



Lower Park Lower Park Beacon

Issue
546
20th Nov
2020

*It is important that you inform school if someone in your household has tested positive and you should do this by emailing me on head@lowerpark.cheshire.sch.uk
When this happens, the whole family must isolate.*

Dear Parents,



Christmas is coming and here are some of the events we have planned for the children:

- Christmas Coat Hanger Appeal.
- Advent Food Collection
- Santa Zoom
- Christmas Balloon Race,
- Christmas Jumper Day,
- Christmas Pantomime in school (Jack and the Beanstalk),
- Christmas Nativity (Reception),
- T'was the Night before Christmas (Years 1 to 6),
- Christmas Art Work,
- Christmas Dinner,
- Christmas Parties,
- Christmas Film,
- Wreath Making (one for the adults!)

This list is not exhaustive and may be added to as ideas develop and take shape.

Here are some of the details (more to follow):

Christmas Coat Hanger Appeal

Our aim is to make as many of the Christmas activities happen as we can under COVID conditions. If we can't, we will find a good replacement. Every year we have tried (and been successful) in creating the magic of Christmas in the school hall. We can again create that special Lower Park event of awe and wonder of Christmas in the hall, where the children will have their parties this year.

To do this, we need to ask for your assistance in helping your child to make a coat hanger decoration. If every child makes one, the effect is incredible.



Here is what to do:

You need one or two wire coat hangers, some common Christmas decorations (tinsel etc) and a good idea. The objective is to make a Christmas mobile that can be hung from a hook on the ceiling of the hall or corridor. It should be built on the coat hanger (or two coat hangers joined together) - making sure there is a slim hook showing at the top – and your child's name attached to the hook would help us to relocate the owners afterwards. The rest, as they say, is up to you. Obviously, we would ask you to help your children and it is intended to be a fun activity (with very little expense). If you still have last year's decoration, send it in too. We have had some very creative ideas before.

Bringing them in has to be a little different this year, and instead of taking them into class, we will have two dress rails located by the main school gate from next Monday. Please hang them on the rails as you arrive and we will hang them in the hall. They can be sent into school at any time now and our aim is to have them all hanging from the ceiling before

the last week of term when the parties take place.

So, please send them in and let us make Christmas special for the children!

Christmas Jumper Day

This will take place on Friday 11th December. Children and staff can come to school in a Christmas jumper and we would ask you to donate £1.00 to the charity appeal.



Santa Zoom

Yes, Father Christmas has agreed to let us Zoom in on his grotto so the children can see him in his Greenland Grotto. We will transport the children there on 5th December and the children can talk with him, and he to them. He will send them a present by special reindeer delivery before the end of term.



If you would like to book a time for your family to see Santa, you can do this through our School Spider booking facility. Each family can book a 5 minute slot. We will text you early next week to confirm when the facility to book booking will commence.

The cost to see Father Christmas is £2.00 per child which can include the children in your family at Lower Park. This can be paid by 'School Money' once you have made your booking.

Father Christmas will send you a Zoom invitation which you can use to log in to his waiting room, just before your arranged time.

Christmas Pantomime in a Onesie

The theatres are all closed so we are bringing an online pantomime to Lower Park. We have bought in 'Jack and the Beanstalk', produced by and featuring Peter Duncan from Blue Peter fame as Dame Trott. It will be streamed into the classrooms during the last week of term.



We will make an occasion of the show and ask the children to come in wearing a onesie to watch it if they wish to do so. We will give them a snack too. For wearing a onesie, we would ask you to donate at least £1.00 on the day, which will go towards funding the Christmas events.

There may be different days for classes to see the performance and we will confirm these in a future Beacon.

Christmas Dinner and Christmas Parties



Each class will have a party during the last week of term (date to be finalised). Appropriate games will be played, and the children will be able to come into school in party clothes.

Christmas dinner will take place over two days; Key stage 1 and Foundation classes on Tuesday 15th December and Key Stage 2 on 16th December.

Christmas Balloon Race!

Unfortunately, due to guidelines, the PTA cannot organise a Christmas fair this year, so they have organised a virtual balloon race that everyone can take part. All the details are in the

PTA event flyer attached with this beacon.



The event will start on the 7th December, so be sure to 'buy' your balloons and personalise before then. This looks set to be great fun for all the family.

Reverse Advent Calendar

This year as part of our Christmas festivities, we would like Lower Park School to create a 'reverse advent calendar'. For every day in December that we are in school, we will be collecting items from the list below so that they can be given to local families in need. These care packages will kindly be collected, sorted and distributed by the local charity 'Fresh', who supports under privileged families in the Stockport area.

Any donations are voluntary, but if you have a spare tin or small item that you would like to contribute we would ask that you consult the list below and send any items in with your child (there will be a box in each classroom ready for collection). The items are meant as suggestions and of course we will gladly accept any item (large or small!) on any day in December!



Week one (Dec 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th)

Tinned and non-perishable goods:

e.g. Baked beans, tinned fruit and vegetables, chopped tomatoes, tinned tuna, rice pudding, soup, bottles of squash, cartons of fruit juice, cans of soft drinks

Week two (Dec 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th)

Small gift ideas or clothing:

e.g. Dolls, teddy bears, figurines, pencils, crayons, paper, colouring books, games, DVDs, books, hats, gloves, scarves, make up, toiletries, baby clothes, arts and crafts, jigsaws, bath towels, hand towels, blankets

Week three (Dec 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th)

Dried food packets:

e.g. Spaghetti, noodles, rice, biscuits, cereal, biscuits, savoury snacks, crisps, crackers, chocolate and sweets, selection boxes

Thank you so much in advance for your generosity; we hope that Lower Park can make just a little bit of difference to somebody's Christmas in these challenging times.

My Child's Art PTA Fundraiser



Remember to have a look online and place orders for the wonderful Christmas Robin artwork by 14th December to receive all products before Christmas.

Did you know that you can also use the PTA portal to upload additional artwork, not just for Christmas, and order any products from those available? What a lovely idea for an art activity to do with your child at home. A copy of the flyer with the unique code sent home previously, is being sent as an attachment with this beacon.

Thank you for your support.

Fluenz – Next Friday

Just a reminder that children in all year groups will receive their Fluenz vaccination next Friday 27th November.

Sports Coaches

Unfortunately, we have had to change the arrangements for the sports activities I mentioned last week. It is still our intention to begin this and we will inform you when the programme begins.

Anti-Bullying Week.



Due to the COVID restrictions, we had to cancel our visiting theatre company this year. However, we began the week's anti-bullying programme with a rousing assembly by the Odd Socks Band. They really got the children motivated and tuned them into to how to deal with

bullying. The staff followed this up with lessons on what bullying actually is as opposed to one-off incidents (though we address those too), how to recognise a bully and how to deal with bullying.

The definition of bullying that we have been illustrating is:

Bullying is when someone's feelings are **persistently** hurt because they:-

- are being called names
- are being teased
- are being pushed or pulled about
- have had money or other things taken or messed about with
- have had rumours spread about them
- are being ignored or left out
- are being hit, kicked or physically hurt
- are being threatened or intimidated
- receiving offensive on-line cyber communication.
- receiving homophobic comments

Today we were showing our rejection of bullying in our school, and supporting what we have learned in anti-bullying week, by adding something yellow to our school uniform.

Please remember that we will address any bullying if we know it is happening. If you feel that is happening to your child, please contact us and let us know straight away.

COVID-19 Update

What nobody really wants to hear, is the news that your child has been a possible contact with a person who has tested positive for the virus. There is a need to isolate and your child has to be at home for a length of time. Worse still if someone in the household has tested positive, then everyone in that household has to isolate.

GOT COVID-19 SYMPTOMS? GET TESTED!



We really do not want to send children home, but if they show any of the three symptoms, we have to send them home, for the sake of everyone. In that instance, we always ask you to arrange a test for your

child, as it is the quickest way to get them back into school. Without a test, they must isolate for 14 days.

When you are required to isolate, the most frequently asked question is 'when and for how long?'

I have attached a new chart that clearly illustrates what is required. I hope you will find it useful.

I also want to confirm how important it is to tell the school if your child is having a test and what the result is. The turn round of results is getting faster and your child may be at home for as little as 48 hours. One test this week was returned on the same day (thankfully negative).

Thank you for your support.

Accelerated Reader Launch In Key Stage 2



We didn't expect this great reaction! A letter was sent home this week to parents of children in Upper KS2 explaining in full about this new scheme. The children listened to an assembly with a Powerpoint presentation. What a lovely response from the children we have had, they are highly motivated to read more books in this reading challenge. Lower Key Stage 2 should look out for information coming your way next week.

PTA Meeting and Newsletter



On Monday this week, the PTA discussed the Christmas plans and events for the spring and summer terms. As ever, the PTA has come up with excellent ideas (such as the balloon race and Santa Zoom).

However, all the PTA news has been put together in a fabulous newsletter. I really recommend that you read it to see how informative and useful it is. All the details about Christmas are in it and much more. It is being sent home along with this Beacon.

If you would like to join the PTA contact the chair, Charlotte Fazackerly on: charlf@hotmail.co.uk or call her on 07884 208045

Poppy Appeal Amazing!!!



Following the great response to our Poppy Appeal, the school raised a magnificent £222.65. Thank you!

Reminders

Wreath Making



Please take a look at the wreaths on display on the front gates of the school (underneath the school sign).

In the absence of a physical wreath making night, this year why not support the PTA by organising your own virtual one with our DIY wreath making kits? The kits come with everything you need to make your festive door decoration at home. Each kit is £25 and there are three styles to choose from. Please see the attached leaflet for more information on how to order.

Wreath kits will be available to collect after school on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th December and examples of each design will be hung at the school gates from next week.

These kits are great to make as a family, with friends or to gift as an unusual early Christmas present

School photographs

To allow time for parents to submit their orders the deadline for both online ordering and by returning to school has been extended to 9.00am on 23rd November.

What should you do?

It is more than likely that more children (and parents) will have to isolate at some point over the next few months – it is something that we can try to avoid but it is difficult to stop. So, if a Lower Park child in the family has tested positive, it is doubly important to contact me (head@lowerpark.cheshire.sch.uk) so that close contacts or bubbles can be traced and asked to isolate in order to stop it spreading in school. In all

our cases so far, this has happened correctly and we want to keep as many children in school as possible. When you keep your child off school because you have been informed that they have been *in contact* with a person who has tested positive, you can contact the office by phoning 01625 872560 or email admin@lowerpark.cheshire.sch.uk to inform us.

For your convenience, I have attached the quick guidance to this Beacon email again

Doodle Maths Change Update

Doodle Maths are offering a 40% discount.

If you are interested, please let us know and we will send you the details.

After a period of time using Doodle Maths, we have upgraded to using School Jam in Key Stage 1 (but we are continuing with Mathletics in Key Stage 2). When bought for the whole school, these programs have been expensive. However, we know that some parents still use Doodle maths at home. We would like to make you aware that individual licenses can still be bought to use it and cost around £5.00

Nut Free School

Just a reminder that we are a nut free school. We do have children in school for whom nuts can be dangerous.



Please ensure nuts, or anything containing nuts, are not sent in to school.

Applications for places in Reception 2021

I am pleased to announce that parents are able to make an application for a place at Lower Park for the reception class in September 2021.

Applications are made on line via the Cheshire East website, the following link will take you to the relevant page for September admissions <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/admissions/start-school-september.aspx>

I would like to remind parents who already have older children in the school, that they must also apply for a place for a younger sibling – it is not automatically allocated.

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2021.

Lower Park Hoodies, Joggers and Fleece



We have asked Ann at PSU to make up some Lower Park hoodies in blue. The children will be permitted to wear them over their normal sweatshirts in class so we would recommend buying them in a slightly larger size than you might normally order. We have also added Lower Park joggers to the items available, which may be useful for PE days. The school fleece, which has always been available, can also be worn in school if you prefer. We are advised that new stocks of these will

be available mid-December. There is, however a shower proof fleece as an alternative. Please note the joggers and hoodies are now available.

Costs:

Joggers: £11

Hoody: £14.00

All of the items are optional and any parents wishing to order one, will need order as usual via the PSU website.

THE HOODIES ARE NOW IN STOCK

You can order the hoodies now from:

www.lowerpark.uniform4you.co.uk

Letters this Week

- Accelerated Reader Letter to UKS2

This Week in School

- This week was anti-bullying week and began with the Odd Socks Band assembly.
- On Monday, there was a PTA meeting when Christmas events were discussed.
- Today, children were asked to attach something yellow to their uniform to show support for anti-bullying

Next Week in School

- Christmas Coat Hangers can be brought in from Monday
- On Monday, there is a full governors' meeting
- On Friday, the whole school will receive their Fluenz vaccination.

After-school activities taking place – Autumn Term 2020

<i>On or Off?</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Yr Group</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Organiser</i>
-------------------	-----------------	-------------	-----------------	--------------	------------------

After-school activities will not commence for a short while

Diary Dates for the first half of the Autumn Term 2020

Date	Event
Mon 2 November	Review Day – staff and governors
Tues 3	School reopens after half-term
Tues 10	Personnel governors' meeting
Weds 11	Two minutes silence at 11.00
Friday 13	Children in Need – non uniform with Silly Socks
Mon 16 week	Anti-bullying week
Mon 16	PTA meeting (by Zoom) at 7.30pm
Fri 20	Bring something yellow to mark anti-bullying week.
Mon 23	Christmas Coat Hanger Appeal begins – bring them in.
Mon 23	Full governors' meeting at 7.00pm

Fri 27	Flu Immunisations take place for all children.
Thurs 3 December	Collect your Christmas wreath kits.
Fri 4	Collect your Christmas wreath kits.
Sat 5	Santa Zoom – children can meet Father Christmas
Mon 7 - 15	Virtual Balloon Race (see PTA newsletter)
Fri 11	Wear your Christmas Jumper Day (donation of at least £1.00)
Mon 14	Order Christmas Robin Artwork On Line by today
Mon 14 - 18	Christmas parties, Christmas Lunch, Christmas Film, Christmas Pantomime (with Onesies)

Further activities are being planned for this term and will be added to the list above

Every effort will be made not to change dates however, if necessary, any changes/ additions are highlighted. TBC means To be confirmed. TBF means To be Finalised.

School Calendar Dates 2020 – 2021

SCHOOL CLOSES

Christmas 2020/21
Spring Half Term 2021
Easter 2021
May Day 2021
Summer Half Term 2021
Summer 2021

Friday 18th December
Friday 12th February
Thursday 1st April
Monday 3rd May
Friday 28th May
Friday 23rd July

SCHOOL OPENS

Monday 4th January 2021
Tuesday 23rd February
Monday 19th April
Monday 14th June

INSET DAYS: Tuesday 1st September 2020, Monday 2nd November 2020, Monday 22nd February 2021,
Monday 26th July 2021, Tuesday 27th July 2021

If you would like to join our email distribution list and receive the Lower Park Beacon by email, you need to inform me of your email address. Your email address will not appear when the Beacon is delivered and it is protected by the data protection policy here in school. So why not join our growing number of parents receiving email Beacons? Just write to me via email. My email address is: head@lowerpark.cheshire.sch.uk
The Lower Park Beacon is also available to read on our School Website at: www.lowerpark.cheshire.sch.uk

Kind regards Ian Coulson and the Staff at Lower Park

My School Lunch Menu

Week commencing 23rd November 2020

School Meals are free for Reception & KS1 and £2.35 for a larger portion in KS2

Please pay online at www.schoolmoney.co.uk

Please choose one item from each section and remember to indicate which filling you would like for your sandwich/potato

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Name	Name	Name	Name	Name
Harry Ramsden's Fish Fillet & Sauté Pots	Tandoori Chicken Fillet with Rice	Beef Spaghetti Bolognese	Roast Gammon Dinner	Butchers Pork Sausage All Day Breakfast
Cheesy Pasta Bake (V)	Vegetarian Sausage Roll with Creamed Potatoes (V)	Falafel Wrap (optional) with Mango Chutney (V)	Quorn Fillet Dinner (V)	Quorn Sausage All Day Breakfast
Jacket Potato with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Beans <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>	Jacket Potato with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Beans <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>	Jacket Potato with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Beans <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>	Jacket Potato with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Beans <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>	Tuna Melt Sub with Veg Sticks
Sandwiches filled with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> Ham <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>	Wraps filled with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> Ham <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>	Sandwich filled with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> Ham <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>	Sandwich filled with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> Ham <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>	Jacket Potato with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Beans <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>
Baked Beans	Carrots	Sweetcorn	Mixed Vegetables	Sandwich filled with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> Ham <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>
Chocolate Crunch	Kracholette	Ginger Biscuits	Vanilla Muffin	Baked Beans
Organic Yogurt	Fruit	Fruit	Fruit	Dinky Doughnut
Fruit				Organic Yogurt
				Fruit