



LOXLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr James Connolly



PEAK EDGE
ACADEMY TRUST

Rodney Hill

Loxley

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www.loxleyprimaryschool.com

Friday 26th November 2021

Newsletter 9

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's a full and very important newsletter this week. I very much appreciate you taking the time to read it. Have a lovely weekend and if you're out Christmas shopping – I hope you get some great bargains.

IMPORTANT - News About Christmas Events at Loxley

We have decided after much careful thought and deliberation to offer a full programme of Christmas events this year. **We will very much need your help and co-operation however to operate the events as safely as possible so we would be very grateful if you could read through the whole of this newsletter carefully.** I am aware that many schools have chosen not to have live performances etc this year and I totally respect each school's decision. Each school has different circumstances and it has been a very difficult decision to make this year. Furthermore, if circumstances change or we go into outbreak management procedures for any class, we will have to review our arrangements for the Christmas period.

In the context of much larger gatherings for both indoor and outdoor events outside school however, we feel that holding events with considerably more Covid control measures in place than in most settings is a proportionate approach to take. We want to balance the needs of controlling the infection with giving children the confidence building and validating experience of performing to a live audience and, to be honest, the pure joy and warmth of a great, full, Christmas programme of school events. Christmas is clearly a different experience when you are 5 than it is when you are 9 and again than it is when you are 13. With the years ticking by while we are living with the pandemic and an unknown future ahead, we wanted to make the most of this December for our pupils at Loxley.

Each event is detailed below with control measures we need you to follow. By following the control measures, you not only help to keep yourself and others in the community safe and well this Christmas, of course, but by being seen to follow them, you will also help build the confidence of other more vulnerable people in the school community. Thank you very much for your co-operation.





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At a glance – the full programme of Christmas Events at Loxley

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Friday Dec 3rd | 3:30 LSFA Outdoor Christmas Market |
| Monday Dec 6th | No events |
| Tuesday Dec 7th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception School Christmas Visit to Longshaw • The Santa Dash (Years 1 to 6 at various times during the school day) |
| Wednesday Dec 8th | No events |
| Thursday Dec 9th | 2:15 Year 2 – First Inn-Spectors performance to parents 3:30 All Classes Short Soundpost Local Carol Performance by Y5s followed by Carols in the Woods – (open to all with brass band, fire and nice things to eat and drink!) |
| Friday Dec 10 th | 2:15 – Year 2 -Second Inn-Spectors Performance (Reserve date for Christmas Market) |
| Monday Dec 13 th | Carol Service and Wisewood Methodist Church (For Years 2 to 6) |
| Tuesday Dec 14 th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:20 Year 1 First Christmas Songs Performance • 2:15 First Reception Nativity Performance for Parents |
| Wednesday Dec 15 th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:20 Year 1 Second Christmas Songs Performance • Christmas Dinner at Lunchtime • 2:15 Second Reception Nativity Performance for Parents |
| Thursday Dec 16 th | Rec, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas parties |
| Friday Dec 17 th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning – Christmas Talent Shows • Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas parties |

The LSFA Christmas Market – Next Friday 3:30

First of all, **thank you very much** for your fantastic hamper contributions – they’re looking great. Wine and filled jars, contributions and offers of help on the day have all been great too! The only thing we don’t seem to have enough of is chocolate as prizes. (I totally understand that it’s hard to give away 😊) To help get enough we are going to have a **donate a chocolate bar Monday**. If you could send in a chocolate bar, of whatever kind, to school next **Monday (29th November)**, that would be brilliant! Also, please, please have a last push on raffle ticket sales!

The Christmas Market will be similar to the Christmas Fair but mainly an outdoor event to help reduce the spread of Covid 19. There will be gazebos and lots of warm food and drinks as well as a Santa’s grotto and a variety of stalls but please prepare for the weather. **If you are indoors during the event (i.e. in a room not under a gazebo) please wear a mask.**

If we get a bit of drizzle, we will still hold the event next Friday (please still come and support us). If we get heavy rain or high winds, we will postpone the event until the following Friday. Whatever date the Christmas Market is on, we would love to see you all there and help the LSFA raise money for Loxley pupils.





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The Santa Dash – Remember your Christmas headwear!

A week on Tuesday, (7th December), we will be holding our Santa Dash again. This event will be done a class at a time (for Y1s to Y6s) and will be led by Miss Ruddlestone and I (I better get in training). It involves, a short run around the school grounds, we play some Christmassy music and all wear some Christmas themed headwear. It's not an event for parents so the only thing to remember is some Christmas headwear. This could be a santa hat, a elf hat, a Christmassy hair slide, a Christmas themed woolly hat – whatever you have to hand or can borrow for the occasion. Please do not bring any other Christmas clothes to school on this day and remember to make sure your child's PE kit is in school.

On this day, our **Reception class have their exciting trip to Longshaw** where they do Christmas art using natural materials and many other activities too. A separate letter has been sent to Reception parents please refer to this for details.

Christmas Performances

The **Reception** children always help give us that Christmas magic at Loxley. It's their first school performance and parents at Loxley are normally great at giving the children lots of encouragement. The performance times are both at 2.15pm on Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th December. Adults need to queue to get into school via the main pedestrian entrance (near office) off Rodney Hill not the usual place parents line up to collect children. After the event, parents will then go out of the opposite entrance at the other end of the school building and then walk around the back of the school to collect their children in the normal place after the performance (or at the end of the school day if parents are not attending the performance on that day). A squid offer will be going live shortly to book places. There will be no charge for the events. Please bear in mind, that whilst we have sufficient places for all children to have two adults attend, one date may be more popular than the other and some parents may have to watch on a day which isn't their preferred date. **(Please see Covid safety measures below!!)**

Our **Year 1** class are doing a performance of Christmas songs to help us all get into the Christmas spirit this year which they've already made a good start practising. The performance times will be as soon as possible after drop off time on Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th December. Please could parents try to get children to school promptly on both days so we can minimise the time other parents are waiting outside for the show to start. Please drop your child off as normal outside the Year 1 classroom and then walk around the front of the school to the main pedestrian entrance off Rodney Hill and queue up outside the office. The performance will only be a short one and a video will be available for parents who cannot get time off work. A squid offer will be going live shortly to book places. There will be no charge for the events. Please bear in mind, that whilst we have sufficient places for all children to have two adults attend, one day may be more popular than the other and some parents may have to watch on a day which isn't their preferred date. **(Please see Covid safety measures below!!)**

The **Year 2** children have been singing their hearts out and saying their lines so well in rehearsals so far. Thank you parents for all your help at home. As well as the fun of the build up to the big event, reading the words for songs etc is a great, purposeful way of making progress in reading. On the dates of both performances, Thursday and Friday





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the 9th and 10th December, there will be a maximum of two tickets per child and a maximum of 30 audience members per performance. Both performances will start at 2.15pm. A squid offer will be going live shortly to book places. There will be no charge for the events. Please bear in mind, that whilst we have sufficient places for all children to have two adults to attend, one day may be more popular than the other and some parents may have to watch on a day which isn't their preferred date. **(Please see Covid safety measures below!!)**

Covid Safety measures for all indoor performances – please help us with these!

1. Traditionally, we have done a joint Y1/Y2 performance. We are doing separate performances this year to reduce audience sizes. We are having two performances for each year group to reduce audience sizes further. It should actually give everyone a better view too.
2. All adults watching the performance need to **wear a mask** at all times while they are inside the building.
3. We will be organising chairs to help social distancing. **Please do not rearrange chairs.**
4. Adults attending will only be able to come into the school building just before the start of the performance (from the main pedestrian entrance by the office) and will need to leave the building via the opposite entrance and wait to collect children outside where parents would normally collect children at the end of the school day. **Please be prepared for standing in the cold and rain for a little while.**
5. We would like all adults attending to **take a lateral flow test** in the 24 hours preceding the performance and obviously not attend if the test is positive. If you develop Covid symptoms before the performance, please do not attend.
6. We will be recording the performance for family members who cannot or do not wish to attend (for health or any other reasons) to watch at home.

Wisewood Church Carol Service – Monday 13th December

It's lovely to be able to go back Wisewood Methodist Church for our carol service. The acoustics are great in the church and members of the congregation who help us are so thoughtful and welcoming. This year, we are only having the performance for Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 pupils to help us socially distance. There will be opportunity for a small number of parent helpers to join us. If you are interested, please contact your child's class teacher by email or through SeeSaw by Friday 3rd December. If we get more parents than we need, we will draw names out of a hat. Parents who help will need to wait at school after drop off time and then walk with their child's class to the church helping supervise the children crossing roads etc. We're all very much looking forward to the service.

Covid Safety measures for Wisewood Carol Service:

1. Please wear a mask when waiting for your child's class to get ready in school and whilst in Wisewood Methodist Church
2. **Please take a lateral flow test** in the 24 hours preceding the performance and obviously no attend if the test is positive. If you develop Covid symptoms before the performance, please do not attend
3. Please try to social distance from others in Wisewood Church as best as possible.





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Carols in the Woods – Thursday 9th December 3:30

Carols in the Woods is back!!! It's a lovely occasion with a brass band, an open fire, food, drinks and a chance for adults and children in the school community to get together. It takes place in our very own Robin Wood. We will leave the gate open from the rest of the school grounds at the end of the school day so parents can walk up from school after they collect their children if they like. The event is straight after one of the Year 2 performances so we hope that Y2 parents can stay a little while longer, taking advantage of the opportunity to stretch your legs, take off your mask and get some fresh air. This year, our Year 5 class will start the event off with a short performance of some local folk carols (including our very own Loxley Carol) but after this there'll be lots of opportunity for everyone attending to have a good sing! At Christmas time, it seems appropriate that not all our fundraising is for ourselves at Loxley Primary School so all proceeds from this event will go to the Riva Project based in Wisewood that helps people with disabilities have better life chances.



Covid Safety measures for Carols in the Woods

1. Because we are outside, there is no requirement to wear a mask.
2. Please social distance from other adults as far as possible.
3. If you have Covid symptoms or have had a positive Covid test, please do not attend.

Christmas Parties **Infants – Thursday Dec 16th** & **Juniors - Friday Dec 17th**

For the Christmas parties this year, **we are asking all children to bring in £1** to school for nibbles at the Christmas parties. Please could the money come (in cash) by Friday 10th December. In this way, parents won't have the job of shopping for food, we can better cater for different children's dietary requirements and we can limit the amount of food (as the children will have already had their dinner). All parties take place within the school day. In Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6, it has been a Loxley tradition of having a table decoration competition so we are allowing children to work in small groups to do this. More details will come from your class teacher. We are not taking part in the national Christmas jumper day this year however, **infants (Rec, Y1 and Y2) can come in their party clothes (and wear a Christmas jumper if they like) on Thursday 16th and juniors can do likewise on the last day of term – Friday 16th December.** Children can bring £1 to school for the Save the Children charity on their non-uniform day if you wish.





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Christmas Talent Shows

The Christmas Talent Shows are back as mixed class events however we will not be getting together as a whole school just yet. They all take place on the last day of term and are great fun. It's a proper variety experience with the children's musical, comical, gymnastic and theatrical skills on show. Each class (apart from Reception) will have their own mini-talent show before this and some children will get chosen to represent their class in the bigger event. Your class teachers will communicate more details with you nearer the time but if your child is interested in performing now might be the time to talk with your child about what they could do. If your child is performing and they would like to dress up for the event, they should bring their clothes in a named bag. Alternatively, if they are junior child and the outfit is warm and comfortable enough, they could wear the outfit as their non-uniform clothes for the day.

Christmas Dinner – Wednesday 15th December

The Christmas dinner is on the last Wednesday of term. Your child doesn't normally have to have school dinners to be able to book on for a Christmas dinner on that day – simply book on using the Squid system. A vegetarian option is available of course. Thank you to Kelly, Claire and Toni in advance for all their hard work on the day and to all the school staff who supervise. (The Christmas dinner is delicious by the way!)

Phew – what a long letter! I hope it serves as a useful reference guide for the Christmas events this year. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the staff (including admin, premises and kitchen staff) and LSFA members for all their hard work which makes Christmas at Loxley such a special time. I'm currently sat in my office listening to the children singing and they sound great so I'm very much looking forward to the events ahead.

Kind regards,

James Connolly

