



Parent Update Tuesday 8th December



Dear Parent/ Carer

A warm welcome to our last parent update of the year- where has the year gone! It has been a year that we will most definitely never forget with the arrival of COVID 19 in our lives. As we approach the Christmas break, all of us at Loirston would like to express our thanks for the support during these unusual and difficult times. We realise that the changes we have had to implement have not been easy for everyone and we appreciate your support with helping us to make the school the safest place it can be for our learners and staff.

The First Minister confirmed last week that the holiday period will remain the same as planned so as we enter our last few weeks of term, please find below the information that you will need to know.

Covid

Thank you for all your support with our current situation. During these unsettling times, we are guided by the Public Health who advise us and let us know what to do and when. We follow the guidance from the experts in regards to when and who we can inform. I am sure you will appreciate that Public Health are very busy and doing their very best to support us all.

Staffing

After 7 years at Loirston school, we are extremely sad to say goodbye to our Primary 6 teacher, Miss Cummings. Miss Cummings leaves us to move back to her home town in Ireland. She has been a valued member of the Loirston team and we will miss her very much but wish her lots of luck with her new venture back home.

The Senior Leadership Team are interviewing for Miss Cummings post this week and hope to let you know about her replacement before the end of term.

In other staffing news, we have successfully appointed 3 new PSAs who will begin their posts in the new year.

Lollipop Lady

We are very lucky to have May as our fantastic Lollipop Lady. May works hard outside the school to support the children to cross the road safely. The road around Loirston can get busy during drop off and pick up times, please encourage your child to walk towards May to get help with crossing the road safely so that they develop good road safety habits.

Mobile Phones

A reminder that pupils should leave mobile phones at home. Thank you for your cooperation and support with this.

Parent Council Meeting

Our final Parent Council meeting of the year will be held on Monday 14th December at 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome to join, the meeting will be held virtually at the link below.

<https://meet.google.com/bqa-ijjf-yda>



Showcasing the Learning

This week we are showcasing Primary 4 and Primary 5. Take a look at the links below! Please note, we will only feature those children that have given permission for us to do so.

Primary 4- <https://youtu.be/48jZFfsUVIY>

Primary 5- <https://youtu.be/puuMTOMnMec>

Christmas Reminders

These last few weeks, our Christmas activities will be in full swing. Below are the details of the festive fun!

Christmas Jumper Day

National Christmas Jumper Day is on Friday 11th December. Children are welcome to wear a Christmas top of their choice to school that day (preferable festive!).

Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch will be held on Friday 11th December. Lunch will be served as normal with the pupils in their bubbles.

21 Days of Christmas

Most Christmas panels are appearing on windows around the school. Each class has a different line from our personalised Loirston version of 12 days of Christmas (now known as 21 days of Christmas!). The Parent Council will kindly be sending out a 21 Days Hunt, this week, that you can complete with your child during the festive period. The hunt will be on from 4pm every day or any time during the Christmas holidays. Please remember to stick to social distancing guidelines when you are in the school grounds.

Christmas Celebration Day- Thursday 17th December

On Thursday 17th December we would like to invite the children to come to school with their 'festive party clothes'. The teachers are planning to have a fun day with the children which will take the place of the official party. We have booked an online pantomime for the children to watch that day and the Parent Council are kindly donating a drink and a snack for the children to have as they watch the panto- Thank you!

Sharing cards

A reminder that due to risk of contamination, sadly there will be no sharing of cards between any of us this year, this has come from local authority guidance. We would suggest that families make a card at home, then pop it in a window so that passers by can see it.

Christmas Colour Competition



This week in school the children can take part in a Christmas Colouring Competition. The Parent Council will collect them on Thursday and the winner will be announced on Monday 14th December. Prizes to be confirmed!

Christmas Gifts

A reminder of the decision that the staff took regarding gifts this Christmas...

Every Year the staff are overwhelmed by the kindness of the school community who send in gifts at Christmas. This year, staff have voted for the option of encouraging parents to donate to our chosen charity 'Cash for Kids'.

We are very aware that many families will find themselves in difficult situations financially due to the ongoing pandemic and we do not want the school to be an additional burden.

We do understand the need some of you will feel to send in gifts, but can we ask that you also take note of the impact on children who see their peers giving gifts to teachers, when they themselves are unable to.

If you do wish to thank teachers and staff for the work undertaken this year, we will still welcome emails to the school. These small words of kindness have a huge impact and are greatly appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff for all of their hard work and dedication over the term. It has been a term like no other and I am sure I speak for them all when I say that they are all ready for the festive break.

We hope all of our children have a great last few weeks and enjoy the festive fun. And to all of our families, we wish you all the best over the festive season and a very Merry Christmas and wonderful New Year when it comes.

Please continue to stay safe and take care,

Miss Watt and all at Loirston.

