



Loanends Primary School

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NOVEMBER UPDATE 2023

27 October 2023

Dear Parent

I should be grateful if you could please note the following:

- **Walk for Water:** Thank you to all parents and carers who sponsored the pupils for the Walk for Water, led by Stand By Me. This was organised in place of donations for harvest. We are delighted to report that £928 has been raised. This is such a wonderful amount and will help those struggling with basic care and hygiene in Ethiopia.
- **School Photographer:** The photographer will be in school on **Monday 6 November** to take photos of school families, individuals and P1 and P7 whole class photos. Please note that we will assume that permission has been granted unless you contact the office to opt out.
- **Poppy Appeal:** This year we are supporting the Annual Poppy Appeal between 24 October and 10 November. A Seesaw message has already been sent with details and photos of items available for purchase. These items will be taken around the classes each day for purchasing with cash please.
- **Open Morning - Wednesday 15 November:** In Loanends Primary School we take a pride in caring for each child and giving them the best possible start to their education. We are currently taking the names of children who will be starting school in September 2024. If you, or anyone known to you, would like to enrol a child in Loanends Primary, please give the details to Mrs Bowman, Mrs McComb or myself and encourage them to attend the Open Morning or to get in touch with the school.

There will be three sessions. These should be booked via the online booking system on the school website www.loanendsps.com. 10:45am, 11:00am and 11:15am. The tour of the school should take about 30 minutes.

- **Dinner and Healthy Break Payments:** Could I please ask that payments for Healthy Break and Dinners are made promptly so our payments to EA School Meals service are on time. Also, please endeavour to book dinners and healthy breaks in advance as this aids the kitchen with numbers and preparation.
- **Flu Vaccinations:** Friday 17 November. All parents should have received the permission slip.
- **The Board of Governors Annual Report 2022-2023** is now available. Please contact the school office should you require a copy.
- At the end of September, the Governors accepted Mrs Bennett's resignation from her P2 teaching post. We want to thank her for her years of service to the school and wish her every success for the future. There will be no staff changes in the immediate future.
- **Car Park Safety:** ONLY PARENTS WHO HAVE PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE SCHOOL ARE PERMITTED TO USE THE STAFF CAR PARK. The staff car park should not be routinely used by parents. It is frustrating that a few parents or those collecting children continue to flout the rules so please do not be offended if we give you a reminder and ask you to move your car. Please inform any carer/grandparents collecting pupils.
- **Speed Limits:** Please remember! There is a 20mph speed limit **outside** the school when the lights are flashing. The speed limit **inside** the car park is 5 mph. I'm aware that this has almost disappeared on the road at the entrance gate but please do be mindful that this is the limit within the school grounds
- **Protocols:** You are already familiar with the protocols of referring FS/KST1 matters to Mrs Watson and KST2 queries to Mr Hyde. Of course, your concern or query should always, in the first instance, be addressed to the class teacher. It would be most helpful, if you could give some indication of the nature of your query to the Secretary, so that the appropriate member of staff can prioritise responses. Any SEN enquiries should be directed to Mrs Hegarty.

- **Parental Access to Playgrounds:** Please do not enter the playgrounds unless you have been given permission to do so to assist an upset or unsure pupil to their classroom door.
- **Absences:** Please ensure that you provide a reason for your child's absence. Whilst telephone calls to school are helpful and appreciated, I would stress the importance of sending written confirmation. **This can now be done on the school website. Reporting pupil absence is on the *home page*. Please complete the quick and easy online form; the school office receives an email with the form attached. Easy!**

Attendance is checked monthly in school. We are obliged to refer those pupils falling below 85% (unless they have had a prolonged illness) to the Education Welfare Officer. Also, a record of "lates" is digitally recorded on the School Management System Database.

I would encourage you, as mentioned on the Annual Update to check out DENI: Miss School: Miss Out." <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations/miss-school-miss-out-strategy-improving-pupil-attendance>.

The most recent DENI Circular states: *"Missing school (either face-to-face or virtual learning at home) at any time is detrimental to a child's education therefore family holidays or other appointments e.g. doctor or dentist should be arranged, where possible, outside school hours. Schools must discourage holidays during term time as this can have a significant impact on pupils' learning. Family holidays taken during term time, which have not been agreed, will be categorised as an unauthorised absence."*

- **Head Lice:** Very occasionally parents report incidences of head lice; parents need to check children for lice on a regular basis. Research indicates that one in five children will have head lice at any one time. Responsibility to manage head lice lies with the parent and in an effort to help all parents do this, I would refer you to www.onceaweektakeapeek.co.uk. This will help dispel some of the myths and enable you to be proactive in treating head lice should they occur. Advice can also be obtained from the Pharmacist.
- Please do not send **nuts or food items containing nuts** into school. We have a child with a severe nut allergy. Please be mindful of this and other dietary needs if sending in any food items or treats into school. Thank you!

ADVANCE NOTICE

- **Turning on of Christmas Tree Lights: Friday 1 December at 1:15pm** followed by a small craft sale by ECO Club and P6 girls.
- **Christmas Dinner - Thursday 7 December:** Pupils may wear Christmas Jumpers instead of their school jumper. £1 should be paid by SchoolMoney App. All proceeds are going to the PTAFA.
- **KST1 Performance:** Please note change of dates. The performance, "Fireside Nativity," will now be at **10:00am on Thursday 14 and Friday 15 December**. More information will follow with regard to tickets. KST2 pupil will have the opportunity to see the performance beforehand and therefore will not be permitted to leave class to see the performance with their parents.
- Many parents will be aware that this year's show is Annie which will be performed by KS2 pupils in February. Loanends has a reputation for quality shows and as always, we want to give both actors and audience the best possible experience. For the past number of years, we have muddled through by borrowing sound equipment from local churches and post-primary schools and we have been very grateful. However, this often causes difficulties and frustration and can be disappointing if a pupil with a smaller part cannot be heard. It would be our aspiration to enlist the support of a professional sound team to assist us this year. One of the ways we hope to raise funds is through advertising on the monthly updates, the KS1 Nativity programme and the main programme for the Annie show. Suggested costs would be as follows:
 1. £10 per month on the Update (advertiser to choose the number of months).
 2. £5 for advertising the Nativity programme.
 3. £10 for advertising in the Annie programme.

If you would be interested in this, please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely

Linda Armour

Principal