



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

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

This week's life skill focus: **Positivity**

Twitter for learning notices: @ladygrovepri

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

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

As the cold weather is upon us and there is an increased likelihood of snow, I thought it prudent to remind everyone of the procedures for school closure:

Winter arrangements: 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. An email will be sent via ParentPay and a notification message via our mobile app (so download this if you haven't done so already).** In very rare cases, we might need to close only part of the school- depending again on the availability of staff or a limit to services- this is very much a last resort because the organisation can be very complicated and lead to communication issues. Finally, 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 use the mobile app and check the website first. Please also remember that our premises risk assessment ensures that we salt/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- for example: they shouldn't run or change direction suddenly when on snow and they shouldn't ride scooters or bikes when the conditions are beyond their skill level.

On Wednesday, **LPPS' netball teams** faced their first matches of the year! The children played two matches, both against Chilton. The first of these matches was part of the Garrick League and the second was a friendly match in which the children were able to experience playing as a team and putting their skills in to practice. The children worked incredibly hard and both teams managed to gel quickly and successfully despite having never played together before. In the league match, the play was very tense and evenly matched until the third quarter when Chilton played a very strong shooter and the opposition pulled away. Despite a very hard fight, the final score was 7-3 to Chilton. The friendly game was also very evenly matched and Ladygrove had to fight hard both in attack and defence. The match ended in a win for Ladygrove with a score of 3-2.

Thank you so much to Callie Fisher who continues to give up her time to coach the children and offers amazing support to the team. It was also lovely to see so many parents come and support their children. *Coach Wilder*

Farewell and Welcome to our Associate Teachers As a Strategic Partner school in OTSA (the Oxfordshire Teaching School Alliance), we are proud to work closely with their SCITT programme - the school-based initial teaching training programme - which was recently graded as Outstanding by Ofsted for the way it trains and prepares new teachers of the highest calibre for Oxfordshire schools such as ours.

We have been fortunate to be fully involved in many aspects of the teacher training programme, at a time of national recruitment and retention difficulties in the teaching profession. This has included recruitment, training, assessment and hosting of the training Associate Teachers each academic year.

This year we were lucky enough to recruit 2 Associate Teachers on the programme to work in partnership with our existing school teams from September: Katy Manthorpe in Class 4, Year 1 and Naomi Loveless in Class 14, Year 6.

Ms. Manthorpe and Ms. Loveless have both brought exceptional professionalism and commitment to their Associate Classteacher roles, and been real assets to the school team.

Ms. Manthorpe will continue to work with us until July to complete the SCITT programme however we are sad to be losing Ms. Loveless, who will be moving on to another school for a contrasting experience as of next week. We thank her for her hard work with the children.

Two new Associate Teachers will be joining us at Ladygrove from 11th February: Ms. Charlie Hangar in Class 5, Year 1, and Mr. Kim De Brito in Class 14, Year 6. They both come to us highly recommended from successful first placements at other schools and will work with us until the end of the academic year.

Can I remind parents to keep working with school in promoting healthy eating and good lifestyle choices for your child/ren? One of the many ways to do this is ensuring your child only has healthy snacks at break-time and in their packed lunches as part of their five a day, i.e. fresh fruit or vegetables. Thank you.

COMING UP...

Dates next week:

Date	Activity	Time	Place	Notes
Tues 5 th Feb	Safer Internet Day Class 14 visit Didcot Library Cycle Training	All Day 9.30am afternoon	School Didcot Library Ladygrove	Remember your books to return/renew Remember bikes and helmets
Weds 6 th Feb	Class 15 visit Didcot Library Choir Club Football Club Relax Kids Club Science Club	9.30am 3.15pm-4pm 3.15pm-4.15pm 3.15pm-4pm 3.15pm-4pm	Didcot Library Year 3 School Field Year 2 Year 1	Remember your books to return/renew Meet in Class 8 – one off move to Weds this week Meet in Class 9 cancelled due to staff meeting Meet in Class 7 cancelled due to staff meeting Meet in Class 5 cancelled due to staff meeting
Thurs 7 th Feb	Yr 4 @ Willowbrook Yr 2 Cake Crumbly Netball Club Choir Club	afternoon 3.10pm 3.15pm-4.15pm 3.15pm-4pm	Willowbrook Courtyard School Court Year 3	Remember PE kit Remember to donate cakes to sell Meet in Class 15 Meet in Class 8 MOVED TO WEDS THIS WEEK
Fri 8 th Feb	PALS BREAK A RULE DAY Yr 6 @ Willowbrook ESFA Football Finals Netball Tournament	All Day afternoon afternoon afternoon	School Willowbrook Manor Prep Aureus	See below for further details Remember PE kit Good luck team! Good luck team!

NOTICES ...

PALS BREAK A RULE DAY

Next Friday (8th February)

Rules that can be broken on the day are:-

Nail polish	squash in water bottles	unhealthy snack	wear a temporary tattoo
crazy fashionable hairstyles	trainers	bring in a football	wear a hat
change your name for the day	call the teachers by their first name	bring in a cuddly toy	

Cost: 50p per rule - please hand the money into your classteacher on the day.

Last term saw the successful return of Maths Matters to Ladygrove Park School. The sessions were 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. This term, we will continue to tailor the sessions to the needs of the children. Our focus for Term 3 will be Multiplication/Division (19 Jan), Shape (2 Feb) and Graphs and Charts (16 Feb). As always, there are two sessions: years 2, 3 and 4 at 10 am and years 5 and 6 at 11:15 am. 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.

Andrew Markham and the School Team