



Learning@Lonsdale

NEWSLETTER

Monday 4th December 2023

Whole School News

Get-Work-Ready Day

On Monday, we welcomed ELSA and various companies to Lonsdale for a Get-Work-Ready Day. Key stage 4 and 5 pupils joined in a day of workshops to explore what companies offer their employees, which pathways are possible, and they engaged in some mock interviews in the afternoon.

Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated. We raised just under £55 to support The Royal British Legion through the Poppy Appeal.

Christmas is coming!

Next week we are looking forward to our in-school Christmas Fair on Thursday. We also hope to see many of you join us for the Carol Concert on 7th December. You are welcome to arrive from 6.30pm onwards. The concert will start at 7pm.



Information & Dates for your Diary

7th December 2023 – In-school Christmas Fair for all pupils and Christmas Carol Concert for families and friends in the evening (info sent home)

14/15th December 2023 – Primary Christmas Plays

19th December 2023 – Christmas Dinner at Lonsdale

20th December 2023—End of Term, Pupils go home at 1.30pm

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.

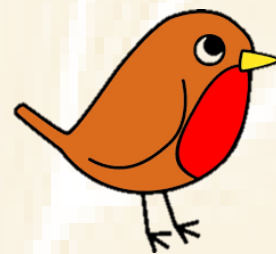


PRIMARY

News

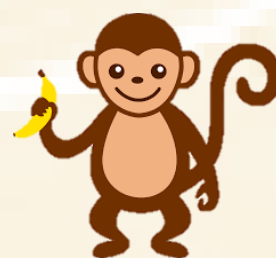


Robin Class started the week learning about animals that hibernate and enjoyed the story 'Don't hog the hedge'. They continued to learn about what clothes to wear in the cold weather with the help of games on the interactive white board. They started rehearsing their Christmas play and enjoyed making numbered posters for the play in Maths. At the end of the week, they began decorating the classroom for Christmas and used their counting skills to find out how many decorations they had for our tree.



ROBIN CLASS

Monkey Class have been very busy rehearsing our Christmas play along with Alpaca and Robin Class. They are beginning to join in well with the songs and actions. This week we continued the letter theme in English, reading 'The Jolly Christmas Postman'. They learnt more about landmarks around the world and created their own pyramid using bricks. In Science, they worked well continuing to learn about light and shadows. In RE we continued our theme of belonging, talking about belonging to a community.



MONKEY CLASS

Alpaca Class have had lots of fun continuing to investigate light and shadow, last week focusing on the symbolism of light in religion and learning about advent. In Geography pupils explored Scotland and enjoyed learning about famous landmarks and the Loch Ness monster! In Maths pupils worked with number bonds using tens frames, bead strings and word problems and continued their work on shape. We had a lovely PSHE lesson on Friday, where we shared future goals and aspirations.



ALPACA CLASS

Dragonfly Class are in the Christmas spirit and are enjoying all the rehearsals and learning to sign the songs in our show! We are finishing our RE unit on symbolism in religion, and pupils have loved the stories from other cultures and religion. In Science, we investigated how we see things and how light travels and reflects. In our Creative lessons, we have been working with clay to make some lovely decorations to sell at the Christmas fair, and in English pupils have been using computers to write Christmas messages for loved ones. Look out for the messages coming home!



DRAGONFLY CLASS

In Literacy we wrote our informal postcards and posted them. In Numeracy we developed our understanding of division and positional language. In Science we looked at light travelling in straight lines and what makes the best shadow. In History we learned what foods Anglo-Saxons ate, and we liked trying mead and homemade bread. We enjoyed working out in FitKidz, and we enjoyed working with Wombats and Sea Turtles in Taskmaster to invent a new word!



FALCON CLASS





SECONDARY

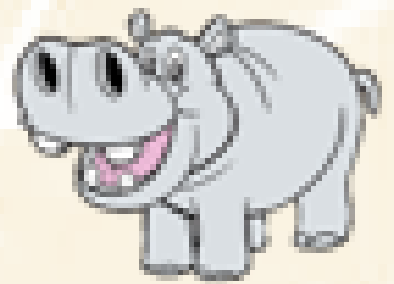
News

Wombats & Gorillas had a joint K&U lesson where they learnt about the meaning of Advent. They each made a table decoration with a candle representing 'light in the darkness' & evergreen foliage. In RE, Wombats concluded their work on Pilgrimage by going on a 'special journey' of their own around the school. In Science we went on a bone hunt and recreated a human skeleton with our findings! In Maths we continue to learn about volume & capacity and telling the time.



WOMBAT CLASS

We have had a rather busy week in Hippo Class! On Monday we had 'Get Work Ready' day, people from different companies came in to talk to us about what they do in their jobs. In Science we continued to learn about reversible and irreversible changes, we carried out some experiments and made a form of plastic and we also created carbon dioxide which blew up a balloon! In ICT, we have continued to learn how to input data into spreadsheets using formulas. In PSHCE, we discussed family structures and challenged each other's views that were shared in our previous PSHCE lesson. This week, some of us also participated in a House Boccia tournament, there is another tournament next week, too! We also decorated the classroom and Christmas tree on Friday afternoon!



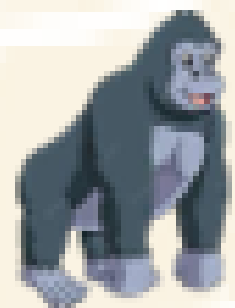
HIPPO CLASS

Last week, in English, the class learnt about nouns and did some activities related to these. They also did some work on how to use a dictionary. In Science, they learnt about healthy teeth. In RE, they learnt about Muslim pilgrimages, and they also learnt about Advent. They made a Christingle. In PSCHE we continued to learn about puberty. In Geography, we recapped on the different climates of the world and researched where different animals live in the world and used a map to plot whether they live in cold or hot climates. In PE, we played some Boccia and did some Archery.



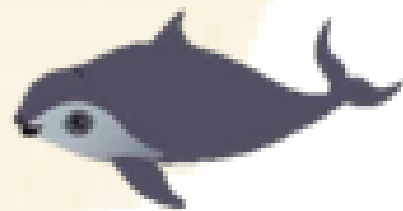
SEA TURTLE CLASS

Gorillas & Wombats had a joint K&U lesson where they learnt about the meaning of Advent. They each made a table decoration with a candle representing 'light in the darkness' & evergreen foliage. In their English lesson on Kensuke's Kingdom, they heard about Michael's 'Best Picture of the World' and then shared what they thought the best things in their world are – everyone mentioned home & family. In Science, they are continuing to find out more about the body & made a cardboard 'elbow joint' showing how the muscles work together.



GORILLA CLASS

The run-up to Christmas is upon us, so lots of activities are seasonally themed, but with links to the overall curriculum. In addition, pupils have been active scientists by creating non-Newtonian liquids (think slime with cornflour and food colouring – see pictures) and testing the capacity of well-known brands of nappies/continence pads to see how much water they can absorb in 100ml increments (thanks, Leo, for the resources!). We then investigated the materials inside to see how this was achieved.



VAQUITA CLASS



UPPER SCHOOL

News

LONSDALE



In Maths, we welcomed back Mrs Piekarz, and she was very impressed with the work and effort we have been putting in. In English, we are continuing to hone in our Speaking and Listening Skills with doing some filming for our qualifications. In Geography, we have been comparing the lives of how Ecuadorian and British people live, types of habitats and resources. In History, we are deepening our knowledge of the World War and what impact it had. In Science we have been exploring the heart as well as the roles blood cells play.



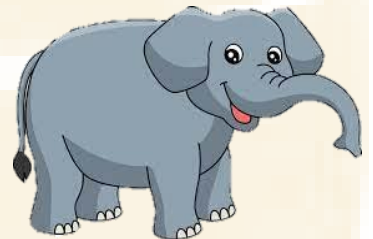
TASMANIAN DEVIL
CLASS

In Maths we have been continuing to factorise binomials in Algebra. In FS Maths, we have been learning methods to solve multiplications. In English we have been learning to write non-fiction texts, such as reviews. In FS English we have been developing our writing by learning synonyms and using adjectives. In Chemistry we have been learning about Hydrocarbons and Covalent Bonding. In PSHCE/RSE we continue to learn about gang culture.



PANDA CLASS

We enjoyed reading 'The Gruffalo' and sequencing the story in English. We also created our own woodland scene and thought of a short story to go with it. In Maths, we learnt about multiplication and grouping. We had fun learning about Tutankhamun in History. In Science, we learnt about the functions of different parts of our skeleton – protection, movement and support.



ELEPHANT CLASS

Lynx Class had a great day on Monday for the work experience day and enjoyed meeting the various visitors. In Science, they learnt about refraction and the colour spectrum of light and in IT continued with the spreadsheet unit.

In Maths, the classes practised questions on previous functional skills papers. In English they enjoyed writing letters using the correct format and language.



LYNX CLASS

We will use the following page over the next weeks to introduce our Governors to you. Please read on to find out a bit more about a member of our Governing Body this week.



GOVERNORS NEWS



KATIE BYRNE



Responsibilities/Committees: Safeguarding and Pupil Welfare Board, REP Panel

My name is Katie Byrne. I have been Governor for the last 13 years at Lonsdale School. I was a pupil previously at the school. I live in Letchworth, independently in my bungalow, with help from my personal assistants and my care agency. I have a disability, but I get around in my electric wheelchair and live life to the full. I have recently completed my degree at the University of Hertfordshire studying to be a Special Needs teacher. This is brought a lot of challenges, because I now realise that I really want to help students with disabilities to reach their full potential regardless of their disabilities.

I feel that as a Governor I do understand how to make sure students to be independent without their disability becoming the focus, and the fact that I can show the students that you can live independently in your own home with support, and this perhaps gives them a goal to achieve themselves in the future. I really do enjoy my volunteering as a governor because I like to know that I have helped the school become a great school that it is, and I feel very welcome and part of the team at Lonsdale and a valued member of the school.

I think it is good that I can show parents and students that disability does not mean you can't do anything; it means you can because I have done it myself. Also, students and parents are more than welcome to send me emails with any questions they might have regarding disabilities, leaving school, going to college, leaving home and living independently/with support. I am more than happy to try and help them in the best way I can by giving them my perspective.

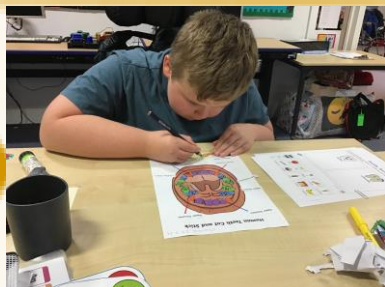
*Lonsdale Governors
in focus*





BRILLIANT

BITS





BRILLIANT

BITS



ZOOM

*in for brilliant bits
from this week at
Lonsdale*

MORE INFO

LONSDALE



Lonsdale's Seasonal Events December 2023

**7th December - in school Christmas
Fair**

**7th December - Evening Carol
Concert: 7pm (families welcome)**

**14th & 15th December - Primary
Christmas Performances (families
welcome)**

**19th December - Christmas Dinner
Day & Disco**

**20th December - End of Term:
Pupils finish at 1:30pm**



MORE INFO

LONSDALE



POPPY APPEAL

Thank you very much for helping
with our Appeal.

£ 54:65p
was collected by you.

Without your help, we would be unable to
continue our vital welfare and benevolent work.

Yours sincerely

Keill Greenough
Local Honorary Organiser

District Total (if available) £

Registered Charity No. 219279

Neurodiversity Support Hub

For Parents, Carers and Professionals

We can offer support, signposting and guidance
about a whole range of things including but not
limited to:

No
Diagnosis
Required

- Understanding ADHD/Autism
- Distressed Behaviours
- Anxiety
- School

The phones are answered by our team of parents
and carers of neurodivergent children and
young people

Are you a
Parent, Carer
or
Professional?



We Can't:

- Give updates/
fast track places
on waiting lists
- Recommend
specific private
assessors

01727 833963



supporthub@add-vance.org

Open Monday-Friday

9 AM - 1PM



Here to support, reach out for a listening ear



MORE INFO

LONSDALE



Hertfordshire's
Holiday Activity Programme



FREE kids' fun, food & physical activity through the festive break!



Does your child get benefits-related free school meals?

If so, you can book them into HAPpy camps for free, during school holidays.

Get your child's booking code from their school and either scan the QR code below or book online at bit.ly/3FV6DOD

Winter bookings are live from 12 noon on 22 November 2023.

With limited places at each venue, book your child's place soon to make sure they have a HAPpy school holiday!



Department
for Education



Hertfordshire
Community
Foundation



MORE INFO

LONSDALE



Second Hand Uniform

Lonsdale School are keen to promote sustainability. If you have any good quality, preloved uniform you no longer need, you can drop it off at the school office in a bag clearly marked 'Second-Hand Uniform Donation'.
Thank you!



SUPPORTING SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN WITH SEND

For parent carers of a child/children with SEND, in Hertfordshire and the surrounding counties.



This course will be delivered by

Sibs
for brothers and sisters of disabled children & adults

on behalf of DS Achieve.

COURSE CONTENT

1

SUPPORTING SIBLINGS

- Insight into siblings' needs and experiences
- Practical ideas for giving siblings attention
- Further sources of information

2

SIBLING RIVALRY

- How to spot if your sibling child is having difficulty coping
- What to do if your sibling isn't getting on with their brother or sister
- Ideas on addressing difficult behaviour between siblings

3

CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR

- How to spot if your sibling child is having difficulty coping
- What you can do as a parent to support your sibling child
- Ideas for making plans and keeping siblings safe



**Friday 1st December
10am - 2pm**



Online

THIS WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM.

To book your place visit: dsachieve.org/events

More Info info@dsachieve.org

Get the help that fits your family, so you can juggle work and life

Thousands of families could be saving money on their childcare costs. But some simply don't know what support they might be eligible for. The Childcare Choices website brings together all the existing childcare offers in one place, so parents can get the help that fits their family. This could be through Tax-Free Childcare, 30 Hours Childcare, or Universal Credit Childcare. Some families might be eligible to use more than one childcare scheme together and get the most out of it. And from next year even more help is on the way:

- From April 2024, eligible working parents in England with children aged 2 will have access to 15 hours childcare.
- From September 2024, the 15 hours childcare offer will be expanded to eligible working parents in England with children between 9 and 23 months old.
- From September 2025, eligible working parents in England with children between 9 months up to school age will have access to 30 hours childcare.

Support is also expanding for primary-school aged children, from September 2024, parents are expected to see an expansion in the availability of childcare in their local area before and after school, between 8am and 6pm, also known as 'wraparound care'. Don't miss out on getting the support you are entitled to.

Visit the Childcare Choices website to check what offer you might be eligible for and sign up to the newsletter to get the latest updates about the childcare support expansion.

Visit: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

MORE INFO

LONSDALE



JOIN THE **Super 1s**



**All disabilities welcome
Ages 12-25**

CHALLENGE YOURSELF
BE MORE ACTIVE
IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS
MAKE NEW FRIENDS

Free inclusive cricket sessions!

MONDAYS:

Harpenden Hub | 6pm - 7pm*
Harpenden Leisure Centre,
Leyton Rd, Harpenden AL5 2HU

WEDNESDAYS:

Watford Hub | 5pm - 6pm*
Merchant Taylor's School,
Northwood HA26 2HT

*Running weekly from w/c 8 January
2024 until the Easter holidays

CONTACT:

Luke Heskett
luke.heskett@hertscricket.org

www.lordstaverners.org/super1s



LORD'S TAVERNERS
Empowering young people through cricket

Registered Charity No. 306054 | OSCR No. SCO46238



**Hertfordshire
Cricket**

BRINGING CRICKET TO LIFE

MORE INFO

LONSDALE



Could you welcome a foster child into your family?

We need foster carers for children
and young people in Hertfordshire.

Can you offer a nurturing, safe and stable home?
Hertfordshire County Council provide an allowance,
training and unrivalled 24/7 support, every step of the way.

For further information on
Fostering call us on **0800 917 0925**

FOSTERWITHUS

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/fostering



@hertfordshirefostering



@HCCFosterAdopt

In partnership with



Stonewall



Hertfordshire

**Physical and
neurological impairment
advice line**

01442 453 920

**Mondays 1.30pm - 4pm
(term time only)**

MORE INFO

LONSDALE



and families



SEND DROP IN

3rd 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 Call us
on: 0300 123 7572



Hertfordshire
Family Centre
Service

On behalf of



Delivered by



MORE INFO

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

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!)



MORE INFO

ISL Integrated
Services for
Learning

working together locally

SEND Advice for Parents/Carers

*Helpful SEND advice lines
for Parents and Carers*

| Advice line | Times available [from Sept 2020] |
|---|---|
| <i>Educational Psychology Contact line</i>  01992 588574 | Weds 2pm – 4:30pm |
| <i>SEND Specialist Advice and Support Service*</i>  01442 453920 - term time only | <i>Specific Learning Difficulties:</i> Mon & Thurs 09:30am – 12pm |
| | <i>Speech Language, Communication & Autism needs:</i> Tues & Weds 1:30pm – 4pm |
| | <i>Early Years:</i> Weds 9am – 12pm Thurs 1:30pm – 4pm |
| | <i>Physical and Neurological Impairment:</i> Mon 1:30pm – 4pm |
| <i>West team Attendance Duty*</i>  01442 454778 | Mon - Fri 09:30 am – 4pm |
| <i>East team Attendance Duty*</i>  01992 555261 | Mon - Fri 09:30 am – 4pm |

* also available to schools, settings and professionals

MORE INFO



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**.

Screenshot any nasty messages.

My privacy settings.

Avoid talking to them any further.

Report the incident on whatever site you are using.

Talk 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 or Bullying UK 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/

safe4me



WEBSITE

INFORMATION

Visit the Student Area on our website

www.lonsdale.herts.sch.uk

You can find lots of activities in the 'All Sorts of Things' section.

Daily Home Learning Plan can be found in your class area for pupils who are not attending school.

Student Area is here!



HOME ABOUT US COVID-19 RETURN TO SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS OUR LEARNING PARENTS GOVERNORS COMMUNITY STUDENT AREA CONTACT US



**LONSDALE
SCHOOL**
Learning for life!

www.lonsdale.herts.sch.uk

Login 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

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:

[LOGIN](#)

[Forgotten your password?](#)

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 quest-ions.



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



Dance with Oli 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 for maths website: www.themathsdoctor.com



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



Storytime With David Williams
Free story everyday at 11am on his website: www.worldofdavidwilliams.com

ALL SORTS OF THINGS...

BUMBLEBEES

DOLPHINS

ELEPHANTS

GORILLAS

HIPPOS

KOALAS

LYNX

OWLS

PANDAS

SEA TURTLES

TASMANIAN DEVILS

VAQUITAS

WOMBATS

JOIN THE SPRING WATCH!