

Learning @ Lonsdale

Weekly Newsletter: Friday 14th December 2018



Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 19th December—Christmas Dinner and Christmas Disco
Thursday 20th December—End of Term, school finishes at 1.30pm
Tuesday 8th January—Pupils return to school

A list of dates for the academic year can be found on the school website.

Whole School News

This week's Swimmers of the Week is Curtis for consistently trying hard in every lesson — Well done!

Please support us in raising money for the National Aids Trust by sending in copper or silver coins to fill our Freddie Mercury poster. Every pupil who adds a coin or two to the poster will receive a red ribbon as a thank you. Your support is much appreciated!

On Wednesday night, we held the REP Christmas Carol Concert. The children were accompanied by Alan and his Brass Band, who performed amazingly well and accompanied the students, staff and parents who attended. Everyone had a wonderful time singing along, and we all learned how to sign the words to "We Wish You a Merry Christmas". Thank you to Miss Sumner and Donna for organising such a wonderful evening, and to Sam and Alison from the admin office for the refreshments after the concert.

Congratulations to everyone in Primary for the fantastic performance of their Nativity this morning. All the children performed superbly, thank you to all staff in the Primary Team for all their hard work. Photos will soon be available to view on the school website.

Today we also saw a huge variety of Christmas jumpers around school. Some had baubles, some with lights and some with sequins. The school has started looking very festive indeed. Many classrooms have been lovingly decorated, and our Christmas Post Box continues to receive many cards every day. If you still have to write some, please do. Our Post Box is still open! We are now all looking forward to the Christmas Dinner next Wednesday. On Thursday will be our last day of the term, and we will all get together to sing with our drivers and escorts just after 1pm before going home at 1.30pm. From all of us at Lonsdale, we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy holiday!

Primary News

Ash: Ash Class have been busy making table decorations for Christmas dinner next week. The children have been decorating their classroom and Christmas tree and making Christmas cards, and they have also been decorating their plant pots—the bulbs are growing well! They have been very busy practising and performing in the Primary Nativity and practising our gross and fine motor skills, as well as squeezing in some Maths and Phonics work.

Birch: Birch Class would like to start our learning news this week by thanking everyone that supported our Christmas play! We have had so much fun creating it, and the children worked so hard. We hope you enjoyed it! We have continued with our individual Maths and English targets this week, and have been busy finishing off our unit on shapes. We have also been busy making our table centrepiece for the competition at Christmas dinner on Wednesday. Our theme is 'ice skating'. Birch Class created figures for their Christmas Dinner table, they chose colours of different card body parts, which, with some help, they then assembled with paper-fasteners to create articulated skating figures, each representing themselves as they then added photographs of their faces to the heads! We took a break from the Christmas play for Music, and enjoyed playing instruments and singing some Christmas songs.

Elm: Elm class have been busy making final preparations for the play on Friday. The children have been making a Christmas tree decoration, finishing their Christmas card and enjoying listening to lots of Christmas stories. The Funky Pie Group welcomed two of the Funky Pie staff on Thursday to work with them on their Funky Pie Blogs.



Primary News

Oak: In their last two weekly Art sessions, Oak Class worked industriously together to create an alien spaceship for the tremendous Primary Nativity Play. It was enjoyable messy work, but their teamwork and co-operation was greatly impressive, and using various rollers, large brushes and combinations of paint colours, they managed, with great independence, to transform very large pieces of old cardboard into a metallic-looking structure! This week, we have been very busy off timetable. We have been rehearsing our lines and songs ready for our Christmas play on Friday. We have used our creative skills and have made our Christmas Dinner Table decoration, along with a Santa that very closely resembles Beaker from the Muppets! We had a fun on Monday afternoon playing games and singing songs with a class from St Nicholas School, who Miss Rose taught on her placement. In Cooking, we made some very sticky baubles.

Secondary News

CF: In Science, pupils completed their food tests to see which foods contained glucose and protein, using Biurets and Benedict's solutions. They made observations of the results and recorded these on a table, comparing the outcomes to their initial predictions. In English, the book study of 'Grandpa's Great Escape' has continued, and pupils have completed their news articles or wanted posters to help find Granddad, using a variety of literacy skills. They have now begun to recount their memories of a day out with either, family or school. In Maths, pupils have practised their knowledge of place value and used the column method to add or subtract numbers up to four digits.

JB: For the last two Tuesday Art sessions, 4JB have been studying and exploring Perspective, and the work of pioneering 17th Century architect Filippo Brunelleschi, and they began creating a One-Point Perspective view on paper. This week, most completed some fine Art homework, with some superbly-realised drawings of their homes, employing perspective, and they developed their vocabulary by providing definitions of Vanishing Point and Orthogonal Lines. It's technical stuff, but once the principles and techniques of Perspective are understood and mastered, the skills can be more freely applied to creative pursuits. In Biology this week, 4JB have been studying genetic variation. They have constructed punnett squares to show how variation is achieved when parents pass their genes on to their offspring. They have learnt about dominant, recessive and co-dominant genes and found out that Henry VIII was wrong to blame his wives for not bearing him children. They have spent a proportion of their time creating the table decoration for the Christmas Dinner table, this has involved the whole class and a variety of craft techniques.

JW: The cleaners probably won't thank us for what we did to the classroom on Tuesday, and I suspect there will be flour engrained into its corners for years to come, but it was worth it for the phenomenal salt-dough decorations the class created. We've also spent some time this week creating a zip wire for our Elf on a Shelf and looking at the science of Christmas; how fast does Santa need to travel to get all the way around the world? 3JW also wrote some outstanding prequels and sequels to 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas' in their English lessons – how did he become so Grinchy and what happened the following Christmas? In K&U, we completed research into religious rules for clothing and dress across the main religions and created independent PowerPoints using our ICT skills. Some pupils also learned about some traditions for weddings.

MB/SH: Despite lots of coughs and colds going around this week, the children have enjoyed carrying on work around 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. In Science, they learnt how some animals hibernate, migrate or adapt in winter and sorted animals which do/do not hibernate. They have nearly finished the Christmas table decorations and are looking forward to the special lunch next Wednesday. In Maths, they have continued to learn about money. They certainly enjoyed spending it on our Christmas shopping trip last week in Welwyn! The presents are all wrapped and on their way home to you now.

MW: This week, the students enjoyed cooking their own Christmas lunch. We made carrot and potato soup, sausages, mash & broccoli and chocolate brownies (we hope you enjoyed the ones we sent home!! In the afternoon, we watched 'Charlie & the Chocolate Factory', which we have been reading in English. In Maths, we have continued to develop our money skills. We all thoroughly enjoyed our trip to the Gordon Craig Theatre to see 'Snow White' on Friday.

SP: This week, we have finished our topic about the seasons, we have been making our table decoration for our Christmas meal next week, and, obviously, we have been decorating the classroom. Alongside this, we have been working as Scientists and Engineers to



Secondary News

prevent the 'Zombie Reindeers' from taking over the world. The class have been working out what certain scientific words mean, solving dingbats and building catapults to stop the hordes of Zombie Reindeers' from attacking Lonsdale School. We have tested our catapults and decided which style we will use, ready for Monday, when the hordes are due to attack!

Upper

5LH: 5LH Class made their lunch this week, Sticky barbeque chicken, potatoes wedges and carrots. They also made carrot cake and chocolate muffins. The BTEC Drama, students had their practical exam this week. Despite being nervous, they performed really well. 5LH have been very busy preparing a stall for both, the evening REP Christmas Carol Concert and the Primary Carol Concert. They have managed to sell the majority of the products that they made to friends and family and are reporting a healthy profit. They have also conducted a stock take and compiled a shopping list to restock the tuck shop after Christmas. Some of the boys went out on their ice-skating trip, which they really enjoyed, we even managed to get Jason standing up and skating with some help. A special thanks to Anna Drury (Governor) for coming along. After a spot of lunch, the boys managed to fit in a bit of Christmas shopping, too.



5SN: 5SN Class have been learning about safety when out and about and the Green Cross Code and also about safety in the kitchen. They have also been learning about where food comes from and how it grows. In Cooking this week, pupils learned how to make a Bacon/Egg /Sausage roll. With support, pupils fried the bacon and egg and cooked the sausage in the oven, learning how to be safe when frying food. In Numeracy this week, pupils developed their money skills, money recognition and addition to purchase items. In Literacy this week, students have been developing their comprehension skills through learning about the Dragon in Harry Potter and have made Dragon Eggs in Creative.

REP

In REP this week, the pupils were presented with a new PS4 console with games. Some ladies from the local Nationwide Building Society had been selling books to fundraise money so they could offer a group of pupils a gift for Christmas, they chose Lonsdale Residential as their choice for receiving the donation. On Thursday evening, REP had their annual Christmas Carol Concert, the pupils had a fantastic time singing and performing for many guest, parents, grandparents and friends. They were accompanied by the brass band which has been supporting Lonsdale for the last 25 years. After the concert, guests and pupils were treated to a mince pie and hot chocolate.

