



Loanends Primary School

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FEBRUARY UPDATE

1 February 2023

Dear Parent

I should be grateful if you could please note the following:

- **Parent/Teacher Consultations:** School will close for all pupils at 2:00pm each day, week commencing 6 February. You should have received information about booking appointments with teachers on Monday 16 January. Just a reminder also that there will be no after school activities that week.
- **P7 parents** please note that the portal for online admissions for post-primary schools opens at 12 noon on **Wednesday 1 February 2023** and closes at 4:00pm on **Thursday 23 February**. Applications are not considered on a first come first served basis. This link will take you to all the relevant information, guides and key dates:
<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/applying-for-a-school-place>
- **Half Term:** School will be closed for Half Term for pupils from **Monday 13 to Friday 17 February** (dates inclusive). School will reopen at 9:00am on **Monday 20 February**.
- **Passports:** Unfortunately, the Principal or teachers no longer can sign passports. This is regrettable but this is the advice that has been given to us.
- **IMPORTANT REMINDER-**Places must be booked for the Morning Supervision Club by Wednesday of the previous week. This is to ensure that we have enough supervision in place. Pupils who arrive before the gates open at 8:45am and are not booked in cannot assume that they can slip into the Assembly Hall. These children are parents' responsibility until school officially opens. We have received positive feedback about the Morning Club and are hoping to continue with this provision. There will be a small charge of £1 per pupil from 20 February onwards. This should be paid through SchoolMoney.
- **LATENESS-**This is an ongoing problem and seems to have got worse since the start of this term. Gates will be locked at 9:00am. Please make an effort to get pupils in on time. This means supervising staff aren't delayed and pupils get an unhurried start to the day.
- **Absences:** We would be very grateful if you could provide a written reason for absence in order to keep our registers up to date. If a reason isn't provided, the pupil will be marked with an "n" code (No reason given). For ease of administration, please use the tear off slips to provide reasons(s) for absence and return to the class teacher. These are available on the school website. Absences are monitored by the Education Welfare Officer. "Miss School Miss Out Strategy" highlights the following:

95% attendance = 9 days' absence

90% attendance = 19 days' absence

85% attendance = 28 days' absence

80% attendance = 38 days' absence

Taking family holidays during term time is not recommended and I cannot grant permission for such requests. I would therefore advise parents to arrange holidays outside of term time. Should parents decide to take holidays during term time, this must be put in writing to the Principal and will be held on file and copied to the EWO if required. **Teachers will not provide work in advance.** The worksheets and homeworks that have been missed can be requested when a pupil returns from holiday and not before departure.

We all have a collective responsibility in trying to achieve high standards of attendance.

Please ensure your child is in school for a prompt start at 9:00am. Lateness is recorded and is shown on the pupil's electronic attendance record.

- **Science Day-Monday 13 March.** This was a great success last year, so we are looking forward to another day of fun and science investigations. More details to follow from Mrs O'Neill.?
- **World Book Day:** Advance notice. **Thursday 2 March.** More details to follow from Mrs Watson.

- **PTA Discos-** Information went out about this on 12 January. Just a reminder that these will take place on Thursday 9 February.

P1-P3: 6:00-6:45pm

P4-7: 7:00- 8:00pm

- **Friday 10 February** is also a non-uniform day when pupils, if they choose, can wear red or pink. Suggested donation is £1.00.
- **February Menu 2023:** Please find attached the February Menu for School Dinners. School meals should be booked and paid for in advance. We appreciate that this isn't always possible. If a meal is booked 'late' through the school office/kitchen, please pay any outstanding monies as soon as possible. Thank you.

Also, many pupils who are not booked in for either break or lunch, often just inform the teacher at registration time. This shouldn't happen and causes problems with the kitchen and secretarial staff who try to make numbers balance. Please make every effort to book online but do not ask your son or daughter to simply inform the teacher. The SchoolMoney App costs almost £1000 per year so please use it for the purpose for which it was designed.

- **Strike Action:** You will know from the media that Strike Action by Teaching Unions has been planned for Tuesday 21 February until 12:00 noon. Until now, Loanends teaching staff have mostly set aside Union guidance (in terms of Action Short of Strike Action) and provided a "business as usual" approach by way of delivering after-school activities, supporting PTA events, conducting parent interviews outside the school day and participating in meetings. The staff are to be commended for continuing to put pupils first and therefore it may not have been obvious to parents that they have continued to go above and beyond what is expected of them at this time. However, on this occasion teachers feel that they should stand with teaching colleagues in their respective Unions and therefore it is very likely that they will participate in Strike Action after Half-Term. I will write to you just before then to confirm how this action will affect our school.
- **Appeal from two of our P7 pupils (Ruby and Eve).** "We are writing the short paragraph to inform you about an idea we have thought of. We would like to gather up spare or old hockey sticks, balls and shin guards which you may have at home. Our school supply has got quite low. We will bring a bin out front, the week commencing 6 February for you to put these items into. We are grateful for all donations and thank you in advance." (Ruby and Eve).
- **Information-** I am aware that we send out lots of information! Please keep a close eye on Seesaw as this is the quickest way to get information out to you. Please also check the school website.

We also field many phone calls regarding after school activities. We have tried our best to be accurate in our information but unfortunately that doesn't always tally with some of the external providers. Apologies about this!! This information is posted on our website (under the News Tab) and sent by Seesaw on 5 January 2023. Please print off or read through for your records.

- **Finally, a sincere thank you to those** parents who have supported the Health and Well-Being week in school by giving of their personal time and expertise. It is greatly appreciated by both pupils and staff.

Happy half-term!

Yours sincerely

Linda Armour

Mrs L Armour
Principal