

14<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

Dear Parents,

## Newsletter

**Attendance** Our attendance this week is only 93.8% - below our target of 97%.

### Message from the Headteacher

Only one week to go! This half term has gone incredibly quickly. We have had another busy week this week getting ready to dazzle you next week! I hope you can join us at the performances and the carol concert. We are also really looking forward to the ice skating trip on Monday. Children need to wear clothes and shoes that are suitable for skating 😊 Hopefully none of the staff will sustain an injury in time for Christmas! (Mr Nightingale....)

We interviewed for our new headteacher yesterday and I am pleased that we have appointed Ben Russell who is currently the acting headteacher of Oakridge School. There is a longer paragraph giving more detail about this further down. We are delighted Ben will be joining us at Lealholm, you will get the chance to meet him in the New Year.

I am in Lealholm every day next week so you will be sick of the sight of me, but I genuinely hope I get to see you all (and the wider community) several times!

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Z.

### Life at Lealholm

What another wonderful week we have had at Lealholm! We have been busy rehearsing for the Christmas play and carol concert.

In Geography, Heather class have enjoyed learning about and locating the counties in the United Kingdom. We were very impressed with their knowledge from the previous lesson about the difference between Great Britain, the United Kingdom and the British Isles. In English, the children are thoroughly enjoying 'Clockwork' and we have focused this week on writing a diary entry from the perspective of Karl the clockwork maker's apprentice. The children have collected some great vocabulary that reflects how Karl is feeling. We are looking forward to seeing the outcomes next week. As always, Heather class's behaviour was impeccable during a maths lesson that was delivered during the headteacher interviews. The governors were very impressed with how independently the children worked and how they were able to talk about their learning.



It's nearly Christmas!! This week has been a very, very busy week! The children in Fern Class have completed their science topic of 'Everyday Materials', summarising our knowledge using a blank knowledge organiser. The children's retention of the knowledge needed throughout this topic has been excellent, as has their application of knowledge to different situations.

In RE this week, the children have been learning all about the Christmas story. Reception have practiced retelling the story - aided by a beautiful nativity set! The Year 1 and 2 children have been sequencing the events of the Christmas story and have an excellent understanding of Christian beliefs around the festive holiday.

You may well have heard the excitement from Fern Class too about the new Core Text 'Cops and Robbers'. We are going to be publishing a Wanted Poster for Grandma Swagg- the most villainous villain in our text! It was lovely to see so many parents at our 'Publishing Gallery' on Friday. We are really proud of our approach to teaching writing and are so impressed with the fantastic pieces the children are publishing every time!

### **Appointment of Headteacher**

We are delighted to inform you, that following a rigorous two-day interview process, Mr Ben Russell, currently acting head at Oakridge Primary School, has been appointed as joint head teacher at Lealholm and Oakridge.

During the interview, Mr Russell demonstrated warmth, integrity and capacity for hard work. He recognised the two schools have unique characteristics and their importance at the heart of local communities. He values the support provided by YEAT and we feel he will be an excellent leader of both schools.

Mr Russell is looking forward to continuing his fantastic relationships with Oakridge parents and getting to know the families of Lealholm Primary School. We wish Mr Russell every success.

### **Ice Skating – Monday 18<sup>th</sup>**

Children can wear their own clothes for this visit. They will need warm clothing, a waterproof coat, hat and gloves would also be a good idea.

KS2 children will need a packed lunch. We will leave school at 9.00 am and expect to return approximately 4.00 pm.

Please remember to send your donations into school for this visit, the cost of the ice skating is £12.50 per child and we are requesting a donation of £5.00 available under products on MCAS <https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin>

No child will be excluded if his or her parent does not wish to make this contribution.

Thank you to FOLS who are paying for the transport.



### Uniform reminder

After Christmas, please may you ensure that children are in a plain top and shorts for PE and after school clubs. **Football kits are not to be worn – thank you.**

### Healthy Packed Lunches

Having recently completed our PSHE units about healthy eating, we would like to update parents on our guidelines for packed lunches. We suggest a packed lunch contains a healthy sandwich, wrap or similar, a portion of fruit and another snack. We also advise that children have a water bottle in school (we do have school bottles too if needed). We have attached the following link to the British Nutritional Guide, which we hope you find useful:

<https://www.nutrition.org.uk/putting-it-into-practice/make-healthier-choices/healthy-packed-lunches/>

Please speak to a member of staff if you have any questions.

### After School Clubs – update

Clubs will resume again in the New Year. Football club will change to multi-skills in Ley hall until February half term, due to the dark nights.

### Dojo Point Winners

#### Fern Class

Red: Bea  
Green: Annie  
Blue: Lizzie  
Yellow: Marshall

#### Heather Class

Red: Solomon  
Green: Isaac  
Blue: Theo  
Yellow: Matthew

**Star of the Week in Fern Class** is Jeffrey for balancing equations in maths, when finding the missing number. Well done Jeffrey - you are a superstar!

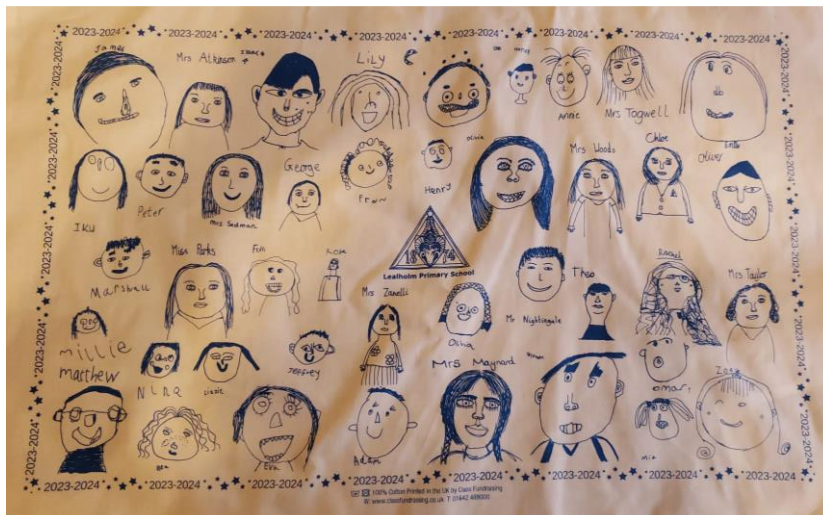
**Star of the Week in Fern Class** is also Marshall, for his excellent behaviour and being a kind friend to others.

**Star of the week in Heather Class** is George for his excellent effort in all subject areas. Miss Parkes has been thoroughly impressed with your effort and knowledge in all subjects areas and of course, your Christmas card delivering skills!

### Tea Towels

FOLS have worked with the children to create a Tea Towel. These are now available to purchase at £7.00 each or two for £12.00. The tea towels will be available to purchase at the Christmas Plays, or alternatively please contact Amanda Smith.





### Christmas cards

Children are welcome to bring Christmas cards for their friends, if they wish this year, there will also be cards available in school for children to write.

### Poverty Proofing Measures

We just wanted to remind parents of our Poverty Proofing Measures to relieve as much pressure as possible. We recognise that Christmas can be an especially expensive time, so would encourage you to speak to a member of staff who would be more than happy to work out a personalised, private plan to support in any way we can as a school. Please remember and take advantage of the fact that we have:

- Free pre-loved uniform of high quality available in the School Reception in all sizes, labelled under the bookshelves. Should you feel more comfortable, we have extended our selection of free school uniform into the Church.
- We have some new uniform available (limited sizes) at the cost price of £10.00 - please speak with Mrs Taylor should you wish to buy new uniform. New uniform is also available to purchase from:  
Laughing Whale at Whitby [Laughing Whale](#)  
Online at My Clothing [My Clothing](#) - My Clothing are offering a 10% discount (valid for the next 80 days) on all orders.  
The 10% off code for the parents is: LEALHOLMMYC10
- A Book Swap Free Shop, to alleviate the need to travel to Whitby to access the library. We have a large selection of children's books - why not take a couple and wrap them up as presents this Christmas, then bring them back when you have enjoyed them? 😊



- We also have a vast collection of adult's books of all genres thanks to generous donations from the Literacy Association. There really is a book for everyone! Pop into Reception or Church to browse, swap and shop! These would make lovely Christmas gifts that are eco-friendly as they can be re-gifted to the book swap once enjoyed!

### **Christmas Costumes**

Last week, we sent home a letter asking for clothes to go under your child's costume for the Christmas play. As the newsletter and the home slip stated, please do not buy anything new. The clothes we have asked for are simply to go under your child's costume, all of which school are providing. If you do not have the items, please let school know and we will source these. Thank you for your help in this. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give your class teacher a message on ClassDojo.

### **Christmas Festivities**

We are excited to have a vast array of Christmas activities happening in school next week which the children and staff are equally excited about. Your children work hard all year, and we want the end of this term to be a magical one! Therefore, we have the following planned:

#### **Ice Skating - Monday 18th December**

We will leave school at 9.00 am and expect to return approximately 4.00 pm

#### **School Play - Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

2.00 pm – Over 60's Performance

#### **School Play – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

Performance at 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm

#### **Carol Service – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December we will be singing carols in St. James' Church, Lealholm at 2.00 pm. There will be plenty of traditional carols for everyone to join in. We hope you are able to come and join us.

#### **Christmas Lunch & Party – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

Christmas hats & crafts reading for the Christmas Party.

Children will have a traditional Christmas lunch followed by music and games in the afternoon.

There are also rumours that the main man himself is en-route from the North Pole to treat the children to a present - as long as they keep being good! We will have to wait and see...!



### **Christmas Party**

On the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup> December, the children will have chance to make table decorations and pictures for their Christmas table. School are providing crackers and Mrs Atkinson is kindly preparing the feast! Your child does not need to bring in anything - despite lots of Christmas cheer and maybe a Christmas joke! 😊

### **Term Dates 2024 – 2025**

Please see below for term dates 2024-2025.

### **Celebrating 150 years of Lealholm School**

Next year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> year of our special, rural primary school opening in our picturesque village. We are going to put together a video of pupils past and present, to share stories about what it was and is like to attend Lealholm School and we need your help! Please spread the word and ask people to get in touch if they would be happy to tell us their story and/ or any photographs of school through the ages would be gratefully received. We are also asking for ideas from our families' and people in the community for other ways we can commemorate this special occasion.

### **School Lunch Menu w/c 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Monday: Packed Lunches

Tuesday: Nacho Beef Bake with Chocolate Berry Brownie

Wednesday: Roast Chicken & Stuffing with Rice Pudding and Peaches

Thursday: All Day Breakfast with Oatie Cookie & Cheese

Friday: Turkey Christmas Lunch

[Click here for the Autumn Term Menu](#)

Yours sincerely,

Miss Parkes & Mrs Togwell  
Teachers in Charge

### **KEY DATES LATER IN THE YEAR**

20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> March

13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May

10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June

22<sup>nd</sup> July

Year 3/4 Peat Rigg Visit

Year 6 SATs Week

Year 1 Phonics Screen Week

YEAT Arts Extravaganza

Please avoid booking term time holidays, especially during assessment weeks.



### Term Dates 2023-2024

PD Day	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December, 2023
Last Day of Autumn term	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023
First Day of Spring term	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
Half term	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February
PD Day	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March, 2024
Last Day of Spring term	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024
First Day of Summer Term	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
May Bank Holiday	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Half term	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May
PD Day	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July, 2024
Last Day of Summer Term	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July

### Term Dates 2024-2025

PD Day	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September
PD Day	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September
First Day of Autumn Term	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September
Half term	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November
PD Day	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December, 2024
Last Day of Autumn term	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
First Day of Spring term	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Half term	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February
PD Day	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March, 2025
Last Day of Spring term	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April, 2025
First Day of Summer Term	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April, 2025
May Bank Holiday	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Half term	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May, 2025
Last Day of Summer Term	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July, 2025
PD Day	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July, 2025

