

LEYS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 8 - December 2021

Merry Christmas Everyone!

Dear Parents,

What a busy term we have had! Children in Y3 and Y4 really enjoyed their trip to Creswell Crag, Y5 visited Gainsborough Old Hall and Y5 and Y6 have enjoyed a Macbeth workshop. The whole school enjoyed the pantomime, Aladdin, had a fantastic feel good, fun Friday making Christmas crafts and have enjoyed a silent disco in the lead up to Christmas!

We were disappointed to have to reinstate our COVID-19 risk assessment again, this half term, following Public Health England advice, but are hopeful that these restrictions can again be lifted after Christmas. I'd like to thank you for your vigilance and support in following the guidelines and for those of you who took your child for PCR tests. The latest advice is for children to test daily (LFTs) if they are a close contact. This has really helped us to stop the spread and identify some children who were asymptomatic. I would appreciate it you could continue to work with school through testing if your child shows any symptoms or has been in close contact with anyone testing positive.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Enjoy your Christmas break and a Happy New Year to you and your families, from staff and governors at Leys Farm.

Miss S. Thomas

Fund Raising

This half term we have supported the **British Legion /Poppy Appeal** by raising £233.06! Thank you to those of you who bought poppies and accessories and for all your support for this very worthy cause.

£133.36 was raised for Children in Need in November and £88.40 for Save the Children through Christmas Jumper Day!

The Christmas Raffle also raised £275 for our School Fund. This will be put towards purchasing books. Thank you for those of you who sent in prizes.

New Website Launch

Please take a look at our new website at:
www.leysfarm.org.uk

We hope to have simplified this and made it easier to navigate around. Our aim is to update it weekly.

There is also a link to our school twitter account on the homepage. All classes post at least twice a week so look out to see what your child's class have been learning and experiencing **@leysfarm**.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

Breakfast and Books Club has continued this term, from 8am each morning. Children have enjoyed healthy, nutritious breakfasts. We do have a small number of places available if you would like your child to join. Contact the office for further details.

Next term we will be **reducing the charge to £1** as we are now receiving free cereal (including gluten-free) from the **National Schools Breakfast Programme**.

We're also receiving bagels for the whole school, which the children are really enjoying at playtime. A huge thank you to Miss Porteous for preparing these every day!

Clubs for all year groups, including; art, multi-sports, computing, gardening, chess, Lego and book club have been planned from January. Please look out for the letter this week. Clubs will be offered on a first come, first serve basis.

COVID-19 Update

From 14th December, the updated guidance for schools is daily testing of close contacts for COVID-19.

Adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 to 18 years and 6 months identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, are strongly advised to **take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days** and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.

Daily testing of close contacts of COVID-19 will help make education and childcare settings safer and help keep children and young people in face-to-face education.

<p>We have joined the School Milk Subsidy Scheme. Your child is offered a drink of milk each day. There is no cost for this, however, if you do <u>not</u> want your child to have milk please inform school.</p>	<p>Please support school in following the updated guidance or contact school for advice.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Trips, Visitors and Other Events</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Reading Reward</p>
<p>Y5 and Y6 had the opportunity to take part in a Macbeth Workshop this term and Y5 visited Gainsborough Old Hall to further develop their knowledge of the Tudors.</p> <p>'Aladdin' the pantomime was enjoyed by the whole school in two socially distanced performances.</p> <p>Road Safety Week and Anti-Bullying Week were led by the school council who held a poster competition! Congratulations to the winners!</p> <p>Christmas craft day (including art and DT) was a great success. This was arranged with our vice chair of governor, Mr Hickling, and led by Miss Hood and our staff.</p> <p>We had a great Governor Monitoring Day which was a focus on reading and subject leadership. Our children 'shone' and our English Ambassadors really impressed our visiting governors when talking about their learning.</p> <p>The silent disco was another new addition to our school calendar which was enjoyed by all this week.</p>	<p>We have had our first round of 10 weeks of reading with approximately a third of our children choosing their first book as a reward through our new reading reward system.</p> <p>It isn't too late for your child to start reading at home five times a week! The vast majority of children have started this. Thank you for your support with hearing your child read at home.</p> <p>Miss Lunson's and Miss Hood's Year 6 classes have also been part of a pilot introducing Reading Plus, an online reading resource. Children can log on and read at home too. This will be included as two reads each week, if they do this. Miss Darling intends on introducing Reading Plus to Year 5 in the spring term.</p> <p>Library visits have now come to an end. The staff and children have all enjoyed this experience and we really hope you will continue to take and encourage your child to use the library regularly. Thank you again to Mrs Tipler, our Chair of Governors, and Miss Lunson, our English Lead, for arranging this.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Staffing</p>	
<p>We are looking forward to the return to school of Mrs Herrera (TA) later in the spring term.</p> <p>Goodbye and good luck to Mrs Rennie (TA) who is leaving Leys Farm to take up a new position at Bottesford Junior School. She will be missed!</p> <p>Welcome to Mrs MacDonald, a new TA, who will be joining Class 4S from January, supported by Miss Stimson (TA). Mrs Lefley (TA) will be full time in Class 3S.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">School Diary Dates 2022</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 16th December – Christmas Jumper Day/End of Term • Friday 17th December - Staff Training Day • Tuesday, 4th January - Staff Training Day • Wednesday, 5th January - Pupils Back • Friday, 11th February - Half-term • Monday, 21st February - Pupils Back • Friday, 1st April - End of Term • Tuesday, 19th April - Staff Training Day • Wednesday, 20th April - Pupils Back • Monday, 2nd May CLOSED – BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY • Friday, 27th May - Half-term • Monday, 6th June - Pupils Back • Wednesday, 20th July End of Term – Queen's Jubilee Date given to school! • Thursday, 21st July – Staff Training Day. 	
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