



Lapal

Primary School

Newsletter

December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we bid farewell to another bustling term at Lapal Primary School, we reflect on the multitude of activities and achievements that have filled our school with joy and festive spirit. The past few weeks have been exceptionally busy, with each child in the school showcasing their talents and spreading cheer through various performances.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) delighted us with a heartwarming Christmas assembly, where they creatively spelled out the word 'Christmas' and explored the various aspects of this magical time of year. Key Stage 1 captivated us with a performance of 'I'm going to shine' which beautifully depicted the true meaning of Christmas, narrating the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Just yesterday, Key Stage 2 led the annual carol service at St. Peter's Church, featuring singing, drumming, and even a Spanish carol.

Special thanks to the Friends of Lapal who supported a magical 'Evening with Santa' for EYFS and Key Stage 1, creating unforgettable memories for our youngest learners. Key Stage 2 enjoyed a fantastic rendition of 'Cinderella' led by Funtime theatre company.

Incredible entrepreneurial skills were displayed by our Year 3 and 4 children, who organized a mini-market raising an impressive amount for school funds. The Christmas party afternoon today marked a delightful end to the term, filled with laughter and joy.

As we close the chapter on this term, we sadly bid farewell and extend our best wishes to some valued staff members who will be moving on to new adventures. Mrs Ward from the reception team has earned a promotion and will be relocating to Colley Lane. Mrs Harold will be taking up a full-time post as a Key Stage 2 Leader. Mrs Clarke, who has been with us since her training, is moving on to another Dudley school, and after an incredible 16 years at Lapal, Mrs Peniket has decided to support her husband in his growing business. We will miss you all and wish you every success in your future endeavours.

January will bring new faces to our school community. We warmly welcome Mrs Johal to Year 2. Mrs Johal is familiar to the school and staff, and has already spent time getting to know her new class. Additionally, Miss Mrs Gosling will be supporting pupils within our school and be based in reception. I am confident that everyone will make them feel most welcome as they join the Lapal team.

As the holiday season unfolds, we hope you enjoy a wonderful Christmas filled with precious moments with friends and family. Take care, stay safe, and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Warmest wishes.

Mrs Turner

(Executive Headteacher)

Diary Dates

Autumn 2023 Term starts

6th Sept

Half term

30th Oct - 3rd Nov

Term ends

22nd Dec

Spring 2024 Term starts

8th Jan

Half term

12th Feb - 16th Feb

Term ends

22nd March

Summer 2024 Term starts

8th April

Half term

27th May - 31st May

Term ends

19th July

INSET DAYS

Friday 9th February

Monday 22nd July

Please see our online calendar on our website for all our event Information.

House Points

Totals for end of term:

Diamond 1593

Sapphire 1043

Ruby 1568

Emerald 1747

December Attendance

RHall	96%	3/4JD	97%
RHopkins	97%	3/4G	97%
1M	98%	3/4SD	97%
1RW	96%	5M	95%
2C	96%	5SB	94%
2CG	96%	6R	95%
		6W	97%

School Events

Please see our [online calendar](#)

Here are some of our upcoming events:

Years 3 & 4 Stone Age Workshop—10th January 2024

Year 1 Bodenham Arboretum Trip—Thursday 11th January 2024

EYFS Trip to Local Shops—31st January 2024 (RHall) & 1st February 2024 (RHopkins)

NSPCC Helpline number

The helpline will support children and young people, and offer guidance to adults and staff working with pupils,

The helpline can be contacted on **0800 136 663**, or by emailing help@nspcc.org.uk

Safeguarding

If you are concerned about a child then please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead who is Mrs Atkinson, or our Deputy Safeguarding Leads Mrs Turner, Mr Maynes, Miss Gillon or Mr Rizzo.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of us all. If we are concerned about a child we have a duty to contact Children's Service, if you are concerned about a child, outside school, then you can call 0300 555 0050 with your concerns and seek advice.

Our safeguarding policy can be found on our school website.

Friends of Lapal

A big thank you to the Friends of Lapal group for all their help to organise the Christmas Raffle. The total raised to go towards the school fund was **£1,261.96**

2023/24 Meetings

These meetings are open for all to attend:

Monday 15th January 5.15pm – 6.15pm

Monday 26th February 5.15pm – 6.15pm

Monday 15th April 5.15pm – 6.15pm



A Big Thank You to All Local Businesses

We would like to thank all of our local businesses who donated wonderful prizes for the Christmas Raffle. The raffle was a huge success and would not have been possible without your help. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year from everyone at Lapal Primary School.

Prize Order	Raffle Prizes	Company
1	4 x Tickets Black Country Living Museum	Higgs LLP
2	Luxury Christmas Hamper 1	Donations
3	Luxury Christmas Hamper 2	Donations
4	Bottle of Moet Champagne	Donations
5	Remy Martin and Glasses Gift Set, Angel Candle	Donations
6	Drinks Hamper	Donations
7	Christmas Hamper	Donations
8	Chocolate / Sweets Hamper	Shelleys Treats
9	£100 Party Decor Voucher	All The Small Things Events
10	£50 Meat Voucher	Standard Plus Butchers
11	1 x Family Pass for Four	Lower Drayton Farm
12	Free course of teeth whitening worth £300	Sutton Orthodontic Centre
13	Family Ticket to Worcester Wolves Basketball Game	University of Worcester
14	£30 Amazon Voucher	Reid Media
15	Game Voucher for 4 People	Hollywood Bowl, Merry Hill
16	Soft play session at Jungle Bugs for 3 kids plus meals	Jungle Bugs, Black Health
17	1 x Four Ball Voucher	Halesowen Golf Club
18	£50 off a Car Seat	Safe Journey Car Seats
19	£10 Gift Card	Webbs Garden Centre
20	Set of Nails	FN Gel Bar
21	£15 Voucher for Handmade Crystal Charms	Devine Devinity
22	Mini Facial	Empowered Beauty by Laura
23	1/2 Hour Riding Lesson	Hole Farm Trekking Centre
24	1/2 Hour Riding Lesson	Hole Farm Trekking Centre
25	Free Pony Lesson	Halesowen Riding School
26	Free trial for non members	Earls Gymnastics
27	Free trial for non members	Earls Gymnastics
28	One free day at Earls Christmas Camp (2nd - 5th Jan)	Earls Gymnastics
29	Mid Week Spa for 2 kids	All About Me Princess Spa
30	1 hour Dog Walking Voucher	Happy Little Paws Dog Walking
31	Zoom Pilates Session	Pilates by Helen
32	Zoom Pilates Session	Pilates by Helen
33	Game Voucher for 4 People (2 vouchers donated)	Hollywood Bowl, Merry Hill

Reception

Christmas has truly arrived in EYFS and everyone is excited! We have made mince pies to leave out for Father Christmas and reindeer food to keep the reindeer happy. The children enjoyed our festive movie night and had a wonderful visit from Father Christmas himself!



Year 1

We are so proud of how hard Year One have worked on their Christmas play. They sang their little hearts out, showed off their dance movements and most importantly had the confidence to perform in front of an audience.

We were beaming with pride! Thank you for your wonderful costumes.



Year 2

Earlier this month, our year two children visited Hanbury Hall. They stepped back in time to experience Christmas in the late 20th century. The children explored the house, which was dressed for Christmas, filled with bright lights, baubles and tinsel. We looked at toys that our grandparents would have played with in the 1970s and 1980s as well as the clothes that they would have worn. We couldn't believe how different televisions were back then!

Our Key Stage One children put on quite the performance this week and brought all of the sparkle of Christmas to our nativity.

A big well done to all of you for learning your lines, speaking confidently, singing beautifully and dancing your socks off.

Parents and carers, thank you for providing the children with their costumes, helping them to learn their lines and for being a fantastic audience and joining in with the children.



Year 3/4

Year 3 and 4 have had the fantastic responsibility of running the Christmas Mini Market. The children, with support from parents, have raised **£886.59** for the School Fund. All year groups had fun buying cakes, necklaces, crackers, a target practice game and so much more. Well done!



Year 5

As part of our Industrial Revolution in the Black Country topic, Year 5 visited Blists Hill Victorian Museum. The children had a marvellous time exploring what life was like for children, during the Industrial Revolution. They discovered how the steam engine was used to power factory machines, learned how candles were made from animal products and visited shops in a Victorian high street. The children's behaviour was impeccable and they demonstrated our Lapal values of kindness, cooperation and excellence throughout the day.



Year 6

This month, year six have worked extremely hard during their swimming lessons. Children have accumulated various life skills whilst going swimming such as self rescue, treading water and different swimming strokes. After they had learnt all of these different techniques, they were able to tackle their 25m swim. Well done to everyone who completed this!

We have now come to the end of our last independent write of the autumn term. It has been fantastic to see the children now beginning to implement everything they have been taught in English lessons into their own writing.

Year 6, had the pleasure of joining other local schools at St John's Church, Halesowen, to partake in a Christmas service. It was lovely to be part of our Halesowen school community to preform these carols.



GREAT ways to wellbeing

At Lapal, we actively share and discuss what good mental health is. We do this by exploring the '10 Key's to happier living' or what your child might refer to as GREATDREAM.

Giving Relating - Feeling connected to other people is at the heart of happiness - theirs and ours.

Exercise

Awareness

Try something new

Direction

Resilience

Emotions

Acceptance

Meaning

This month's newsletter focus is Relating

Having close relationships with family or friends provides love, meaning, support and can increase our feelings of self-worth. Our broader social networks, like those in our local community or at school or work, can contribute to a sense of belonging. Studies show people with strong relationships are happier, healthier and may even live longer.

Here are some activities that may wish to carry out during January:






- Painting stones of special memories. *Paint stones with different memories. These would make great gifts for family and friends.*
- Create a family doodle. *Have a large piece of paper on a table as a family complete a page of doodles.*
- Gratitude paper chain. *Think about different people, things that have happened and events. Think of things that you are grateful for.*

Please share any of the activities you carry out related to our wellbeing focus this month.

Mrs Walford.

JANUARY 2024

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
FOUNDATION*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Create a kindness journal or jar to capture wonderful moments throughout 2024.	Focus on completing one goal today.	Go out and enjoy watching the birds.	 Start a puzzle today.	Notice and appreciate the tiny details around you.	 Take a bubble bath today!
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Take a treat to your local police or fire department.	Eat your food slowly today and savor every bite.	Tidy up your workspace.	Offer to help a classmate on a project.	Take one step towards making your dreams come true.	Compliment a custodial staff's hard work.	Plan a staycation with your family.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
 Post a kindness message on social media.	Begin a journal on how you feel each day and why.	Listen to a friend without judgment.	Share a bowl of popcorn with a friend or family member.	Take a walk and enjoy the fresh air.	Watch the clouds and find shapes while enjoying the sun.	Make a list of 10 things for which you are grateful.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Handwrite a note to someone that means a lot to you.	Compliment five people around you on something not related to physical appearance.	Practice 4-4-6 breathing. Breathe in for 4 counts, hold it for 4 counts, exhale for 6 counts. Repeat.	 Practice active listening with a friend.	Notice your body language. What are you communicating?	Exchange personal stories with a new classmate.	Play a board game or do a puzzle with friends or family.
28	29	30	31	1		
Allow yourself to sleep in and relax.	 Share a conversation over a cup of hot chocolate with a friend or family member.	Unplug from technology today.	Stop what you're doing, close your eyes, and take a deep breath.			