

Greetings to everyone in the Lonsdale School community,

Out and about for the weekly shop on a bitterly cold late November Saturday, I headed indoors to escape the wind and found myself amongst the shelves of Christmas candles in my local supermarket - couldn't resist buying one or two.

I'm all for lighting candles in the shortest and darkest days of winter. A couple on the kitchen table when I get home from school and a handful of tea lights in their glass holders on a side table in the living room. Something makes a room look completely different when it is lit by candlelight. You see new shapes and shadows and the soft warm glow is so relaxing and reassuring. By the way, have you noticed that each candle burns differently?



In a way, what we do at Lonsdale is about lighting up new experiences for our pupils, reassuring them and building the confidence to learn new skills and helping them to believe they can do anything they wish because each of them is different - their own special person.

In the challenging times we're living through, I am so proud that we've been able to continue lighting up our love of learning and that so much has been achieved. Please revisit all of our wonderful newsletters from the autumn term to see what our pupils have been learning. This week's newsletter is a celebration of the festive season and the joy of being together.

<https://www.lonsdale.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Learning%40Lonsdale+Newsletters&pid=28>

I would like you to join me in wishing all the best to Ms Tanton who will be retiring after a successful 40+ years in teaching. Ms Tanton is excited to spend more time with her lovely grandchildren and doing her craft hobbies. We are also saying goodbye to Mr Matariro, our REP Manager, who will be moving to a new role at the end of January 2022 and also Rebecca Joolia who will be leaving us on the last day of term. On behalf of the school, I would like to thank them for their support and commitment to our school.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Mooney, our new Secondary and 6<sup>th</sup> Form English teacher, from January 2022. Mrs Mooney has an extensive experience in SEND and teaching in Special Schools. Welcome to our team!

I am grateful to our staff who haven't for one moment given up on their ambitions for our pupils, whatever the demands of the pandemic. We couldn't have got to where we are without our families and parents who help us to believe in what we do.

It is Christmas and, for me, lighting a candle will be a mark of hope for the future - a reminder of how we can bring light into the dark, even in the depths of winter.

I wish you all hope and happiness as Christmas arrives, the year ends and 2022 begins.

PS don't forget to put out your Christmas candles before you go to bed....! There is always tomorrow to light another.



Handwritten signature of Annemari Ottridge.

Annemari Ottridge  
Headteacher

