



Lethbridge Primary School Newsletter

December 2022



Welcome to our latest newsletter

There is a very Christmassy atmosphere around here now. The annual children's cards, calendars and decorations are coming on well and we are all looking forward to seeing you at the EYFS nativity and Year 1 and 2 events as well as at Christchurch for our Year 3 and 4 and Year 5 and 6 Christmas services.

Thursday 8th December is Save The Children Christmas jumper day. Please don't worry if your child doesn't have a Christmas top – just pop them into any brightly coloured top.

Christmas lunch is on Thursday 15th December. Children are also invited to wear Christmas jumpers or a bright top on this day. This is one of our favourite events of the year. The kitchen staff work really hard to get 500 Christmas dinners cooked and served on the day and it's always delicious.

The Christmas bazaar was an amazing success. Thank you all so much for contributing to the school by attending these events and spending your money! We really do appreciate it. Congratulations if you were one of our lucky raffle prize winners and a huge thank you to the Friends of Lethbridge who work so hard to organize these events.

I hope that those of you visiting the Enchanted Lights Trail in the Town Gardens have enjoyed seeing the lanterns designed by our children and supported by author Kate Claxton.



We finish for the winter break at 1.30pm on Friday 16th December.

School closure in event of snow

I don't believe we are expecting much snow anytime soon but this is a good time for me to remind you about our procedures if we need to shut the school building in event of bad weather. We will always do our best to keep the school open if at all possible and use flexible starting and finishing times in order to do this safely. We will send out a text message as soon as we possibly can to let you know any decision and post on our Twitter account (@LethbridgePri) and website.

School performance

Last academic year was the first year of standardised assessments in primary schools since before the pandemic. These are not published publicly this year due to each school having its own experiences of education during the pandemic and therefore results not always being directly comparable. I did however want to let you know that children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined was 20% above the national average at the end of Year 6 and that the number of children achieving top marks in the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check was more than double the national average. We were also in the top quintile in many other areas including for children attaining greater depth standard in reading, writing and maths at the end of Year 2.

We are very proud of this achievement but recognise this is only one way of judging the job a school does for its children. We are proud of every child's individual achievement in every part of school life and value each of them.

Young carers

We are currently doing a lot of work recognizing our children who might be young carers. A young carer is a child or young person who looks after a family member who may have a disability, a long-term illness, a mental health problem or drug / alcohol dependencies. Understandably, taking on such a role can have a profound impact on a child's education and wellbeing and we'd like to be sure we are doing all we can to support these families. If you think your child might be a young carer, please contact Ms Short at the school.

Emma Corp

Mrs Corp has been an amazing SENCO here for a number of years now bringing a huge amount of passion and expertise. She will be leaving us at Christmas to take on a new advisory teacher role working with autistic children. We will really miss her. Fortunately, we have been able to recruit a highly experienced SENCO who also has many years' experience in the role at another Swindon school. Her name is Andrea Chapman and we will welcome her in the new year.

Playgrounds and parking

Our playgrounds are not supervised by school staff before or after school so please make sure older children don't leave home for school too early. There should not be any bike or scooter riding on school property and dogs are also not allowed.

Parents are continuing to drive up to Lethbridge Road to drop off and pick up children. It is so dangerous especially on the corners and at the front of the school. Please, park further away and walk the last little bit to school. It is only a matter of time before a child gets injured. Please also do not park in the school car park. This is for staff only.

Best wishes
Lisa Mayes



As we move into colder weather and the cost of living increases it can be a worrying time for many. If you are known to us then you will be receiving supermarket vouchers for use over the Christmas break as well as holiday club vouchers. There are several places and organisations that can help during these times. These websites will show you where there are open places that provide warmth, food and company:

<https://www.swindon.gov.uk/warmandwelcome>

<https://www.placesofwelcome.org.uk/>

<https://www.warmwelcome.uk/>

Free data from O2: The mobile phone network, O2 are giving away 1 million GB of free data to those who need it this Christmas. You can apply for 7GB per person at

<https://www.o2.co.uk/national-databank>

Ofgem energy advice hub: Ofgem have launched a central hub for advice, support and information about energy bills. It also includes links to other resources such as Citizens Advice and Energy Savings Trust, and to webpages where eligible consumers can apply for financial support. You can access the page here:

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/energy-advice-households>

Help with food: We hold vouchers for the Swindon Food Bank – please just ask. The Swindon Salvation Army building on Devises Road has a well-stocked food bank and offers warm space and company too.

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Information

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