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'Learning For Life'
 2022 December

Dear Parents/Carers

I write ahead of the busy end of term with updates and news in this, the final edition of the newsletter for 2022.

This issue contains:

- Key Dates and Times to the End of Term
- Christmas Fair
- Christmas Post box
- Playground Refurbishment- Phase 2
- FOWS News
- Thank you for support
- Nativity
- Willoughby Award Winners
- Drumming & After School Clubs
- Emergency Closure & Text Messages
- Finally...

Key Dates for the Rest of the Term

DECEMBER	
Mon 5 th	- Swimming for KS1 & Reception (3 of 8) - Last one this term
	- Christmas Club (4 of 4)
Weds 7 th	- Christmas Fair 3pm - 5pm
Thurs 8 th	- Progress Reports Emailed to Parents/Carers
	- Christmas Jumper Day (note change of date).
Sun 11 th	- Carols for All @ Willoughby Church - 6:00pm
Mon 12 th	- Nativity Dress Rehearsal - 1:00pm
Tues 13 th	- Pantomime @ Loughborough Town Hall (10:15am) - Sleeping Beauty. Packed Lunch required.
Weds 14 th	- Nativity @ Willoughby Church 6:30pm
Thurs 15 th	- Y1/2 - Football Festival @ South Wolds Academy & Sixth Form 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Tues 20 th	- Christmas Party Day
Weds 21 st	- Last Day of Autumn Term
Thurs 22 nd - Tues 3 rd January 2023	- CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
JANUARY	
Weds 4 th	- INSET DAY - School Closed to Pupils
Thurs 5 th	- First Day of Spring Term 1

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair will be going ahead in school this year!

KS2 are busy creating, making and promoting their games, and will set them up in school on Wednesday 7th December. The fair will run from 3pm - 5pm. FOWs will be on hand with refreshments and prizes are up for grabs!

Thank you to those of you who have already sent in entries for the envelope tombola and items for the hampers. We still need donations of chocolates, books and toys.

Christmas Post Box

We will once again have a Christmas post box available in school for children who wish to send each other cards. Please can you ensure if your child is sending cards that they include first name and surname initial on the envelope along with year group.

To help with Year groups and numbers:

EYFS	5 pupils
KS1	Year 1 - 7 pupils Year 2 - 7 pupils
KS2	Year 3 - 7 pupils Year 4 - 6 pupils Year 5 - 5 pupils Year 6 - 6 pupils

Playground Refurbishment- Phase 2



Phase 2 of the playground refurbishment was completed in November with the addition of a solid, metal 5 a-side goal, a storage shed for EYFS, a new bin store area, 3 new benches and a playhouse area with astro turf flooring.

I am absolutely delighted with the end result. The children now have a fun, welcoming and exciting playground to enjoy. The contrast to the old playground is remarkable! I would like to thank The Playground Company for their expertise and professionalism throughout the project.

FOWS News

FOWs recently received the wonderful news that that the final total from the Co-op community fund was £3,177.34 for the canopy refurbishment project.

Mrs Barker visited the Co-op, along with a selection of children and FOWs members, on a Saturday morning, to receive the donation. The children made a 'Thank-You' card, signed by all the children, which was gratefully received.

Mrs Barker will be meeting with FOWS to discuss how to put the money to best use to refurbish the EYFS canopy area.

I would, once again, like to say a huge 'Thank You' to the wonderful FOWS members for all that they do. We are all very grateful for your support.

Thank you for Support of our Charities

Thank you as well for your on-going support for all the charity events we carry out as a school, to raise money for those less fortunate than ourselves. Thinking of others is an important part of our 'learning for life' message.

The Harvest collection for Sopina raised £154 which will go towards her sponsorship money for the year. Our Plan International display has been updated with the children's drawings and some information about Sopina.

Children in Need raised a wonderful £113.50. There were some great outfits on the day, all fitting the 'P for Pudsey' theme.

Finally, a reminder that Thursday 8th December is Christmas Jumper Day in support of 'Save the Children'. (Please note the change of day). It also coincides with our Christmas dinner day in school. Children can come to school in a Christmas top/jumper and bring in £1 donation.

Mrs Affleck has been keeping the website blog posts up to date with plenty of photographs, so do check them out on the school website.

Nativity

The Nativity has always been a very special event in school and we are delighted that this year we will be able to welcome all parents into church on Wednesday 14th December at 6.30pm.

KS1 and EYFS will perform 'A Nice Little Nativity'. KS2 will also perform songs and Year 6 will be narrating.

I hope you enjoy this special part of Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in church.

Willoughby Award Winners

Congratulations to our recent winners of the Willoughby Award, awarded for effort in work, behaviour and other aspects of school life:

4/11/22	Ellie (Y2)	18/11/22	Tabitha (Y4)
11/11/22	Mabel (Y3)	25/11/22	Amber (Y5)

Drumming & After School Clubs

Drumming lessons will continue on Friday mornings in school in the New Year. After his last assembly, Jake has some new recruits to train up and they are all enjoying their sessions. We will also be using Rockley Music to provide the Drumba lessons in PE after the Christmas break.

Rattle & Roll have recently asked us to conduct a survey into after school preferences as the current club is not proving so popular. Out of the 15 responses we had, 9/15 said they won't use at all due to other club commitments, 4/15 chose Yoga, 3/15 chose Dance and 2/15 chose On the Stage. I will send the choices to Rattle & Roll to see whether they would still run a club with so few numbers.

From January, Sam's club will continue on a Thursday and next half-term he will be doing Dodgeball. Sam will be sending out his sign-up letters in the usual way so look out for those arriving in your in-boxes.

Finally, we will also be running Board Games & Construction club in school on Wednesdays (information to follow next term).

Emergency Closure & Text Messages

Now that the colder weather has arrived I thought it best to remind parents of our emergency closure procedure. If for any reason we feel we may need to close, Miss Smith will liaise with the Chair of Governors, Sander Tiel, to make a decision.

We have the following procedures in place if we have to close the school at short notice (e.g. heating/electrics failure, severe weather):

- We will inform you via the text messaging service.
- A notice will be posted on the school gate by Debbie Brooks, to inform all parents that school is closed.
- We will also get it announced on local radio station, BBC Radio Nottingham and a notification will be on their website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nottingham>

We do not operate a phone chain so if you have problems with your mobile signal you might like to make a private arrangement for a parent friend to inform you.

Finally,

- A personal thank you from me to all the staff who gave up their time to offer extra-curricular clubs throughout the year and most recently our popular series of Christmas Clubs. (We had a weekly total of 37 out of 43 pupils which is wonderful!)

The community spirit and collective support that Willoughby always provides underlies everything and reaffirms what a special place it is.

I would like to finish by wishing you and your family a very Happy Christmas and joyful New Year.

Best wishes

Beatrice Smith