



LADY BANKES PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter No.4

December 2024

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ambition, togetherness, opportunity, respect, curiosity, happiness



Dear Lady Bankes families,

What a busy term we have had! The Christmas plays performed by our youngest pupils have been magical and the children thoroughly enjoyed performing for their families. They did so well in front of audiences of over 100 each time. All these events take such a lot of practice, patience and preparation and I can't thank my amazing staff team enough for all their hard work. To have every child perform is incredible and inclusive. The sun was shining for our carols in the playground yesterday. The children thoroughly enjoyed singing for you, particularly Christmas Conga! Thank you to all our families who came along to watch and to all our families for supporting your children throughout the term.

We had so many trips, visitors, workshops and events that took place this term to enhance the children's learning across the school. We have already got lots more planned for next term including Year 5 who will be working with Barclays Bank and going on a trip to the British Museum, Year 2 will have a workshop with Stage Talent Academy, Year 6 are visiting the Battle of Britain Bunker in Uxbridge and Year 1 have virtual Polar Workshops from the Polar Museum, Cambridge, all in the first two weeks back in January!

A huge 'thank you' to FOLBA for all their hard work this term, as always. They have organised wonderful events for the school community to enjoy this term like the wonderful Christmas Fair. Thank you to all the volunteers who help out at the events. We are so grateful. The children from Reception to Year 6 had a great time watching 'Jack and the Beanstalk' which FOLBA kindly paid for. There was a large amount enthusiastic audience participation as you can imagine!

Schools have had their data for the academic year 2023/4 validated and for all reportable data our children last year did incredibly well for example 80% of our pupils in Year 6 achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined. The national figure is 61%. All our data for Year 6 last year was significantly above the national averages. This is testament to the continuous hard work of both our pupils and the staff. We are very proud.

We all hope that you and your families have a wonderful Christmas, a good rest and that 2025 brings you all you wish for.

Term begins again at 8.30am on Tuesday 7th January. We have a staff training day on Monday 6th January so the school is closed to pupils. We look forward to seeing the children safely back to school then.

Mrs Needs



Swimming Lessons

High quality, affordable swimming lessons in Ruislip for children aged 3-16.

Book Now

swimxcelerate.co.uk
swimxcelerate@gmail.com



from £6 per lesson



Step into Music Workshop

On Wednesday 15th January children in Year 2 will be taking part in a musical workshop. This will be followed by a performance to parents at 2.15pm. All parents welcome.

Diary Dates 2025

Monday 6th January

Staff Training Day (School Closed)

Tuesday 7th January

Term Begins at 8.30am

Monday 13th January

Clubs Start & Music Lessons Resume

Wednesday 15th January

Year 5 working with Barclays Banks
Assembly for Year 2 Parents @ 2.15pm

Thursday 16th January

Year 5 Trip to the British Museum
Year 1 Polar Explorers Workshop

Monday 20th January

School Council visiting Hillingdon Council

Wednesday 22nd January

9am 5CS Class Assembly

Friday 24th January

Year 6 Trip to the Bunker RAF Uxbridge

Wednesday 29th January

9am 5BR Class Assembly

Polite Notice

It has been reported that at the beginning of the day some children have been playing football /kicking a ball around in the EYE Nursery drive way. This is extremely dangerous as parents are regularly using the driveway to drop off and collect their children from the EYE Nursery.





Attendance December 2024

This time last year our attendance was 96.1%, this Christmas our attendance figure is 94.8%.
We have seen an increase in absence due to coughs and colds.

Some Reminders:

- it is fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold.

But if they have a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

- **Absence during term time will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances.**

If you choose to take your child out in term time, please complete an exceptional leave form which can be obtained from the main reception.

No holidays during term time will be authorised and in certain circumstances a School Holiday Penalty Fine may be incurred from the Attendance Support Team at the Local Authority.



Reminder that school starts at 8.30am.



Best Attendance - KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2)

Miss Day's class (2ED)

Least Lates - KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2)

Ms Barr's class (2KB)



Best Attendance - KS2 (Years 3 to 6)

Mr Bonnefoy's class (4MB)

Least Lates - KS2 (Years 3 to 6)

Miss Cronin's class (6KC)

Year group		% to date	Number of lates to date this month
Nursery	EYFS	88.2%	66
Reception	EYFS	65.4%	65
Year 1	KS1	94.3%	213
Year 2	KS1	95.4%	114
Year 3	KS2	95.1%	178
Year 4	KS2	95.0%	132
Year 5	KS2	95.1%	211
Year 6	KS2	93.9%	109

Attendance and Punctuality Matters!

Our current whole school attendance is 94.8%.

We hope that this academic year every child will strive to attend school every day.

Mrs Sue Smith, Attendance Officer

Click this link to watch the short video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdGOsRXHD8Y>



Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership



Reducing the Risks

- Reduce the risk of overheating
 - Batteries can get warm, allow them to cool before recharging
 - Always charge on a hard flat surface where heat can dissipate
 - Take care to avoid damaging a battery
 - Do not use a damaged battery
 - Never expose a battery to extreme temperatures
 - Check for any signs of a battery failing
- Follow the instructions!
 - Follow the manufacturer's instructions
 - Unplug chargers when finished
 - Only use the correct charger and only buy from reputable sellers - other sellers may not meet basic safety standards
- Where to charge your batteries
 - Never block your escape route with e-bikes or e-scooters
 - Store and charge away from a main through route or exit
 - Never leave a battery charging when you are asleep
 - Make sure you have an escape plan in place in the event of a fire
 - Fit smoke alarms in the area you use



LFB's Home Fire Safety Checker

What to do if your lithium battery catches fire

If the device starts smoking or catches fire:

- **GET OUT!**
- raise the alarm and **CALL 999** immediately
- **STAY OUT** and **do not** try to tackle the fire yourself

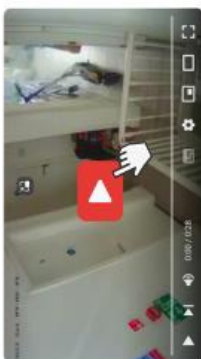
Reducing Fire Risk: E Bikes and E Scooters

Fires involving lithium batteries are the fastest growing fire risk in London.

In 2023 London Fire Brigade were called to, on average, an e-bike or e-scooter fire once every two days, a significant increase since the previous year. In 2022, they attended 87 e-bike and 29 e-scooter fires, a total of 116 fires.

Whilst E-Bikes and E-Scooters offer a great way round the city, if the batteries become damaged or begin to fail they can start incredibly ferocious fires. Lithium battery fires can spread quickly out of control, and within minutes have started a large fire, igniting combustible materials in close proximity.

When these batteries are charged in communal areas or escape routes, a fire breaking out can quickly block peoples ability to escape.



On average there was a fire every two days in 2023 in London. London Fire Brigade attended 143 e-bike fires along with 36 blazes involving e-scooters. Sadly, there were 3 deaths and around 60 injuries caused by these fires.

Many of these fires are caused by incompatible chargers, modifications to e-bikes, or faulty or counterfeit products which are purchased online. This includes chargers, lithium batteries and conversion kits for e-bikes.

London Fire Brigade's #ChargeSafe campaign wants to prevent fires in e-bikes and e-scooters and give simple safety tips to reduce the risk to the public and firefighters. Find out more:

#ChargeSafe

Sporting News

We took 16 Year 5 and Year 6 swimmers to St Helen's School in Northwood for a swimming gala. The team took part in a number of individual races and relays, swimming backstroke, breaststroke and front crawl. As well as winning medals in most of the relays, the team won a number of individual medals. Jacob got a bronze in the freestyle, Nieve, Niki, Daisy and Isla got silvers in backstroke and freestyle races. Leo, Oscar and Olivia won golds in freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke. It was an amazing performance from the whole team and such a fun event. Well done to everyone who took part.



Nursery



The nursery children have been busy preparing for their Christmas shows learning all the songs and actions. The shows were very entertaining and joyful! The children enjoyed their movie and Christmas jumper day watching 'Stickman' and 'The Gruffalo'. They had some lovely treats which had been organised by F.O.L.B.A. to make the day extra special.



They have learnt about Father Christmas and they had great fun going on a virtual ride on his sleigh. Each group have painted their own version of Santa. Every day, the children would come in to the start of the session looking for Elfie, Santa's elf who had been sent on a mission to check that the children were making good choices. Sami the squirrel has been making his appearance too. He has joined in with the groups, as the children's nursery attendance has been good. They met Sami's friend 'Tiger' who reminded the children to brush their teeth twice a day. Mrs Smith showed the children an action song reminding children how to brush their teeth properly.



The children have loved working in Santa's workshop, wrapping up presents and completing a variety of Christmas activities. Just recently, the children were able to wave at Santa and his elf, when they landed on the roof of Lady Banks Primary School.

There was great excitement! The nursery team would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your kind cards and gifts. We wish you all a merry Christmas and a very happy new year!



Reception

What a wonderful end to the term! After weeks of practising, the children gave spectacular performances of our Christmas nativity, *A Bundle of Joy*. Their enthusiasm and talent shone through, and we might just have a few budding actors in our midst!

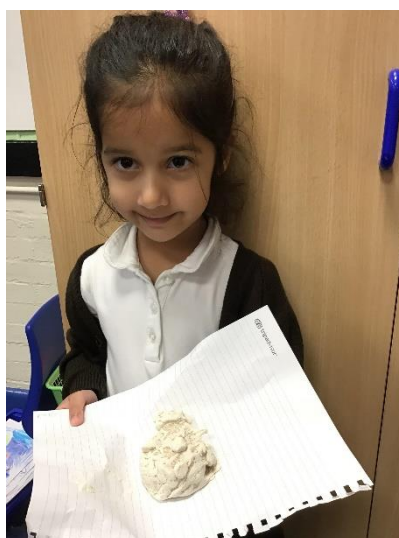
This term has been incredible. We've been amazed by the children's progress and their excitement in exploring both indoor and outdoor learning areas. Watching them grow, develop new skills, and expand their vocabulary has been truly rewarding. We couldn't be prouder of all they've achieved.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas break filled with family and festive fun. We can't wait to see you all in the new year!



Year 1

December has flown by. The children have excelled in their Nativity performances as; donkeys, shepherds and sheep. Thank you to all the families for supporting the children during these shows and providing costumes. We have had a pantomime, Christmas dinners and a visit from Father Christmas and his elf on the roof of the school building. We hope you have a wonderful break and we wish you a happy new year!



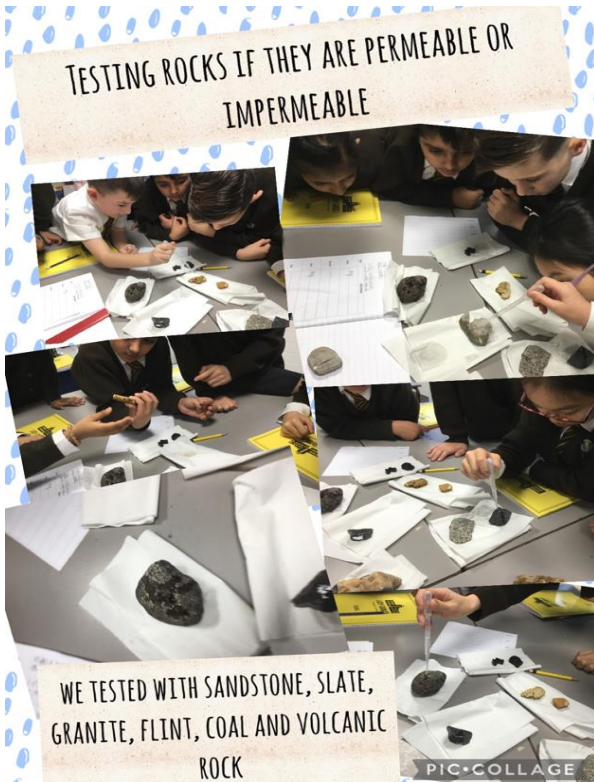
Year 2

It is hard to believe we have reached the end of our first term! The children have been very busy in the lead up to Christmas and have been enjoying the festivities. The children were brilliant in their Christmas Nativity and really enjoyed performing this to their friends and families. They have also been working hard to design and make their very own Christmas decorations! We were very impressed with their work and they have developed some great skills, including sewing. We are very proud of how hard the children have been working this term ☺. We hope you all have a wonderful, restful break and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!



Year 3

We are really enjoying life in Year 3. We have now concluded learning about the Stone Age! We are looking forward to learning about the Kingdom of Benin in the new year. In Science we have been learning about Rocks, specifically we have been testing which Rocks are permeable and which rocks are impermeable. We have also had a visit from Constable Kang about Personal Safety, we learnt all about how we can keep ourselves safe in our community.



Finally, we are all soooooo excited for Christmas! We really enjoyed the Panto this week and eating our school Christmas dinner with all the teachers.



Year 4

What an extremely busy term it has been! We have enjoyed trips to St Albans Verulamium and Cineworld to further our knowledge of the curriculum whilst also welcoming visitors to share experiences and lessons with us.

The children have worked tirelessly over the past few weeks to research, design, make and evaluate their own Christmas stocking. Through determination, perseverance and patience the children have developed their sewing skills, well done everyone! Here are some of them:



We are so proud of the children's achievements so far this year and are looking forward to see where our learning will take us next in the Spring Term.

We would like to wish all our Lady Bankes families a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year!

Year 5

We have recently enjoyed our swimming lessons. The children learnt lots of new skills, strokes and information about how to be safe in the water. We are really proud of how well all of the children behaved and participated in the swimming lessons. Some even got the chance to represent Lady Banks in a swimming gala too!



We are coming to the end of our learning on Ancient Greece, and have this week completed our DT project on Greek salads. We chopped up the vegetables, crumbled the feta cheese and made a dressing and tzatziki for our Greek feast. The children loved this activity and enjoyed trying some new foods.



We also enjoyed having the Police come in and talk to us about how to be safe online. We learnt about how to be safe when playing online games by making sure we do not share our login details and not to put our real names on our games. We also learnt how to protect ourselves from stranger danger online.



Finally, we would like to wish all our Year 5 children and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all back at school on Tuesday 7th January 2025!



Year 6

We have enjoyed a very busy few weeks in Year 6. The children have continued to work hard in lessons as we end some of our current topics.

We all enjoyed a trip to see The Lion King in theatre; the children were wonderfully behaved and were amazed by the talent in the show. We hope that it has inspired some future West End stars!

The children have thoroughly enjoyed all of the festive celebrations in school. We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing the children in January.



