

Littledean Church of England Primary School

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Loving one another, building each other up

3rd December 2021

Newsletter 10

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Council and The Salvation Army's Christmas Present Appeal

Last week the school council launched a very special Christmas project. They are passionate about supporting others in the community who are not as fortunate as themselves. They believe everyone deserves to enjoy Christmas and have therefore decided to support The Salvation Army's Christmas Present Appeal. Hopefully you received a letter from them and have seen their wonderful (pulling at the heartstrings) posters around the playground. If you are in a position to buy an extra gift this year, please consider supporting the appeal and send it in unwrapped by Monday 13th December. Thank you if you have already made a donation.

After School Clubs

All Sports Clubs have now ended for this term, they will restart week commencing 17th January 2022. Holly Berries Art Club will continue each Thursday until 9th December. Young Voices Club will continue each Monday until 24th January 2022.

Breakfast Bagel Club

We have had a fantastic response to our Breakfast Bagel Club, over half the school have attended most days so far. Next week we plan to be toasting 133 bagels!

A reminder that the Bagel Club is open to all the children who would like to eat a bagel for their breakfast before school. The club starts at 8.30 a.m. this gives the children enough time to eat their bagel before normal registration times, please do not be late. The Junior children can enter the school through the main entrance door at the rear of the school, infant children through Holly Leaves Class door. Please wait and a member of staff will let you in.

If your child does not wish to eat a bagel please do not send them to the bagel club. In the New Year we will look into the feasibility of running a before school club starting earlier than 8.30 which parents can book and pay for in advance.

If you would like your child to attend the breakfast club please contact the office or complete the slip on the breakfast club letter.

School Meals

A reminder that school meals are free for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 under the Governments Universal Infant Free School Meal Programme (UIFSM), also free for the benefit related Free School Meals (FSM). For all other children there is a cost of £2.34 per meal (£11.70) each day. Payment can be made using www.parentpay.com, the schools online payment system. If you have forgotten your log in details please contact the office.

Please ensure that all meals are paid for before the day they are taken. Our Christmas Lunch (and Christmas Jumper day) is on Wednesday 15th December.

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Holiday Free School Meals Scheme

During the December holiday period, Gloucestershire County Council is providing vouchers to parents who have signed up to our Holiday Free School Meals (FSM) scheme. These vouchers are provided by Gloucestershire County Council as part of its commitment to 'no child goes hungry'. The vouchers are funded through COVID-19 grant funding we have received and is separate to that of the term time free school meals.

Parents who have signed up to the scheme will receive a voucher for £30 for each child who is eligible for FSM which will cover both weeks in the December holidays.

Parents who have signed up previously do not need to re-register, they have already been included, but, to ensure we get all who are eligible, we are encouraging new parents to sign up as soon as they can.

Applications for Holiday Free School Meal Vouchers for the December holiday period is open from Friday 26 November until midday Monday 13 December. Voucher emails will be sent out between 13 and 15 December. If parents apply after the deadline, we cannot guarantee delivery of vouchers before 25 December.

For more information and for sign up if you haven't already please visit our website: the Holiday Free School Meal vouchers page on <<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/holiday-school-meal-vouchers/>> our website.

Please contact childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk <<mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk>> if you have any queries not answered on the Holiday Free School Meal vouchers page.

Holiday Activities Food Programme (HAF)

Please find attached poster detailing the activities available in the Christmas Holidays.

The Salvation Army

Please see attached letter about the Salvation Army in the Forest of Dean presents a Live Nativity on **Saturday 11th December**. Join us at 5pm at the Ruardean School Car Park.

Infant Nativity Play

If you have not done so already please can you return the permission slip for your child to take part in the filming and screening of the Play. If it is not returned they will be not able to be filmed. The Play will be shown on Monday 13th December at 5.30 p.m. and Tuesday 14th December at 2.00 p.m. by Zoom. Further information will follow next week.

Residential Visit

A reminder that the final payment for the residential visit is due on or before 17th January 2022. Please make your payment through our online payment system www.parentpay.com.

Young Voices – Birmingham

Payments for the cost of the coach are required early January. Please visit www.parentpay.com to pay your £10.00 towards this. Many thanks

Twitter account

Miss May has been very busy keeping our twitter feed up to date and sharing our achievement with our twitter community. We can be found at @littledceansch. The feed is also available on the school website www.littledeanprimary.co.uk

Site Security

Following the installation of new fencing, gates and a fob access system to the school site we will be activating the locking of gates as from Monday 29th November 2021.

The gates at the rear of the school will be locked from 9.00 a.m. to 2.45 p.m. If you need to access the school during these times please use the intercom system located by the gate at the top of the slope. The gate at the top of the steps will be locked and does not have an intercom system. When using the intercom please be patient as the office staff may be on the telephone or in another area of the school and unable to answer immediately. If you

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know you are going to bring your child to school late or collect early please let the office staff so that they know what time to expect you.

The vehicle gates at the front of the school playground must be kept closed at all times. If you have permission to drive a car into the playground please ensure that the gates are closed after you drive in and when you drive out. Thank you.

Contact Details

As the vast majority of our communications will now be through email or postings on the website or twitter it is even more important that we have up to date contact details for you. If you or your emergency contacts have changed telephone numbers, email addresses or have moved house please let us know as soon as possible.

Holiday Requests

We all look forward to a holiday away from home but, before you book, please remember that the Governments guidance remains very clear that we cannot authorise holiday requests in term time. Any requests submitted will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Emergency Closure Procedures

Just in case we need to close the school, here is a reminder of our procedures. Please ensure that we have up to date contact details for you.

If we need to close the school we will:

- Send you a text message
- Announce the closure on Radio Gloucestershire – 104.7 fm
- Post the closure on <https://closures.gloucestershire.gov.uk/> (please note new address)
- Post the closure on our school website www.littledeanprimary.co.uk
- Post the closure on our twitter feed - @littledeansch
- If possible a member of staff will be on site to advise of the closure.

Cases of Covid 19 and self isolation

We have had several cases of confirmed and suspected Covid-19 illnesses in our school community. If your child is unwell before the start of the school day, please do not bring them into school. Please phone the school office and let a member of staff know exactly what symptoms your child is exhibiting, even if you do not suspect Covid-19. If your child has symptoms: persistent cough, high temperature, loss of sense of taste or smell please arrange a PCR test.

Your help is very much appreciated in helping us to keep our school community Covid safe.

Diary Dates

Thursday 9 th December	Andy Seed – Author Visit – Maple and Chestnut Classes
Week commencing 13 th December	Virtual pantomime
Monday 13 th December	5.30 Infant Performance via Zoom
Tuesday 14 th December	2.00 Infant Performance via Zoom
Wednesday 15 th December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 17 th December	Christmas Service
Friday 17 th December	Last day of term. Break up at 1.00 p.m.
Tuesday 4 th January 2022	First day of Term 3

Term Dates 2021/22

Term 2	Tuesday 2 nd November – Friday 17 th December	(Inset day 1 st November)
Term 3	Tuesday 4 th January – Thursday 17 th February	(Inset day 18 th February)
Term 4	Monday 28 th February – Friday 8 th April	
Term 5	Monday 25 th April – Friday 27 th May	
Bank Holiday	Monday 3 rd May	
Term 6	Monday 6 th June – Wednesday 20 th July	(Inset day 21 st July)

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