



Loanends Primary School

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DECEMBER UPDATE



1 December 2021

Dear Parent

I should be grateful if you could please note the following information and important dates:

- **Car Park** - I am placing this at the start of the update in the hope that it gets noticed! I have had a number of complaints about the way in which parents and carers conduct themselves in the car park. I too have witnessed the lack of respect and patience first-hand. We have also had complaints from neighbours who are frustrated with cars parked across their private driveways. This is an impassioned plea! Please be more patient and courteous and bear in mind that there are children about. No matter how often this is communicated, it seems to go unheeded by many; parents should NOT park in the staff car park for convenience. There are only a few who have special permission. We cannot however accommodate every request.
- **School Bus** - We have just been informed that due to illness, there will be no school bus from tomorrow for potentially one week (to be reviewed). A substitute driver cannot be provided as there are shortages of Bus Drivers within the EA. We will of course keep you informed should anything change. Apologies for the inconvenience this may cause.
- **Staff shortages** - As a school community, we are experiencing unprecedented staff absences. You may be aware of this widespread problem from the media. It has proven very difficult to maintain our "normal service" as on many occasions it has been impossible to secure temporary staff (both teaching and non-teaching). Please bear with us as we continue to do the best we can and provide the best possible care for your children under these difficult circumstances.
- **Reverse Advent** - From Wednesday 1 December until the Tuesday 14 December, 2 or 3 children per class will choose a number hexagon from our advent tree, with a food item specified on it. This item should be brought to school by Thursday 16 December. Our aim is to put together 8 Christmas Hampers; all children will be entered into the draw free of charge. The winners then can either keep their hamper or donate to someone they know who would appreciate it. The draw will take place on the last day of term. (Should more than one family member win a hamper we will do a re-draw). Thank you in anticipation of your support.
- **Christmas Post Box** - P2 are once again organising internal deliveries of Christmas Cards beginning on **Wednesday 1 December**. It would be helpful for our P2 "Posties" if names and classes could be clearly written on the outside of the envelopes.
- **Key Stage 1 performances** - "Happy Clappy Christmas" will be performed by P3 and 4 pupils at 10:00am on **Thursday 9 and Friday 10 December**. The performance should last approximately 45 minutes.

As previously advised we can only accommodate two people from each family in order to maintain social distancing. *(P3 parents only on Thursday and P4 parents on Friday - unfortunately there will be no exceptions).*

Price: Entry is £2.50 and can be paid on the SchoolMoney App.

Dress Rehearsal: Foundation Stage and Key Stage 2 pupils will be able to view a recording of the performance at a time suitable to each class.

P3 and 4 teachers have sent out separate details regarding costume requirements (if any) and collection times. The show will be professionally recorded and a digital download will be available for purchase. Details to follow.

- **Christmas Dinner** - will be available for all pupils on **Thursday 2 December**. Notification and menu was sent via Seesaw on 15 November. This can be booked on the SchoolMoney app. All pupils are invited to wear their festive Christmas jumper on this occasion.
- **Movie Day** - "In house". Details to follow.
- **School Money** - We would kindly request that all outstanding payments on SchoolMoney are paid by the end of this school term to allow for reconciliation of accounts before the New Year.
- **Skill School** - The last Skill School session for this term will now be on Friday 17 December at 2.00pm. This will be in lieu of the deferred session from 26 November 2021.
- **P1 Intake September 2022** - The application process is now an online format. Digital admissions will be live from **Monday 10 January 2022** at 12 noon until **Friday 28 January 2022** at 12 noon. Please refer to www.eani.org.uk for updates. Also note that applications received after 12 noon on 28 January will be treated as "late."
- **School Milk January 2022** - For those pupils who wish to continue taking school milk the amount required for the period **Tuesday 4 January – Friday 8 April** is **£13.44**. Please book this as usual through the SchoolMoney app by **Friday 10 December** to allow for ordering before school closes.
- **Text Message Service** - we will do our best to inform you of any school closures during the winter period via the My School Text Messaging Service or Seesaw. Please make sure you keep us up to date with changes of mobile numbers. Also, in the event of a change in arrangements for a trip, after school activity or school closure, I would ask for your help in "spreading the word" just in case the text message fails to reach some parents.
- **10ticks** – 10ticks.com is a website that enables children to practise their mental maths skills in a fun, interactive and competitive way. As part of their mental maths work in school and at home, P7 and P6 pupils took part in a competition. For the month of November, we were leading (**1st in the world!**) and all UK schools were entered into a competition sponsored by Liontrust. We are delighted to say that the school has been awarded first place in the UK and will receive a cash prize of £500 for the school. Watch the local press and the school Facebook page for some coverage in the coming weeks. **Congratulations** to all pupils involved for a great team effort!
- **Advance Notice** - A group of energetic "P6 Skippers" are holding a sponsored 30-minute skip to raise funds for the NHS on **Thursday 20 January**. The girls will write out to you in January giving you further details of how you might sponsor them. We have been indebted to the NHS who have been front and centre in these difficult Covid times over the past two years. It would be lovely, as a school to show our appreciation. Thank you girls for taking the initiative!
- **School will close at 12:15pm on Monday 20 December. This will be a non-uniform day for pupils. Happy Holidays!!**

Finally, on behalf of all the staff, may I take this opportunity to wish all our pupils, parents and friends a very peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs L Armour
Principal

