



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.



Annemari Ottridge  
Headteacher



# Information and Dates for your Diary

Please see below some diary dates for you:

End of Term 17th December 2021, Happy Christmas!

Staff Inset Day 5th January 2022, Pupils return to School 6th January 2022

Half Term 14-18th February 2022

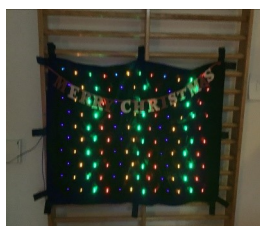
End of Term Friday 1st April



Please note that all EHCP Annual Reviews will have the option to be conducted remotely via Teams or telephone or can be attended in person. A list of dates for the academic year can be found on the website.



## Whole-School News



The last week of the term was an exciting one. On Thursday and Friday, there was a Christmas feel around the school, and Santa came to visit after the Christmas dinner on Thursday. There were also a lot of chocolates, cards and Christmas activities during the week. The Primary put on an amazing Christmas Nativity, which you can watch from the landing page of the student area.

Earlier this term, we entered the Para Dance Youth Games Dance competition, for which we had to learn a dance, add our own creative touch and costume / prop and then record it and send it off to the judges. At the awards ceremony on Thursday, we found out that we won the Freestyle mixed category! Take a look at the video; Lonsdale features at about 10 min into the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAXLFZ7KzyA>

Last Friday we held our annual Christmas Fair. All the pupils had worked extremely hard to make their class products and were excited about getting the opportunity to go and do some shopping. The classes visited the stalls in turn and were able to buy some lovely items, which they enjoyed immensely; some pupils also attended the dance workshops held by Ellie in the Hall and had lots of fun. Back in the classroom, they had a gingerbread house to construct and decorate.

In the afternoon, Mrs Sumner supervised primary classes singing carols in the Hall while all the other classes joined them by Zoom - it was very tuneful.

And whilst all this was going on, the office staff drew the tickets for the raffle and delivered prizes, we had masses of prizes, so nearly everyone won something.

We'd like to thank all the local firms, parents, staff and governors who contributed these, we're very grateful!

Here are the businesses donating raffle prizes. Thank you from Lonsdale!

Top prize winners were:

Winners Raffle:

M&S Hamper – Mrs Huddleston

Toby Carvery for 4 – H Storton

Bowling – J Parker

Hair Beauty gel nails – A Doyle

Gym pass – M Cuneen

Greggs voucher – C Green

Fish & Chips voucher – Miss Sumner

Holistic therapy treatment voucher – T Stansfield

Car wash – C Fisher

Hotel Chocolat (Hitchin)
The Beer Shop (Hitchin)
Well Run Sports (Hitchin)
WH Smith (Hitchin)
Co-op (Hyde, Stevenage)
Paige's Hair & Beauty
Hollywood Bowl

Tesco Metro (Old Town, Stevenage)
Tesco Broadwater
The Perfume Shop
The Peartree Pub
Toby Carvery
Mister Clean Car Wash
Helen's Beauty
Woody's Boys Wear

Co-op (Knebworth)
Tesco (Woolmer Green)
Boots (Stevenage)
Day's fish & chips (Marymead)
Stevenage Leisure
Michael Keaveny

A big thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this day a success, we raised a total of **£741.25**. WOW! The money raised will be used for educational visits from January onwards.

Take a look at the amazing photos below!

All that is left now is to wish everyone a great break and a relaxing and enjoyable time with their families! We will see you all in January!



## Lunchtime News

On Monday, the Positive Play Leaders put on a fabulous game of Giant Snakes & Ladders for the Gorillas and Elephants classes. Everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed taking their turns to play with some of the new equipment, and the play leaders did a great job at organising and running the session.



## REP News

The REP Staff spent some time this week with REP students celebrating Christmas. They were very excited to receive presents from the Rotary Club and were allowed to open them on Friday. The REP now have several new games and activities, which they can enjoy in the new year. Thank you to the Rotary Club from the REP pupils and staff!



## Governors News

Have a great break, whatever you are doing, you truly deserve it. Best wishes to the whole team! I know how hard you have worked for all the pupils. Sal Jarvis

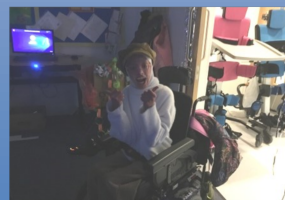
Hello everyone, just wanted to wish you a merry Christmas and happy new year and thank you for your hard work, this term and I know it has been very challenging and difficult but from the bottom of my heart THANK YOU!!!! Your efforts do not go unnoticed. Have a great Christmas stay safe and see you in 2022! Katie Byrne

I would love to add my best wishes for everyone over the holidays. Your hard work is appreciated. To those leaving I wish you all the best for the future. Chandra Green

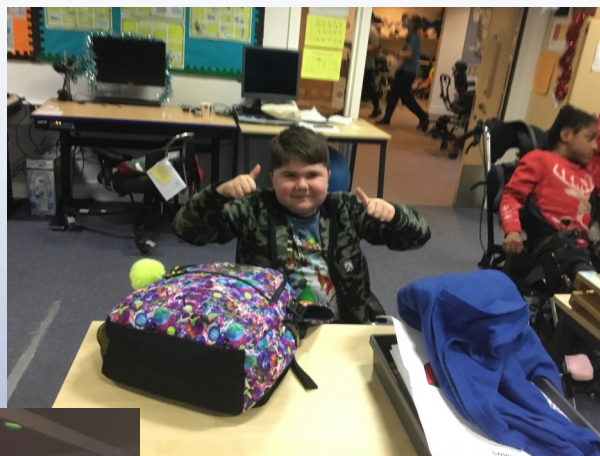
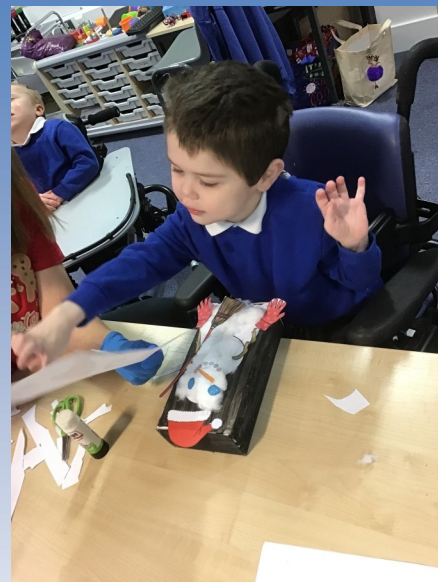




# Photo Page — 'Zoom into Brilliant Bits'

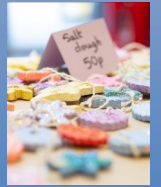
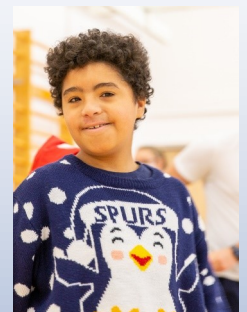
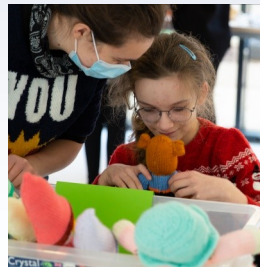






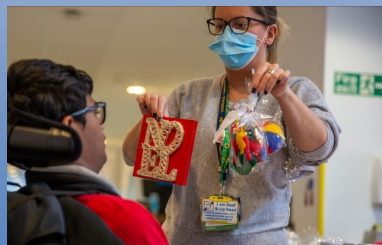


# Christmas Fair 2021





# Christmas Fair 2021





# Online Panto throughout December 2021



This production is available on more than one platform to make it as accessible as possible for everyone.

Theatre-Online WEBSITE: <https://www.theatre-online.com/watch-aladdin> or

VIMEO: <https://vimeo.com/648593076>

Enter the unique password to access: Fes112ALD



RELAXED  
THEATRE

IMAJICA  
THEATRE

FAMILY  
FRIENDLY  
SHOW

*The*  
**Cheer Team**  
*On Tour*

INTERACTIVE CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

**TUES 21ST DEC - THURS 23RD DEC**

**11.30AM**



**2.30PM**



**4.30PM**

Join Sparkles and Tinsel as they share with you their  
TOP 5 Activities for creating **CHRISTMAS CHEER**

**SHOW TICKETS**  
**ADULT £8 CHILD £6**  
**CONCESSIONS £4**  
**FAMILY £24**

**VISIT SANTA ON SET**  
**& RECEIVE A GIFT**  
**£6 PER CHILD**

**THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE**

**ST CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL**

**BOOK  
NOW**

**Barrington Road**  
**Letchworth Garden City**  
**Hertfordshire, SG6 3JZ**



Supported by



**IMAJICATHEATRE.CO.UK**





# SARACENS FOUNDATION



## SEN CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CAMP

Free SEN Holiday provision for 8 to 14 year olds who receive free school meals or with an EHCP.

Adapted sports activities, workshops and team building

Breakfast snacks and lunch included.

Contact [ellawyrwas@saracens.net](mailto:ellawyrwas@saracens.net) for more information

### Venue

Oaklands College (L.I.F.E building), Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL4 0JA



10:00 - 14:00

22/12/21  
and  
23/12/21

Lots of  
festive  
fun!



Book at: HAPpy Activity Finder - Herts Sports Partnership  
[www.sportinherts.org.uk](http://www.sportinherts.org.uk)



Pick-up your  
Trail sheet  
at SBC office or  
Junction 7



1

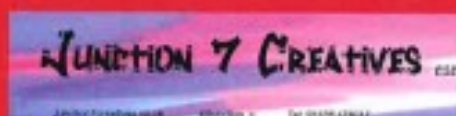
**Welcome to  
The Stevenage Rocks Christmas Trail**

(4th Dec to 23 Dec).

Find beautiful rocks in New Town businesses,  
answer the clues and, When you've found all 10,  
post your entry at Junction 7 Creatives, 17 Town  
Square (in the Bus Station) Good Luck!



2



Rock Art  
by  
Laura Auger



# invis-Ability

## Sign Choir



*Come along and join in for a fun and enjoyable hour, learn songs in BSL (British Sign Language)*

*No experience needed*

*All abilities and families are welcome.*

*Each session you will learn step by step the sections of a song to be able to bring it all together.*

*We meet fortnightly on a Friday 6:30-7:30 pm*

*(17th Dec, 14th Jan, 28th Jan, 11th Feb, 25th Feb, 11th Mar)*

*Each session is £4 per person, groups of 2 or more £8.*

*Booking is required.*

*If you have any questions or to book please contact us by messaging the facebook page*



**<https://www.facebook.com/invisabilitycic>**

*Alternatively email us at*

**[info@invis-ability.org.uk](mailto:info@invis-ability.org.uk)**

## Who we are

Invis-Ability CIC are a local non profit Community Interest Company ran by and for Disabled people, carers and their families, Our vision is to break down the barriers that exists between Disabled people and everybody else.

We exist to help the people who are invisible or marginalised to gain a voice and be recognised for who they are and the super power that they have.

How do we do this? We have a program of courses that range from Social clubs for all ages, We have a program that can bespoke built for schools for either whole year group lessons to lunch or after school clubs.



# INCLUSIVE ACADEMY

## DANCE SCHOOL



Offering inclusive dance sessions to those who rarely get offered the opportunity to dance!

Inclusive academy aims to give people who do not always get the opportunities to enjoy music, movement, and most of all, **dance**, the time to benefit from all three in an accepting environment.

Location: Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg, Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

When: Term time Saturdays (timetable and term dates are on our website).



For more information or to show your support, check out our website and social media!



Website: [inclusiveacademydanceschool.com](http://inclusiveacademydanceschool.com)



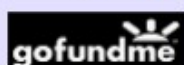
Facebook: [inclusive.academy](https://www.facebook.com/inclusive.academy)



Instagram: [@inclusive\\_academy](https://www.instagram.com/inclusive_academy)



Twitter: [@InclusiveAcade1](https://twitter.com/InclusiveAcade1)



<https://gofund.me/ea00025e>

**Inclusive Academy: Making  
Dance Accessible For All**





SEND families



# SEND DROP IN

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in every month – 10.00 – 11.30am

Bedwell Family Centre, Unit 2-3 Bedwell Park, Stevenage, SG1 1NB

FREE bookable session

## SESSION DETAILS

**Are you a Parent of a Child with Special Needs?**

If so you will be very welcome to attend our SEND Drop In. You will have an opportunity to discuss any concerns you may have, find out information about local support groups, meet other families. Your child does not need to have had a formal diagnosis

We can provide a friendly ear and a safe space to talk.

Children are welcome to attend with you or you can attend on your own. Children are welcome, no diagnosis needed.

## HOW TO BOOK

Log onto our Eventbrite page  
to book your place  
<https://barnardos-stevenage.eventbrite.co.uk>

## MORE INFORMATION

[hertsfamilycentres.org](http://hertsfamilycentres.org) Call us  
on: 0300 123 7572



Hertfordshire  
Family Centre  
Service

On behalf of



Delivered by





# Contactline

 **01992 588574**  
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**A 'quick queries' service for parents, carers, and young people  
(16-25) in Hertfordshire**

Please call if you would like to speak directly to an Educational Psychologist to discuss a child or young person's development, learning or emotional wellbeing, or to find out more about our service.



**From September 2020 Contactline will be available  
Wednesday from 2:00pm to 4:30pm**

If you are from an Educational setting and have a query, your school has a link Educational Psychologist with whom any requests for involvement can be raised.



## About Carers in Hertfordshire

We are a leading charity that supports unpaid carers throughout Hertfordshire.

We are partly funded by Hertfordshire County Council and the NHS in Hertfordshire. In partnership with them and other local organisations we provide services to carers to help them with their caring role, improve their health and wellbeing, give them a break from caring and have a voice in shaping services for them.

We support carers of all ages, including children, and our services are free of charge.

### **Carers in Hertfordshire**

**The Red House, 119 Fore Street, Hertford, Herts, SG14 1AX**

**Tel: 01992 58 69 69**

**Email: [contact@carersinherts.org.uk](mailto:contact@carersinherts.org.uk)**

**[www.carersinherts.org.uk](http://www.carersinherts.org.uk)**

## Our support for parents and carers.

We have Involvement and Development Workers supporting carers of someone with a mental health condition or who misuses drugs or alcohol, who can provide information relevant to your caring role and can help you to speak up to those providing or planning local services.

We also:

- Give you a chance to meet and talk to other parents, carers and staff who understand;
- Give you the opportunity to represent your views to the authorities that commission and manage CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) in Hertfordshire;
- Provide training and learning opportunities;
- Offer a Carers' Passport Discount Card that gives savings in shops, restaurants and other venues (contact us to apply for one today!)





# Cyberbullying

## What is Cyberbullying and online Harassment?

- Cyberbullying is any form of bullying which takes place online.
- This can be done over smartphones, tablets, online gaming, chat rooms, social media and more.
- Online harassment is the act of sending offensive, rude and insulting messages and being abusive.
- If someone purposefully keeps sending you offensive messages that make you feel scared, it could be illegal.



## Cyberbullying is NOT ACCEPTABLE

- Bullying someone whether online or offline is wrong.
- It can badly affect their mental health.
- Harassing someone and/or sending malicious or threatening messages to someone repeatedly is **ILLEGAL**.
- If you are found to be cyberbullying someone, there could be criminal consequences.

## What to do if you are being cyberbullied

If someone is bullying you, here is what you can do to put a stop to it....get **SMART**.

**S**creenshot any nasty messages.

**M**y privacy settings.

**A**void talking to them any further.

**R**eport the incident on whatever site you are using.

**T**alk to someone (parent, carer, teacher, friend or the police if necessary).

## How to cope with the effects of Cyberbullying

- You must not blame yourself. No one deserves to be treated cruelly by anyone.
- It can make you feel very upset, alone and like no one will understand or help you.
- **REMEMBER** you are not alone and there are lots of people who can help you. Make sure you tell someone and do not try to deal with this on your own.
- For confidential help and advice: NSPCC [nspcc.org.uk](http://nspcc.org.uk) or Bullying UK [bullying.co.uk](http://bullying.co.uk)

## When to tell the Police

- If you are ever threatened with physical harm, being repeatedly harassed, being sent malicious messages.
- If it's not an immediate emergency, phone **101** or use our online webchat service.
- If it is an immediate emergency phone **999**.

[www.safe4me.co.uk/portfolio/cyber-bullying/](http://www.safe4me.co.uk/portfolio/cyber-bullying/)

**safe4me**



Visit the Student Area on our website [www.lonsdale.herts.sch.uk](http://www.lonsdale.herts.sch.uk)! You can find lots of activities in the “All Sorts of Things...” tab. Daily Home Learning Plan can be found in your class area for pupils who are not attending school. You will also find weekly home-work plans uploaded there.



HOME » STUDENT AREA

## Welcome

To access this area we need you to login using the username and password provided to you by the school. Please enter this information below and click login to proceed.

If you have forgotten your username and/or password please contact the school.

Username:

Password:

[Forgotten your password?](#)

Log on to find out more!

Then explore your class area and look at ‘Ideas Shared by and for Parents’.

Maybe send your feedback?

HOME » STUDENT AREA » IDEAS SHARED BY AND FOR PARENTS

## Ideas Shared by and for Parents


This page is full of ideas which have been sent to us by parents. Thank you, all!

Keep your ideas and thoughts coming; we will update this page regularly...


To get in touch, please email your child's form tutor or use the 'Home Learning Questions' tab.

Have you seen those?


### Free Daily Resources For Children




**PE with Joe Wicks On YouTube**  
Week days at 9am but you can visit any time on youtube to view the workout.




**Wildlife With with Steve Backshall On Facebook**  
Every day at 9:30am for answering all your wildlife, biology, conservation, geography and exploration questions.




**Science with Maddie Moate on YouTube**  
Weekdays 11am. Maddie & Greg chat about science and nature!




**Dance with Oti Mabuse On Facebook**  
Every day at 11:30am but children can view the class at any time.



**Maths With Carol Vorderman**  
Free access to the her maths website:  
[www.themathsfactor.com](http://www.themathsfactor.com)



**Music with Myleene Klass on YouTube**  
Twice a week. Next one Friday 27 March 10am, but can view any time.



**Storytime With David Walliams**  
Free story everyday at 11am on his website:  
[www.worldofdavidwalliams.com](http://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com)

ALL SORTS OF THINGS...

BUMBLEBEES

DOLPHINS

ELEPHANTS

GORILLAS

HIPPOS

KOALAS

LYNX

OWLS

PANDAS

SEA TURTLES

TASMANIAN DEVILS

VAQUITAS

WOMBATS

JOIN THE SPRING WATCH!