



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

A big thank you to Gill, Janice and Michelle for providing over 400 **Christmas lunches** this week. All the staff cancelled their lunch breaks to help orchestrate the huge logistics in making the 'Christmas lunch' happen. The hall was transformed into a twinkling and sparkly room with tables decorated with crackers (donated by PALS) and as Father Christmas is soooo busy this time of year he sent a few elves to help out (though they were more mischievous than helpful!) The children enjoyed the atmosphere, the music and even the jokes on the microphone. Thank you to those who showed their appreciation of the event. It was great to see a number of our governors too, soaking up the festive atmosphere. Thanks also to PALS for providing the crackers again.

Ladygrove Girls' football team had their toughest game yet against Caldecott Primary. Even though there was some good defending, difficult saves and good footwork, the team suffered a heavy defeat. However, the girls were resilient and this game has given us areas to work on during football club.
Coach Shorrock

On Tuesday evening we held our second Mental Health and Well Being Workshop on parental expectations. Unfortunately parent numbers were low but there was still some insightful discussion around how to encourage independence in children at the right age and how children may feel about their parents' expectations. The feedback from the session was very positive, with parents stating they learnt practical tips they could apply at home. As is often the case, there was a split of opinion about the timing of the event- some prefer earlier, some later. If you would like the handouts from the session, or would like to know more, please contact out Learning Mentor, Carol Saunders via the office email. Watch out for more information on Workshop #3, which is being led by a mindfulness and relaxation specialist on Wednesday 30th January from 5pm-6pm.

Ladygrove Choir have had a really busy term! Many of you will have heard one of our performances at the Christmas Fayre. We also performed for the residents of Meadow's Care Home and made a recording for BBC Oxford. To top it all off, our final performance was at the Didcot Town Carol Concert at the Civic Hall on Wednesday, raising money for the Mayor's chosen charities. Our choir have come so far in the last couple of years, and should be really proud of the standard they have achieved! We would also like to send our great appreciation and thanks to our pianist, Judith Sawyer, who so kindly gives up her time to accompany us.
Mrs Fowkes

Well done to all the children who passed their cycle training yesterday and a big thank you to all our cycle trainers. This is a voluntary role and they give up their time regularly to help children develop their skills, increase their confidence as cyclists and identify risks they may come across on the roads.

On Thursday, netball club faced their toughest challenge of the year so far in a Christmas showdown against the Ladygrove staff! The children really held their own and definitely weren't afraid to get stuck in, even against some very tall opponents! Although the game started off very close, with the staff having 2 goals to the children's 1, the staff began to widen the gap thanks to a string of goals from Mrs Clarkson, Miss Cackett, Miss Zebrowski and Miss Abrey. The final score was 9-3 to the staff, thanks to Sam Parker's goal at the final whistle (on his birthday!!) Thank you to all the staff for taking the time to join in and to Callie Fisher for her ongoing help with running netball club.

We have joined thousands of people up and down the country today in supporting 'Save the Children' in their annual Christmas Jumper Day. Thank you for your continued support for such a worthy cause. Amount raised so far is just over £240.



Foundation and Year 1 were fantastic this morning, taking their parents and carers 'around the world' for their Christmas Sing Song. They practised hard at school and at home, learning all their songs and words. We have another performance this afternoon too - so well done to everyone and thank you for all your support through the year. We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy holiday.
FS & Yr 1 Team

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:

Winter arrangements: 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), 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 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 ensures 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.

COMING UP...

Next Tuesday, Year 2 perform 'Lights, Camel, Action!' to parents. This is a ticket only event. Performances are at 1.30pm and 6.15pm. For the evening performances please can **children arrive in school at 5.30pm** and go straight to their classrooms. A member of staff will be at reception to let your child in. After the performance, children will go back to their classrooms where they will be handed over to their parents in the courtyard. As always, please do not take your child from the hall.



On **16th January** M&M Theatrical Productions are in school in the afternoon to perform *Robin Hood* 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 £2.75 per child to cover the cost of this. Please pay for this via ParentPay.

NOTICES ...

We have the following vacancies in school. Ideally, candidates will start in January 2019.

Teaching Assistant: 17.5 hours p/w: 8.45am-12.15pm, Monday-Fridays, term time only

Cleaner: 12.5 hours p/w: 1.45pm-4.15pm, Mondays-Fridays, 52 weeks per year (working part of school holidays).

Lunchtime: 5 hours p/w: 12.15pm-1.15pm, Mondays-Fridays, term time only

After School Club: 8 hours p/w: 3pm-6pm on Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 3pm-5pm on Thursdays, term time only.

If you are interested in any or all of the above please speak to Sarah in the office. You will need to complete an application form (available on our website under 'school info', 'school vacancies') or you can request a hard copy from the school office.

Deadline for applications is 9am on Thursday 20th December 2018.

*Due to this post having access to children and/or vulnerable adults, candidates will be required to undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service check. The possession of a criminal record will not necessarily prevent an applicant from obtaining this post, as all cases are judged individually according to the nature of the role and information provided. **DBS checks and references are conditional to appointment.***

This term has seen the successful return of **Maths Matters** to Ladygrove Park School. The sessions have been structured carefully (by experienced Ladygrove staff) to build on the children's confidence and deepen their understanding of maths operations, stretching those students who were already confident and supporting others. Next term, we will continue to tailor the sessions to the needs of the children. Our focus for Term 3 will be Fractions (19 Jan), Shape (2 Feb) and Graphs and Charts (16 Feb). As always, there are two sessions: years 2,3 and 4 at 10am and years 5 and 6 at 11:15am. For more information, or to book your child onto the sessions, priced reasonably at £15 each, please email:

didcotmathsmatters@gmail.com New students are always welcome.

Reminder: Admissions to school (Academic Year 19/20): If your child was born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015 you must apply for a school place for your child for entry in the academic year September 2018. You will be able to apply on-line from 25th October. Please visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions for further information. The deadline line date is 15th January 2019.

Please remember the following:-

- It is the responsibility of parents/carers to apply for a school place by the deadline of 15 January 2019
- 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/cms/content/online-school-applications>

ParentPay: Please can parents ensure they have settled any outstanding monies on ParentPay.

Dates next week: NO CLUBS RUNNING THIS WEEK

Date	Activity	Time	Place	Notes
Mon 17 th Dec	Year 4 Open Classrooms	2.40pm	Year 4	Parents invited
Tues 18 th Dec	Yr 2 Christmas Production Class 1 'Sing Song' Boys Football Club Girls Football Club Knit & Natter Club	1.30pm & 6.15pm 2.30pm 3.15pm-4.15pm 3.15pm-4.15pm 3.15pm-4pm	Hall Class 1 Meet in C9 Meet in C9 Library	Tickets required Parents invited (NB Last day for class 1 children)
Weds 19 th Dec	Class 1 closed until 8 th January Recorder Club	3.15pm-4pm	Class 7	
Thurs 20 th Dec	Year 6 Money Matters/open classrooms Boogie Beats Choir Club Netball Club	2.30pm pm 3.15pm-4pm 3.15pm-4.15pm	Year 6 F.Stage Class 8 Class 15	Parents invited
Fri 21 st Dec	School finishes ASC finishes	1.15pm 4pm		lunches as normal

**Last day for Class 1 children is Tuesday 18th December.
The rest of the school finishes on Friday 21st December at 1.15pm
(Lunches as normal)**

Andrew Markham and the School Team

Christmas Messy Church at the Ladygrove Community Centre

The Ladygrove Church is running a special Christmas Messy Church this Saturday, 15th December 3.00-5.00pm. There'll be lots of Christmas crafts, including Christingles, the nativity story and songs followed by a buffet meal. More details can be found on the Facebook page "Messy Church on the Ladygrove" We hope to see you there!