

December 2023 Newsletter

SEASON'S GREETINGS

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Term ends at 3.00pm on **Wednesday 20th December** and the children start again on **Thursday 4th January 2024**

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We are having our Christmas lunch on Tuesday 19th December (menu below). This will be the only school option available on this day. If your child does not want a Christmas lunch, they must bring a home packed lunch. **You will be sent a google order form so we know how much food to order, please complete this by Friday 8th December.**



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MENU SWAP

On the last day of term (Weds 20th), the menu for Friday will be offered instead.



CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

All of the children are very busy practising for their Christmas performances, which are coming up soon – see dates and times in the diary dates section below.

You will not be able to take photos or videos of these performances for safeguarding reasons so please just sit back and enjoy watching the show!

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Children are welcome to bring Christmas cards to give to their friends but if possible, they need to give them out before or after school on the playground please.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



We are going to take part in Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 8th December. Anyone who wants to take part can either wear a Christmas jumper/t-shirt/dress or decorate their own jumper in a Christmassy way. We recommend a minimum of £1 donation and all proceeds go to Save the Children. Your child can wear normal uniform with their Christmas jumper, or have it as a complete non-uniform day, we really do not mind as long as what they are wearing is suitable for school and for going outside for playtime and lunch.

PRE-LOVED CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

There are some second hand Christmas jumpers on the clothes rail in the Reception area, which the PTA are selling for 50p. If you have a Christmas Jumper that you would like to donate for someone else to use please leave it there.

CLASS CHRISTMAS PARTIES

These are on Wednesday 20th December to finish off the term. Children can come to school dressed in party clothes if they wish but please remember they still need to be suitably dressed to go outside at playtime and lunchtime.

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FRIENDS OF LODGE LANE YEAR GROUP PARTIES



As you already know the PTA are running a party for each year group on Thursday 14th December. We know that these parties work better than a disco because many children struggle with the noise and chaos of a disco.

The YR party starts straight after school at 3.15pm – children who want to attend need to bring their party clothes in a named bag to school that day and staff will help them change after school and take them to the party.

Other year groups will have time to go home and change and then return for their party.

YR 3.15-4.15pm

Y1 4.30-5.30pm

Y2 5.45-6.45pm

If your child attends Cheeky Monkeys that day and would like to come, they need to bring their party clothes to school in a named bag. If they are in YR or Y1, they can return to Cheeky Monkeys after their party.

Payment of £2 for the party needs to be made in advance on Scopay. Because this is also a fundraising event, unfortunately anyone who has not paid in advance will not be able to attend.

Parent crèche

There will be a parent crèche alongside the parties. This is £2 entry, which includes hot drinks, a can of soft drink and a mince pie. £2 cash can be paid on the night.

POPPIES AND CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you for supporting these charities in November.

We raised £151.15 for Children in Need and are still waiting to hear from the Royal British Legion.

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PRIMARY SCIENCE QUALITY MARK

We are delighted to have been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark this term. This is awarded to schools with an aspirational vision for science, an effective curriculum, and a strong and positive impact on the children.

Mrs Spears began working on this with the whole staff last year with the aim of improving science provision for all of our children. Children cover a lot of the science curriculum through Inquiry and through Outdoor Learning and over the last year the children have learnt a lot more about what science is and about how to work scientifically.

A lot of hard work went into this award but we have seen a big difference in children's scientific skills and knowledge and we are making sure we continue to embed good practice this year. We have a lot of budding scientists at Lodge Lane!

USED STAMPS



Please save the stamps from your Christmas cards – we collect used stamps for the Royal National Institute for the Blind – your child can put them in the used stamps recycling bin in the corridor.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance Matters



Our overall attendance so far this school year is 95.5%, which is amazing considering the amount of horrible germs and bugs going round the school. However, there are still 29 children who fall into the persistently absent category (90% or lower) which is too many.

In line with our policy, parents of those whose attendance sits within the persistently absent range and particularly those whose attendance has dipped even further into that range since the start of November, will receive a letter just to make you aware, even if we know it's because of a holiday or illness.

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FAREWELL TO STAFF

We are very sad to be saying 'goodbye' to three members of staff at the end of this term - our Reception Lead Teacher Sharon Corden, our SENCo Lisa Herron and Theresa Rose, who works at Cheeky Monkeys and also leads our SEN Support Team.

Theresa has been part of the Lodge Lane staff team since 2012! She has worked as an MSA and most recently has been a welcoming face early each morning to children who come to Cheeky Monkeys for Breakfast and also works at Cheeky Monkeys after school and in the holidays. Theresa has also supported several children in a 1:1 role, especially those who find it difficult to access learning in the main classroom. So many children have benefitted from her calm and patient approach and she will be a very hard act to follow. We have not yet had chance to recruit a replacement for Theresa, but will let you know as soon as we have. Theresa is going to start a new role in health and social care in the New Year.

Sharon has been the Early Years Lead at Lodge Lane since September 2018 and has been very successful in transforming provision and practice both inside and out, for our Reception children. Sharon is well known at Lodge Lane for coming up with numerous weird and wonderful ideas to help the children learn - there have been many occasions when we have had to 'rein her in' and she is often to be heard saying 'Why on earth did I come up with that idea?'

All joking aside, I know that all of our children at Lodge Lane have fond memories of their time in Reception. Sharon is leaving teaching to take on a role at NCC as an Early Help Consultant, so there will still be a lot of children and families in Norfolk who will benefit from her support.

We are very fortunate that although we are losing Sharon, we are not having to make too many changes to the Reception staff team:

Roisin Surtee will become the full time teacher for Tiger Class.

Allie Judge will continue to teach in Panda class from Monday-Wednesday and Kirsty Joubert will teach Panda class on Thursdays and Fridays. Kirsty has been working at Lodge Lane in various roles since September 2020 so the children are familiar with her and she is very much looking forward to taking on this new role.

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Lisa has been our SENCo since January 2022 and has been a huge support to our children with additional needs, and their families. She has run workshops for parents, secured funding, set up interventions and upskilled our staff so that our school is even more inclusive, enabling all children to achieve their potential. Lisa is taking on a new role as a Specialist Learning Support teacher with the Local Authority.

We have appointed a new SENCo, Mrs Shelley Leggett, to work across Lodge Lane and Garrick Green and we look forward to welcoming her to our team in January.

I know you will all join us in wishing these three amazing ladies all the very best in their new careers and that you will agree that Lodge Lane will not be the same without them.

Good Luck Theresa, Sharon and Lisa!

DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

<u>DECEMBER</u>		
1 st	Winter Fair	
8 th	Christmas Jumper Day	
8 th	Friends of Christmas shop SCOPAY DEADLINE 5th DECEMBER	
11 th	EYFS Nativity	2pm
12 th	EYFS Nativity	2pm
13 th	Y1 Christmas play	2pm
14 th	Y1 Christmas play	2pm
14 th	Friends of end of term parties SCOPAY DEADLINE 13th DECEMBER	
18 th	Y2 Christmas carols on the playground	2.15pm
19 th	Christmas lunch PLEASE COMPLETE GOOGLE ORDER FORM	
20 th	Christmas parties Last day of term - school re-opens to children on Thursday 5th January	

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	<u>JANUARY</u>
4 th	School reopens
	<u>FEBRUARY</u>
16 th	Last day for half-term
26 th	School reopens

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