



Loudwater Combined School

Learn, Create, Succeed

Head teacher:

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LOUDWATER UPDATE

Friday 8th December 2023

Important Dates

Monday 11th December - FS & KS1 Christmas Production at 2.30pm

Tuesday 12th December - FS & KS1 Christmas Production at 9.30am

Thursday 14th December - Y3 & Y4 Christmas Carol Concert at St Peters at 2.30pm and 7pm

Until Friday 15th December - School Council Reverse Advent Calendar collections

Dear Parents,

All you need to know about Christmas at Loudwater - reminder.

Christmas Post Box

The post box will be outside the school office for the rest of next week. Please ensure that if your child is using the post box all cards have the first name and surname of the recipient plus their year group to avoid confusion over delivery.

Foundation Stage and KS1 Christmas Production - 11th & 12th December

This year's production for our younger children is at 2.30 pm on Monday 11th December and in the morning at 9.30 am on Tuesday 12th December.

Any remaining tickets will be available through Eventbrite from 6pm this evening.

Year 3 & Year 4 Christmas Carol Concert at St Peters Church - 14th December

All Year 3 & Year 4 children are taking part in a Christmas Carol Concert at St Peter's Church. Performances will take place on Thursday 14th December at 2.30pm and 7.00pm with tickets available through Eventbrite; any remaining tickets will be re-released on Monday 11th December at 6.00pm.

During the morning, the children will be going to the church for a final rehearsal. For the evening performance, children should arrive at the church no earlier than 6.40pm. If parents are not attending the performance children should be collected at 7.30pm. The children must wear their school uniform for both performances.

Christmas Jumper Day - 15th December

Friday 15th December is Christmas Jumper Day! This means that children do not need to wear their uniform, but should come to school wearing a festive jumper. There will be no PE lessons on this day. Please do not buy anything new to wear for this day - children could decorate a jumper with tinsel and baubles for example. This event is being organised by the School Council and they have requested a donation of £1.00, to support the work of Save the Children.

Christmas Lunch - 15th December

This year's Christmas Lunch will be on Friday December 15th. I hope that everyone who wanted a hot meal has ordered one, if not children will need to bring a packed lunch.

Christmas Family Service - 18th December

We are having our service of Carols and a retelling of the Christmas Story at St. Peter's Church on Monday 18th December at 10.00 am. You are all most welcome to join us. The service will last approximately 45 minutes.

The children should come to school as usual on the day and at 9.40 a.m. all the classes will walk down to the church together. We would appreciate offers of help from parents to walk with us, but those parents accompanying our children must not have younger children with them - this is for health and safety and insurance purposes. We will use your consent for local walks as permission for your child to walk to the church.

Please contact the school office by **Friday 15th December** if you do not wish your child to attend the service, on religious grounds and arrangements will be made to supervise them in school.

Christmas Parties and Disco - 18th December

These are taking place on Monday 18th December. All children should come to school in their uniform, but can bring a change of clothes for the afternoon. If your child's class normally has PE on a Monday this lesson will not be taking place. FOLS will be providing refreshments; children **do not** need to bring any money.

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children will have the opportunity of going to the disco in the hall for the first part of the afternoon, followed by activities in their classes. Key Stage 2 children will begin the afternoon in their classes and have the opportunity to go to the disco for the latter part of the afternoon. Children who do not wish to go to the disco will be able to remain in classrooms.

Tuesday 19th December

Children finish school at 2.00 p.m.

News from the classes this week:

Foundation Stage

In Phonics this week, Foundation Stage has been working on double letters and two-syllable words. We have been reading words like "muffin" and "rabbit". We have also been reading and writing the Common Exception Words (Tricky Word) the, to, I, no, to & go.

In Literacy, we have listened to the story "Dear Santa". We have talked about the presents that Santa thought about in the story and written lists of gifts that we might like to receive.

Our Maths learning has focused on shapes. We have been looking at shapes with four sides and working out how to tell them apart. We have also sorted shapes into sets of those that have four sides, and those that do not.

In the afternoons, we have continued to rehearse our singing as we prepare for our Christmas production. If your child still needs to bring in a Christmas jumper for the play, please bring it in on Monday for our first performance. They will be returned to you on Wednesday so you will have them back for Christmas Jumper Day next Friday. Thank you.

Please could we remind parents to sign the orange reading record so that staff know when children have read at home, and can change their reading book. Thank you.

The Reading Eggs programme has been provided by the school for us to use at home. You can access it via this website. Your individual login is in the front of the orange Home Reading Record book.

<https://readingeggs.co.uk/>

Year One

This week we have been very busy preparing for our concert, which we hope you enjoy watching.

In English, we have been continuing to write information about Antarctica for tourists. We have been telling them what they will need and how they can travel there. The children completed some wonderful writing and made super use of adjectives and some conjunctions too (because/so/and).

In phonics, we have been learning to read and spell words with 'au' as in launch and haunt and 'aw' as in claw and strawberry. Our tricky words this week have been who and again.

Please continue to use Reading Eggs!

This week in Maths, our focus has been on 2d and 3d shapes. We have been naming them, looking at their properties and sorting them in lots of different ways. It would be great if you could encourage your children to find 2d and 3d shapes around your home or when they are on a walk. It would be lovely if they brought in pictures (or email them to me) showing the shapes that they have found

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/early-years/shape-monsters> (this game is great for reinforcing simple 2d shapes)
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zjv39j6/articles/ztpwdmn>

In DT, we have been learning about frame structures in preparation for designing and making a chair for a teddy. We learnt the words slab, column and beam and identified these in different structures. In our computing lessons, we have been using the Paint programme to create pictures inspired by the artist Mondrian, Kandinsky and Seurat. We followed instructions really well in order to log on, find the programme and use the tools.

Year Two

In Phonics, we have been remembering the rules for adding the suffix -es to words ending in a 'y' e.g. cherry - cherries, worry - worries and try - tries. The rule is 'change the y to an i' and add 'es'. In Guided Reading, we have read the story 'The Secret of Black Rock' by Joe-Todd Stanton. We have made predictions about the story and made inferences about the Black Rock. In English, we have written our recount texts as the robber from 'The Man Who Wore All His Clothes'. We practised using varied sentence openers, adjectives, past tense verbs and first person pronouns. We also wrote an apology letter from the robber to the Gaskitt family.

In Guided Maths, we have been using patterns, Rekenreks and number knowledge to recall number bonds to 20. We have learned how using our knowledge of bonds to 10 can help us with bonds to 20.

In PSHE, we have learned how to ask permission when we would like to have or do something. We learned how to say yes politely or to say no kindly using phrases such as "Thank you but not now." or "No thank you, I don't want to do that." We agreed that it was ok to say no politely and that we should accept it when someone says no. In Computing, we learned about the importance of the right lighting when taking a photograph. In DT, we explored solid structures e.g. bridges, mountains, walls and icebergs. We learned the difference between stacking blocks and running blocks by building different Lego walls and seeing which one was the strongest structure. In RE, we revisited special artefacts from each religion studied and made comparisons between them.

We have also been very busy rehearsing our Christmas Nativity, which we will be performing to our grown-ups next Monday and Tuesday.

<https://readingeggs.co.uk/>

This week, for home learning, I would like the children to find 20 small objects e.g. Lego bricks, pasta shapes, marbles etc. With an adult, play 'I see, you see' as modelled at the Maths morning a few weeks ago. You select some of the 20 objects and hide them under your hands. The children count how many they can see and tell you how many must be under your hands. Together say the sentence stem '___ needs ___ to make 20. E.g. 14 needs 6 to make 20. Repeat until recall of number bonds to 20 becomes more fluent. If this is too tricky, try 10 objects and then build up to 20 later.

Year Three

This week in English, we have been learning from our new class text 'The Fox and The Star'. We have been learning how to describe a setting using our senses. We also used similes and metaphors for description. We showed understanding of the text by completing a storyboard, establishing key moments. We then explored Fox's journey and discussed different emotions he felt. We discussed different viewpoints and then wrote in the role of Fox.

In Maths, we have continued learning about multiplication and division. This week, we have been learning how to use different methods including bar models and number lines to multiply and divide by 4. We have also been learning about reasoning problems related to the four times table.

In Computing, we have been learning how to evaluate and improve our animations. We reviewed our animations and discussed how to make improvements to them. In PSHE, we have been learning about sun safety. We discussed risk scenarios and ranked them according to their risks. We then explored different ways of staying safe in the sun. In DT, we have started learning about shell structures. We have learnt what shell structures are and looked at some examples of natural and manufactured structures. We then developed our finger fluency to make a variety of 3d shapes (including a cube). In RE, we have learnt about similarities and differences of how Hindus, Christians and Muslims worship. We also discussed what it means to be human and explored some of the things people worship.

www.trockstars.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrxED9Ze9Fo&pp=ygUQZm94IGFuZCB0aGUgc3Rhcg%3D%3D>

Year Four

During our English lessons this week, we have continued with our work on 'The Firework-Maker's Daughter'. We have used the events of the Full Moon Ceremony from the book to write sentences with effective fronted adverbials, thinking carefully about what these can add to a sentence. We have learned how paragraphs are organised in recount texts, and planned the events of the Full Moon Ceremony into paragraphs, ready to write our recounts next week.

During our maths lessons, we have continued with our learning on multiplication and division. We have represented and learned times tables facts for the 7-, 11- and 12- times tables. We have used our knowledge

of these times tables to solve problems. We have learned what happens when we multiply a number by 1 and itself, and learned why this happens. We have been using the words factor and product to describe this. In our computing lesson this week, we created algorithms for different shapes using the turtle logo programming software. During our topic lessons, we have started a design and technology unit. For this project, we will be creating truss bridges using wood. This week we have practised our finger fluency skills in sawing and joining wood together, and thought about the strongest shapes to use in our bridges. In our Spanish lessons, we have described the number of days in each month in response to a question.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/number-facts/number-fact-families>

Year Five

In English this week, we have planned, drafted and improved an independent narrative. Inspired by our driver text: *'The Promise'* by Nicola Davies, we wrote our own stories including a promise to make an environmental difference. In Guided Reading, we used another non-fiction text about forces, which focused on Isaac Newton's Three Laws to engage our background knowledge reading strategy and test our retrieval skills. In Spelling lessons this week, we have focussed on more tricky words from the Year 5 and 6 statutory spelling list and shared our top tips and strategies for remembering how to spell them.

In Maths, we have been adding and subtracting fractions with the same and different denominators, and have had to apply all we have learnt about fractions so far (equivalent fractions, improper fractions, mixed numbers and comparing & ordering fractions).

In Indoor PE, we worked in small groups to add more steps to our class line dance to *'Achy Breaky Heart'*. We have begun a new DT unit of work on frame structures. We started by trying to become very confident making tetrahedrons (triangular pyramids) with straws and string, which will form the basis of our tetrahedral kite frame. We considered how we could strengthen these shapes, planned our table group's kite design and then thought carefully about the quantity of resources we would need and the steps we would need to take to build it.

In Computing, we evaluated our videos and identified the successful features and those that we could improve upon. Finally, in Music, we recorded our final vocal performance of the World War 1 song: Keep the home fires burning.

Watch this revision video linked to the Y5/6 statutory word list: [What are the Year 5 and Year 6 Common Exception Words? | KS2 English Concept for Kids - YouTube](#)

Year Six

In English this week, we have started a new unit of writing based on Charles Dickens *'A Christmas Carol'* written by Angela McAllister. The outcome for this unit will be for us to retell the story using a comic strip format. We have read the story and have identified the key events. We have then explored the features of comic strips, looking at the different types of speech bubbles and how carefully the written words are chosen. In Spelling, we have been investigating the words - recognise, recommend, relevant, restaurant, rhyme and rhythm from the Year 5/6 word list. In Guided Reading, we have been reviewing the reading assessment that we completed recently.

In Maths, we have further developed our fractions learning by solving problems using fractions, finding a fraction of an amount and finding the whole of a fraction of an amount. We have also started a new unit on converting measures where we have been exploring metric measures.

This week we have started our Design and Technology unit, which is called Electronic Motors. We will be designing a 4-wheeled vehicle, which will be powered by a motor and pulley. We have looked at the different elements of our vehicle and have tested what happens when we attached the motor to the power source. We have thought about how the pulley will be attached to the axle. In PSHE, we have looked at passive, aggressive and assertive responses to situations where we might be put under pressure to drink or take something we do not want to. In Computing, we have started to develop the home page of our individual web sites (Google sites). In Music, we rehearsed *'Hey, Mr Miller'* in three parts. We practiced scat singing and improvising with percussion instruments. Finally, we combined all these elements for a performance of *'Hey, Mr Miller.'* On Monday morning we enjoyed our walk and visit to Flackwell Heath library. This week in class, we have been listening to music of AC/DC.

Website

Maths Whizz - See link below

<https://whizz.com/>

This forms part of the weekly home learning each week. The expectation is that 60 mins will be completed in total each week - this is measured from Friday to Thursday.

Geography - Some great pre-reading for our Geography unit in January on global trade

Fairtrade - <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>

Book Review

Please see this week's book review by Mr Hasyn [here](#).

Achievement Award Winners

	Foundation Stage	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
08.12.23	Dylan S Dylan K	Ollie	Harrison	Aadya	Ollie	Molly	Breagha

The following children have been recognised in achievement assembly for their good behaviour:

	Foundation Stage	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
08.12.23	Saraya Adam	Shi'loh Daisy	Scarlett Jessica	Harry Maisie	Lucy Diya	Amine Max	Evan Ellie-Louise

The following children, in KS2, have made particular efforts with Tables Rock Stars/ Maths Whizz:

	Times Tables Rock Stars/ Maths Whizz
08.12.23	Christopher - Y3 Eliza - Y4 Elizabeth - Y6

The following children have made particular efforts with Reading Eggs or Accelerated Reader.

	Reading Eggs	Accelerated Reader
08.12.23	Lorenzo - FS Hope - Y1 Sam - Y2	Marley - Y3 Oliver - Y4 Tilly - Y6

Attendance

	Foundation Stage	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
08.12.23	96%	96%	88%	92%	95%	91%	95%

Punctuality

Number of children arriving after their class start time.

	Foundation Stage	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
08.12.23	1	2	1	4	2	5	1

House points for the week

	Beethoven	Mozart	Tchaikovsky	Elgar
08.12.23	333	279	321	301

Update from Gemma (Family Support Adviser)

Gemma's contact details:

Work mobile number: 07792 142825.

School email: gnortheast@loudwater.bucks.sch.uk

One Can Trust - Christmas donations



If you would like to support the One Can Trust Food Bank this Christmas, then please drop any donations off at the school office by **Wednesday 13th December**.

Thank you for your support! 😊

Family Learning FREE courses from January 2024

Please read the attached leaflets for more information about **free online 5-week courses** available for all parents and carers of children in Year 3 to Year 6.

Understand how shape, data and measurement are taught in school and how you can help your child

Learn fun activities to help your child to learn this important part of the curriculum.

Year 3 and 4 parents and carers can attend a 5-week course about shape, data and measurement.

Year 5 and 6 parents and carers can attend a 5-week online course about developing your child's writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation. As a school, we highly recommend these courses as they are tailored to

What different writing types does my child learn at school?

What do they need to know about grammar, punctuation and spelling?

Where can I find out simple activities, which can help my child's enjoyment of writing ?

meet the needs of parents in our local community, providing you with skills to help your child's learning and engagement with school.

By following the links on the leaflets or scanning the QR code, you will be able to book your place on the course, ready for January.

Please contact me if you need any assistance with this.




HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH FEARS AND WORRIES

A COGNITIVE BEHAVIOURAL APPROACH

6-week virtual parent/carer group covering the following topics:

- Understanding anxiety
- Responding to anxiety
- Practical ways to manage anxiety
- Encouraging independence
- Developing a plan
- Problem solving

SIGN UP!

INTERESTED?
Simply speak to your schools wellbeing team to discuss a referral to this group

Thursday 22nd February 2024
10am - 11.30am
Virtual Group (6 weeks)

www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/bucks/mhst
bucksmhst@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk
01865 904 566

Helping your child with fears and worries

As a school, we work with the Mental Health Support Team to provide extra support for children and their families with regarding to their mental health and wellbeing.

The Mental Health Support Team are now advertising a 6-week parent/carer group that will focus on identifying, responding to, and managing child anxiety.

The following topics will be discussed:

- Understanding anxiety
- Responding to anxiety
- Practical ways to manage anxiety
- Encouraging independence
- Developing a plan
- Problem solving

The group will be starting after February half term, on Thursday 22nd February at 10am - 11.30am for 6 weeks.

If you would like to attend this group, please contact me directly and I can complete a referral on your behalf. You must be able to attend all six weeks of sessions for their referral to be accepted. If you have questions, please get in contact with me.

E-Safety awareness parents' meeting

We know that E-safety is something that all parents are anxious to get right for their children. I hope that you have found some of the information provided on the newsletter helpful. To support parents further we have arranged for Alison Watts to speak about e-safety to parents; this will happen on 25th January 2024. Alison works for Buckinghamshire Council and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection centre (CEOP). She has visited our school on a number of occasions and always has sensible, practical advice that helps to maintain a safe and healthy balance for our children.

Alison's presentation last for about an hour. This is interactive and contains award winning awareness films, animation and statistics. The presentation covers new and emerging technologies that children and young people use, the potential risks they may face and easy technical and lifestyle solutions which parents can employ to help keep their children safe. These sessions aim to give parents and carers the knowledge, skills and confidence to better support their children to be safer from online child sexual abuse.

The training sessions cover:

- What parents and carers do well.
- What helps and hinders parents and carers from engaging with their children on the topic of Child Sexual Abuse.
- What children want and need from parents and carers.
- Top tips for parents and carers when supporting their child online.

We would like to think that many parents will find this something valuable to attend and would at this stage like to ask parents at which time of day they would find most convenient. The presentation will be either at 2.00pm or at 7.00pm. If you would like to attend, please visit the school gateway to indicate your preference; we will confirm the timing in January.

School Council news.

Reverse Advent Calendar

From 4th to 15th December, we will be taking in part in a 'reverse' advent calendar in aid of the One Can Trust. The idea is that you bring an item from this list to support this charity into your classes on any day between the above dates.

Please click [here](#) to see a full list of the items.

St Peter's Church

St Peter's Church has many events for all the family this Christmas. Starting this Sunday at 6pm with a Traditional Carols by Candlelight service. During the service the Loudwater Kids choir will be performing, the choir includes lots of Loudwater School students so come and show them your support! Childcare will be provided during the service, as the service is not aimed at children. If you'd like to come and have your child join our kids' provision, please email mark@loudwater.org

Everyone is also invited to Christmas Lunch on Christmas Day at 12noon. This lunch is for the community and all are welcome. If you know someone who may be alone or maybe your family is looking to join with others to celebrate this year then head to stpetersloudwater.org/christmas to book your place or email alison@loudwater.org - Children eat for free and there is a suggested donation for adults.

To see the flyer for the carol service, please click [here](#).

For information regarding the Christmas lunch, please click [here](#).



News from FOLS

Lottery Winner: The November 2023 winners was picked at the beginning of the month and congratulations to James Hodgkin in Year 4

Please contact FOLS at fols.information@gmail.com so we can arrange getting your winnings to you!

Tea towels: Loudwater School tea towels were available for sale at the Christmas Bazaar. The remaining tea towels, with self-portraits by some of the children and teachers, will be available to buy on the Gateway from today. Prices are £4 per towel, 2 for £7.50 and 3 for £10.50. Numbers are limited so first come first served!

Yours faithfully

Clare Cunnington

Mrs C Cunnington

Head teacher

Update

As you are aware, we have moved to sending out our update via email. Due to the GDPR, we are only able to continue sending out to those of you who have agreed, by email, for us to do so. If you know of anyone not receiving their weekly newsletter, please make them aware of this procedure.

Disclaimer

From time to time, we are asked by a range of organisations to give out leaflets. We always agree if we think this could be of interest or benefit to the children. However, we do not endorse any of these organisations and parents should always check their credentials carefully to make sure children would be safe and well looked after.

External News

Children's Commissioner for England - The Big Ambition

Please see the [flyer](#) for information regarding a survey that is being undertaken.

Eden Shopping Centre

We are extremely excited to announce that we have a BRAND-NEW event for Christmas - Eco Elves Tree-Cycle - and we would love for your pupils to join us for it! Striving for sustainable fun for the whole family, our 'Eco Elves Tree-Cycle' event will be our very first 100% sustainable event, which is something we as a centre are extremely proud of.

Children's dreams of visiting the North Pole will become a reality as they step into Christmas inside our environmentally friendly festive workshop. From start to finish, they will experience the joy of Christmas as they transform a magic bean into their very own miniature Christmas tree with the help of Mrs Claus, our Christmas tree machine, and the Eco Elves. Children will then have the chance to get creative as they have fun making sustainable Christmas tree decorations using recycled craft materials.

Our Eco Elves Tree-Cycle opens on Saturday 25th November and will then run from 10am-5pm every weekend in the run up to Christmas, plus daily from 16th - 24th December.

There are limited spaces in each workshop and must be pre-booked in advance. Tickets cost just £3 and can be purchased at www.edenshopping.co.uk/events/the-eco-elves-tree-cycle.

Please also see the attachment for the flyer for this event.

LOUDWATER COMBINED SCHOOL

Calendar of events for 2023-24

<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
Saturday 2 nd - FOLS Christmas Bazaar 12.00pm - 3.00pm 12 th 2.30pm Key Stage 1 Christmas Production 14 th 9.30am Key Stage 1 Christmas Production 14 th Y3 & Y4 Carol Concert 2.30pm & 7pm 15 th Pupils' Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Activities pm 18 th Christmas Service 10 am 19 th School closes at 2pm for Christmas break	4 th & 5 th School closed - training days for teachers 8 th Children return to School <div><u>Values Assemblies</u> All Start at 9.05am 24.1.24 Honesty Year 1 28.2.24 Love Year 3 23.5.24 Trust Year 2 26.6.24 Self-belief Year 6 18.7.24 Friendship Foundation Stage</div>	Week beginning 5 th Parent /Teacher Consultations 12 th - 16 th Half term break 19 th Return to School

<p><u>March</u></p> <p>1st Notification of Secondary School Places</p> <p>7th World Book Day</p> <p>8th Book Character Dressing up day</p> <p>7th Parents' Forum 7pm</p> <p>Week beginning 25th Parent /Teacher Consultations Y6</p> <p>27th Y5 Hispanic Evening for parents</p> <p>28th School closes at 2pm for Easter Break</p>	<p><u>April</u></p> <p>15th Children return to School</p> <p>Week beginning 22nd Parent /Teacher Consultations (FS-Y5)</p>	<p><u>May</u></p> <p>6th Bank Holiday</p> <p>13th Year 6 SATs Week</p> <p>20th Year 5 Assessment Week</p> <p>27th - 31st Half term break</p>
<p><u>June</u></p> <p>3rd School Closed Training Day for teachers</p> <p>4th Children return to School</p> <p>10th - 14th Year 6 residential</p> <p>10th - 14th Assessment Week Y1, Y3 & Y4</p> <p>28th School Closed</p> <p>Training day for teachers</p>	<p><u>July</u></p> <p>2nd Secondary School Induction Day (Y6)</p> <p>New Parents Meeting</p> <p>12th Sports Day</p> <p>16th Reserve Sports Day 22nd 7.00pm Y6 Leavers Production</p> <p>23rd 9.30am Y6 Leavers Assembly</p> <p>School closes at 2pm for summer break</p>	<p><u>Class Assemblies</u></p> <p><u>Spring term</u></p> <p>9.05 Start</p> <p>18th January - Year Six</p> <p>25th January - Year Two</p> <p>1st February - Year Four</p> <p>29th February - Year One</p> <p>7th March - Year Five</p> <p>14th March - Year Three</p> <p>21st March - Foundation Stage</p>