

LODDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

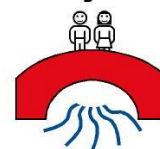
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Loddon
Primary School



18th October 2013

NEWSLETTER NO 4

Dear Parents/Carers,

Attendance and Requests for Absence

I know we all recognise the link between regular attendance and educational progress and attainment. As a school, we encourage parents to ensure that their children achieve maximum possible attendance and that any problems that prevent this are identified and acted on promptly. Regular school attendance including for Foundation Stage children will set pupils up for positive attendance throughout their school life.

We are pleased that the majority of children at Loddon have good attendance and take their holidays during the regular school breaks throughout the year.

However, in light of the increase in "holiday" requests last academic year the Education Welfare Service has asked me to remind parents of the following in relation to absence from school.

- Only in "exceptional" circumstances should leave of absence in term time be authorised by the Headteacher. This is as per Department of Education Guidance published and in place for September 2013. If you are submitting a request for leave of absence please ensure the exceptional circumstances of this request are clearly explained otherwise it cannot be authorised. (This also applies to our Foundation Stage Children.)
- The local authority may issue a penalty notice where a statutory age child is taken out of school in term time for more than 5 days of unauthorised absence. The amount payable on issue of a Penalty Notice is £60 per child and per parent if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days. If the Penalty Notice is not paid within 28 days the local authority is then obliged to prosecute for failing to pay.

Our attendance data is regularly checked by Education Welfare and we are expected to mark as unauthorised any request for leave where "exceptional" circumstances are not evidenced or where the child's attendance is already low e.g. below 85%. Please help us to educate your child by avoiding holidays in term time.



Road safety during drop off and pick up

Please take extra care in the morning to find a safe place for your child(ren) to get out of the car without endangering themselves or others. Unfortunately there are still a few parents dropping their children off by the gate which is causing congestion in the morning and significantly increasing the risk of someone getting hurt.

Please do not attempt to access the site car parks before, throughout or at the end of the school day for pupil drop off and collection. Parking is extremely limited onsite and therefore restricted to staff or those with a disability badge only.



WOKINGHAM
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Gypsy Lane Sports Field

We are currently considering options for the future use of our school field on Gypsy Lane. If you know of any community or Sports organisation who might be interested in working with us to develop activities and facilities on this site please can you pass their details on to the school office so we can make contact with them?

Staffing Update

Mrs Kannan (Y6 Teaching Assistant) has decided to leave Loddon in order to return to a career in the ICT industry. I would like to thank Mrs Kannan for her hard work and commitment to the school during the past three and a half years. Mrs Kannan will be leaving us at half term and we wish her well in her future career endeavours.

We welcome Mrs Khan and Mrs Kanda to the Teaching Assistant team and look forward to working with them over the coming years.

Travelling Book Fair

The Travelling Book Fair (www.travellingbooks.co.uk) visited school from Tuesday 8th-Monday 14th October. There were hundreds of exciting books to choose from and a selection of pocket money priced stationery. This year we raised £1236.31 which provided £681.79 to buy new books for the school library.

Values Education - Quality and Friendship

This month we are working on the value of 'Friendship'. Congratulations to the following children who have been awarded a 'House Gem'.

- ✓ Henry W (Y2) quality art work
- ✓ Daniel W (Y6) supportive friendship
- ✓ Tia G (Y1) being a good friend at lunch time
- ✓ Hem N (Y4) being a good friend and making models with his friend

Second Hand Uniform Sales - Update

Last week's sales raised an amazing £100 which has been donated straight to the school PTA, bringing total donations to date of £235.

Thank you for all the uniform donations that you continue to give in at the school office. We especially welcome logo jumpers and fleeces which are by far the most popular items.

A reminder to please only donate items that are washed and in good condition as it really helps reduce our sorting time! Claire Allison (Parent Support), Maive Watts (Yr 5 Parent), Andrea Smith (FSU & Yr 2 Parent)



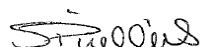
Outdoor clothing for Foundation children

Now that Autumn is here, Foundation aged children need a waterproof coat with them every day as we are going outside when it's raining/muddy. You may also like to send in a pair of wellies for your child to change into because whilst we have some, unfortunately there are not enough for all children. Please remember to clearly name everything your child brings into school with their first and second name as we already have lost clothes and otherwise it's really hard to return un-named items to their owners.

Donations of scrap paper please

Foundation Stage is appealing for scrap paper for drawing and other art activities. We would welcome paper of any size or shape, including computer paper, wall paper, paper with print on one side, etc. If you are able to help then please take the spare paper to the school office or the Foundation Unit.

Yours sincerely



Mrs. S. Phillips

Headteacher

Diary Events List - Autumn Term 2013

Date	Time	Event
22/10/13	13.30	Y1 REInspired "Baptism and Belonging" at St. Nicolas Church
22/10/13	17.00-17.45	Final Loddon Primary Swimming Pool Committee meeting for 2012-2013
22/10/13	18.00-20.00	Full Governors Committee meeting: attendance by invitation from Chair & HT
23/10/13	3 days	Y5 residential trip to PGL
23/10/13	9.00-10.00	Weekly Parent tea/coffee in the Hut
23/10/13	20.00	PTA meeting in The Hut
28/10/13	All week	Half term holiday
04/11/13	All day	School closed for In Service Training
05/11/13	9.30-12.30	Y3-6 trip to Showcase cinema to see "Rise of the Guardians"
05/11/13	13.30	Y3 REInspired "Creation" at school
06/11/13	9.00-10.00	Weekly Parent tea/coffee in the Hut
07/11/13	9.30-11.30	F2-Y6 Open Morning for prospective families
07/11/13	20.00-21.30	Parents Supporting Parents group in the Hut - All welcome
08/11/13	9.30-12.30	Y1-2 trip to Showcase cinema to see "The Sword in the Stone"
08/11/13	10.15-11.15	F1 Tour of Foundation Stage Unit for prospective families
08/11/13	14.30-17.00	Eid/Diwali event in the Main Hall
11/11/13	All day	Individual school photographs
13/11/13	9.00-11.15	Raising Self Esteem - Parent workshop in the Hut
14/11/13	All day	Y4 trip to Henley River and Rowing Museum
18/11/13	All week	Maths and Problem Solving Week
19/11/13	8.30-9.30	Finance and Personnel Committee: attendance by invitation from Chair & HT
20/11/13	9.00-10.00	Weekly Parent tea/coffee in the Hut
20/11/13	17.30-19.00	School Environment Committee: attendance by invitation from Chair & HT
27/11/13	18.00-20.00	Curriculum Committee: attendance by invitation from Chair & HT
27/11/13	9.00-10.00	Weekly Parent tea/coffee in the Hut
28/11/13	10.00-11.30	Y6 REInspired "WAD" at St. Nicolas Church
29/11/13	All day	PTA Mufti day in aid of Christmas fayre
02/12/13	All week	Last week of School-run clubs
04/12/13	9.00-10.00	Weekly Parent tea/coffee in the Hut
05/12/13	20-21.30	Parents Supporting Parents group in the Hut - All welcome
06/12/13	09.45	FSU Nativity - Dress rehearsal production to the School
06/12/13	10.15-11.15	F1 Tour of Foundation Stage Unit for prospective families
07/12/13	TBC	PTA Christmas fayre
09/12/13	13.30-15.00	FSU Nativity - Performance for families
10/12/13	9.30-11.00	FSU Nativity - Performance for families
10/12/13	10.00-11.30	Y6 REInspired "Faith in Action" at St. Nicolas Church
11/12/13	9.00-10.00	Weekly Parent tea/coffee in the Hut