

***Live . Love . Learn - Littletown***

Friday 16th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of the Autumn Term and the end of 2022. A year that started in class bubbles and Covid restrictions and ends with a wonderful range of Christmas activities and community coming together. A stark contrast worth recognising and perhaps a reminder to all of us how much we should cherish these moments we experience this Christmas with children and families.

What an eventful Autumn Term we have had too. We’ve implemented an extended school day, become a Read Write Inc school, continued to strengthen our wellbeing agenda and our work around Unicef rights of the child. We’ve continued to embed our new school values of Live, Love, Learn, begun our OPAL journey revolutionising lunchtimes and made improvements to the school curriculum. All of this without even mentioning our brand new, non-leaky roof!! I would like to take this opportunity, before anything else, to say a huge thank you to all the Littletown staff for their hard work and commitment this term and throughout 2022. Plans, schemes and initiatives are all good and well in a school, but it is the care and dedication of the staff day in day out that make Littletown what it is. I’m sure you will join me in wishing them all a very happy and relaxing Christmas break.

This week, against the magical winter wonderland backdrop outside, we have seen the continuation and completion of our Christmas performances totalling 13 altogether over the last two weeks. On Monday, we had Year 1 with their beautiful nativity. Reception followed with their amazing first ever nativity play on Tuesday before we finished with Nursery children performing so beautifully on Wednesday. I would like to once again say what a wonderful privilege it is as Headteacher to watch all of these performances to see the progression and quality in the school, but mostly, the happiness and joy of the children performing at Christmas. Furthermore, our ‘post covid free for all’ saw such good attendances to all performances which was lovely for the children. My thanks to all of you for supporting the school in attending these performances and for all the wonderful costumes. This support makes it all worthwhile and isn’t something I take for granted.

As well as the performances, we have had various other Christmas activities this week. I need to start by saying again a massive thank you to the PTFA, all parent helpers, all Year 6 pupil volunteers and everyone who attended our wonderful Christmas fayre on Saturday. The PTFA even went to the extra effort of arranging for 2 inches of snow! Incredibly, given the weather, the fayre raised a total of £2229 to be spent on the children. This is a staggering £1000 more than we raised in 2019 so really is quite an achievement. Lots of money was made from the Littletown tradition of Jolly Jars. Thank you to everyone who contributed a jar!

On Wednesday we held our Christmas Dinner for children and staff. This is always an exciting and lovely occasion. I would like to say a huge thank you to the Fresha staff in our kitchen who put in many extra hours to make such a delicious meal for all 470 of us that enjoyed it! We also had a very exciting visit from Father Christmas on Wednesday afternoon who gave a gift to each class. Children have also been enjoying Christmas parties and Christmas treats in their year groups.

Our Magic Christmas post box and House Captain elves have been very busy this week and it has been lovely to see children receiving their cards. On behalf of the staff and myself, thank you for all the generosity of cards and gifts this week. House Captains were also busy yesterday with their cake sale where they raised £92.06 to go towards our OPAL resourcing. My thanks to them for all their hard work on this and thank you to all of you who have donated items for OPAL over the last few weeks. The Wellbeing Ambassadors have also been busy this week selling raffle tickets for their Wellbeing Sensory Garden and they have raised £111.32. Many thanks to Honiton Aldi for donating lots of the prizes. Hopefully you still have some money left for your own Christmasses!

It has been a pleasure to be a ‘Roadie’ for the choir as they performed at Coombe farm shop and Co-op funeral care the last two evenings. We had a great number of children who sang beautifully and joyfully despite the low temperatures. My thanks to parents for bringing children along to sing at these events and my thanks to Mrs Binmore for giving up her time to organise and support the choir at these events.

To finish our Littletown Christmas this afternoon, in assembly, some Year 5 children shared their presentation identifying where our school values of Live, Love, Learn appear in the Nativity story and children were surprised to see just how evident they all are throughout the story of Christmas. We shared songs from performances including the song that reflects the value of Love in the Christmas story the best - ‘Love Shone Down’.

Looking ahead to 2023, on our return to school Monday 2nd January is a bank holiday.

 So, finally, on behalf of all of us here at Littletown Primary Academy may I wish you all a wonderful and restful Christmas break, a happy and prosperous new year and I look forward to seeing you in the new year on Tuesday 3rd January.

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal

**Children’s news**

**Nursery:** This week, Nursery have had a Christmas party and a Christmas performance *and* made food for Santa’s reindeer!

**Reception:** This week, Reception have been decorating a Christmas tree and had an amazing Christmas dinner! They had a fun Christmas party and Santa came to visit because they worked hard!

**Year 1**: This week, Year 1 had a Christmas play and made Christmas decorations.

**Year 2:** This week, Year 2 learnt that people in different countries celebrate Christmas and learnt about the different values of different pound notes.

**Year 3:** This week, in Year 3 they roasted marshmallows in outdoor classroom, made Christmas cards and decorated their classroom with paper chains.

**Year 4:** This week, Year 4 made Viking bracelets and made Christmas cards.

**Year 5:** This week, Year 5 did time in Maths and for our Christmas treat we watched a movie. We started tennis in P.E.

**Year 6:** This week, Year 6 finished their Maths book and had a cake sale. They also made Christmas cards and finished the selfish giant.

Christmas sports letter

16/12/22

KS2 have finished basketball and are starting tennis next term. After the Christmas break there are a lot of competitions against over schools coming up for football, dodgeball and athletics. Inter-house competitions were a massive success. After Christmas more after school clubs will be taking part such as girls football, dodgeball, mixed football and many more for kS1.

Many thanks to all the teachers this term, they have worked really hard and this school wouldn't be the same without them!!!!

Littletown sports news letter made by Bella and Evie

Merry Christmas!!! And see you after the Christmas.

**Message for choir and choir parents from Mrs Binmore.**

I would personally like to say a huge thank you to the children and parents who have supported the music at our school by giving up your evenings this week. Without your time and patience, community events like this would not be possible. It means a great deal. I know that you will be called upon again next year, but can almost guarantee that you will be warmer!

**Read Write Inc info on website**

We now have a Read Write Inc page on our school website with information for parents and links to videos to support reading at home. There are also some Virtual Classroom videos available to support your child over the break and throughout the year.

**School meals price increase from January 2023**

Our school catering partners, Fresha, have informed us that as of January 2023 there will be a price increase of 10p per meal from £2.40 to £2.50. This is now reflected on ParentPay for booking school meals for the first week back. This does not affect children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who all receive Universal Free School Meals. Please do get in touch with me if you have any questions, but sadly this increase is out of our control.

**New year - new disco!**

I can tell you that we will be having our first school disco of 2023 on Friday 13th January. Details will be shared with you at the start of term.

**Breakfast and After school club**

Please use the following link if you wish to book sessions for next term:

<https://forms.gle/MX6FkGkAW9WAc3wL6>

**Reception Admissions for September 2023**

Is your child 4 years old before August 31st 2022?

If so, please remember to apply for a Reception class place by 15th January 2023 at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline.

Please contact us to book a tour of the school on 01404 548748 or admin@littletown.devon.sch.uk

**Bank Holiday Monday 8th May**

Summer seems a long way away, but this is a reminder that we have been notified that Monday 8th May will be an additional bank holiday to mark the Coronation of King Charles III and school will be closed on this day.

**Timid to tiger**

A series of workshops to support parents with anxious children.

Want to help them with their worries and fears?

Do you need ideas to build your child’s self confidence?

Do you need strategies to help with behaviours you find difficult?

Areas we cover are, Building bonds, Understanding fears and worries, managing worry, praise and reward, setting boundaries, Attention, Consequences.

There are nine sessions, Thursday afternoons 1.30pm to 3.15pm in our community room.

Starting on the 12th January 2023.

There will be cake !

If you would like more information or to join please contact us. pastoral@littletown.devon.sch.uk or ask to speak to Mrs Canniford or Mrs Layzell

**Honiton Littletown Primary Academy Trust**

**COMPANY NUMBER: 07851471**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (the “Meeting”) of Honiton Littletown Primary Trust will be held on Tuesday 17 January 2023 at 5.30pm to transact the following business:

1. To receive the Chairman’s report;
2. To receive and adopt the company's annual accounts for the financial year ended 31 August 2022 together with the directors' report and auditor's report on those accounts;
3. To appoint the Company's auditors to hold office from the conclusion of the meeting to the end of the next period for appointing auditors under section 485(2) of the Companies Act 2006, at a remuneration to be determined by the directors;
4. To appoint new Members to the Board and accept any resignations from the Board by current Members.

 By order of the Board

 Tina Sillitoe

Chair

Honiton Littletown Academy Trust

 If you would like to attend please contact Jenny Rawlins (littletownclerk@littletown.devon.sch.uk)

**Week Beginning 2nd January 2023 events**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday 2nd January** | **Tuesday 3rd January** | **Wednesday 4th January** | **Thursday 5th January** | **Friday 6th January** |
| Bank holiday | Start of Spring Term |  |  |  |

**Community news**

Please see attached a range of Christmas holiday activities available in the Honiton area.

**Operation Rudolph**

Please see message below from the volunteers that run Operation Rudolph in Honiton.

We often hear that people sometimes do not like to ask for support, saying they feel there is someone else who needs the support more than they do, or that they might be labelled as being ‘in need’. For many people we know that when they are in a better position they will pay forward the help they have received, but for now the key message is you are not alone! This is community helping the community, making us stronger together.

Operation Rudolph is a community led project, set up to make sure no one feels alone or does not have support during the festive season, either due to financial pressures of social well-being. This is Operation Rudolph’s third year; started during the pandemic to help people feel less isolated and alone, offering practical support and help for all. There are no criteria to receiving support and no judgement from the Operation Rudolph Team, people can be either referred or refer themselves.

What we offer:

* Christmas Day Lunch ( 3 courses) in the Mackarness Hall (Honiton) – Open to anyone who wants to join us. Transport can be provided to and from the hall if needed.
* Christmas Day lunch delivered to people at home who cannot physically come to the Mackarness Hall.
* Christmas Lunch Boxes – for those that have the capacity to cook but may not be able to purchase the items.
* Christmas Gifts – So that no one wakes up on Christmas Day without something to open.

The Christmas lunch boxes, and the gifts are both delivered discreetly, so that the person receiving them does not feel stigmatised in anyway.

It’s all free of charge and there are no complex forms or processes to sign up for support.

Please use the link below for more information on Operation Rudolph, including information on how to book for any of the services.

<https://inspiring-connections.org/operation-rudolph/>