



# LARKS HILL J&I SCHOOL

Larks Hill, Pontefract. WF8 4 RJ.  
01977 722845

## September 2017

# NEWSLETTER

### Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to a new academic year and for your child, a new class and teacher!

It was great to see on the first day of this term, children so smartly dressed in their uniforms and with smiling faces ready to start their new year at school.

A special welcome extends to our Reception children who seem to be settling in really well and to the new children who have joined Larks Hill from other schools. I hope they all enjoy their time at Larks Hill.

I would like to clarify to parents/carers that the school day begins at 8.45am and that the gates will open at 8.40am (not before). At 8.45am the children enter directly into their class where a morning activity will be set for them. If parents/carers are escorting their child onto school premises I ask that they say goodbye at the classroom entrance please.

Kind regards  
Mrs A Smith  
Headteacher

### Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival this year will be on **Friday 22nd September**, lead by Father Bob. All donations of tinned or dried non-perishable food can be brought in to school in the morning. As usual, the donations will be given to a local charity.



### Thank You

We would like to thank all the parents, carers and friends of the school who have supported both the school and the PFA at various fundraising events and activities throughout the year. We are extremely grateful to the PFA for their continued commitment to raising funds to support and enhance provision in school. We are particularly grateful for the contribution that the PFA have made this year towards a full class-set of laptop computers that we now have. Without this donation we would not have been able to enhance and improve the IT provision within school.



### Cash

Thank you for your support in helping us move towards being a cashless school. Last year 84% of payments to school were made electronically, compared to just 65% in the 2015-2016 school year. The benefits of going cashless include; increased security, payments are easier to track, parents have greater control of their payments and there is less chance of children losing cash or forgetting to hand it in. As we aim to be a cashless school we ask that where possible parents make payment electronically. You can do this with credit/debit cards or paypal on Parentmail and we can also take card payments in the office. We thank you for your co-operation in this.

ParentMail



### KS2 Theatre Trip



This year's panto trip to see Aladdin at Wakefield Theatre is on **Thursday 7th December**— oh no it isn't! **Oh yes it is!** You can pay for your child's place and give consent via parentmail. Payment can be made in two parts, with the initial £5 deposit due by **Friday 22nd September** and the remaining £12 by **Friday 20th October**.

### Contacting School

You may have noticed that school email addresses have changed over the summer holidays. The main contact email for school is now [admin@larkshill.patrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@larkshill.patrust.org.uk). Please use this address if you wish to contact school about anything. The inbox is monitored regularly and all enquiries are dealt with as quickly as possible.



Please remember that absences can be reported on Parentmail, you can also tell us about appointments for your child using this feature but please remember that we do require written confirmation (i.e. an appointment letter from a doctor or hospital).

You can of course call the office on 01977 722845 to report absences, if the phones are busy, please leave a message. Absences should be reported as soon as possible.

## Twitter

If you would like to follow Larks Hill on twitter you can! Twitter is another way for parents to find out about what their children are doing at school and for other family members (such as grandparents) to feel more involved with our school. Our twitter account has high security settings and will not be visible to the general public, only to our followers who will be accepted and monitored by a team of school staff. Find us on twitter @larks\_hill and send a follower request. Then complete a form (available to download [here](#)) and send that into school. When we receive your form, you will then be accepted as a follower.



## Reminders

- If you change your contact details, please remember to let school know. If you are not sure if we have the correct details for you, you can contact the office or pop in and ask.
- Parking, dropping off and picking up is not allowed on or opposite the yellow zigzags outside school between the hours of 8.00am-9.30am and 2.00pm-4.00pm. Please also note that the car park is for use of staff only or disabled badge holders that have contacted school to let us know they will be using the car park.
- Please give a week's notice in writing if you wish your child to switch to or from school dinners to packed lunches.
- Check parentmail regularly for information on upcoming events and to make payments for trips, clubs, breakfast club and dinner money.
- Please remember that dogs are not allowed on school premises.



## Film Festival

The Into Film Festival this year takes place on **Friday 10th November** for KS2 and **Tuesday 21st November** for KS1. KS2 pupils will be going to see Rock Dog and KS1 will be seeing Trolls! Both showings will be at Cineworld in Castleford. Tickets



**ROCK  
DOG**



cost £3 each and will be available to buy on parentmail soon!

## Diary Dates

We are working on the diary dates for this year, including trips and events in school. And will send these out to you as soon as we can. In the mean time, here are some key dates for your diary.

**Thursday 19th October**—Parent Consultation Evening

**Friday 20th October**—Inset day (school closed to pupils)

**Monday 23rd October—Friday 27th October**—Half term holiday.

**Friday 15th December**—Last Day of term

**Wednesday 3rd January**—School back open to pupils after Christmas Holidays, inset days and other whole school events are regularly added to the calendar on our website [larkshill.wakefield.sch.uk/calendar/](http://larkshill.wakefield.sch.uk/calendar/) and information will be sent out on Parentmail as and when we have it for the various things happening in school.

## School Photos

Tempest will be in to take individual photos on **Friday 13th October** so make sure you look nice and smart!



## Milk

Free school milk is available to every child until the beginning of the term in which they turn 5 years old. If you would like your child to continue receiving school milk every day after this time then please visit: [www.schoolmilkuk.co.uk](http://www.schoolmilkuk.co.uk) where you can register and pay for milk which will then be delivered straight to school.



## Bottle Tops

Mr Wakefield is asking for help with an art project using plastic bottle tops. Any child wishing to help in the collecting of these lids and tops needs to see Mr Wakefield for a resealable sandwich bag. He is wanting any plastic lid, i.e. shampoo bottles, juice bottles, fabric conditioner etc. Any size any colour. He will be collecting until the end of term.



## Christmas Cards

Yes we know, it is only September! But planning for Christmas has already started at Larks Hill and part of that is organising the Christmas Cards and other gifts that you will be able to buy.

Children will be asked to create a design for their Christmas Cards and gifts in school over the week. We will send these off to the printers and you will receive a free sample of your child's Christmas Card design. We will then be taking orders for cards, gift tags, mugs, tea towels and eco bags on Parentmail. We are aiming to have all of the orders in by half term so the manufacturers have time to produce everything and get them to school before Christmas. More details about how to order will be sent out nearer the time.

