



DRAGONFLYER



The Newsletter of Lakeside Primary School: December 2023

www.lakesideprimaryschool.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you so much for all of your support this term. Staff and I have been overwhelmed by your lovely messages and generous gifts, and your appreciation of all their hard work. It has been really lovely to see and talk to so many of you over the last couple of weeks as you came into school to enjoy your children's Christmas sharings. I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas break.

It's been a fabulous two weeks of Christmas festivities, including Christmas sharings, a visit from Farmer Haydn, his donkey and her friends, parties and a carol service. The choir sang in a concert and a care home, and the School Council delivered a large amount of food to the Food Bank at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Gabalfa. We also raised money for Save the Children on Christmas Jumper Day and even found time to plant some trees at Jellicoe Gardens! I think we may all need a rest now.

I look forward to welcoming everybody back on Monday 8th January, 2024.

Clubs

After school clubs restart the week beginning Monday 15th Jan as follows:

Club	Week day	Year group(s)
Football	Mondays 3.30-4.15pm	5 & 6
Chess	Mondays 3.30-4.15pm	2
Sportsfit	Tuesdays 3.30-4.15pm	3, 4, 5 & 6
Code Club	Tuesdays 3.15-4pm	5
Dancefit	Wednesdays 3.30-4.15pm	3, 4, 5 & 6
Netball	Fridays 3.30-4.30pm	5 & 6 (waiting list)

CHOIR WILL NOW TAKE PLACE EVERY MONDAY 2.30-3.30pm. If your child is in Years 4, 5 or 6 and would like to join the choir, please email Rebecca.strange@cardiff.gov.uk during the first week of next term so that we can allocate places. (This does not include existing choir members). Thank you.

News

- The Lakeside football team won their first match, against Llysfyaen, 4-2. Well done to them!
- Lakeside chess players competed well in the inter-school competition with Westbourne Primary, Penarth. We look forward to our next chess competition.
- The school choir took part in the Cardiff & Vale Music Education Christmas Showcase as part of the Junior and Senior Training Choirs, and some Lakeside instrumentalists also took part in the ensembles. I was a very proud headteacher that evening!
- A donkey and other farm animals visited Nursery and Wellbeing Class pupils
- The school choir visited Penylan Care Home to sing several songs to the residents. They worked very hard, were beautifully behaved and extremely kind and caring toward the care home residents – well done to them.
- Several members of our Lakeside Citizens pupil group joined Mrs Thomas and Mrs Bird to plant trees in Jellicoe Gardens as part of a scheme by Coed Caerdydd to introduce children to tree planting. Pupils from Springwood Primary were also involved. Coed Caerdydd and Jellicoe residents commented on the children's excellent contribution and thanked them for helping. The children are now officially Guardians of the Jellicoe Gardens Trees. Well done to all of them!

- We welcomed a new parent governor – Mariam Rauf – onto the school governing body

Whole-school events this half term

- We launched Anti-bullying Week with Odd Socks Day and the Pupil Leadership Team delivered an Anti-bullying assembly to the whole school.
- We held a Crazy Hair Day to raise money for Children in Need and were able to donate £365.77 to the charity.
- We collected items for the Food Bank at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Gabalfa, and the School Council delivered them to the church and sorted them, ready for distribution over Christmas.
- Each year group presented a Christmas Sharing to parents/carers and families. I loved each and every one of these and am extremely proud of the children and staff and very grateful to families for joining us to enjoy their children's performances. Throughout this week all year groups have enjoyed Christmas parties.
- Pupils were welcomed to school this morning (Friday 22nd) with music and went on to enjoy a pantomime funded by the PTA, before winding down for the last afternoon of school before Christmas.

PTA

- The PTA Christmas Fayre took place and an amazing £1500.11 was raised.
- The PTA teas, coffees and snacks at the Christmas Sharing sessions raised £400! Thank you all for your generosity.
- A huge thank you to the PTA for buying netball posts for the netball team, paying for the pantomime on the last day of the Autumn term and for **ALL the hard work they do to raise money and run fun events for the children.**

Learning Project Experts

As you know, we love to welcome experts from the school, and wider, community to be 'experts' in our Learning Projects. If you, or someone you know/family member, have knowledge and experience to share with the children connected to any of the following subjects, we would love to hear from you. Thank you.

Year group	Learning Project	Kind of expert we would like
Year 6	Frozen Kingdom	Explorers/adventurers, anyone with 'polar' experience or knowledge of the Titanic
Year 5	Alchemy Island	A combination of science and creativity, working with riddles, maps, chemistry and learning about the ancient art of alchemy. Pupils will create a video game, compose a soundtrack and go on a magical journey.
Year 4	Road Trip USA	Someone who has lived in or has detailed knowledge of the USA, tourism, and travel
Year 3	Myths and Legends	Anyone who knows anything about traditional Welsh myths and legends/storytellers
Year 2	Towers, Tunnels & Turrets	Someone with knowledge about the different parts of castles and the knights that used them
Year 1	Rio de Vida	Anybody with knowledge about carnivals and Brazil (the place, the food, the people) and a dancing expert (e.g. Samba)
Reception	Dangerous Dinosaurs	Anyone with knowledge of dinosaur habitats, their food, their bones and anything else to do with these fascinating creatures
Nursery	Starry Night	We look at the differences in the world at night compared to during the day, the importance of sleep, and finding out about nocturnal animals. Anyone with an understanding of the above would be most welcome

Wishing you all a peaceful break, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes,

Rachel Mitchell

Upcoming events / Term dates

January 2024

- Monday 8th January – return to school
- Thursday 18th January – football match against Ton yr Ywen
- **Friday 19th January – Inset Day**
- Monday 22nd January – Football match against Whitchurch 3.30pm
- Wednesday 24th January – Y2 visit to Cardiff Castle
- Monday 29th January – PTA AGM 3.30pm – KS2 Staffroom

Term dates

2023-2024 academic year

Return to school	Monday 8 th January, 2024		
INSET DAY	Friday 19th January		
Break up for Half Term	Friday 9 th February, 2024		
Spring Half Term	Monday 12 th February, 2024	Friday 16 th February, 2024	
Break up for Easter	Friday 22 nd March, 2024		
Easter Break		Monday 25 th March, 2024	Friday 5 th April, 2024
Return to school	Monday 8 th April, 2024		
EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 6th May, 2024		
Break up for Half Term	Friday 24 th May		
Summer Half Term		Monday 27 th May, 2024	Friday 31 st May, 2024
Last day of term	Monday 22 nd July, 2024		