



Number 17
Friday, 26 March 2021

LPPS Newsletter

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

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

Phone App: Search "School Jotter"

During Forest School this week, **Year 5** created some interesting and successful Greek pots using clay. The children successfully supported each other to create and adapt their pots, which were well designed and very stable.

Well done, Year 5!

Year 6 had a virtual school trip on Wednesday to the Pitt Rivers museum, via zoom. The children learnt many interesting facts and developed their understanding of this civilisation. Of most interest was the fact that their calendar was composed of 18 lots of 20 days (360 days) and then the year was completed by an extra 5 'unlucky days'. It was considered very bad luck, for your whole life, if you were born on one of these days. Also to note was that the ball game they played (Pok-a-Tok) was not worth losing - the team who lost were often sacrificed! After the call, children designed some Mayan headdresses. *Year 6 Team*



On Monday we received an email from **Frosts Garden Centre at Millets Farm** advising we have been gifted a beautiful flowering cherry tree to celebrate their 75th birthday. To mark their anniversary, they are donating 75 flowering cherry trees to the local community and they asked customers at each of their four centres to nominate 75 local organisations that they feel would benefit from one of these beautiful trees. As it is a substantial size we have decided to plant the flowering cherry tree in our forest school area. Thank you to all who nominated us!

Year 6 have also been learning about the importance of celebrating Easter for Christians, and learning the difference between Christian and other cultural traditions at Easter and enjoying making a delicious, themed treat.



Year 1 have had another lovely week and have certainly made the most of the sunshine, starting on Monday when the children used our new science magnifying glasses to explore forest school and sketch what they found. They have learnt and reflected on how to be healthy across science and PHSE; looked back over the year for the positives and hard times they and others have been through; and considered new beginnings in RE with the story and symbolism of Easter. Finally, we were sad to say goodbye to Mrs De Jesus who has helped us so much all year in Class 4, and the whole of Year 1 in lockdown. She asked for us to pass on a huge thank you for her lovely gifts and to everyone that helped her final day feel so special. Thank you Sandra, and thank you to all our lovely children and parents for your support and kindness.

Year 1 Team

COVID UPDATE

Isolation numbers The most recent local authority data (up to 12th March) show that cases across the county have plateaued following a small spike on schools' return. The plateau, for Oxfordshire as a whole, masks the fact that case numbers are currently rising in the city and falling in the south.

Our own school data (real time monitoring of all school community cases) show the same. When we returned on 8th March there were a larger number of children isolating due to positive cases in the household but this has now fallen.

Vaccinations According to their age ranges, staff are now obtaining their vaccinations. We are finding in some cases that this causes short term poorliness but we are continuing to be able to manage bubbles where a staff member is absent for a short time, although as stated before, this continues to be a fragile staffing picture, made better by our current timetabling arrangements.

Staggered timings and Friday early closure We have again returned to deep debate with staff and with governors about the necessity to close earlier on Friday afternoons to maintain the integrity of bubbles as far as possible. Two aspects remain important factors here: some schools have been forced to close multiple bubbles when a member of staff having to work across bubbles has subsequently tested positive, plus, immediately after the Easter holidays further easing of the national lockdown may cause spikes in schools. For these reasons we will maintain the early Friday closure for 3 weeks after the Easter holidays. During this time we will continue to actively monitor the national picture and the school community. We will make a decision (with a view to returning to normal Fridays) in the second week and communicate it by Friday 30th April at the latest. All models of staffing and timetabling have already been completed, at this time we wait to see which is best to enact. The length and breadth of our discussions about this reflect how much we understand the inconvenience for all, including all of us at school. Our hope and expectation is that we return to normal Fridays in the week beginning Monday 10th May.

COMING UP.....

Last day of this term is next Wednesday 31st March and **school finishes at lunchtime**. 1pm for reception, 1.10pm for Years 1, 3 & 5 and 1.20pm for Years 2, 4 & 6. After School Club finishes at 4.15pm.

Aureus School would like to invite Year 5 pupils, parents and carers to join them for their Virtual Open Evening on **Thursday 22nd April**. If you are unable to make the evening, there are also a series of Virtual Open Mornings taking place during the summer term. Please visit www.aureusschool.org/548/open-events to register for these events.

NOTICES

Thank you to everyone who donated to Comic Relief last Friday. As you can see from our certificate you raised £310! Click on the link below to view a short video from Comic Relief thanking schools for their fund raising efforts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJG5gPtW5jM>



If you are aware of anyone that is struggling to afford food or essential items, please ask them to contact the Community Support team. They can help with supermarket vouchers or refer them into one of their advice centres if they need more support than they can offer. Contact details are:

Community Connector Team

· Tel: 01235 422600 Email : communityconnectors@southandvale.gov.uk

They can also get in touch with advice centres for support with affording food or paying their fuel bills. Advice centre contact details are:

Advice Centres

- Citizens Advice – 0808 278 7907 (South and Vale)
- Wantage Independent Advice Centre – 01235 765348 (Vale).

Please remember that each Friday for the rest of this term we finish early at:-

Reception 1pm	Years 1, 3 & 5 1.10pm	Year 2, 4 & 6 1.20pm
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Andrew Markham and the school team

PALS:

PALS Easter trail around the Ladygrove, 27th March- 12th April.

Trail map and chocolate egg can be purchased for £1.50. The map can be used to find Eggs with letters hiding in people's windows - find all the letters to crack the code.

Click on the link for more details:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdk7aBclI456wO2PSb1rFFkUbTOgsxl3ySIW6T2BiqZwEFNEg/viewform?usp=sf_link



Who can grow the tallest Sunflower?

PALS sunflower growing competition starts March 31st. Order your sunflower growing packs here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLHcUJH2J4edBYPcJp8sxuo4rJxoFdZr709D2iGNta5gm-EQ/viewform?usp=sf_link Winner gets a £10 Waterstones voucher.



Date for the diary!
PALS BREAK A RULE DAY
7th May 2021



Dear Fellow Parents

With Easter fast approaching my thoughts have turned to families that this last year has had a negative financial impacted and to those parents that have been brave enough to come forward and ask for help from the Didcot Emergency Food Bank. Therefore, I am asking for donations of Easter Eggs for the food bank to hand out with the weekly offerings, and for children that might have to go without this Easter. From Monday 22nd March to Monday 29th March, there will be collection bins located at the school gates for you to leave your donation. Your donation does not have to be extravagant or expensive, but if you could add just one egg or a pack of mini eggs to your weekly shop, it would be very much appreciated. The families who use this service have to be referred by an official organisation. I have included the link to the food banks facebook page if you wish to know more about the amazing work they do. [Didcot Emergency Food Bank](#) Many thanks in advance.

Donna Butler



Free Trial Session and £40 discount at Perform

Popular children's drama and dance school Perform is offering a Free Trial Session and a **special introductory discount of £40 for members of Ladygrove Park Primary School** if they sign up by Monday 3rd May. Parents should quote LADN030521 when they book their free session by going to perform.org.uk/try or calling 020 7255 9120.

You can find out more about the classes at perform.org.uk/try. Alternatively, pdf flyers can be downloaded from [here](#).

The nearest classes to Ladygrove Park Primary School are as follows (please click for a map and further details):

Perform Didcot (Drama for 4-7s)
(0.7 miles)
Fridays at 4pm

Didcot Methodist Church Hall
Mereend Road,
OX11 8RQ

Perform Didcot (Drama for 7-12s)
(0.7 miles)
Fridays at 5.05pm

Didcot Methodist Church Hall
Mereend Road,
OX11 8RQ

Perform Abingdon (Drama for 4-7s)
(4.8 miles)
Saturdays at 9.30am

The Northcourt Centre
Northcourt Rd,
OX14 1NS

Perform Abingdon (Drama for 4-7s)
(4.8 miles)
Thursdays at 4pm

The Northcourt Centre
Northcourt Rd,
OX14 1NS

Perform Abingdon (Drama for 7-12s)
(4.8 miles)
Saturdays at 11.15am

The Northcourt Centre
Northcourt Rd,
OX14 1NS

There are others too. Click to find all the nearest [here](#) or view a list of [all areas](#).