



**Loanends Primary School**

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4 January 2022

Dear Parent

I should be grateful if you could please note the following:

- Firstly, could I just say a very Happy New Year to all our pupils, parents and friends of the school. Thank you also, on behalf of the staff for all your kindness with Christmas presents and delivery of goodies over the Christmas period. We greatly appreciate it!
- Thank you to all parents who contributed to our Christmas Hamper Draw. I hope the recipients also enjoyed them. The winners were:

Class	Winner
P1	Georgia Bingham
P2	Zayn Moolkeea
P3	Kyle Anderson
P4	Taylor Collins
P5	Farrah Lyttle
P6	Harry McAdam
P7	Molly Bennett
Staff	Ashleigh McMichael

- **After School Activities:** more details to follow from Mrs Montgomery. Jujitsu recommences on **Tuesday evening, 11 January** at the usual time. Beginners welcome 6.15-7.00 pm.
- **P1 Intake September 2022:** The application process is an online format. Digital admissions will be live from **Monday 10 January 2022** at 12 noon until **Friday 28 January 2022** at 12 noon. Please refer to [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk) for updates. Also note that applications received after 12 noon on 28 January will be treated as "late."
- **Advance Notice - Parent/Teacher Consultations:** school will close for all pupils at **2:00pm each day, week commencing 7 February**. Just a reminder also that there will be no after school activities that week. I would ask that parents of children who use the school bus to advise Stephen if they intend collecting children themselves. Face to face meetings are always our preference but given the current Covid situation, we will again conduct these by telephone to keep everyone safe.
- **P7 Transfer consultations will take place, for those requesting advice, week commencing 7 February.** The format of these has yet to be decided. AQE and GL results will be issued on **Saturday 5 February**. Interview times for those wishing to discuss school choices will be sent home separately to P7 parents. Just a reminder that this also is an online process which parents must complete independently of the school.
- **Car Park/Foot Paths:** please be advised that Mr Brady will endeavour to grit the foot paths when icy conditions prevail. We undertake to do what is *reasonable*; unfortunately, the car park is too large an area to salt with a small machine as are the playgrounds. Please ensure that your children get safely into school on icy mornings. This is parents' responsibility.
- **KST2 Show-Joseph:** This will not take place in February as planned. It now looks as though this will be Easter at the earliest! We will keep you informed as our plans evolve.

- **Fundraising:** A group of energetic “P6 Skippers” are holding a sponsored 30-minute skip to raise funds for the NHS and Air Ambulance on **Thursday 20 January**. The girls will write out to you giving you further details of how you might sponsor them. We have been indebted to the NHS who have been front and centre in these difficult Covid times over the past two years. It would be lovely, as a school to show our appreciation. Thank you girls for taking the initiative!
- **School Attendance:** As previously requested, it is important to ensure a note explaining absence is sent to the class teacher to allow accurate recording of your child’s attendance which is regularly monitored by the Education Authority’s Welfare Officer. This is particularly important at the current time as we need to ensure absence is coded correctly. Please also make every effort to ensure children are in school by **9:00am**. Late arrivals cause disruption.
- **School Dinner and Healthy Break:** To help the kitchen and office confirm daily numbers on time, please remember that dinners and breaks should be booked by midnight the previous night. These can also be booked well in advance (menus are posted on the school website).
- **Advice/Guidance on sickness:** Please note *“The Public Health Agency advises that with diarrhoea or vomiting, children should be excluded from school for 48 hours from the last episode.”*
- **Congratulations:** to Mr and Mrs Lilley on the birth of baby Sophia Jane on 10 November. We wish them every blessing as they enjoy getting to know their new daughter.
- **Covid-19:** We continue to respond to the Pandemic and often we don’t know what a day brings. There may be occasions when we have to change plans at the last minute. We trust that you understand. It has been well publicised that there are staff shortages EA wide; we continue to be affected by this in all roles within the school. Given the rate of the transmission of Omicron, we fully expect to have a disrupted and problematic term ahead.

Last term presented many challenges, particularly in covering non-teaching roles and finding substitute teachers. This may not have been obvious to many parents but there were days when we were operating with six to nine members of staff absent.

School opened today with a number of non-teaching absences. As this term unfolds, we will of course seek to do our best and be as flexible as we can. However, in the absence of being able to find cover, there may come a point when it will be necessary to close down a class and return to remote learning for a period of time. This will be a last resort and a decision which won’t be taken lightly. It may also be necessary to communicate with you at short notice. We ask for your patience and consideration as we strive to do our best!

Thank you.

*Linda Armour*

Mrs L Armour  
Principal