



Little Leigh Primary School



Friday 26th November 2021
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Autumn Term 2021
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Hello everyone,

Due to my recent absence, it's been a little while since my last newsletter so I have lots to tell you.

As I'm sure you are aware, school has been through a rather interesting time lately! I am incredibly fortunate to be the headteacher of such a wonderful school with fabulous children and super staff. Every member of staff has done an absolutely incredible job of not only keeping school running during such challenging times but also continuing to provide such high quality education and fun for the children. Many of them have stepped up to carry out tasks that far exceed their job roles and responsibilities so I want to say an enormous thank you to our fabulous Little Leigh team!

I would also like to say thank you to you all for bearing with us during such a challenging period of time. We are grateful for your patience and understanding. As human beings, we are all trying our very best during this pandemic. Recent events have reminded us how interdependent we are: what happens to one person can soon affect many others. At a time when we all face ongoing uncertainty about coronavirus, it's worth trying to be extra patient and understanding, both with each other and also ourselves. It is up to all of us to try to work together to support our children, families and communities.

The current climate has had a significant effect on the amount of curriculum enrichment activities we have been able to offer. However, I am very keen to re-establish wider opportunities wherever possible. Fingers crossed, we appear to be coming to the end of a period of severe staff shortages.

So although it's a little way off just yet, I also want to let you know that we are looking at re-establishing our early morning reading clubs for the children in January. As in our pre-Covid days, children will be invited to come in to school at 8:25 ready for an 8:30 start. The teachers will be reading to, or working with, the children during this time. They will take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, as before. Unfortunately, we are not currently able to have our early morning P.E sessions as we can't have all of the children in the hall together. However, as soon as warmer weather returns, we fully intend to restart these too.

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Despite all of the unpredictability this term, Little Leigh Primary school has of course continued to provide fun and learning for our children. Here are just a few of the lovely activities that the children have enjoyed over the past few weeks:

Year 5's recent educational visit to the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool was informative and thought provoking. The children enjoyed a guided tour of the museum and viewed 'The Water Front' exhibition which delved into the history of Liverpool's docks.



Just yesterday, our Year 1 children enjoyed a fun day at Delamere Forest. They planted fir tree saplings to grow their own Christmas trees; they made Christmas decorations and they even had a visit from Father Christmas! Thank you so much to the parents that helped with transport and support on the day and thank you to Father Christmas for visiting our children when it's his busiest time of the year. It was a truly magical day for them to remember forever.



As I'm sure you can imagine, booking trips is trickier than normal at the moment due to reduced availability. If your child's class hasn't been on a visit this term, worry not – the teachers have plans in place for them!

Eco Leaders



The garden planted from your kind donations in the summer term is the gift that keeps on giving! The eco-leaders were delighted to collect a crop of potatoes and decided to make crisps from them that everyone could enjoy. We discovered a healthy way to make delicious potato snacks (we just microwaved thinly sliced potatoes) and the eco-leaders offered them round to all children during lunch break – they were a huge success!

Mad Science

Mad Science club is now up and running and proving a very popular club that the children are thoroughly enjoying. In the first week, they learnt about lightning surges and high voltage using a plasma ball. This week the children explored magnetic pull and found magnetic objects. We have some very talented young scientists here at Little Leigh!

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Now that we are entering the most wonderful time of the year, I thought you might like to know about the festive activities we have planned for the next few weeks. I have popped a timetable of special events at the bottom of this letter but a few of these require a little extra detail:

Christmas Jumper Day – Please don't feel that you need to go out and buy new clothes for the children. You could take an eco-friendly approach of decorating a jumper that the children already own – we love a bit of creative DIY at our school!

Christmas Crafts – As we are not able to hold our Christmas Fair this year, we are holding a mini fund raiser. Every child will be given the opportunity to decorate their own Christmas jar. They will then measure and fill their jars with ingredients for a delicious festive treat. Each class will have their own market stalls outside their classrooms for parents/carers to purchase their home-made crafts. (The date for this may change should we have horrid weather on the day.)

Decorating the Little Leigh Eco Tree – our school Eco-leaders have written a letter to you all which I have attached to this newsletter. They are inviting the children to create their own decorations from recycled materials and bring them in to adorn the tree.

Singing activities – the advice we have received from the Public Health team is that classes that have met the 10% threshold of positive Covid cases should not be singing indoors. This could therefore jeopardise our plans to rehearse and record the children singing their Christmas songs. Clearly, this is very sad, but protecting the health of our children, families and community must take priority at this time. We will keep you updated on this.

Christmas Party Day – we are inviting the children to wear their party clothes for this fun-filled, festive day. There will be lots of exciting activities taking place in each class, including party games and food in the afternoon. Most exciting of all, we have booked a silent disco for the day!

The cost of this special day is just £2 voluntary contribution per child – a bargain! Please pay via your Parent Pay account – Mrs Carthy has it all set up for you.

Christmas Theme Day – this year, we are letting the children decide on the movie theme for the day. They will have a choice of 3 films: Santa Claus: The Movie, Arthur Christmas or The Snowman. Every child will have the opportunity to vote by placing a counter in a jar and the film with the majority of the votes will be our theme for the day. The children can come to school in their pyjamas and the teachers will have even more Christmas activities ready for them to enjoy on their last day of school. We will let you know the result of the children's votes nearer to the day.

Friday 3 rd December	Final day for Christmas cookie designs
Monday 6 th December	FOLLS Christmas surprise room
Tuesday 7 th December	Key Stage 1 rehearsing singing at the church
Wednesday 8 th December	Key Stage 2 rehearsing singing at the church
Friday 10 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Christmas Jumper Day (please see newsletter) ❖ School Christmas lunch ❖ Decorating the eco Christmas tree ❖ Key Stage 2 recording singing at the church ❖ Sale of children's Christmas crafts (see newsletter for more details)
Saturday 11 th December 2-4pm	Little Leigh village fete at the village hall. This isn't organised by school but you might want to pop along to enjoy the Christmas activities!
Monday 13 th December 3:30pm	FOLLS movie night
Tuesday 14 th December	Key Stage 1 recording singing at the church
Wednesday 15 th December	<p>Christmas Party Day – including the silent disco and party buffet!</p> <p>Please make your £2 contributions via your Parent Pay account.</p>
Thursday 16 th December	<p>Christmas Pantomime Day</p> <p>We are treating the children to a visit from '<i>Mr and Mrs Theatre Company</i>' who will be entertaining us with this year's exciting performance.</p>
Friday 17 th December	<p>Christmas Theme Day</p> <p>Please see above for more details</p>