

LEYBOURNE SS PETER & PAUL C E PRIMARY ACADEMY



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15th December 2023

Dear Parents,

My last letter of 2023 – I cannot quite believe we have reached the end of term. What a magical fortnight we have had in school. This truly is the most wonderful time of the year in a primary school – if you can avoid the various nasty germs and illnesses that seem to be ever-present, that is!

Attendance

Our school attendance has obviously been impacted by the amount of illness in school this term, although I am afraid that we have once again had a high number of children miss school for family holidays and days out. I know that nationally parental attitudes towards school attendance have changed since the pandemic, with some parents now frustratingly viewing school as less important than before, but I really cannot stress enough that children should be in school unless they are genuinely too ill to attend.

It is so sad that children are missing out on their education unnecessarily.

Term 1 and 2 Attendance	
Reception	95.5%
Year 1	93.7%
Year 2	96.4%
Year 3	94.3%
Year 4	96.1%
Year 5	96.8%
Year 6	96.2%
Whole school	95.6%

Christmas Service

We had a wonderful Christmas Service this morning- full of excitement, fun and beautiful singing! Sadly, Revd. Helen was unwell and so we did not attend Church, but we had a lovely Christmas celebration here at school instead.

Nurturing the spark of God within

“Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles” Isaiah 40:31



Congratulations, and good luck

...to Ava H. who plays for the Year 5/6 Tonbridge & Malling Schools FA team. The team have reached Round 3 of the FA Girls' National Cup, beating Wandsworth Primary Schools FA. They will now host Chelmsford Primary Schools FA. Well done, Ava!

Hygiene Bank

Thank you so much for all of your wonderful donations to the Hygiene Bank, which were collected from school today. We really have been overwhelmed by your generosity.



Leybourne Grange Riding School for the Disabled

Years 4, 5 and 6 had a wonderful afternoon at Leybourne Grange last week. Their Nativity is truly special and really does epitomise the meaning (and magic) of Christmas.

Lost Property

We have a significant amount of unnamed lost property here at school, waiting to be claimed. Please do encourage your children to take care of their clothing, and ensure that all items are named, as it will enable us to reunite missing items with their owners much sooner. If you would like to have a look in our collection of lost property, please do come to the school office. Thank you.

Miss Dale's maternity leave - arrangements

As you know, Miss Dale will be beginning her maternity leave next month. She is planning on returning to school for a few days after the Christmas break to work alongside Mrs McKiernan. Reception enjoyed meeting Mrs McKiernan on Monday when she spent the day with us.

I am delighted to say that Mrs Irvine will be stepping up as Interim Head of Lower School during Miss Dale's maternity leave.

Ms Miller (our Family Liaison Officer/ Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) has been trained as a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead to cover Miss Dale's maternity leave. This means that we will continue to have two fully trained Deputy DSLs, Mrs Grinstead and Ms Miller, who can act as Designated Safeguarding Leads in my absence.

Nativities

The Key Stage 1 Nativities last week were simply beautiful! We were all so proud of all of the children; they really did an amazing job during each performance. The same has to be said of the children in Key Stage 2, who were wonderful this week as they presented their Nativities to us all in the Church. My thanks go to all of the staff for the thought, time and effort that go into these performances and for supporting and encouraging the children to do so well – particularly in view of the challenges presented by both pupil and staff illness and absence!

Thank you for all your support and your generosity following the Nativities – the collections raised £160, which has been shared equally between the school and the Church.

RockSteady Concert

Our rock stars (of all ages!) really were outstanding yesterday! I am always astounded by the children's confidence and skill in performing in front of such a large audience. It really is wonderful to see their progress each term, and I am very grateful to Jamie for teaching them so well. I am perhaps less grateful to him for volunteering me (in front of the whole school!) to join the next staff band - I apologise in advance for my future performance, which will certainly not be up to the children's standard!

Romeo and Juliet

Key Stage 2 had a real treat when the Young Shakespeare Company joined us to present "Romeo and Juliet" last week. The children behaved beautifully during the production and really gained a great deal from the experience.

We wish you a merry Christmas...

Thank you for all your support this term, and for your wonderful kindness and generosity towards the staff this Christmas time. It is very much appreciated by us all. We are very proud of all of the children - they have worked so hard, and really do deserve a relaxing break over the next couple of weeks.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas with your families and friends, and a very happy and healthy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all when Term 3 begins for the children on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

Best wishes

Tina Holditch
Headteacher