Larkholme Primary School
News Bulletin

Windermere Avenue, Fleetwood, Lancashire, FY7 8QB.
t. 01253 874 024 e. office@larkholme.lancs.sch.uk

Friday 12th January 2024

Welcome

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Welcome back to the new school term. I hope that you have all had a lovely Christmas and feel rested for the new year ahead. In school, the run up to Christmas was truly wonderful and we enjoyed many events with the children. I hope you had lots of time to celebrate, have a rest and enjoy yourselves over the holidays. Getting up and out of the house on these January mornings seems hard after nearly two weeks off - but it has been fabulous to have everyone back in school. The children have been a delight to have back in school and are all eager and keen to learn and are happy to be back at school with their friends and teachers.
A HUGE thank you again to all of you who supported our school so well in the Autumn Term with our parental workshops, the Harvest Assembly, Parents' Evening and lots of Christmas events. We are looking forward to another busy term in school with lots of exciting things planned for your children.

Golden Ticket

This term we are going to be running our Golden Ticket raffle. Children may be awarded a Golden Ticket for showing respect, resilience, responsibility or good attendance/punctuality. The tickets will go into our raffle and those whose name is pulled out will be invited to take part in either the trip with Commando Dave (KS2) or to attend the mobile petting zoo (KS1).
We look forward to giving out Golden Tickets to all those children with exemplary behaviour and attendance.

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UK Health Security Agency reminds parents of back-to-school advice

Parents are urged to take simple steps to give their children the best start to the new school term and protect their communities following the Christmas break.

As levels of winter illnesses including flu, COVID-19 and norovirus continue to rise, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is reminding parents of 5 simple steps they can take to reduce viruses spreading in the community – helping their children make a healthy start to the year and minimising the impact of illness on attendance as schools head back and parents return to work.

Teach good hygiene habits

Encouraging good hand-washing habits is one of the most effective ways to stop the spread. Regularly wash hands in soap and warm water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser when convenient.

Using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, binning it and then washing hands will help prevent infection from spreading.

Stopping the spread of stomach bugs

Along with rising cases of norovirus, UKHSA has also been seeing higher levels of other gastrointestinal infections, such as Shiga toxin-producing E. coli.

If you or your child have diarrhoea and vomiting, washing your hands with soap and warm water and using bleach-based products to clean surfaces will help stop infections from spreading. Don't prepare food for others if you have symptoms or for 48 hours after symptoms stop.

If you are unwell, you should avoid visiting people in hospitals and care homes to avoid passing on the infection to those more vulnerable in these settings. Do not return to work, school or nursery until 48 hours after your symptoms have stopped.

Spot the signs of when to keep your child at home

While children are encouraged to stay in education or childcare with symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or slight cough (if otherwise well and do not have a high temperature), children should stay home from school or nursery if they're displaying the following symptoms:

- If your child has a fever and is unwell, they should stay home from school or nursery until the fever has passed and they are well enough to attend.
- If your child has diarrhoea and/or vomiting, they should stay off school or nursery for at least 48 hours after their symptoms clear up – this will help stop the spread of stomach bugs.

At this time of year, other types of illnesses that circulate are scarlet fever and chickenpox, as cases usually peak in late winter and early spring.

Symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, fever, swollen neck glands, a bumpy rash on the tummy, flushed cheeks and 'strawberry tongue'. If you suspect your child has scarlet fever, contact your local GP; and if diagnosed stay away from nursery or school for 24 hours after the first dose of antibiotics.

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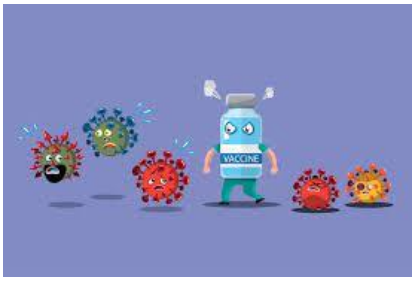
Chickenpox is highly contagious, with the most common symptom being an itchy, spotty rash. If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over.

Get vaccinated



Vaccination offers the best protection against flu and is given as a quick and painless nasal spray for children. However, vaccine uptake amongst pre-school children is one of the lowest, despite the illness being more serious for this ages group in some cases.

Children eligible for the flu vaccine include:

- children aged 2 to 3 years old on 31 August in 2023
- all primary school-aged children (reception to year 6)
- secondary school-aged children (year 7 to year 11)
- children aged 6 months and older with long-term health conditions

Similar to the flu vaccine, there has been a drop in uptake of routine childhood immunisations, which protect children against diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria and polio. You can take a look at the childhood vaccination schedule to make sure your child is up to date with all their vaccinations.

Use NHS resources

NHS UK provides easily accessible guidance for parents to help manage winter illness at home.

Dr Catherine Falconer, Deputy Director Health Equity and Inclusion Health at UKHSA, said:

The winter period can see an increase in some of the common seasonal viruses which disrupt children's education and cause more serious illnesses. As children head back to school, there are steps parents and families can take to keep a household healthy this January whilst also preventing infections from spreading when children are poorly. By following this guidance, parents are also protecting the wider community.

UK Health Security Agency press office

Elmer's Big Parade

We are very excited to be taking part in Elmer's Big Parade Blackpool.
https://elmerblackpool.co.uk/
We have collected the children's designs and used these to create our final Elmer design. Over the next few weeks the children will be painting Elmer ready for his big debut!
During this term we will be doing some fundraising towards our Elmer so that we can give him a permanent home here at Larkholme after his parade- so keep a look out for upcoming events!

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CLOSING DATE FOR RECEPTION 2024

If you have a child due to start primary school this September, the deadline for applications is Monday 15th January. You must still apply even if you have an older sibling attending your preferred school. If you have still yet to apply, please visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools or call 01524 581148.

Heads Up – New School Payment System

Over the coming months, we will be gradually introducing a new payment system for parents to replace our existing Scopay. The system will run alongside the current Teachers 2 Parents messaging system and will go live after the Easter holidays. We will be working towards providing a smooth transition and keeping you updated on a regular basis. In the meantime, please continue to use the Scopay payment system until notified otherwise.

PTFA

Your PTFA Needs You! Can you spare any time to help out our school PTFA? If the answer is yes then we want to hear from you.
At the end of each year, we inevitably lose members due to children moving onto high school and circumstances change. However, we now only have a very small team and this is starting to affect what we are able to do with regards to our fund-raising events due to their own work/home commitments. We know how crazy life can be! You can contact us via the PTFA page on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086426200177 or you can leave your details with the office and they will pass them on to us to contact you for the start of the new school year. Please remember, all the money raised goes to benefit our children, whether that be providing leavers hoodies, extra money for class provisions, subsidising trips etc. If we cannot hold the events we can't provide these extras.
So…… If you can spare just a little time to help us, we would love to welcome you on the team.

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Attendance

Yearly

National attendance data for schools covering academic year to date up to 11th December 2023

- Attendance rate across all schools = **93.2%**
- Absence rate across all schools = 6.8%
- Attendance rate for state-funded primary schools = **94.7%**
- Absence for state-funded primary schools = 5.3%
  (3.8% authorised and 1.4% unauthorised)
- Attendance rate for Larkholme = **94.4%**
- Absence rate for Larkholme = 5.6%
  (4.1% authorised and 1.5% unauthorised)

Well done Larkholme for having better attendance than the national attendance for this academic year to date! 😊

Weekly

National attendance data for schools in week commencing 11th December 2023

- Attendance rate across all schools = **91.6%**
- Absence rate across all schools = 8.4%
- Attendance rate for state-funded primary schools = **93.3%**
- Absence rate for state-funded primary schools = 6.7% (4.8% authorised and 1.8% unauthorised)
- Attendance rate for Larkholme = **94.3%** 😊
- Absence for Larkholme = 5.7% (4.3% authorised and 1.5% unauthorised)

Compared to this time last year our attendance has improved by 0.1%!

Please make a big effort to be in school on time every day.

Across the school we have had 32 lates and 542 minutes lost to learning this week.

This is too much valued learning time being lost. Please ensure your child is in school on time every day. ☹

Best Attenders

Well done to class 1S for having the best attendance over the last 2 weeks!! They achieved an amazing **100% attendance** for both weeks!!!!!!!

Remember that we miss you when you are not in school and we love seeing your smiling faces every day

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Diary Dates

Year 1 Visit to Fleetwood Methodist Church – Wednesday 24th January
Year 3 and 4 Visit to Liverpool World Museum – Thursday 1st February
Parents Evening for Class RI – Monday 5th February 3:30pm-5:30pm
Parents Evening for Class RB – Tuesday 6th February 3:30pm-5:30pm
Parents Evening for Year 1 to 6 – Thursday 8th February 3:30pm – 7pm (details to follow)
PTFA Break the Rules Day – Friday 9th February (more information to follow)
School Closes – Friday 9th February 3:15pm
School Opens – Monday 19th February 8:40am
Reception and Year 6 Height and Weight Checks – Wednesday 28th February
Non-Uniform Day for Chocolate Bingo Donations – Friday 8th March
Year 3 Easter service – Wednesday 27th March 9:15am – 10:15am
Easter Bingo – Wednesday 27th March 6pm – 7:30pm
School Closes – Thursday 28th March 2pm

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Glee/Choir (Year 3-6) – Tuesday 3:15pm-4pm
Comp Choir (Year 3-6) – Wednesday 3:15pm-4:15pm
Year 5 and 6 Athletics Club – Tuesday 3:15pm-4:15pm, last session 6/2/24 (currently full)
KS2 Cheerleading Club – Wednesday 3:15pm-4:15pm, last session 7/2/24 (currently full)
Future clubs are planned – watch this space.

Football Team Fixtures (note: these may be subject to change)

To be held at Poolfoot
Wednesday 17th January vs Breck
Wednesday 31st January vs Royles Brook
Wednesday 7th February vs St Wulstan's

Match Report

Year 5/6 boys football fixtures resumed on Wednesday after the Christmas break with a match against Chaucer. In a very even game with limited chances, Larkholme found themselves leading 2-1 at half time thanks to some excellent team play and two goals from Junior. The game remained tight into the second half when Chaucer equalised late on despite some super saves by Lenny in goal. The team, unwilling to settle for a point, fought back to find a winning goal with a couple of minutes left as Junior completed his hat-trick with a superb solo goal, making it 3-2. They were then able to see the game out with some great defending to make sure of the 3 points. Well played boys!
Final Score: Larkholme 3 - 2 Chaucer
Player of the Match: Junior

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Child Places in Each Year

We have places available in the following year groups: Reception, Y1, Y4 and Y5. If you know anyone who would like a place for their child at Larkholme, please ask them to apply through Lancashire County Council.

Online safety

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Wellbeing

Parental Mental Health Day

Parental Mental Health Day is on 27th January.
The theme this year is Celebrating Positive Relationships, so Fleetwood Town FC are inviting parents and carers to bring their children to come along to the Fleetwood vs Portsmouth fixture on 20th January.
Please click on the picture for a link to apply for tickets. Please be aware that tickets are limited.

THORNTON CLEVELEYS
SPORTS CLUB

c/o 45 Meadows Avenue, Thornton Cleveleys. FY5 2TW
Tel: 01253 869666
www.thorntoncleveleysfc.org
VAT No: 794 4907 78

Hello all,

Thornton Cleveleys under 8 Pumas are currently recruiting. We play our home games at a fantastic new facility on Gamble Road, Thornton, and play our league games in the Poulton and District league.
We are medium ability, and looking to add to our squad.

If you are interested and your child is in Year 3, then please give me a call and I would be happy to tell you more.

Many thanks

Steve Lucas (Coach)
tel 07890042430
3lucasa@gmail.com

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Step into Quality
SCHOOL GAMES PLATINUM
LOTTERY FUNDED
Attachment & Trauma Aware School ACEducation
Wild Challenge Silver
KIDSAFE UK Registered School