



Number 12  
Friday, 26 November 2021

# LPPS Newsletter

**Year 5** spent a fantastic day on a long awaited school trip to the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock on Wednesday. They were put through their paces in a Victorian classroom, learning how to behave in a manner correct for the time, and what would happen if they didn't! Inside the museum itself, they deepened their knowledge further about the Victorian era through a targeted quiz drawing information from the display gallery - with particular focus on toys and childhood in order to start answering our big question; "Has childhood changed positively". *Year 5 Team*

**A Plastic Plea!** This term in Year 3, we are learning about the environment, as well as the consequences and implications of plastic waste. At the end of the term, we will be using plastic rubbish to create our very own art pieces. If you have any **bottle tops, plastic bags or crisp/biscuit packets** (cleaned) we would be most grateful! Thank you. *Year 3 Team*

And Reception had a lot of fun walking to the post box to deliver their letters to Father Christmas today.

We say goodbye to **Gemma Henry** next week. Gemma has been a valued member of staff working in the school office since April 2018 and many of you will have spoken to her over the last few years (you also may have sometimes confused her for Carly Clarkson as they look like sisters!). We wish her all the very best in her new job. On Monday, we welcome Katie Burnett who comes to us with a wealth of experience in school office and administration. Katie will be working in the office alongside the rest of the office team.

**Children in Need** – we are approaching £400 raised, with donations still coming in! Thank you to everyone who supported this.



## Notices

**Assembly:** This week the assemblies were about 'Active Listening'. We talked to the children about the difference between hearing, listening and actively listening. This was all about taking part in the conversation- listening to what the other person is saying and responding directly to it.

The Diversity Ambassadors also produced their online assembly, following on from our Diversity week last week. They outlined the focus on diversity in the school and spent time proudly talking about their own backgrounds. Children will be watching this assembly at the appropriate time for each class.

**Covid update:** schools are finding there is a persistent rise in cases currently. Things may appear slightly more normal when out in the community but levels are similar in schools to this time last year. However, the greater, somewhat unseen impact, is on staffing. Between the normal illness issues at this time of the year and the unexpected positives, we are beginning to be stretched. This is especially tricky where staff have their own children being affected by spread in other schools. Therefore, it is important to bear in mind that classes could be closed due to outbreak but equally due to the lack of available staff. Nevertheless, at the moment, we are coping comparatively well as we continue to maintain the protective measures. We remain constrained by the government guidelines for dealing with cases and spend much time discussing the intricacies of these for individual cases. We really appreciate the ongoing understanding from all of you, thank you.

**Snow Days** It might seem far from anyone's thoughts but snow days come upon us suddenly in this season. Here is the basic information you need if we make the decision to close the school due to snow (or water supply issues): 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, 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 note that our premises risk assessment highlights 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 hard ground with snow and they shouldn't ride scooters or bikes when the conditions are beyond their skill level.

**Absence:** We continue to do normal absence monitoring and it is worth explaining again how this works. We disregard the absence data for all the issues around Covid. The government expectation is that children attend each school day unless ill. It is not possible to authorise holidays in term time. We do half termly analysis of attendance for every child: we monitor all absence and when below 95% we may contact parents to discuss attendance expectations- depending on specific circumstances. Below 90% we may need to involve external services- depending on specific circumstances. Over a whole school year 90% attendance is 10 school days absence.

Absence figures for the first term (disregarding isolation and remote learning) are very encouraging, across the school. Thank you for your attentiveness to attendance.

**A visit from Perform** We were very pleased to receive a visit from [Perform](#) a few weeks ago. The children had a wonderfully energetic time exploring the theme of [Outer Space](#) and using drama, dance and singing to help develop their confidence, concentration and social skills.

Perform run regular weekly classes in the local area and they are offering a special introductory discount to all parents of Ladygrove Park Primary School if they come along for a free trial session before Tuesday 30th November - i.e. just over one week's time.

To claim your discount, just call Perform on 020 7255 9120 quoting **LADN301121** or visit [perform.org.uk](http://perform.org.uk) to find out more.



## COMING UP...

**Word of the Week!** To get children excited about words the whole school is starting 'Word of the Week.' Each week we will be displaying an interesting word and setting a small associated word challenge for you and your child. The challenges are small spoken tasks that do not require pen or paper. They just need you and some talk time, so easy to do on the way home or before bedtime. Get involved, have fun, and your child's vocabulary will grow. *See this week's 'word of the week' at the end of this newsletter.*

Class 11 are visiting Didcot Library on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November and Class 10 are visiting Didcot Library Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Please ensure your child is wearing a warm waterproof coat as we will be walking from school to the library.  
*Year 4 Team*

## Christmas Activities next month:-

- **Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December** Children can come to school wearing a festive jumper and pay £2. Donations will be collected on the day as cash, or card payments can be taken on the gate when entering school. Proceeds will be shared equally with Save the Children and PALS.
- **Year 2 Christmas Production** – this will be a show recorded and shared with Parents on Google Classroom towards the end of term. It is hugely disappointing that we can't do this in person but we hope you enjoy the recording at home.
- **Foundation Stage and Year 1 'Sing Songs'** - this will be recorded on 10<sup>th</sup> December and shared with Parents on Google Classroom.



**Christmas Lunches:** The deadline for pre-ordering a meal has now ended. It is now too late to pre-order a meal as the food order from the kitchen has been sent. Please remember to bring a packed lunch in from home (see below).



Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December
Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2	Years 3, 4 and 5	Year 6
<i>Parents to not need to pay for this</i>	<i>Please pay for this on ParentPay</i>	<i>Please pay for this on ParentPay</i>

Please remember on these three days your child will only be able to have a school meal on **their allocated day**.

The other two days you need to provide your child with a packed lunch whilst the other year groups have their festive meals. **PALS** have purchased crackers for every child and children can also bring a festive hat (handmade or otherwise) to wear on the day of their lunch but beware of mischievous Elves.....



On **Friday 10th December** we are welcoming The Roving Bookshop into school. The Roving Bookshop will arrive at school in the morning and shop assistants will transform The Hall into a bookshop for the day. The shop sells over 3000 high-quality and critically acclaimed books from a whole host of publishers (unlike some previous book fairs we have hosted), ensuring we are providing our children with the best titles out there. Each class will have a 30 minute slot at the bookshop to browse and buy a book of their choice. Envelopes for cash and more information will go home soon and, if you wish your child to buy a book at the bookshop, must be returned by Friday 10th December. Any money that comes in before the 10th December will be kept safe until the bookshop arrives on Friday. Prices of books range from approximately £3-£10 and familiar adults will be on hand to help your child choose an appropriate book. The bookshop will be open before (8.30am) and after (until 4pm) school for parents and carers to browse and buy; a perfect chance to buy Christmas presents for loved ones. Parents/carers are welcome to pay with cash, cheque or card. As with the previous book fair, the bookshop runs on a commission basis; the more money our families spend, the more money the school has to spend to buy high-calibre resources for our children to use. We appreciate all your support with this!

## NOTICES

**Polite reminder:** Children are NOT to come to school with throat sweets. If your child has a sore throat and requires medicine, please speak to one of us in the office. Many thanks *The Office Team*

**Reminder:** Thank you to parents (73%) who have given permission for their child to receive the flu vaccine next Friday. All children in primary school will be offered a **flu vaccine** (nasal spray). This is a school based programme and the immunisation team will be in school on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Further information about this has been emailed to Parents via ParentPay. The letter is also on our website under 'communications' tab, 'school nursing team'. **Parental consent must be given and you will need to click on the electronic link in the letter to do this**. Further information about the vaccination is available on this website: [www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/school-health-nurses](http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/school-health-nurses).



Children in our nursery **are not eligible** for this vaccine via the school immunisation team but are instead invited to have this important vaccination at their GP Surgery.

### Communicating with school: Important message to Parents

If your child is absent from school, you must let us know. You can do this in two ways:

- Leave a clear message on our answerphone OR
- Email the school office at [office.2609@ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2609@ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk)

When you leave a message on our school phone please speak clearly and slowly. State your child's name, class and a detailed reason why your child is not in school. 'My child is unwell' is not sufficient as it then requires a follow up phone call home. If your child is displaying COVID symptoms you must arrange for a PCR test not a Lateral Flow Test (LFT). Please keep school updated with PCR results.

Your assistance in this matter is much appreciated. *The Office Team*

**Reminder: Admissions to school (Academic Year 22/23):** If your child was born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 you must apply for a school place for your child for entry in the academic year September 2022. You will be able to apply on-line from 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021. Please visit [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) for further information. NB The deadline line date for online applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### Please remember the following:-

- It is the responsibility of parents/carers to apply for a school place by the deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- If your child is attending nursery classes within a primary school, you must still apply for a place in the main school
- You can list three different schools in order of preference. We strongly advise you to use all three preferences
- We advise you to enter your catchment (or designated) school as one of your preferences
- Attending your catchment school does not entitle you to free home to school transport if it is not your closest school and / under 2 miles away
- If your application is late, you are far less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools

Click on this link for easy access to OCC website

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place>

**School finishes on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 1.15pm. Term 3 starts on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

We are currently keeping these timings but will communicate any changes as much in advance as possible.

<b>Reception</b> 9am drop off 2.50pm pick up	<b>Years 1, 3 &amp; 5</b> 8.40am drop off 3pm pick up	<b>Year 2, 4 &amp; 6</b> 8.50am drop off 3.10pm pick up
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**After School Club finishes at 5.30pm**

***Andrew Markham and the school team***

We are looking to appoint Teaching Assistants for the academic year 2021-22 to start January 2021 for the following role:

**Teaching Assistant (5 days) total hours for 26.25hrs.**

**Mondays to Fridays, term time only.**

**8.45am-3.00pm (approximate, exact timings to be determined by school)**

**This is a fixed term contract ending on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022, with a potential to extend into the next academic year.**

**Grade 4 (£18,933 - £19,312) pro rata**

Are you thinking of a career change or are you a Teaching Assistant looking for a new opportunity? If the answer is yes and if you have some / all of the following qualities, then we would love to hear from you.

We are interested in someone who is a team player, enthusiastic, flexible, resourceful and passionate about special needs. You need to be motivated, resilient, pro-active, fun, possess a *can-do approach*, ambitious, supportive, confident, professional, committed, able to use your initiative, reliable, inspiring and looking for immense job satisfaction but not shy of hard work.

The roles we are recruiting for Foundation Stage/ Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2 and will include a balance of: supporting children with SEND (including 1:1 support), learning support for the children, in and out of class, and general duties, as well as additional pastoral support (e.g. during break- or lunch-times). The proportions of support for children with SEND, 1:1 support and general duties may vary.

The range of children's additional needs may include: autistic spectrum condition, cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, global learning delay and speech, language and communication needs.

We welcome your application detailing your relevant skills, experience and qualities. Selection will be by interview with Elaine Li-Koo (Deputy Headteacher) and Carrie Barringer (Assistant Headteacher and Inclusion Manager). You will also be asked children taking a small group for a story activity (details to follow.)

To apply, please complete an application form (available on our website) and email to:-  
[office.2609@ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2609@ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk)



<b>Deadline Date for Applications:</b>	<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 12 noon</b>
<b>Shortlisting Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, by 12 noon</b>
<b>Interview Date:</b>	<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, time tbc individually with shortlisted candidates</b>
<b>Start Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b>

*Ladygrove Park Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. All staff are expected to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check. The possession of a criminal record will not necessarily prevent an applicant from obtaining this post, as all cases are judged individually according to the nature of the role and information provided. Ladygrove Park Primary School is an equal opportunities employer and we welcome applications from a range of backgrounds to represent diversity in line with our schools' community. **Satisfactory DBS checks and references are conditional to appointment.***

# Word of the Week

## for Key Stage 1





 Meaning	 Challenge
When you find something you did not know before.	Imagine you find an old box in a cupboard. What do you think you could <b>discover</b> inside?



# Word of the Week

## for Key Stage 2



 Meaning	 Challenge
You are really interested in something and you keep thinking about it.	What things are you <b>fascinated</b> by?

### Santa's Grotto

All tickets for Santa's Grotto are sold out - anyone who has booked and paid but has not received their timeslot via email, please contact PALS on [ladygrovepals@gmail.com](mailto:ladygrovepals@gmail.com). As this is a pre-book only event, we cannot accept anyone wishing to turn up and pay on the day. Please arrive on time for your visit - chocolate tombola, raffle tickets, and hot drinks/mince pies will be available to buy while you're there. Entrance will be the Avon Way/school car park side. Don't forget your umbrellas as we will be outside regardless of the weather!

### Christmas Raffle

Raffle tickets have now been sent home but extra ticket books are available from the school office. Prizes include some vouchers for amazing days out! The draw will be made on Friday 10th December, so you have until Wednesday 8th December to return yours.

*PALS Team*

### Messy Church

The Ladygrove Church is running another Messy Church just in time for Christmas 3.00-5.00pm on Saturday, 18th December with all the usual crafts and activities. Numbers are restricted because of Covid 19, so if you would like to come along, please book via [messy@theladygrovechurch.org.uk](mailto:messy@theladygrovechurch.org.uk)

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King Alfred's Academy in Wantage has a number of interesting and rewarding term time only vacancies – please visit [Vacancies | King Alfred's Academy, Wantage, Oxfordshire UK \(kaacademy.org\)](#) to learn more and apply

The poster features a cream-colored background with a textured, torn-paper edge at the top. In the top left corner is the Didcot Town Council crest. The title 'Didcot Town Council's CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION' is prominently displayed in the center, with 'CHRISTMAS CARD' in large, bold, red capital letters and 'COMPETITION' in slightly smaller red capital letters below it. Below the title, the text 'Help us design the Mayors Christmas Card' is written in a green, sans-serif font. A bulleted list of rules follows, with the email address 'events@didcot.gov.uk' underlined. The bottom of the poster is decorated with stylized green Christmas trees and red holly leaves and berries. A yellow star is visible on the right side.

**Didcot Town Council's**  
**CHRISTMAS CARD**  
**COMPETITION**

**Help us design the Mayors Christmas Card**

- You can draw, paint and create anyway you like!
- The winning image will be the front image of the Mayor of Didcot, Cllr Mocky Khan's Christmas Card.
- Send your entry to: **events@didcot.gov.uk** or drop off to Didcot Civic Hall on Britwell Road
- All entries must be sent by Monday 6th December
- All entries will be displayed at the Didcot Civic Hall Christmas Grotto on Saturday 18th December.
- Open to all aged under 16