



Littledean C of E Primary School Newsletter 11

22nd November 2024

Dear Parents,

Library Books



Chestnut Class are developing a real love of reading which is a joy to see! However, many children seem to have a large number of books in their drawers, bags and maybe even at home. We are worried that soon the library and book corner will be bare so are holding a “Book Amnesty” so that all of these extra books can be returned. Please have a dig around in bags and at home to see if you have any school books which you are no longer reading. Thank you.

Emergency Closure Procedures

As the snow caused a little excitement earlier in the week, this is the procedure we follow if we do need to close the school. Please ensure that we have up to date contact details for you.

If we need to close the school we will:

- Send you a text message / email through Eschools
- Announce the closure on Radio Gloucestershire – 104.7 fm
- Post the closure on <https://closures.gloucestershire.gov.uk/> (please note new address)
- Post the closure on our school website www.littledeanprimary.co.uk
- Post the closure on our X/twitter feed - @littledeansch
- If possible a member of staff will be on site to advise of the closure.

Holly Leaves Class

This week Holly Leaves has enjoyed all things shape and snow!

In maths we have been learning about the different properties of shapes, we drew triangles and squares in the snow, went on a shape hunt, decorated triangles to make a Christmas tree and cut out triangles to make snowflakes.

In English we have been learning to write our letters and CVC words in some glittery flour that was a lot warmer than the snow.

Even though it was very cold we all enjoyed wrapping up and enjoying the snow in forest schools.



Maple Class

Maple Class had a great time completing outdoor learning activities in the Forest School area on Tuesday - the snowy day! After being taught how to lash two sticks together, they were challenged to build a stretcher for a teddy. Working in pairs or groups of three they developed their problem-solving and teamwork skills - this is something we have been working on in PSHE lessons.



Free School Meals – Holiday Fund

Gloucestershire County Council have asked we share the following information with you regarding the holiday voucher scheme for children entitled to free school meals.

We would like to make you aware of the holiday Free School Meal (FSM) voucher scheme that Gloucestershire County Council is currently offering to families in Gloucestershire.

Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for December 2024 Winter holiday will be open from midday 25 November until midday on 6 December. Voucher emails will be sent from week commencing 16 December. Please check junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there. If parents have not received their vouchers by 23 December, please encourage them to submit a query via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#).

This Winter holiday period, Gloucestershire County Council will provide families in receipt of Free School Meals, who sign up to this offer, with vouchers to assist with food costs during the school holidays. The vouchers are funded through grant funding we have received, and they are separate to that of term time free school meals.

The scheme is for children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (benefits-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. Families who have signed up to the scheme or who are already registered will receive a total of £15 per child.

To find out more about the scheme and to apply, parents can visit our [FAQs | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for December 2024 holiday vouchers- they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact us with any changes to their circumstances (e.g. if the number of children eligible increases or decreases). To ensure we reach all those who are eligible, we are encouraging parents that have not previously signed up, to sign up as soon as they can.

Please note we check eligibility for the scheme by cross-referencing with the term-time free school meal register, so please make sure parents are registered beforehand. They can register by visiting the [apply for free school meals](#) page.

Using vouchers – vouchers need to be used will only be awarded once the parent has registered for the scheme and cannot be backdated. Vouchers are valid for 6 months, although should be used in the holiday period in which they are awarded. If vouchers are not claimed and have expired, they cannot be re-issued. Vouchers not received should be queried via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#) by the end of the holiday period.

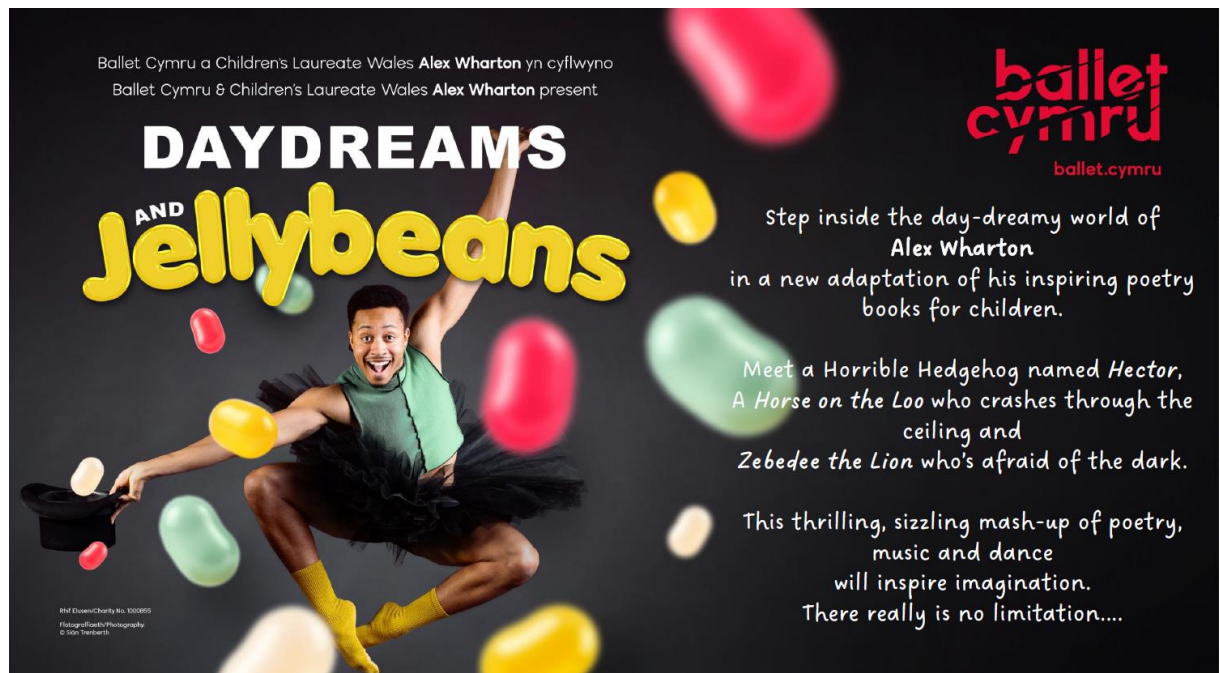
For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please ask them to submit an update existing details request via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#) so we can update their account, as details are not automatically updated.

Author Alex Wharton

You may remember a visit from the author Alex Wharton last year, he is set to perform his latest ballet "Daydreams and Jellybeans". A magical, entertaining and celebration of Alex's poetry through music and dance....

Our closest performance is in Newport, tickets can be booked at the following link:

[Live | Alexander Wharton \(alexwhartonpoet.co.uk\)](http://alexwhartonpoet.co.uk)



Ballet Cymru a Children's Laureate Wales **Alex Wharton** yn cyflwyno
Ballet Cymru & Children's Laureate Wales **Alex Wharton** present

DAYDREAMS AND Jellybeans

**ballet
cymru**
ballet.cymru

Step inside the day-dreamy world of
Alex Wharton
in a new adaptation of his inspiring poetry
books for children.

Meet a Horrible Hedgehog named *Hector*,
A Horse on the Loo who crashes through the
ceiling and
Zebedee the Lion who's afraid of the dark.

This thrilling, sizzling mash-up of poetry,
music and dance
will inspire imagination.
There really is no limitation....

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Photography: Photographie
© Nick Townsend

www.alexwhartonpoet.co.uk



Christmas Tree Festival at St Stephen's Church

Holly LeavesClass are decorating a Christmas tree for St Stephens Church Christmas Tree Festival again this year, this week we have been threading popcorn! To find out the theme of our Christmas tree it can be viewed at St Stephens Church between Friday 29th November and Sunday 1st December

Christmas Tree Festival
St Stephen's Church
Belle Vue Rd, Cinderford, GL14 2AA

Friday 29 November, 10 am - 7 pm
Ladies' Shopping Evening, 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm

Saturday 30 November, 10 am - 5 pm
Community Christmas Concert, 7 pm

Sunday 1 December, 12 noon - 5 pm
Service amongst the trees, 11 am
Looking for the Light Service, 6 pm

DECORATIONS,
FOOD, CAKES,
DRINKS, MUSIC,
TWINKLY LIGHTS
&
LOTS OF FESTIVE
ATMOSPHERE

FREE ENTRY

Cinderford Churches

Fairtrade at St Stephen's

Friends Christmas Fair

Thank you for your kind donations of jingle jars, bottles and chocolate for the Friends Christmas Fair. We are very much looking forward to their Santa's Christmas Boot Fair on Friday 29th November starting at 3.10.

We ask that you try to sell the raffle tickets issued to you if you can. Please return all unsold, sold tickets and money to school by Wednesday 27th November. More tickets are available from the school office. Thank you.

To make the Fair successful the Friends need volunteers to help either before the day, on the day setting up, running stalls, or helping to clear away. All money raised goes to the school.

Also we will be asking for donation of cakes for our refreshment stall on Friday 29th November.



Advance Notice – Last Day of Term

The last day of term for the children is Thursday 19th December 2024. We ask that children bring in a packed lunch as hot meals will not be available. A packed lunch can be ordered from Caterlink on the usual weekly menu

- ✚ 12.45 Pre-School will close for the holiday
- ✚ 1.00 Christmas Service at St Ethelberts Church, all welcome to attend
- ✚ 2.00 Parents to collect children from School as school closes for the Christmas Holiday

Pantomime – Friday 13th December 2024

A reminder that the whole school will be attending the Roses Theatre in Tewkesbury on Friday 13th December to see the Pantomime Cinderella.

We ask for a donation of £12.50 to cover the cost of the theatre ticket and transport to and from Tewkesbury, please pay through our online payment system at www.parentpay.com.

If you require a barcode letter to pay at paypoint, nearest is in Littledean Stores, please ask at the school office

Should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Packed lunches will be required on the day, these can be ordered through caterlink on the usual menu.



caterlink
keeping the imagination

Christmas Lunch Menu

Wednesday 18th December

Christmas Turkey with Roast Potatoes,
Stuffing, Sausage and Gravy

Or

Parsnip and Sweet Potato Loaf, Potatoes,
Stuffing and Gravy

With:

Peas, Carrots,
Cranberry Sauce

Followed by:

Decorated Christmas Cookie

Please return before: 2nd December 2024

Childs Name Class



Term Dates

These are also available on our website

2024 / 2025 –

Term 2 Monday 4th November 2024 – Friday 20th December 2024

Term 3 Monday 6th January 2025 – Friday 14th February 2025

Term 4 Monday 24th February 2025 – Friday 11th April 2025

Term 5 Monday 28th April 2025 – Friday 23rd May 2025

Term 6 Monday 2nd June 2025 – Monday 21st July 2025

INSET Day 3 20th December 2024

INSET Day 4 11th April 2025

INSET Day 5 21st July 2025

Holiday Requests

Please remember that the Government's guidance remains very clear that we cannot authorise holiday requests in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. A Request for Leave of Absence form can be found on the school website at the following link or from the school office:

https://www.littledeanprimary.co.uk/website/attendance_at_school/169684

You may be issued with a penalty notice for taking your child out of school during term time. Please note that a penalty is issued to each parent for each child taken out of school. A Penalty Notice is a fine of £80 if paid within the first 21 days which increases to £160 if paid between 21 and 28 days. Thereafter, if the penalty remains unpaid this may lead to prosecution through the Magistrates' Court.

Diary Dates

Thursday 28 th November	Visit from Bishop Robert
Friday 29 th November	Friends 'Santa's Christmas Boots' Fair
Wednesday 4 th December	Holly Leaves Nativity at St Ethelberts Church 9.15 a.m
Wednesday 4 th December	Governors Learning Walk
Tuesday 10 th December	Holly Berries Christmas Performance – afternoon
Wednesday 11 th December	Holly Berries Christmas Performance - evening
Friday 13 th December	Whole School visit to Roses Theatre Tewkesbury
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Lunch / Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas Service at St Ethelbert's Church
Wednesday 15 th January	Young Voice Concert – Birmingham
w/c Monday 12 th May	Year 6 SAT's