



LOXLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr James Connolly



PEAK EDGE
ACADEMY TRUST

Rodney Hill
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www.loxleyprimaryschool.com

29th April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

April 1962 - 'Time Capsule' Update

So we can be pretty sure now that Harold Macmillan was prime minister and The Twist dance craze was all the rage the last time the children's paintings we uncovered saw the light of day. After a bit of detective work from looking at old newspapers stuffed into wall cavities and cross-referencing those with the school log book, we have dated the works covering up the old pictures found to be April 1962. We can't be 100% sure but it's very likely. (The newspapers found are from 1961 but there are big clues to suggest the work was done in the Easter holidays of 1962.) The paintings and drawings could be slightly older – the clothes the characters children have drawn were indicative of 1950s fashions. The "Walls Ice Cream" sign painted by one of the children was, of course, very common throughout the 50s and 60s. I like to think about all the staff and children who will have started and left the school whilst the pictures were hidden away for exactly 60 years as it turns out. If you know of any children who were at or had just left Loxley Primary School at that time, we'd love to know - especially if they drew/painted the pictures. Thank you.



Loxley Primary School is part of Peak Edge, which is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England with company number 11650747.



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We've already started on our own time capsule to hide behind the new display boards which are coming this week, Thanks again to **Jimmy in Y6** for this great idea! We're hiding lots of children's art work together with examples of the children's learning from 2022. I wonder who will see them next – maybe someone in 2082 – another 60 years into the future? Here's some of the Y6 children's brilliant art work we are hiding away.





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LSFA Plant Sale/Summer Fair!

Calling all green fingered plant growers!! Following on from the success of last year, we will be holding a plant sale at the summer fair on **Friday 8th July**. If you are able to start growing any plants from cuttings or seeds to sell at the fair in July it would be greatly appreciated. Contact rach.thornhill@gmail.com if you have any questions.



Also, we will be having a teddy tombola this year. We can't take donations just yet but if you are having a clear out, we can take them off your hands after the spring bank holiday!!

Bradfield Paris Council Jubilee Flag Competition

Congratulations to our winner and runners up for the Bradfield Parish Council flag design competition organized by our School Council. The flag is being designed to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.





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Fantastic Gymnastics!

Our Gymnastics Squad really did us proud this week! Both Miss Ruddleston and other adults who attended have told me just how well the children represented our school. Our talented bunch were up against the very best from all over the city and performed very well indeed. Our Y3 and Y4 foundation team came 4th, our Y5 and Y6 advanced team came 3rd and our Y3 and Y4 advanced team came 2nd in their competitions. Well done to all involved and thanks to Miss Ruddleston and parents for their great support.





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Attendance Matters

Thank you to parents for trying to get your children to school as much as possible. Attendance is absolutely key to children's success in school not only at primary school but studies have shown that children with poor attendance at primary school are more likely to perform less well at secondary school too.

Our attendance has sadly dropped this year for many understandable reasons but we want to **avoid all unnecessary absence**. Remember that the attendance target for all pupils at Loxley is 97% or higher. Historically, year on year, Loxley's average attendance has been over 97%, unfortunately at this point in time, it is 94.8%. Attendance below 95% means the impact of your child's absence starts to become a bit of a concern to us. Attendance below 90% is classed as 'persistent absence' (not just by us but by all schools) and is very likely to have a significant impact on your child's progress. To maximise the impact of learning we provide at Loxley, we want to bring this back to the excellent levels we had before the pandemic. How can we do this together?:

1. **On-going Medical Issues:** If your child is having on-going medical needs, talk to us and talk your GP (or the relevant clinician) about how your child can access education safely. We are very happy to make adjustments (where ever they are possible) to help your child attend school. We want to help!
2. **Unforeseen Problems Getting to School:** Try to plan, in advance, back up arrangements for getting your children into school safely in the case of unforeseen circumstances e.g. your car breaking down or a sibling being ill.
3. **Don't Plan Holidays in Term-Time:** There are 13 weeks of holidays in the school year – please use these for family holidays. Exceptional leave in our school (as in all schools) does not cover most requests for holidays. If your child takes a two week holiday in term time each year, that's the equivalent to **a whole term off school** never mind any other unavoidable absences that might happen. I know postponed holidays from lockdown periods are causing difficulties but hopefully, we are seeing the end of those now and we can get back to normal.

I am in the process of creating an attendance plan to get attendance back up. The focus will be on helping families, listening and communication and co-operation **but** with the understanding that low attendance can never be accepted for any child.

Kind regards

James Connolly

