



Lower Park School

# Lower Park Lower Park Beacon

Issue  
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Dear Parents,

## A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!

This will be the last Beacon of 2017. It has been a special year in so many ways and is coming to an end on a real high with the Christmas shows, pantomime, talent show, parties, Christmas lunch and Freddy Fit. This year we have had incredible summer and Christmas fairs, a record plant sale and a library overhaul. This is in addition to excellent academic results (you can view them on our website), outstanding achievements by children (four children now have junior karate black belts, a grade 5 cornet player and, not least, three new members of staff (Mr Cunha, Miss Cork and Mrs Paddison) and two new governors - Paul Kelly and Carol Williams, who has been coopted.

A member of staff has had her first born too in 2017 and we have also had the birth of a new school website.

2017 has been a great year and we are hoping that 2018 will have as many significant events to celebrate. The staff's good wishes go to all our very supportive parents for 2018 and there is a thank you too for the invaluable help you give to us through the year.

### Sleepy Shepherd Magic



Well it really was a wonderful show! I am sure that everyone who came to see the Sleepy Shepherd will know that Christmas has really arrived in

Poynton. It had all the sparkle and magic that we love to see from our younger children. The children performed so well and with so many solo singers that it brought a tear to a few eyes.

Thank you for being such warm and appreciative audiences and a thank you to the staff led by Mrs Cunha, for giving the children such a wonderful experience.

### Elf Jr Comes of Age

These epic shows just keep coming! This KS2 production has all the hallmarks of another stunning production. The standard of acting, singing and sheer enjoyment the children show in Elf, has been a privilege to see. I am sure that the children will always remember this production. If you have yet to see it – be prepared, it is wonderful.

Thank you to the KS2 staff led by Mrs Mellor for giving the children such special memories.



I firmly believe that the wider experience given to the children in these shows is an opportunity for children to experience a rich curriculum which, for some, is their opportunity to show their special and individual talents. However, over the course of the shows, 280 children will have performed three times on stage to hundreds of adults and the resulting confidence gained is something that we promote and value at Lower Park.

As I said at the beginning, Christmas has arrived in Poynton

### From the Sleepy Shepherd to Sleeping Beauty



Yesterday it was the turn of the professionals to entertain the children with 'live' theatre.

There were lots of wide eyed moments as the actors made the children giggle and scream. Sitting year 6 at the very front, provided support for our youngest children even though the water pistols did soak everyone.

Buxton is always susceptible to the weather which very nearly spoilt our visit but, thankfully, all were safely delivered there and back.

### School Strategy Plan

I am very pleased to include in the attachments in the Beacon, a summary of the new School Strategy Plan (SSP) and a summary of the responses to the parents' questionnaires. The SSP was written as a result of the review day, when governors and staff received information and data during the course of the day. This included all the comments written by parents.

Your comments views were considered carefully alongside feedback about the school's test results and in 2017.

Four main priorities (MPs 1 – 4) were arrived by consensus of everyone there and were:

MP1- To raise attainment outcomes in the phonics screening check in KS1 and SPAG test at Key stage 2 with a particular focus on spellings, including precision homework to embed spellings and phonics taught.

MP2 - To develop whole staff CPD in relation to school's current priorities in SEND according to our pupils needs.

MP3 - To focus on raising the percentage of high achievers in Key Stage 1 and those exceeding a good level of development (GLD) in EYFS in all 17 aspects. To ensure those high attainers at baseline in EYFS convert to exceeding at the end of Reception.

MP4 - To assess and track the progress of all children in the Foundation subjects using the Insight Assessment package in order to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum, evidenced through the children's progress against the National Curriculum objectives  
There were many other development areas included in the full SSP and together with the main priorities, have reflected many of the views of our stakeholders.

A summary of the SSP is included as an attachment.

The SSP was approved by governors on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

#### Midday Assistant Crisis **URGENT!**

We are still very much in need of adults to work as midday assistants in school. We will not have sufficient midday staff to supervise the children at lunchtimes in the new year. This will be the case, particularly on Thursdays but also on Fridays.

If you are willing and able or know anyone who is, please get in touch with the school office as a matter of urgency.

01625 872560 (school office)

#### Freddy Fit



Thank you to the PTA, who have treated the children to a fun day of musical aerobics today. Every child had up to an hour with Freddy, whose humour and antics were a superb way to end this busy week. Hopefully, the children will be inspired to show you some of the routines and they maybe continue to keep fit in this most enjoyable way.

#### Talent Show and Christmas Parties



The Talent Show and Christmas Parties will take place next Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December. Just to confirm, children can come in their party clothes but will also need their coats and suitable shoes for playtimes.

#### Did You Know?



Did you know .....

The school now has a network support group for parents whose children have ASD. The group will be meeting every few weeks and any parent who feels they would like to be involved, should come along. The next meeting will be in January. If you would like to join the network, or find out more, please contact Mrs Jones, our school's SENCO.

#### Commendation Awards



Commendation Awards are presented to children on Mondays in assembly. The staff, including midday assistants, nominate children (one from each class and one from the midday assistants) each week and they receive a commendation badge. They also receive a certificate which is displayed on the internal noticeboard outside my room. After a week, the certificates are given to the children to bring home to keep. They are used to promote exceptional attitude, approach to work, exceptional kindness, behaviour, helpfulness, consideration and attitude. Often, we will have a theme for the commendation awards.

The winners this week are:-

Isla O'Hara, Jess Durban, Scarlett Vickers, Bobby Kendal, George Kidd, Louie Lawler, Fraser Sewart, Caitlin McCoy, Thomas Priddle, Ted Bayles, Archie Lawler and Abigail Winn

Well done to all those boys and girls!

#### Letters / Emails Sent Home This Week.

#### Leaflets Attached with Beacon

#### Reminders:

##### *Vacancies at the Hollies*

1. Hollies pre-school are looking to employ a bank member of staff to cover for staff sickness and holidays. Hours between 9am and 3pm. No qualification required.

Please contact Debbie on 01625 850176 or by email [manager@theholliespreschool.co.uk](mailto:manager@theholliespreschool.co.uk) for an application form, or if you require further details.

We are committed to safer recruitment all appointments subject to an enhanced DBS check

2. We are offering a part time vacancy approximately 8 hours per week at our After-school club. Term time or full time contract.

Variable holiday club hours also available.

If you require further information or an application form please phone 01625 850176, and ask for Debbie or Rachel.

Closing date for applications: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January. We are committed to safer recruitment. All posts subject to enhanced DBS checks.



The site is now live. We intend to develop the site further and add new features but browse at the photographs on many pages, contact details, governors' pages, policies etc, that can all be accessed from the tabs on the home page. This Beacon has a quick link from the top of the home page too.

The website can be accessed from this link at:

[www.lowerpark.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.lowerpark.cheshire.sch.uk)

#### This Week at School

- The first coffee morning for parents of children with ASD took place on Monday – they will repeat at intervals.
- There were three performances of the Sleepy Shepherd (KS1 & FS) and one performance of Elf (KS2).

- Yesterday, the whole school went to see the pantomime at Buxton.
- Today, Freddy Fit put us through our paces with fun musical aerobics.

Next Week at School

- On Monday afternoon, there is a performance of Elf.
- On Tuesday evening, there is a performance of Elf.
- On Tuesday, some children from KS1 will be singing at Hope Green Home.
- On Wednesday we will be having our Christmas parties,

- talent show and Christmas dinner.
- On Thursday, the school closes at 3.15pm for the Christmas Holiday and reopens on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January

<i>After School Activities taking place week beginning Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017</i>						
	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Yr Group</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Organiser</i>	<i>On or Off</i>
Mon	Tennis	8.00 – 8.45	KS2	Outside or Hall	Mrs Ralph / Mr Atherfold	On
	Drama club	3.30 - 4.30 4.45 - 5.45	KS2	Hall	Generate Theatre Arts Group	OFF
Tues	Swing Band	8.00 – 8.50	KS2	Hall	Mr Coulson	OFF
	Football Squad	3.15-4.15	Y5&6	Outside	Mr Cunha	OFF
	Girls Football	3.15- 4.15	KS2	Outside	Mrs Ralph	OFF
	Netball	3.15 – 4.00	Y5 & 6	Outside	Mrs Chadwick	OFF
	Art Club	3.15 – 4.15	Y1 & Y2	Miss Cork's class	Miss Cork	OFF
Weds	Choir	8.15 – 8.50	Y3 – Y6	Hall	Mrs Mellor	OFF
	KS1 Choir	8.15 – 8.50	F & KS1	Mrs Cunha's class	Mrs Cunha	OFF
	Coding Club	3.30 – 4.15	KS2	Miss King's class	Miss King	Spring term
	Football	3.45 – 4.15	KS1 & 2	Hall / outside	Les Clitheroe	OFF
	Karate	4.45-5.45	KS2	KS2	Mrs Ralph / Mr Ferris	OFF
Thurs	Tennis	8.00 – 8.45	F&KS1	Outside or Hall	Mrs Ralph / Mr Atherfold	On
	Swing Band	3.15 – 4.20	KS2	Hall	Mr Coulson	OFF
Fri	Brass Band	3.15-4.00	KS2	Former staffroom	Mr Longson	Holiday
	Multi-Sports	3.13 – 4.15	Y1 & 2	Hall or outside	Mr Coulson	Holiday

*Diary Dates for the Autumn Term 2017*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Mon 18 December	1.30pm Afternoon performance of the KS2 Christmas Show
Tues 19 *	Some of the KS1 choir will be singing at the Hope Green during the afternoon
Tues 19	7.00pm Evening performance of the KS2 Christmas Show
Weds 20	Christmas Parties, Christmas Dinner, Talent Show
Thurs 21	Christmas Service 9.00am
Thurs 21	School Closes for Christmas holiday.
Mon 8 January 2018	School Reopens for Spring Term at 8.50am.

*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 with \*  
TBC means To be confirmed. TBF means To be Finalised.*

**School Calendar Dates 2017 – 2018**

**SCHOOL CLOSES**

Christmas 2017/18  
Spring Half Term 2018  
Easter 2018  
May Day 2018  
Summer Half Term 2018  
Summer 2018

Thursday 21st December  
Friday 16th February  
Thursday 29th March  
Monday 7th May  
Friday 25th May  
Friday 27th July

**SCHOOL OPENS**

Monday 8th January 2018  
Monday 26th February  
Monday 16th April  
  
Monday 11th June

INSET DAYS LEFT: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018.

## School Calendar Dates 2018 – 2019

### SCHOOL CLOSES

Autumn Half Term	Friday 26th October
Christmas 2018/19	Friday 21st December
Spring Half Term 2019	Friday 15th February
Easter 2019	Friday 5th April
May Day 2019	Monday 6th May
Summer Half Term 2019	Friday 24th May
Summer 2019	Friday 26th July

### SCHOOL OPENS

Tuesday 4th September
Tuesday 6th November
Monday 7th January 2019
Tuesday 26th February
Tuesday 23rd April
Monday 10th June

INSET DAYS: Monday 3rd September 2018, Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February, Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019, Tuesday 30th July 2019

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](mailto:head@lowerpark.cheshire.sch.uk)  
The Lower Park Beacon is also available to read on our School Website at: [www.lowerpark.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.lowerpark.cheshire.sch.uk)

Kind regards *Jan G Coulson and the Staff at Lower Park*

