



Web: www.ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk

For vital notices and dates of open classes, assemblies, clubs

Twitter for learning notices: @ladygrovepri

Email: office.2609@ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk

Direct link to School Blog: ladygrove-park.blogspot.co.uk

Choir had their second public performance at Tuesday's Christmas Carol Concert led by the Didcot Choral Society on behalf of the Mayor. Each of the five schools and the Choral Society performed their own couple of songs; ours were harmonised versions of 'Tree of Light' and 'Feliz Navidad.' The audience joined in with the festive singing, including a version of Good Kind Wenceslas with the Mayor as King. Despite a few nerves, choir sang confidently and beautifully, and were perfect ambassadors for our school. The aim of the event was to raise money for two charities chosen by the mayor:



Secret Santa 365 is an independent not for profit charity. Founded in 2012, it has helped thousands of sick and vulnerable people.

Make-A-Wish UK is a charity who create life changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

The event raised £400 for them.

Class 2 and 3 helped to show their parents how to use the "Parts Whole" method to add numbers of objects together on Wednesday. This is one of the ways that we teach addition in school. We introduced our visitors to some "chanting" too as we took turns with the teacher to chant some key maths sentences, for example, "3 add 2 is the same as 5", "4 and 3 equals 7". We hope we shared the importance of using the correct (and varied) vocabulary that we introduce the children to this year. There was also a chance to see how we use "Hey Numbers" as we count forwards and backwards from any number, working on fluency, and again understanding Maths vocabulary such as, more/less, bigger/smaller, backwards/forwards etc. If you have any queries or questions, please come and speak to us. *Foundation Stage Team*

Classes 1, 2 and 3 walked to the post box this week to post their letters to Father Christmas. It was a frosty day and made us all feel very festive. Thank you to all our lovely willing helpers!



Year 5 held their Victorian Day yesterday, in which the students experienced the far harsher conditions of schooling during this time. They all played along with the experience admirably, lining up rigidly, doing drill, experiencing the monotony of constant repetition and chanting, and the unequal quality of education according to if you were a girl or boy. I hope the parents also enjoyed finding out about what we'd been up to (even those who had been sent to the corner!), and most importantly enjoyed sampling the delicious afternoon tea cooked completely independently by the children.



Next week can Year 5 students please bring in Tupperware boxes.



PALS Movie Night last night was a great success. Thank you to Emily Blackwell, Sarah Field, Emily Pratley, Kerry Boniface, Alyson Pearce, Sarah Butler, Sam Drew, Josie Mottershead and Archana Ramachandran for organising and implementing this event for the children – they thoroughly enjoyed it! We are looking at around £700 profit – well done everyone!

Year 4 children had a yoga taster session this morning themed around Friendship with breathing exercises, sun salutation flow and partner work learning poses, which reflected the elements of common themes of friendship around this age group. They also experienced a mindfulness activity and body scan for relaxation

Year 3 are opening their classrooms to parents this afternoon to share their topic work. **Year 3** have been studying our environment: **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle**. This has been linked to literacy, geography, art and computing as the children consider our local environment, how it has evolved over time and what we can do to protect it. The children will be talking to parents about how Didcot is changing over the next five years.



Message from the governors: Last Wednesday evening the Governors welcomed the House Captains to our Full Governing Board meeting. The House Captains worked together to prepare a presentation informing us about their role, the school and recent changes such as the new play equipment and the introduction of Digital Safety Leaders to promote online safety. It was also encouraging to hear such positive quotes about the school which the House Captains had obtained by interviewing pupils and staff. Thank you to Danielle, Jamie, Shalom, Rowan, Leah and Mikey for showing us that they are thinkers, collaborators and role models.

COMING UP...

We have partnered with the Park Club (Milton) to take part in the **Park Club Elf Run** on Monday 16th December in the morning. See poster at the end of this newsletter. We would love some **parents to volunteer** to either run with classes or be marshals, as we are going off site (around the block). If you are able to help out with this please email the school office at office.2609@ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk Children can wear elf hats, Christmas bobble hats, Christmas jumpers or anything festive (however it is noted that Year 4 will already be dressed as Egyptians). We are suggesting £1 donation per child for the Armed Forces charity. Children will receive a certificate and novelty prizes for taking part.





Year 6 Parent Helpers wanted..... Are you able to help us with craft-making on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th December and help us run the stalls on Friday 13th in the afternoon for our **Money Matters Christmas Craft Fair**? If so, can you email the school office and let us know what days you can do. Many thanks. *Year 6 Team*

Dates next week:

Date	Activity	Time	Place	Notes
Mon 9 th Dec	BOX OFFICE OPENS Scratch Club	8.30am Lunchtime	School Office	Extra tickets available for Yr 2 Production - £2 each LAST ONE THIS TERM
Tues 10 th Dec	Yr 5 Cycling Test Movie Afternoon High Five Club UKLA Club	Afternoon 12pm-3pm 3.15pm-4pm 3.15pm-4pm	Ladygrove Class 1 School Court	Selected children Movie afternoon for nursery children – wear your PJs and bring your favourite teddy! LAST ONE THIS TERM Meet in the library – LAST ONE THIS TERM
Weds 11 th Dec	Headteacher Hot Chocolate Treat Girls Football Club	10.30am 3.15pm-4.15pm	The Library Field	By invitation only LAST ONE THIS TERM
Thurs 12 th Dec	Stemillions Club Yr 2 Production Yr 3 @ Willowbrook Year FS Cake Crumbly PALS Raffle Yr 2 Production	Lunchtime 1.30pm Afternoon 3.10pm 3.10pm 6pm	Hall Willowbrook Courtyard Courtyard Hall	LAST ONE THIS TERM Tickets required Badminton Please donate cakes to sell Tickets required – A letter will go home next week finalising details
Fri 13 th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day FS & Yr 1 Sing Song Sketch Club Year 6 Money Matters	All Day 10am & 2pm Lunchtime 2.30pm	School Hall Year 6	Wear a festive jumper and pay £1 towards Christian Aid Tickets required Christmas Fair – Parents invited

CHRISTMAS LUNCHES: The deadline to pre-order a Christmas meal was now passed. It is therefore, too late to pre-order a Christmas meal so please ensure your child brings in a packed lunch on all three days.



Monday 16 th December Years FS and 6	Tuesday 17 th December Years 1 and 5	Wednesday 18 th December Years 2, 3 and 4
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NOTICES ...

There have recently been occasions when small children have been riding through the school grounds on scooters and balance bikes. For safety, please remember that any scooters, balance bikes or bikes are **NOT to be ridden in the school grounds** (this also applies to pre-school children but not to those who need one for mobility reasons). Thank you.

As the cold weather is upon us and the ever increasing possibility of **severe weather (such as snow)** I thought it prudent to remind everyone of the procedures for school closure:

Keep this just in case you need to refer to it over the coming months.

In case of severe weather (ie. heavy snow) we base the decision about closing the school on the appropriate ratio of staff to children. If a small number of staff cannot make it to school safely then we rearrange timetables and classes to ensure there is enough supervision. If a larger number of staff are absent, we will be forced to close the school. We attempt to make this decision well before school starts, then communicate it immediately via the **school's own website (front page scrolling banner), via our mobile app (download this if you haven't already), shortly followed by the local authority website**. In very rare cases, we might need to close only part of the school- depending again on the availability of staff- this is very much a last resort because the organisation can be very complicated and lead to communication issues. Furthermore, it is also possible that we might close the school **during the day**, if an unexpected weather front closes in very quickly. Again this is not preferable because it leads to complicated implementation. In this case an appropriate number of staff will remain to supervise children until they can be picked up. We also communicate school closure via local radio stations but because they only announce the information periodically it is always better to check the website first.

Please also remember that our premises risk assessment states that we grit the most commonly used pathways. We can't grit the entire site and it would be more treacherous to do so. Therefore, we put a lot of emphasis on teaching the children to alter their play style to suit the conditions. As Dr Seuss says: "It's fun to have fun, but you have to know how."



Reminder: Last session for **Class 1 is Tuesday 17th December**. At 2.15pm on this day, parents and grandparents are invited to join Class 1 children for a Christmas sing song. Tickets are not required.

Girls Football Club will not be running next term due to league fixtures but current members will be invited to attend league matches.

SWIMATHON- Aspire swimming challenge: **Mrs Parsons and Mrs Fowkes** have spent many painful hours in the pool recently in the hope of swimming 22 miles in 12 weeks, as part of the Aspire Swimming Challenge. Part of the challenge includes raising as much money as they can to support people affected by Spinal Cord Injury. If you have a spare penny or two, they would be very grateful if you could donate to this worthy cause. Here is the link: <https://www.justgiving.com/teams/lpps-channel-swim-2019>

On **15th January** M&M Theatrical Productions are in school in the afternoon to perform *Cinderella* to Year 1-6 children. Each year, without fail, this touring theatrical company visit our school to briefly bring back the atmosphere of Christmas. They are experts in family entertainment of classic stories. We ask for a voluntary donation of £2.68 per child to cover the cost of this. Please pay for this via ParentPay.



Friends of O.S.C.A.R is a charity set up to support children with brain and spinal tumours and their families throughout the country. They are committed to supporting families and groups at every point if it is requested. This may be at diagnosis, during treatment or after treatment is finished, when they find themselves living with the effects caused by the tumour and its treatment. First and foremost, Friends of O.S.C.A.R is a much needed support network where the children and their families can feel that they are not alone.

Emily (**Year 6**) is running a sweet jar competition on Tuesday 10th December in KS2 breaktime to raise money for this worthy charity. 50p per guess!

Reminder: Admissions to school (Academic Year 20/19): If your child was born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016 you must apply for a school place for your child for entry in the academic year September 2020. You will be able to apply on-line from 1st November 2019. Please visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions for further information. NB The deadline line date for online applications is 15th January 2020.

Please remember the following:-

- It is the responsibility of parents/carers to apply for a school place by the deadline of 15 January 2020
- If your child is attending nursery classes within a primary school, you must still apply for a place in the main school
- You can list three different schools in order of preference. We strongly advise you to use all three preferences
- We advise you to enter your catchment (or designated) school as one of your preferences
- Attending your catchment school does not entitle you to free home to school transport if it is not your closest school and / under 2 miles away
- If your application is late, you are far less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools.

Click on this link for easy access to OCC website <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place>

***Last day for Class 1 children is Tuesday 17th December
Parents are invited to their Christmas 'Sing Song' at 2.15pm – tickets NOT required***

***The rest of the school finishes on Thursday 19th December at 1.15pm
(Lunches as normal)
ASC finishes at 4pm***

Andrew Markham and the school team

Park Club Health

Park Club Elf Run

Join the Chief Elf and complete our charity run/walk, raising money for the Armed Forces charity.

Location: Ladygrove Park School
Date: Monday 16th Dec
Time: 09:00-11:00

- * See newsletter for year group details
- * Suggested donation of a £1 for the Armed Forces charity

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the Armed Forces charity

