



LOXLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr James Connolly



PEAK EDGE
ACADEMY TRUST

Rodney Hill
Loxley
SHEFFIELD
S6 6SG
Tel: 0114 2344510
enquiries@loxley.sheffield.sch.uk
www.loxleyprimaryschool.com

Friday 21st January

Newsletter 13

Dear Parents and Carers,

Local Champions!

Congratulations to our phenomenal girls' football team who, with three wins and one draw, stormed to victory in the local football tournament on Wednesday. I've been told that the girls showed great team work and determination. Massive thanks go to Scott Micklethwaite for helping with the refereeing and to former pupils Max B and Jake B who also came to help. There was also great support from all of the girls' parents and from a large contingent of Y6 boys who came to support. Massive thanks go, as always, to our wonderful sports coach Miss Ruddleston who has trained the team and given up so much of her time. The team now go on to the Sheffield finals. Best of luck girls!



Y3 Castleton Residential Meeting next Thursday

The Year 3's first exciting school residential is approaching and we would very much like a parent of each child in the class to attend the parents' Zoom meeting at 5.45pm next Thursday. (A link will be sent out shortly.) The meeting will probably take no more than 45 minutes and we feel it will be important for parents to see the presentation and ask any questions. We really want the children to be looking forward to the trip and not to worry about it; meetings in the past have reassured parents and enabled them to talk to their children more about what's entailed. The Castleton trip is action packed and full of rich educational experiences connected to the curriculum back at school. If any parents would like to talk with Miss Village or myself confidentially at any time after the presentation, we would be very glad to do so.





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Attendance

Unfortunately, largely because of reasons out of anyone's control, attendance is the lowest I can remember it being at Loxley Primary School. I want you to know that this is genuinely of great concern to me especially after the last two school years being so disrupted by lockdowns. Of particular concern to me is that we have now 15% of pupils in the persistent absentee category; classed as attendance below 90%.

Our staff are working so hard to make sure that learning is sequential, engaging, that learning time is maximised and that it is informed by assessment and prior learning. If children are not in school, learning can easily become disjointed and it's obviously harder to pack three or four days learning into one day. We **very much** appreciate parents help with home learning set for Covid isolation periods but (as parents have told me themselves) this cannot replace learning in the classroom context. Staff have also told me how lessons are challenging to adapt knowing that children won't be able to do partner or group work and will not have access to a range of resources or staff in school.

I obviously appreciate children are having to isolate due to Covid and that there are still other illnesses and conditions out there but the main reason for this piece in the newsletter is a plea **NOT** to take any term time holidays and avoid any avoidable absence e.g. through tiredness after late nights or long journeys wherever possible. If medical appointments (such as dental appointments) can be taken out of school hours, please try to do so.

We did have excellent attendance at Loxley of around 97%. The sooner we can get back to attendance on that level, the more we can do to help your children progress and thrive. Thank you very much indeed for your co-operation with this matter.

Netball and Cross Country this Saturday

I want to wish the girls all the best for their netball match at the Girls' High School tomorrow and to the Loxley pupils running at Norfolk Park at 9.30a.m. tomorrow morning. If you would like your child to start taking part in the cross country events, there is no limit to numbers. Please get in touch with school for more information.

Parking

Several parents have let staff know this week how concerned they are about parking around school. I have to say some of these parents have been very worried and have strong feelings about this matter. Words like "chaotic", "selfish" and "dangerous" have been used to describe the situation. Issues such as parking on double yellow lines, dropping off on zig zag lines and making it impossible to see on-coming traffic at crossings, brows of hills and at T junctions have all been mentioned. **Please, please, for the sake of all the children at Loxley's safety, could you park considerately.** Leaving home five minutes earlier and parking a good distance away from school or walking the entire journey if possible would both help considerably. Using the school's Breakfast Club would also alleviate the pressure for parking spaces. I have put in a request for a parking patrol today. If you would like to contact the parking service yourself you can email: parkingenforcement@sheffield.gov.uk or telephone 0114 2736255. Thank you.





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Games Club

Thank you to Mr Eaton and Mrs Torrington for starting the lunchtime games club for junior pupils this term. The children play all sorts of games including co-operative games and strategy games. There's lots of skill development involved and the children really enjoy it. I know several children have been introduced to new games and they have told staff that they now play them at home.



Kind regards,

James Connolly



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