



# LONG DITTON

## INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

THE HEART OF LONG DITTON SINCE 1911

### NEWSLETTER

### 15th December 2017

## LATEST NEWS

### **Dear Parents and Carers**

Christmas is getting ever closer and the children have been very busy this week learning about the Christmas Story, making, creating and writing cards, wrapping presents and working out mathematical challenges. They all enjoyed the pantomime that came to visit on Tuesday. As they were leaving two children took great pleasure telling me that 'that was the best panto ever Mrs Paines!' (I reminded myself that everyone is entitled to their opinion on what 'best panto ever' is.) Thank you to the Friends for funding this Christmas treat ☺

### **CHANGE OF UNIFORM COLOUR**

In one conversation with the children this week I asked them what they felt might make our school even better. They said 'to have a different colour uniform.' That got me to thinking I wonder if we could? On Monday I will put two white boards outside for parents, carers and children to give their view on changing the colour of our school uniform. Tick once and only once either board for or against changing the colour of our uniform.

### **Stranger Awareness**

Whilst the risk posed by strangers is rare, it's really important to make children aware of simple tips they can follow to keep themselves a little safer. Christmas is a time when we can introduce new people to children and the lines of what makes a stranger can become blurred.

The link below will take you to a You Tube 60 second video from the police about stranger awareness. I have watched the video and I

personally feel the message is potentially frightening so please view the video away from your children first to ensure you want to share it with them. The video is designed to highlight a few key points, to be used to help you have that important conversation with your child. It is aimed at children aged 4 - 11 years. And is to help raise awareness and generate discussion that helps children keep safe.

I would advise you to talk to your child about who are their safe adults, who to go to if they do feel unsafe and where there are safe places near you if help is needed. It's also important to think about safety on the internet and use of mobile phone apps and games that have 'chat' functions as this can be just as dangerous as a stranger in the street. 60 Second Safety:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H95m0v2sIMY>

### **Children Left in Cars without Adults**

I have been made aware that some parents and carers are leaving their younger children alone in cars while they drop off children to school. Please remember that although the law doesn't say an age when it is ok to leave children alone, it does state that it is a criminal offence to leave a child alone if it places them at risk. The NSPCC advice on leaving children alone states that 'babies, toddlers and very young children should never be left alone.' I know it may take longer to take a baby or toddler out of a car seat to walk older siblings into school but those few minutes of effort could potentially make a difference to their lives. If parents and carers do notice any child left alone in a car without an adult, they are advised to call the police.

## Christmas Jumper Day - Money Raised

Thank you very much indeed to everyone who donated to 'Save the Children.' We all looked fabulous today in our jumpers and Celebration Assembly was magnificent – filled with sparkle, colour and jingly bells. We raised £153.

## Christingle candle box

Today your child will bring home a Christingle box. Each Christmas St Mary's Church distributes these to raise money for The Children's Society. If you are able to spare a few coins, then please put these in the candle box and ask your child to bring it to school on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December. These will be taken to the church when the children go for their end of term Christmas assembly. Thank you.

## Christmas Post Box

Our Christmas post box for the children to post their Christmas cards to their friends and teachers is located in the reception area outside the school office. Please ensure that envelopes are marked with both **name and class**. If you know the surname, please add this as well as we do have children with the same first name in a class.

**Please do not include any chocolates or sweets in the envelope** – we are a healthy school.

## Polling Day – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

It has now been confirmed that the school will be the local polling station on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. This will be an INSET day and the school will be closed.

## Birthday Books

Thank you to Charlie J-S for the wonderful birthday book for your class!

## Golden Manners Table

This week these people all had excellent manners! Zach, Ethan, Roshan, Cynthia, Jack, Aalia and Georgina. They told me all about what they were hoping for from Father Christmas.

## Thought for the week

'It's not what's under the Christmas Tree that's important. It's the people around it. Charlie Brown

**Have a delightful weekend!**

**Mrs Paines**

## Nursery

We have been very excited setting up a Santa's Grotto with elves, fairies and Father Christmas, as well as Nativity costumes, all of which the children have really enjoyed acting out as different characters!

This week, we have been counting the sleeps left until Christmas Eve, learning about how to write our name in a Christmas card, and design a calendar. We learnt that Christmas trees come from forests and that we recycle them into wood chippings and mulch. We have been talking about Hanukkah, the festival of light, that started on Tuesday and will last for 8 days.

We have been continuing with our sounds and have learnt h, j, w, v, q, so please do talk about these sounds and do an I-Spy game with all the sounds we have been talking about. There is a homework sheet if you have time and your child is happy to do it.

We will be having our Nursery Christmas party on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December for both Emerald and Jade classes. Please could we ask for a £1 donation towards the party food? Also, please could we request that the afternoon children (Jade class) and the children staying for lunch club do not have too much lunch that day as they will be having party food in the afternoon. Hopefully there will also be a very special visitor on that day!

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December is our Christmas Disco for Nursery and Reception in the Hall. The disco will finish at 4.05 pm and pick up will be from the Nursery door at 4.10pm. Please do not bring any toys on that day.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December will be the last day of term for the Nursery. We will be back on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**Is anyone able to look after the fish, Barry and Shep, for the Christmas holidays please? Please talk to one of the Team.**

Cont'd/..

## Nursery cont'd

---

Thank you to parents and carers for writing in the yellow booklet (Emerald) or the green booklet (Jade) in the blue tray outside the classroom door. Please remember to do this if your child is going home with someone other than the regular people we know about.

Have a great weekend everyone and we look forward to another exciting week with our Christmas party and learning our final sounds q, x and z.

The Nursery Team ☺☺☺☺☺☺

## Reception

---

What another busy week we've had in Reception. We have been writing our Christmas cards, wrapping presents and doing all things Christmassy. In maths, we learnt about prepositional language to decorate our Christmas houses with Christmas decorations, and we made wreaths using a scrubbing brush and paper doll snowmen. Despite the freezing cold weather, the children LOVED seeing the water freeze and turn to ice – they had a great time exploring the ice and using lots of different utensils to try and crack the ice. We talked about Winter and the different features of Winter – the temperature, the weather, what we wear etc.

Next week, we will be starting in our different Fred groups. Your child will either be in: Mrs Taylor's, Miss Maclver's (new Topaz class teacher), Mrs McQuillan's or Mrs Johnson's Fred group. Reception's Fred will be on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday and will be from 9 am – 9.30 am. Each group may take learning home on different days, so please keep an eye out in your child's Fred folder to see if they have got any home learning to support them with. In maths, we will be starting to learn about coins to buy ingredients to make some melting snowman biscuits! We will be focussing on 1p, 2p, 5p and 10p, looking at the colour, shape and size. Why not go to the shops at the weekend, and help your child to pay for something using coins – get them to try and find the coins. In literacy, we will be continuing with the letter

Ditton Hill Road, Long Ditton, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 5JB  
<http://longditton.surrey.sch.uk>

formation. In circle time, we will be talking about being kind and teaching the children about 'random acts of kindness'. Every time a child does a random act of kindness, they will receive a special certificate. We have also been talking about ways they can be kind and help you at home!

**Vocabulary:** 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, coins, money, cost.

**We now need more junk modelling materials so please bring in boxes, plastic bottles, tubs and cardboard tubes if you have any. Please do not bring in anything that has contained nuts or sesame seeds. Thank you!**

The Reception Team ☺

## Year 1

---

What a busy week. Despite the freezing weather, the children have been working so hard! This week we have been continuing to learn about Christmas and the reasons why we celebrate it. We have started learning our 'Jingle Bells' song for the church next week. Please let the office know if you are able to walk down to the church with us.

In Literacy the children have been writing letters to Santa. They have also been hot seating questions and answers with their talk partner, when thinking about the characters in the story 'The Snowman'. We have continued to practise writing capital letters.

In Maths the children have been looking at 3D shapes and talking about their properties. We have discussed how many faces, edges and corners (vertices) the shapes have.

On Thursday we decorated biscuits and also mixed different colours for the icing.

### Home Learning:

- **Literacy** – Can you write a letter to a friend or family member? Remember how we start and finish a letter.
- **Maths** – What 3D shapes can you see in your home/ local area? Can you count their properties?

Cont'd/...

T: +44 (0)20 8398 4398

[Info@longditton.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:Info@longditton.surrey.sch.uk)

## Year 1 cont'd

---

### Vocabulary:

- Maths – Sphere, Cylinder, Cube, Cuboid, Cone, Pyramid
- Literacy – To... From...

### Show and Tell group - Monkeys

---

## Year 2

---

What a fabulous Roald Dahl week we have had! We have found out lots of interesting facts about the author. Did you know Roald Dahl loved chocolate but not chocolate cake or chocolate ice cream?! We have created our own recipe for a Marvellous Medicine using lots of wonderful adjectives and bossy verbs (e.g. chop, mix, stir). In our descriptions of the BFG we used noun phrases to make our writing more interesting to read; e.g. This kind, friendly giant runs around on his long, skinny legs collecting dreams. In Art, we have been learning to draw in the style of Quentin Blake, creating our own versions of his illustrations for a Roald Dahl character.

In Maths we have been working really hard to answer tricky addition and subtraction sentences, using our knowledge of partitioning and a blank number line to help us. When taking away, we found out that it is important to look carefully at the number we are subtracting, then count back the number of tens and finally subtract the number of units.

The highlight for Diamond Class this week was visiting Stokes Field, thanks again to the lovely parents that came with us. I'm sure you'd all agree that despite the rain the children (and grown-ups) had a great time! We loved making the hedgehogs, finding food for them and looking at the signs of late Autumn/Early Winter.

**Reminder** – Amethyst Class visit to Stokes Field on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather!

**Homework:** To write a diary telling us about all the different things you do during the Christmas holidays.

**Key vocab for this week:** noun phrase, inverted commas, bossy verbs, conjunctions, blank number line, illustrator, subtract.

---

## School Office

---

**School Milk:** Over the past few weeks, we have noted that there has been a lot of milk cartons left over at the end of the week which can only mean that the children on the milk lists are not drinking the milk provided. As you have to pay for milk once your child has turned 5, and because we are having to throw so much away, please would you check with your child that they still want to have school milk. If they do not, then we ask that you please cancel your account with CoolMilk. Thank you.

**Reminder: closing date for Reception and Junior applications for September 2018 entry is 15 January 2018.**

To apply online and for information on how to apply, please visit

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)

**New bike rack – request for help to install:** we have now purchased a new bike rack and it is waiting to be installed. However, in order for the rack to be fixed securely to the ground, it requires a heavy duty drill to drill holes into the tarmac for the bolts. If there is a parent/carer who would be able to help us with this, or if you know of someone who might be able to help, please contact the school office. Thank you.

---

## Friends

---

Thank you to everyone who's helped or donated this year.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2018!

Friends

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Value Stars: Friendship



Henry M  
Poppy C  
Alex F  
Carmelle  
Forrest  
Sam W

### Golden Certificates:

Ava C  
Aydin  
Harry N  
Stanley  
Zach  
Autumn  
Jack D  
Mrs Taylor  
Kailan  
Rufus  
Poppy H  
Charlotte  
Jack (Moonstone)

### Credit Card:

Amelie O'S

### Birthdays:

Blake – 4  
Charlie J-S – 5  
Marley - 5

### Outside Achievements:

Theo achieved Hook Swim School Turtle Award level 4  
Jack P was awarded Duckling 4 swimming certificate  
Monique was awarded Duckling 1 swimming certificate  
Kaitlin won a medal for completing the 2017 YMCA 1 mile Santa Run

## DIARY DATES

### December 2017

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>

3.05-4.05pm Yrs 1 & 2 Christmas Disco (pick up from classroom at 4.10pm)

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>

- Yr 2 Amethyst class to Stokes Field (morning only)
- 3.05-4.05pm Nursery & Reception Christmas Disco (pick up from classroom at 4.10pm)
- Nursery finishes for Christmas holidays

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>

- 9.15am Christmas Assembly at St Mary's Church – all welcome
- 1.30pm school closes for Christmas holidays

22<sup>nd</sup> Dec to 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan

School closed – Christmas holidays

### January 2018

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>

8.45am return to school for Spring Term

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>

9.05am Amethyst class assembly

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>

Yr 2 Amethyst class to Stokes Field

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Yr 2 Diamond class to Stokes Field

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

9.05am Diamond class assembly

## EVENTS / ACTIVITIES (outside of school) / Adverts

### LOST MY MUMMY – A card (and themed dice) game about Egyptian Mummies!



Looking for a Christmas present for a Junior-aged friend, or relative?



Do you have a '£10 Threshold Present' to buy, but don't know what to get?

If the answer is yes to either of these questions, then why don't you trust a local Headteacher to help you choose?

David Gumbrell, Headteacher of LDSM, has designed a game specially aimed at the age group he knows best, 7-12! It is a fun, family-friendly game that can be played in as little as 20 minutes. (Trouble is that once you have played the first game, you'll want to play another as you'll have worked out a better strategy to win)!

Copies of the game are on sale by contacting me through my website . . .

[www.lostmygames.co.uk](http://www.lostmygames.co.uk)

Also, until Christmas, the games will be available via the school office at LDSM, or, I will happily deliver them to your child's school (again in time before Xmas).



### ST MARY'S CHURCH CHOIR

Do you enjoy singing?

Would you like to be part of a choir for Christmas?

Friday night practices 8 till 9.30pm (followed by a visit to the George Evelyn if you would like to!)

Sing with the choir for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 17th December and join us at Surbiton Station and The George Evelyn to raise funds for Shooting Star Chase Children's Hospice

contact Caroline Yalden on

07767 622491

or

[carolineyalden@btinternet.com](mailto:carolineyalden@btinternet.com)