



Lawns Park Primary School

Learning, Pride, Perseverance, Safety'



December Newsletter 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Well then, the 2023 school year is done and dusted and the Autumn term has disappeared in a cloud of glitter and tinsel. What a term it has been too, full of fantastic learning, incredible events and a huge slice of love and laughter. On a personal level, it has been a great pleasure to get to know the children, families and staff of Lawns Park and I am deeply proud to be able to represent the school. I am hugely grateful to everyone for making me feel so welcome since we set foot through the door in September. There is so much to come here at Lawns Park and the journey of building toward the future with this community is incredibly exciting. I would like to wish all our families and staff a happy Christmas and lots of luck in 2024.

Enjoy the break, kind regards,
Mr Chapman – Headteacher

TRAINING DAYS FOR 2024

We have three training days remaining for this academic year. Two are at the end of this school year so children will finish school on Friday 19th July 2024.

- Friday, 8th March 2024 – training day
- Monday, 22nd July 2024 – training day
- Tuesday, 23rd July 2024 – training day

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our parent teacher association, the 'Friends of Lawns Park', pulled off one of the most spectacular events in recent memory by managing to get both Santa AND his reindeer to visit Lawns Park for the Christmas Fair! The man in the red suit met with children in our magically transformed outdoor reading cabin whilst just next door his reindeer grazed happily. And on top of that, right outside Santa's grotto was an enormous winter wonderland snowglobe which the children were able to bounce around on. There were also stalls of stocking fillers and tasty treats as well as some delicious refreshments. It was an absolutely fantastic event and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Friends of Lawns Park for all their exceptional hard work and to the businesses that sponsored the event. We are thrilled to announce that the fair raised £1,500 for school fund, so along with the £500 raised at other events in the autumn term we now have £2000 to reinvest in new technology in classrooms!





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SCHOOL DINNER REMINDER

Please note that all children currently paying for school dinners will see an increase in cost from £2.40 to £2.50 per meal in 2024. We would always choose to keep costs for our families down where possible but, unfortunately, due to increased costs from the produce suppliers we have no choice but to increase prices. School has absorbed some of the increase ourselves and we will continue to monitor costs going forward to provide the most competitive prices for our families as is realistically possible.

OFFICE REMINDERS

A few reminders from the office team. Please could all parents/carers check that they have done the following:

- Please sign up to the schoolcomms app to make school payments.
- Please sign up to the simmsparent app to change any personal details that are required.
- Please ensure that outstanding balances for dinner money/breakfast club/nursery fees are paid off by half-term.

Thank you and merry Christmas, the Office.

KINDNESS ADVENT CALENDAR

This year, Lawns Park Primary School have been taking part in a kindness advent calendar. Each day, during assembly, the new advent day was revealed and we discussed exactly what we could do to enrich our school, community and home environments with little acts of kindness. The children have really been taking on board the lessons of the day. In the photo you will see two girls from Year 5 who created a tally chart showing how many times they had said thank you on that day. We hope that you have been lucky enough to see some of those small acts of kindness in your own homes during advent!



STAFF SHOUT-OUT

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge THANK YOU to the Lawns Park staff for supporting the 'Cash for Kids' charity campaign in December. After hearing that the charity, which supports families in need at Christmas Time, had run out of gifts with over 11,000 children left to support, the team at school jumped into action to do what they could to help. In the end, the staff raised over £250 which was then used to purchase a selection of gifts which were sent off to 'Cash for Kids' to help families in West and North Leeds have an enjoyable December 25th. This kind of response demonstrates exactly what a caring and child-centred team of people we have working at Lawns Park.



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PERFORMING ARTS CHOIR

The Lawns Park performing arts club choir have had an extremely busy half-term with lots of public performances (and behind the scenes hard work!) Mrs Markham and her team of singing superstars opened the Farnley Cricket Club Christmas Market at the end of November. They visited Greggs factory to sing to the workers and then returned to Farnley Cricket Club for another festive performance in the last week of term. We then rounded off the school year with a community Christmas Carol sing-song in the playground on the last day of term. Well done and thank you to everyone involved for all your hard work with performing arts this year.



VISITORS

Years 2, 1 and Foundation Stage were visited this half-term by Northern Dreaming Storytime in Autumn 2, a one-woman show based on a book about the magic of dreams. Years 5 and 6 enjoyed a visit from the award-winning author Andy Seed who dropped in to talk all about life being an author and how editing can be used to improve the quality of your written work. Years 3 and 4 will be visited by the author Chris Mould in the New Year.



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What's been happening in school?

Year 6

Year 6 have had an out of this world half-term with the highlight being a visit from Space Dome and our alien and astronaut dress-up day. The magical dome projected us across the solar system and to the very core of our galaxy, which inspired us in our reading and writing. We wrote diaries and letters of lost astronauts, inspired by the book Cosmic. In PE we strengthened our core with Yoga and in Science, we learnt to draw formal circuit diagrams and build varied serial circuits. All of this was topped off with some beautiful poetry writing in Colour and Christmas Week. Year 6 are such a great, hard-working group and we are so proud of them!





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Year 5

We have had an absolutely fantastic half-term in Year 5 and have been extremely busy doing lots of learning. In PE, we have been doing yoga and gymnastics and creating our own routines using the different moves and poses we have learnt. In Science, we had an amazing visit from a company who brought space to us! We have been doing some brilliant writing in English, focusing on writing poetry and letters. Our ukulele lessons have been a blast so far- we cannot wait to continue them in the new year. Lastly, in art, we have been creating our very own Christmas wrapping paper (we definitely put our repeated pattern printing skills to great use!)





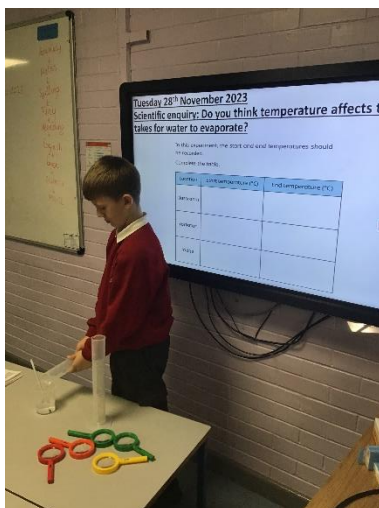
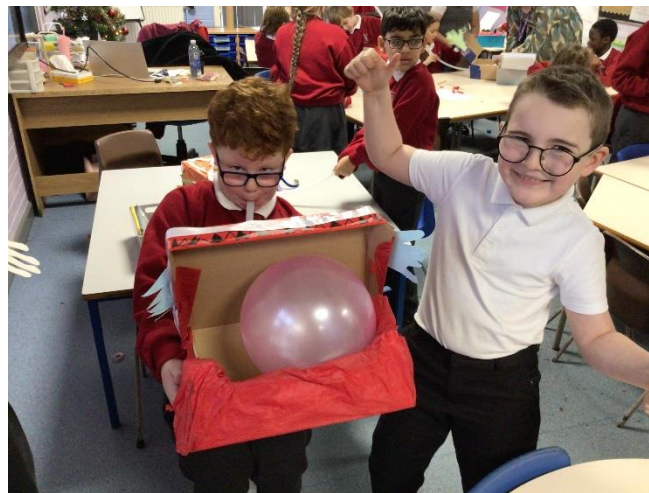
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Year 4

We have had a super term in Year 4; lots of exciting learning has been going on! Children have been absorbed by our 'Iron Man' topic and wrote some excellent alternative narratives about Iron Man's adventures. During design and technology lessons, children have been making their own pneumatic toys of Iron Man; they are amazing and move using pressurised air. In PSHCE, we have been looking at mindfulness you can see how focused the children were of controlling their emotions! In Science, we have looked at the Water Cycle. The pupils planned the experiment themselves and reviewed how we could show evaporation more clearly next time. Next term, we will be discovering the Bronze Age which links with our previous topic of the Stone Age. In English, we will be writing a newspaper report about a missing big bad wolf! The Year 4 team can't wait to see what they are like!





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Year 3

Wow, what an amazing autumn term Year 3 have had! We have been incredibly busy over the past seven weeks writing narratives, character descriptions and instructions. In DT we have been making pneumatic toys based off of our class novel 'The Iron Man'. We have learnt all about world trade in geography, investigating where our food and resources all come from. Music is a particular favourite in year 3! We have started to play the glockenspiel using three notes as well as reading notation. We cannot wait to see what 2024 holds for Year 3!





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Year 2

What a great and festive term we have had in Year 2. We have learned all about materials in science, which included conducting an investigation around the school grounds to find as many materials as we could. Some children took this home and completed a science-themed homework! This led into our writing, which focussed on describing different characters and bringing them to life. We used Pinocchio as our character and the children wrote some fabulous descriptions of this well-known puppet. In history, the children have explored toys from the past and had the opportunity to observe and research some toys that were kindly lent to us by Leeds Museums. Finally, how could we forget our Christmas performance? The children were AMAZING and did themselves and us very proud, we loved every minute of it and I'm sure many of you grown ups are still singing the songs now (just like the staff!!)





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Year 1

We've had a very busy but fantastic half term in Year 1! In History we've been learning about toys from the past; we even had a special delivery of artefacts from Leeds Discovery centre to help us find out about what old toys were like. In English, we read the Pinocchio story and wrote some amazing character descriptions. We also had a storyteller come and perform for us to share the magic of stories . In RE, we have been learning about how different religions represent God and we made a beautiful piece of Islamic art. We were also very busy practising for our Christmas play; the children were fantastic and so confident. In the new year, we will be finding out all about the Great Fire of London, writing diary entires and making some fiery artwork!





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Foundation Stage

What a busy learning half term we have had in Foundation Stage. Our journey began with our recollections of our Bonfire night experiences- we talked, we created art and we even explored onomatopoeia! Moving on we showed our respect for the fallen, wearing our poppies with pride and creating our own poppy memorial in our garden. As we moved closer to Christmas, we used the story 'Stickman' as a vehicle for our learning. We planned and made stick characters evaluating our learning as we went. We finished a super half term with a performance of 'Humph the Camel' for our parents and carers entertainment. Finally, we celebrated together with a party and a very special surprise guest. Merry Christmas from everyone in Foundation Stage.





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Key Dates up to February Half-term

Main dates for Autumn 2 half term – 6th November to 22nd December 2023 (7 weeks)		
Spring 1 Week 1 January	Monday, 8 th January	School opens for Spring 1 term
	Wednesday, 10 th January	Years 5 and 6 pulleys and gears robot workshop – all day.
Spring 1 Week 2 January	Monday, 15 th January	After school clubs restart this week – 3.15pm.
	Tuesday, 16 th January	Year 3 and 4 boys football comp Dixons Unity – 3.30pm.
	Friday, 19 th January	Year 2 sharing assembly 9-9.30am
Spring 1 Week 3 January	Tuesday, 23 rd January	Sportshall Athletics at Morley Leisure – 9.30-11am.
Spring 1 Week 4 January / February	Tuesday, 30 th January	Year 3 and 4 mixed netball comp Dixons Unity – 3.30pm.
	Thursday, 1 st February	Year 1 and 2 Great Fire of London visitor – all day.
Spring 1 Week 5 February	Friday, 9 th February	Recognition assembly 9am
		School closes for half-term – 3.15pm

If you have any comments/questions/feedback, please do not hesitate to get in touch.
schapman@lawnsark.org.uk

Merry Christmas and have a happy New Year,

Kind regards,

The Lawns Park Team