



The Loxdale Local



Autumn half-term 2 2023



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas: Thank you for braving the wet and windy weather and attending our Christmas Fair last Thursday. Our Christmas activities are well under way at Loxdale!

Our KS2 Carol Concert was a great success and definitely set our festivities off to a flying start. The children are excitedly awaiting their parties and disco and our annual ELF day on Friday 22nd!

Myself and the staff would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a restful and peaceful new year.

Mrs Scott



Parent Portal

Thank you for all supporting the school with the implementation of the new system in school. Most parents have now downloaded the Arbor Parent Portal app to their devices and only a small handful are yet to do so. If you have not yet downloaded it, please visit your Google Play-store/Apple Store or wherever you download your apps to download the Arbor Parent Portal as soon as possible. **This is the only way that we will be communicating directly with you about your child in the future.** Without this, you may not receive updates about upcoming events/trips, letters from school, general information and you will not be able to pay for school trips or school dinners or make meal choices.



ELF DAY! Friday 22nd December— not only is it the last day of the term but it is also Elf Day at Loxdale. The day that we get to dress up as Santa's mischievous elves and have some fun. There may even be the opportunity for us all to enjoy some delicious treats. We cannot wait to see what the elves get up to!

Mr and Mrs Humphries have welcomed their new addition—a son; William - Mummy, Daddy and baby are doing really well.

Congratulations from us all.

★ welcome ★
baby ♥ boy

Paying for School Dinners and Trips

We will be launching the latest phase of our transition to the new system in January 2024. When the children return to school in the New Year, we will be taking **all payments** via the Arbor Parent Portal app. Therefore, you must have downloaded the app.

School dinners will be coordinated slightly differently. You will be required to pay for your child's meals in advance from 8th January 2024 onwards, and you will also use the Parent Portal app to submit your child's meal choices too. This is different to how it has been done previously, so it is important that you understand that from January onwards, **we will no longer be asking for meal choices in school.** Parents/carers must do this via the Parent Portal App.

We will be sending out more information in the near future on how to submit your child's meal choices and how to make payments.



Our second phase of Mental Health Champions (MHC) training has taken place and this time we have expanded! Year 6 who were originally training as MHC have now completed their Advanced Workshop, refreshing their training and enhancing their knowledge and capabilities to support their own and others' mental health.

Year 5 have now completed their full Foundation Workshop, meaning that alongside Year 6, they are now fully trained Mental Health Champions. Year 2 also completed an Introductory Workshop where they learned about mental health and wellbeing and the things we can do to ensure we look after ourselves, including what to do if we need help. All of the workshops were a resounding success and we are thrilled to have so many MHC's within our school supporting one another.





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Challenging Homophobia In Primary Schools (CHIPS)

Loxdale Primary School endeavours to improve the lives of children, young people and families within our community. We celebrate our rich diversity and take steps to prevent and tackle all kinds of bullying, including homophobic bullying and in so doing believe that children will attain more at school, people will be happier and our city will be a even better place to live.

During CHIPS Week, children engage in a series of emotional literacy lessons, where they acknowledged and celebrated the fact that families are different and that the children in Wolverhampton schools live in different types of families. These lessons are based on children's stories, some funny, some emotive, and are accompanied by activities that are planned to create inclusive, non-bullying environments for all of the children at Loxdale.

Children and staff at Loxdale are looking forward to the next CHIPS week, which will take place in the Spring Term.

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Easyfundraising As Christmas approaches, and you are planning your festive shopping online, maybe do your shopping via <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/loxdalepaws/> to help raise money for your children and school.

Over the last couple of years you have all helped to raise hundreds of pounds by just doing your normal online shopping via easyfundraising. It may not sound like a lot, but it all adds up. Thank you so much. All this money has been raised without anyone having to do anything other than do their normal online purchases through easyfundraising. Now think what that could be when you all do your Christmas shopping online.

RWI lesson links: Please keep a look out in your emails for video links to phonics lessons that you can watch with your child. Every two weeks a total of 10 different lesson links each will go out to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers. These video links will be available during the current term and will then expire. This is a great way for you to know which sounds your child has been learning at school and help you to better support them with their reading at home.

To celebrate World Mental Health Day, the whole school took part in 'HelloYellow' with Young Minds charity. On this day it gave us opportunities to talk about mental health, what is it, how to take care of our own mental health, caring for others and how to seek support. Key Stage 2 also took part in an online Resilience Building Masterclass. This was delivered by One Goal who are the company that train our mental health champions. The masterclass was meticulously designed to equip KS2 pupils with resilience skills, helping them to overcome adversities, both in and outside the classroom. Our pupils had an amazing time and emerged with a newfound strength and perspective, ready to tackle the challenges that come their way. The Masterclass enabled them to truly understand what resilience looks like, feels like and how to apply it.



We have also been working closely with Claire Wagstaff who is our Early Help Police Officer. All of Claire's work is linked to safeguarding and wellbeing. This term she has delivered three information assemblies for upper KS2 who had a presentation about County Lines and watched Alfie's Story - a tale of grooming. She has also delivered an interactive session about social media dangers and a safety and awareness session about Halloween and Bonfire night.



We would like to thank all parents/carers that attended our Year 5 and 6 online safety sessions. It was really encouraging to hear the discussions that took place. We are really looking forward to continuing to work together to keep our children as safe as possible whilst they are interacting with the online world.

During these sessions, some parents/carers expressed an interest in an online safety session aimed solely at parents and carers to discuss some of the key issues that our children are facing in greater detail. If this is something that you would be interested in, could you please click the below and complete the form to register your interest.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=n-nwrUuRD0WALH_XTtX2CvZVJ-YrGENBjwmQM9DGsVpUOVJNTDdBODEFUDFERTU5MU5SQ1VIVVg1UC4u





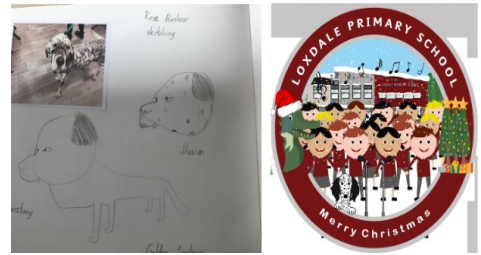
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Monty Pupdate- Breaking news, Britain's Next Top Model is...MONTY!! Yes that's right, Monty has been modelling for Year 3's live art classes. They began as all Monty interactions should, with a big cuddly fuss before Monty took up position and posed like a professional allowing the children to produce some spectacular drawings!

Monty has also been having regular interactions with a wider range of pupils and staff; as he gets used to being handled by different people, as part of his training. He has particularly enjoyed his walks with Mrs Allen and selected pupils and is feeling super proud to have been included in Loydale's Christmas Logo!



No jewellery or watches allowed

PE News Update: What a busy term for sport and PE! Our children have been busy learning about a range of topics in their PE lessons. Also, our football team took part in their first league match of season; it was a closely fought contest where both teams played great football. Unfortunately for us, Wilkinson won 1-0. As a school, we have a lot of exciting things to look forward to in the new year with more football fixtures, cross country events and multi-skills activities filling up the calendar. In addition to external sports opportunities, we are also in the process of arranging a sport focused house afternoon/day for our winning team, which will be exciting for all of the children involved.

Please can we remind you that smoking cigarettes or vaporizers is not acceptable on, or near the gates of, school premises.



Reflexions

Our collaborative work with Reflexions Mental Health Team continues and we were delighted to have Kristiine, our Educational Mental Health Practitioner join us for parents' evening where she was able to share further information about their service and answer any questions. This term, more of our pupils have been able to access support from Reflexions and we hosted a parent workshop 'Talking about Mental Health with your child'. This was a very informative session and the parents/ carers who joined us shared really positive feedback, gaining valuable insight into the difference between mental illness & mental health and how to have open conversations about mental health and wellbeing with your children at home.

We are looking forward to hosting more parent workshops in 2024—we hope you can join us!

A polite reminder - due to health and safety rules, the EYFS or any play equipment is not to be used before or after school by children. Please may we ask that parents/ carers supervise children carefully and do not allow them to run around and play on the equipment. PLEASE can children also be supervised when in the cycle shed too as too many cycles are being damaged. Thank you for your support with this matter.





Loxdale Diary Dates



☉ Wednesday 13th December	KS1 Nativity (9.30am & 1.45pm)
☉ Monday 18th December	Reception Sing A Long (9.30am & 145pm)
☉ Tuesday 19th December	KS1 Christmas Party
☉ Wednesday 20th December	KS2 Disco
☉ Thursday 21st December	Nursery Party (Nursery Break Up)
☉ Thursday 21st December	Reception Party
☉ Friday 22nd December	Break Up For Christmas Holidays at 2.30pm
☉ Monday 8th January	Back to school
☉ Friday 12th January	Panto—Snow White
☉ Friday 9th February	Break up for half-term

Parental Concerns:

Could any parent wishing to discuss any concerns regarding their child, please see their class teacher in the first instance. If any concerns cannot be resolved with the class teacher then please feel free to make an appointment to see one of our Assistant Headteachers: Mrs Mould (Key Stage 2), or Miss Cowley (Key Stage 1 and EYFS.) If the problem is still unresolved then please see our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Wright-Jones, or if the problem is still unresolved, Mrs Scott (Headteacher).

Over the next few months, we are working towards the **WELLBEING AWARD FOR SCHOOLS**. This is a whole-school activity to help improve the emotional wellbeing and mental health of everyone.

To find out more or to get involved, contact your Wellbeing Award Coordinator: Miss Hanley & Miss Cowley

OPTIMUS EDUCATION

As you are aware we are currently in the process of working towards the Wellbeing Award for Schools. This is a very prestigious award in recognition of our whole school approach to improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health for all within Loxdale Primary School. Wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do and it is very exciting to be able to showcase what we do as part of our evidence for this award.

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to our wonderful parents and carers for completing the initial survey. The evaluation was extremely positive and we have taken on board some of the feedback such as, offering further information and support on how children may struggle with mental health & wellbeing and how to help.

The next phase of our assessment is to kindly ask that parents and carers complete the second survey which will be sent out over the Christmas break. We'd like to thank you in advance for your continued support with this.

We are also aiming to achieve the 'Sandwell Wellbeing Charter Mark (we don't do things by halves!) The aim of the Charter Mark is to recognise school's commitment towards improving the Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) of its pupils and staff. A lot of the work that we do can be used as evidence for both awards.



Children being collected at the end of the school day: If a responsible adult, who is known to your child, comes to collect them from school, then your child will be handed over to them, regardless of whether they are on the contact card. This is due to the number of issues with continued changes to contact details. If parents do not want a certain individual to collect their child then please could you inform school in writing. **Brothers or sisters sent to collect children must be of at least secondary school age and judged to be competent by school.** We reserve the right not to allow children to be taken home by other minors if there are any concerns around safety of the children at Loxdale.

Late collections: May we also please remind parents that children must be collected on time at the end of the day. If, for any reason you are going to be late, please inform the school in advance. As you will appreciate, persistent lateness will have an impact on the running of school.

If you are later than 3.45pm, your child will be put into teatime club and a charge will be applied.

PLEASE MAY WE RESPECTFULLY ASK PARENTS/CARERS TO PROPERLY SUPERVISE THEIR CHILDREN UPON COLLECTION FROM SCHOOL AT THE END OF THE DAY. We have had a number of incidents where children have run away from parents/ carers down the path, where pedestrians have been knocked over by children running down the path and also where bikes and scooters have been damaged in the bike sheds where children have been unsupervised and have been 'messing around' with other children's bikes and scooters. At the end of the school day, we have over 1000 people on site and we ask that everyone is respectful of each other and adheres to our request for an orderly dismissal from the school premises.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS MATTER

Find us at:



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Loxdale Primary



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