



# LJS Update

Newsletter No 23 – December 2016

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*So December has finally rolled around and school is looking very festive with trees, garlands and our beautiful advent calendar display. Children will be selected from different classes each day to open the doors. No chocolate I'm afraid but 5 dojos instead.*

*I would like to thank Miss Sanderson for her hard work on the display.*

*We are looking forward to seeing lots of you at our events over the next two weeks. These include our Christmas Fair on Friday 9th December (3-6pm) and our Year 3 and 4 production on Wednesday 14th at 10am and Thursday 15th December at 6.30pm.*

*We also have carols on the playground on Monday 19th December. The 'Friends' will be serving tea and coffee outside from 2.30pm and the children will be singing from 2.45pm.*

*I hope you have a restful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.*

*Merry Christmas*

*Jess Scott*

## Take Care

Nottingham City Council have borrowed our wanted wall idea linked to taking care. See below for more information....

We're creating a Looking After Each Other 'wall of champions' – our #LivingLegends – to be displayed in Old Market Square in Nottingham over Christmas and New Year. We're going to create a montage of photos of every person who is helping to make a difference – as well as those who have been involved in the Looking After Each Other campaign. We want as many #LivingLegends as possible to be part of this. Between 24 November and 8 December, we want people to send us photos of people who go the extra mile and help others. It's simple:

1. Photo: Get a photograph of the person you want to be our #LivingLegends wall
2. Words: Write a brief line about how this person is making a difference to others
3. Email: Email your photo and words to [LookingAfterEachOther@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:LookingAfterEachOther@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

The photos will be on display in Old Market Square from 19 December.

It would be great to have some Team Larkfields members on this wall.



## School Council



*The school council will be taste testing the new Christmas pudding and deciding if we have that or something else for pudding on Christmas dinner day - Thursday 15th December.*

*School council will also be Larkfields Delivery Elves this year delivering all the Christmas cards. The post box is now in the entrance hall ready.*



## Christmas Jumper Day

We will be holding a Christmas jumper day on Thursday 15th December. All we ask is for a £1 donation all monies will go to Save the Children.

# HOW YOU'LL SAVE LIVES

On Christmas Jumper Day, there's a serious side to all the silliness: the money you raise by taking part will help us save children's lives.

For more information go to:  
<https://christmasjumperday.org/>

# THE APPRENTICE

## Year 6 – The Apprentice

For the Christmas Fair, Year six have been set a challenge to make as much money as possible. They have written to Mrs Poxon and Mrs Bowley requesting a £10 start up fee which was granted- and as it is Christmas was increased to £12. The children visited Kimberley this morning to purchase the required items. They behaved in an excellent manner. The children have to make that money back plus a profit. The children are working in small groups and have come up with lots of clever ways to make you part with your money. These include Mocktails, Christmas biscuits and brownies, Hot Chocolate and games to play. Please come along and support them at the Fair on the 9th December from 3pm.

## SHELFIES

We are planning a new display for the library area and would like your Shelfies to display. What is a shelfie I hear you ask? A shelfie is a picture of you reading. The more random the location the better. Please can you send your shelfies to me at [headteacher@larkfields-jun.notts.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@larkfields-jun.notts.sch.uk) or print them out and send them in to school. The teachers will also be taking part. Two Dojos for anyone who brings/sends in a picture.

## Friends of Larkfields

Friends of Larkfields is signed up to **The Giving Machine** and you can help us raise money just by joining and then shopping online. It is simple and costs you nothing extra. You can find printed information at the school office or check out <http://www.givingmachine.com>. All you do is register and then when doing your Christmas shopping click through the site first and you will help raise funds every time. The Friends have been very busy organising school discos, movie night and the upcoming Christmas Fair.

We Look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas Fair on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

## School Dinners

On the last day of term, in a change to the advertised meal, the school dinner will be jacket potato with a choice of tuna, cheese or beans.



## Focus on...

### Attendance

#### Attendance Matters

School is the place where children spend 190 days a year. It is a place which grows children into young responsible adults who will make a contribution to society one day. It provides enlightenment and inspiration for our young people and often is a social hub for many children. So why would you not want to attend as much as possible?

Children who attend school the most without a doubt achieve the most.

#### Why do Larkfields Think Attendance is Important?

- Good learning and success is dependent on good attendance. Every lesson missed makes it harder for your child to understand and enjoy their learning.
- Children who attend regularly are happier at school. They feel more secure with their learning and their work.
- Lateness damages learning. The first 5 minutes of a lesson are vital. This is when the learning intention of the lesson is explained.
- Lateness affects everyone, especially those who arrive on time. Children who arrive late break the concentration of the whole class.

Larkfields strongly believe all children in school every day makes a difference, generally children at Larkfields have good attendance showing that you, our parents, are already committed to making school important. But... we want more... Can we reduce this further making our attendance even closer to 100%?

#### Why bother with this if our attendance is good already?

Statistics clearly show that children who are in school more achieve more.

Furthermore, if your child attends school for 90% of the time (which is a lot) that is the equivalent of 1 half day a week of school - this adds up to over a year off school during your child's school career.

#### Absence for Holidays

Since September 2013 head teachers have only been able to grant a leave of absence for exceptional circumstances. As a rule of thumb a family holiday or travelling abroad is not considered to be an exceptional reason. There are 38 weeks in the year when schools are open, and 14 weeks (175 days) when families can visit family overseas; go on holiday; travel; pupils can work, take educational trips, attend non urgent medical appointments... So is your request for leave exceptional? We appreciate that sometimes medical appointments are unavoidable in term time but where possible could you book dentist appointments, etc in holiday time or after school?

Holidays in term time to be granted is for Mrs Scott to decide, but consider this, would your employer grant you additional leave for a holiday?

We appreciate that holidays in term time are much cheaper - however can you put a price on your child's education, happiness and future success?

#### Good School Attendance Habits

Good School attendance habits are best started early. Children learn from those around them and you as parents set the standards and expectations for your child. Showing your child the importance of attending school every day not only helps your child to settle quickly but helps them to keep and sustain friendships and enjoy the school environment. Once these habits are engrained in children they have them for life and can apply them eventually to the work place environment.

Here at Larkfields we hope that your child enjoys school and that coming to school every day is joy and pleasure. However if this is not the case, please talk to your child's class teacher who will be more than happy to support you in ensuring your child is in school every day. Attendance Matters!

Please feel free to email Mrs Scott or the office if you have any queries.

#### Attendance Matters

We do feel very strongly about children being in school this is why you will receive a letter about attendance if your child's attendance drops below 90%, we do appreciate that sometimes this can't be helped, so please feel free to speak to Mrs Scott if you have any concerns, we want to work together to make sure our children are in school every day.