<sup>th</sup> January as a Teaching Assistant in Chestnut Class. We are excited to have her on board.






## Last Day of Term

The last day of term for the children is **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December**. We ask that children bring in a packed lunch as hot meals will not be available. A packed lunch can be ordered from Caterlink on the usual weekly menu.



The timings for the last day are as follows:

-  12.45 Pre-School will close – Please arrange collection from usual doors
-  1.00 Christmas Service at St Ethelberts Church, all welcome to attend
-  2.00 Parents to collect children from their usual doors as school closes for the Christmas holiday.

### **Forest Food Bank Christmas opening times**

During the Christmas holidays the Coleford distribution centre at the Salvation Army in Broadwell GL16 7BX will be open on Wednesday 24th December but then all the distribution centres will be closed over the Christmas period.

The last session before Christmas for Lydney distribution centre will be on 16<sup>th</sup> December and for Cinderford will be 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Lydney distribution centre at the River Family and Children's centre, Naas Lane Lydney GL15 5AU opens after Christmas on 6th January 2026, Coleford opens on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and Cinderford at The Forest Community church will be open on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

### **Holiday Requests**

Please remember that the Governments guidance remains very clear that we cannot authorise holiday requests in term time unless there are exceptional circumstance. A Request for Leave of Absence form can be found on the school website at the following link or from the school office:

[https://www.littledeanprimary.co.uk/website/attendance\\_at\\_school/169684](https://www.littledeanprimary.co.uk/website/attendance_at_school/169684)

You may be issued with a penalty notice for taking your child out of school during term time.

Please note that a penalty is issued to each parent for each child taken out of school. A Penalty Notice is a fine of £80 if paid within the first 21 days which increases to £160 if paid between 21 and 28 days. Thereafter, if the penalty remains unpaid this may lead to prosecution through the Magistrates' Court.

### **After School Clubs**

All After School Clubs have now ended. We will re-issue our club offers in January.

Sportily have advised that they will also have Dance club running again in January. This is now available to book on their website.

<https://sportily.org.uk/20/Forest-of-Dean-Sports-Events>

## Holly Leaves and Holly Berries

Holly Leaves and Holly Berries did their Christmas performances of 'The Sleepy Shepherd' for families this week, we are very proud of them all as they put on two fantastic shows!



The children in Holly Leaves have been learning about light and dark, we have learnt about natural light sources, like the sun and man made light such as light bulbs. Holly Leaves spoke about the sun making it light during the day and it disappearing at night time.

We found out that the Earth spins around and it is day time when we are facing the sun and night time when the sun is on the other side of the Earth. We role played this with torches, one child was the sun and held the torch up and another child was the Earth, we lived on the nose! Slowly the Earth turned around and when the torch lit up the nose it symbolised day time and when the light was on the back of the child's head it was night time!



### Diary Dates

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Pantomime Visit
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	St Ethelberts Christmas Service 1pm
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Maple Class' Skillzone
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Full Governors meeting
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2026	Maple Class Activity Day
w/c 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Year 6 SATS week

### Term Dates

These are also available on our website

**2025 / 2026 – Please see website for full details**

<b>Term 1</b>	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025 – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
<b>Term 2</b>	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025 – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
<b>Term 3</b>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>Term 4</b>	Monday 23 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<b>Term 5</b>	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026
<b>Term 6</b>	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026 – Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2026

<b>INSET Day</b>	<b>1</b>	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025
<b>INSET Day</b>	<b>2</b>	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025