



## Loanends Primary School

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### NOVEMBER UPDATE 2024

4 November 2024

Dear Parent

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

- A huge and sincere thank you to the entire school community who really got behind us during our Fundraising Frenzy in October for "Cash for Kids." We are absolutely delighted with our win, the final amount, including the £5,000 prize totalled **£45,817.76!** You probably know this already!! We have just been overwhelmed by your donations, sponsorship, organisation of private events, gifts and support at all our school events. We know this was a "big ask" many parents have reported that they loved the community feel and their children enjoyed all the activities. We, of course, did it for them and want to see them benefit from our involvement in the competition. In keeping with the ethos of Cash For Kids, we must aim to spend the money on supporting disadvantage. We look forward to spending this on tangible and lasting resources and will submit our plans to Cash For Kids later this month so that the funds can be released. We will keep you posted.
- **Poppy Appeal:** This year we are supporting the Annual Poppy Appeal between 4 and 8 November. Details have been sent out on J2Easy with details and photos of items available for purchase. These items will be taken around the classes each day for purchasing with cash please.
- P4 are also doing a short Remembrance Assembly on **Friday 8 November at 1:15pm**. Parents are welcome to attend.
- **Open Morning – Tuesday 26 November:** In Loanends Primary School we take a pride in caring for each child and giving them the best possible start to their education. We are currently taking the names of children who will be starting school in September 2025. If you, or anyone known to you, would like to enrol a child in Loanends Primary, please give the details to Mrs Bowman, Mrs McComb or myself and encourage them to attend the Open Morning or to get in touch with the school.

There will be three sessions. These should be booked via the online booking system on the school website [www.loanendsps.com](http://www.loanendsps.com). 10:45am, 11:00am and 11:15am. The tour of the school should take about 45 minutes.

- **The Board of Governors Annual Report 2023-2024** is now available. Please contact the school office if you would like a copy.
- **Car Park Safety:** ONLY PARENTS WHO HAVE PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE SCHOOL ARE PERMITTED TO USE THE STAFF CAR PARK. The staff car park should not be routinely used by parents. Please inform any carer/grandparents collecting pupils.
- **Speed Limits:** Please remember! There is a 20mph speed limit **outside** the school when the lights are flashing. The speed limit **inside** the car park is 5 mph. I'm aware that this has almost disappeared on the road at the entrance gate but please do be mindful that this is the limit within the school grounds
- **Protocols:** You are already familiar with the protocols of referring FS/KST1 matters to Mrs Watson and KST2 queries to Mr Hyde. Of course, your concern or query should always, in the first instance, be addressed to the class teacher. It would be most helpful, if you could give some indication of the nature of your query to the Secretary, so that the appropriate member of staff can prioritise responses. Any SEN enquiries should be directed to Mrs Hegarty who works Tuesday to Thursdays as SENCo/Literacy Support Teacher.
- **Parental Access to Playgrounds:** Please do not enter the playgrounds unless you have been given permission to do so to assist an upset or unsure pupil to their classroom door. Thank you to the P1 parents who are now in the habit of leaving their wee person at the gate. They have done so well!

- **Absences:** Please ensure that you provide a reason for your child's absence. Whilst telephone calls to school are helpful and appreciated, I would stress the importance of sending written confirmation. This can be done on the school website. Reporting pupil absence is on the *home page*. Please complete the quick and easy online form; the school office receives an email with the form attached.

Attendance is checked monthly in school. We are obliged to refer those pupils falling below 85% (unless they have had a prolonged illness) to the Education Welfare Officer. Also, a record of "lates" is digitally recorded on the School Management System Database.

I would encourage you, as mentioned on the Annual Update to check out DENI: Miss School: Miss Out." <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations/miss-school-miss-out-strategy-improving-pupil-attendance>.

The most recent DENI Circular states: ". *Missing school (either face-to-face or virtual learning at home) at any time is detrimental to a child's education therefore family holidays or other appointments e.g. doctor or dentist should be arranged, where possible, outside school hours. Schools must discourage holidays during term time as this can have a significant impact on pupils' learning. Family holidays taken during term time, which have not been agreed, will be categorised as an unauthorised absence.*"

- **Head Lice:** Very occasionally parents report incidences of head lice; parents need to check children for lice on a regular basis. Research indicates that one in five children will have head lice at any one time. Responsibility to manage head lice lies with the parent and in an effort to help all parents do this, I would refer you to [www.onceaweektakeapeek.co.uk](http://www.onceaweektakeapeek.co.uk). This will help dispel some of the myths and enable you to be proactive in treating head lice should they occur. Advice can also be obtained from the Pharmacist.
- **Uniform and Jewellery.** This policy was sent out with the last update. We are still seeing evidence of makeup and some jewellery. Please work with us by ensuring that girls do not come to school with makeup.
- Please do not send **nuts or food items containing nuts** into school. We have a child with a severe nut allergy. Please be mindful of this and other dietary needs if sending in any food items or treats into school. Thank you!
- **New Pilates Class (with Lorraine Gault)**

My new Pilates classes are starting this Wednesday 6 th November @6pm -7pm in Loanends Primary school. Classes are for Beginners with add ins for those that wish to challenge themselves.

Classes are running for 5 weeks initially and if this is a success could be a fixture . I have a few people already confirming a place.

Details are:

It's £46 for block booking for 5 weeks or £10 pay as you go.

Bank details are:

Lorraine Gault  
980280  
10544223

Bring your own mat and a bottle of water

Message if you want to book a spot ! 😊👉

Thanks  
Lorraine

- **Job Opportunities:**

- **With the EA Catering Service:** Please note that there are x2 Temporary Posts available within Loanends Primary School kitchen through the EA Catering Service. These posts are both temporary contracts:
- 1 x 10 hour post and 1 x 15 hour post. If you are interested, please contact Mr Richard McCann as follows:  
Phone: 9442 3570 Email: [Richard.McCann@eani.org.uk](mailto:Richard.McCann@eani.org.uk)
- **Cleaning Post in Loanends Primary School:** 13.5 hours per week Post available from week commencing 25 November 2024. If you are interested, please contact the school office.

### ADVANCE NOTICE

- **Turning on of Christmas Tree Lights: Monday 2 December. Time to be confirmed.** We would love to invite the community into the hall afterwards for a cup of tea and mince pie to thank everyone for getting behind us and supporting us in October for the Cash for Kids competition.
- **FS Performance:** The performance, "Snuggle Up Stable" will be at **10:00am on Thursday 13 and Friday 14 December. Tickets are available for purchasing on the SchoolMoney App.** KS1 and 2 pupils will have the opportunity to see the performance beforehand and therefore will not be permitted to leave class to see the performance with their parents.

Yours sincerely

*Linda Armour*

Principal

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