

Dear Parents,

We have had another very full half term with a wide variety of visits, visitors and events taking place for all year groups, both in and out of school. Our highlights have definitely been the Lindsey Lodge Sponsored Fun Run, Strider the walk to school mascot and Sir Nic Dakin MP visiting Leys Farm!

More than 40 children have already completed ten weeks of reading and have been able to choose a book for their reading reward prize. It is not too late for your child to start reading five times per week, and they do not have to be consecutive weeks, so please encourage your child to take part. From January we will also be opening up our libraries (both fiction and non-fiction) for children to borrow books, to further promote reading for pleasure and Y3 and Y4 will also have Reading Plus logins.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all staff and governors at LFJS for their support, hard work, and commitment as without them we could not provide the wide range of opportunities and experiences for our children. Your support and generosity are also greatly appreciated, and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2025!

Miss S. Thomas

Trips, Visitors and Other Events

This half term events have included:

- Raising over £200 selling poppies for the Royal British Legion;
- Y6 had a great residential visit to **Cliffe House** and we have already booked again for next October;
- **Anti-bullying week** raised awareness across school, with children understanding that bullying doesn't have to be every day but is repeated and targeted. Well done to the Buddy Mentors and School Council for leading whole school assemblies;
- A visit for Y3 and Y4 to the **Butterfly House**;
- Y5 and Y6 had a visit from **StarLincs Planetarium** and a space workshop;
- Y4 also took part in a **Water Safety** workshop;
- Y6 had a talk about **anti-social behaviour** in the local community led by the local PCSO and Neighbourhood Police officers;
- The **Science Sleigh Competition**, prizes to be given out in January;
- Every class joined in the **advent spiral** and shared their hopes, feelings, and things they are thankful for.

December has been very busy in school with children enjoying the Silent Disco, Christmas parties, the Dancing Beauty Pantomime and performing in the Christmas Celebrations for our families.

Well done to all those who donated to Lindsey Lodge. A huge thank you to the North Lincolnshire Council Transport Department for their generous donation. We hope to find out the amount raised soon and will let you know.

The Christmas Fair and Raffle raised an astounding £1620, thanks to your support as well as Curry's and Asda for their donations! We will be purchasing a PE kit in the new year for taking part in sports competitions and developing our outdoor play and learning experiences. Please do provide feedback of what went well and what could be improved for next year!

Next half term will include:

- Clubs for the New Year are available on ParentPay and will begin the first week back;
- Continuing to promote more pupils walking to AND from school;
- Pedestrian Skills for Y3 on 28th January and 4th February;

- NSPCC Number day;
- Scholastic Book Fair in February; and much, much more!

Reading and Homework

Please encourage your child to access their logins on TT Rockstars, Spelling Shed, Dyslexia Gold and Reading Plus, as well as reading their reading books, as part of their homework each week. Little and often is always the best policy! Thank you for your support.

We have continued our reading reward system for children reading at home **five times a week!** Great start but it is never too late to join in!

Walk to School, Parking and Road Safety

Please park responsibly as we do not want there to be accidents or incidents.

Please walk to school if you can and either leave your car at home or **'Park and Stride'**. Y5 and Y6 children can walk to and from school, with your permission.

We also have a number of parents or family members attempting to park in the school car park. This is a polite reminder that this car park is for **staff and blue badge permit holders parking only**.

The children will be designing posters or leaflets (in the new year) to win more WOW badges to promote **'Park and Stride'** and walking to and from school.

In school, in the upcoming half term, we will be learning more about road safety/pedestrian skills, fire safety, stranger danger, vape and drugs awareness and internet/online safety.

Attendance

At the end of the last academic year, we were proud to have achieved a certificate for being in the **top 25%** of primary schools in the country for our attendance! Unfortunately, this term we haven't got off to the best of starts with many families taking holidays in term time.

Only 22 children have achieved a 100% attendance certificate this term. However, many families have been working with school and have received positive messages for working in partnership to improve their child's attendance. Thank you to all of you for your support.

Please be aware of some changes to the guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

If the leave of absence has not been authorised by the Headteacher, the information will be submitted to the Education Inclusion Service who may issue a Penalty Notice or take other legal intervention if there are 10 or more consecutive or non-consecutive unauthorised absence sessions (5 days) within a 10 week rolling period. Penalty Notices were introduced as an alternative to prosecution but if they fail to act as a future deterrent, prosecution may be considered, rather than a further Penalty.

- If paid within 21 days, the Penalty Notice is £80 per parent or carer, per child
- If paid after 21 days, but within 28 days, the Penalty Notice increases to £160 per parent or carer, per child
- If the Penalty Notice remains unpaid after 28 days, this may result in prosecution.

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued within a three-year period for unauthorised absence the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

The third time an offence is committed (within a three-year period) a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case could be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in Criminal records and fines of up to £2,500. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court may show on any parent's future DBS certificate for to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

Term Time Dates 2025

Spring 1 - Monday 6th January 2025 to Friday 14th February 2025 **(8:30am start and 3pm finish)**

Spring 2 - Monday 24th February 2025 to Friday 4th April 2025

Summer 1 - Wednesday 23rd April 2025 to Friday 23rd May 2025

Summer 2 - Monday 2nd June 2025 to Friday 18th July 2025.

Take a look at our school website: www.leysfarm.org.uk and join our @leysfarm X (formerly Twitter) feed.