

L.J.S. NEWS



The Monthly Newsletter of Laxton Junior School

Christmas Quarter, Issue 11

27 November 2009

*'A merry Christmas to everybody! A happy
New Year to all the world!'*

Charles Dickens

*Dear parents, children and other members of
the school community,*

*Welcome to the final edition of this year's L.J.S.
News. I would like to take this opportunity to
thank you for all your support during this
incredibly exciting year and to wish you all a
very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!*

On behalf of the staff,

Mark Potter

DATES AND HOLIDAYS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

Christmas Quarter 2009

Quarter commenced Monday 2nd
November.

Quarter ends at noon on Friday 11th
December.

Easter Quarter 2010

Quarter commences Monday January 11th.
Long Exeat - Saturday 13th - Sunday 21st
February inclusive.

Quarter ends at 3.45pm Friday 26th March.

Trinity Quarter 2010

Quarter commences on Monday 19th April.
Long Exeat - Saturday 29th May - Sunday
6th June inclusive.

Quarter ends at noon Wednesday 7th July.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

As we near the end of November and with
Christmas edging ever closer, there are a
number of events taking place during the
next two weeks that I would like to bring to
your attention so that you may put the
dates into your diaries.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

As from next Monday, our internal post
box will be available should children wish
to send cards to each other. Please ensure
that the child's name and form number is
on the envelope so our 'postmen' know
where to deliver.

Please note: As much as we would love to,
we cannot deliver to Auntie Mary /
Grandma / Grandpa etc.

FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER

We hope that Father Christmas will visit
the school with empty sacks on the
morning of Friday 4th December. Our
children, with your support and help, will
then fill Santa's sacks with presents. If you
wish to note on the present 'Boy 8-9 yrs' or
'Girl 6-7 yrs' as appropriate, please do
so. If the present is universal, there will be
no need.

Please could all presents be in school by
Wednesday 2nd December. Thank you -
this gesture from LJS children will be much
appreciated by the children spending
Christmas in the children's wards of the
Kettering, Peterborough and Huntingdon
hospitals.

P.F.A. CHRISTMAS PARTY

After Father Christmas' visit, the P.F.A. Children's Christmas Parties will be held on the afternoon of Friday 4th December between 1.00 p.m. and 3.45 p.m. Each Year Group will eat together and play some party games, dance the afternoon away and generally get into the Christmas spirit.

The children are able to wear their own clothes the whole day - this will save any changing and losing of uniform.

THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER

Crash into Christmas, 2.00 p.m. in the school hall - all welcome.

FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER

We look forward to seeing you at our annual Carol Service held at Oundle School Chapel starting at 11.00 a.m. on Friday 11th December. Please come early and do note that the front seats are reserved for the pupils and visiting guests.

The children will be walking up to the chapel so please ensure that your child has a warm winter coat. May I also remind you, that the children must have their blazer on for the Carol Service and girls should wear their navy blue tights.

The children will be walked back to school after the service and can be collected from the playground in the normal way at 12.00 o'clock.

We do hope you will be able to enjoy sharing this special event with us. Before collecting your children from the playground, do join us back at school after the service to have a glass of mulled wine and a minced pie.

"NEARLY NO NATIVITY"

"Nearly No Nativity" is a play within a play about a group of infant children putting on a Christmas show at school.

The teacher, Mrs Higgins, is becoming increasingly frustrated by the children's obsession with what picture should be on the front cover of the programme.

The caretaker is less than happy about the mess in the hall, glitter, feathers, straw etc. He can't see the point really!

However, the animals are happy to share their stable and the shepherds do a lot of running and leaping and dancing for joy.

Luckily the wise men have a star to follow as the three camels, Tom Tom, Garmin and Navman don't know where they're going!

Mrs Higgins is furious when the children start to push and shove on stage and she has to remind them what the story is all about; the baby Jesus in the manger. A Christmas message for us all.

The dress rehearsal for "Nearly No Nativity" will be held on **Monday 7th December at 2.00 p.m.** If you have a pre-school child who would like to come and see the nativity, please attend this performance.

The main performances will be held on **Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th December at 2.00 p.m.**; the show promises to be just wonderful!

❖❖ **DOORS OPEN - 1.45 P.M.** ❖❖

THE PARENTS' AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

There has been some confusion in recent weeks as to just what the Parents' and Friends' Association of Laxton Junior School is for.

In a broadest terms, the aim of the P.F.A. is to support the education of the pupils in the School by developing extended relationships between staff, parents and others associated with the school and to assist in the provision of supplementary facilities for education at the school.

The P.F.A. is an independent group within the school and all parents and/or guardians of pupils attending the School and all staff at the School are members of the P.F.A.

The P.F.A. committee is made up of each Year's representative/s and they work as an additional supporting team with the school to welcome new parents to the year group, ensuring that they are introduced to other parents and help to confirm that they have received relevant information from the school e.g. address list, parent handbook etc.

The P.F.A. assist with and co-ordinate any not-for-profit or fund-raising events, either for a year group or the whole school. They also help to co-ordinate any celebratory event within the School, organised either by the School or by parents who have already reached an agreement with the school. E.g. anniversaries, farewells or even School trips etc. I see one of the most important roles of the Parents' and Friends' Association as that of a 'critical friend',

advising parents with particular queries to talk to me or relevant member of staff. The P.F.A. can also advise the School that a parent has a particular query and would like to talk to me. This ensures the School may take speedy and proactive action.

The P.F.A. are also there to act as a 'sounding board' for the School in their capacity as representatives, such as in changes in routine or uniform.

An important note to make, however, is that PFA meetings are not forums for complaints. Any complaints should be directed to me or an appropriate member of staff at the earliest opportunity.

A final point to make is that all activities and events co-ordinated/organised by the P.F.A. are entirely optional. If there is a fund-raising activity planned, it is up to you if you would like to donate or not. If there is a not-for-profit social event in the calendar, you can decide whether or not you will attend.

The work of the P.F.A. is vital in ensuring that the strong communication that already exists between the School and the parents remains just that. Equally, the funds raised by the P.F.A. enable all of the children of Laxton Junior School to enjoy items, activities and events that may otherwise not be possible within our budget for the School. I would like to thank you all for the support that you give the P.F.A. and my sincere thanks go to the hard working volunteers on the committee and in the playground - all you do is greatly appreciated by the children, parents and staff in the LJS community.

LOWRY

The children in Form 6 have been learning about Laurence Stephen Lowry. They have learnt about his distinct style and tried to replicate this in their art lessons.

Last Friday, Rachel Nelson, Christie's director of 20th century British art came to visit Form 6. The children were incredibly fortunate to have this time with her. As part of her job Mrs. Nelson travels great distances to look at Lowry's paintings in private collections and check their authenticity.

Mrs. Nelson told the children about Lowry's life and the reasoning behind his work. They were shown a wide selection of his creations and were particularly fascinated by his self-portraits and his work during the Second World War. Our remarkably astute business women and men of the future paid great attention to the prices of Lowry's magnificent paintings.

BOOK FAIR

Many, many thanks for supporting the Scholastic Book Fair. It was a great success, raising approximately £900 commission which will be spent on books for Laxton Junior School. We trust that you are still enjoying reading all those books!

HAMPER EXTRAVANGAZA

Thanks to your very generous donations, the luxury hampers are once again on display in the school entrance. For your chance to win one of the hampers please pick up a raffle ticket from the school office. Each entry costs £5.00.

SWIMMING

There have been several children who have not participated in swimming this Quarter. This is a polite reminder that swimming is part of our school curriculum and should be encouraged at every opportunity. If your child is well enough to be in School then they are expected to participate in swimming sessions. The only exceptions to this would be if your child is completing the end of a course of antibiotics and therefore recovering from illness, or if they have been diagnosed with, and are therefore being treated for, a skin problem such as impetigo.

If you wish for your child to be excused from swimming for either of these reasons, please speak to your child's teacher.

We have also had a few problems with lost swimming kit, both named and un-named; please could you check that all clothing and kit is labelled, including swimming hats and goggles. We would also be grateful if you could check at home for kit which does not belong to your child and return it to school should you find any.

STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS

!!!! ADVANCED WARNING !!!!

The Easter Quarter 2011 will commence on **Wednesday 5th January 2011** and **not** on Monday 5th January as previously published.

Monday 27th September 2010 **is not** a teacher training day; school will be open as usual on this day. Thank you.

Laxton Junior School Calendar of Events for December 2009

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
30 November Y6: visit Imperial War Museum, Duxford 09:30 Bags to Schools Collection	1 December Little Gift Co. Y1 and Y4	2 Little Gift Co. YR, Y2 and Y5 14:30 Hockey: U11 v Peterborough High (H)	3 Little Gift Co. Y3 and Y6 <i>and</i> All years visit after school if desired	4 Clubs End 10:30 Father Christmas to visit if we're good! 12:30-13:00 -- Come & Play 13:00-15:45 -- PFA: Christmas parties	5	6
7 08:30 Music Assembly 14:00-15:00 -- Infant play dress rehearsal	8 14:00 Infant Play 'Nearly No Nativity'	9 14:00 Infant Play 'Nearly No Nativity'	10 Crash into Christmas -- All welcome	11 11:00 Carol Service (Oundle School Chapel) followed by mince pies & mulled wine in LJS hall 12:00 -- Christmas Quarter ends	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas...	26	27
28	29	30	31	1 Jan ...and a Happy New Year!	2 Jan	3 Jan Easter Quarter Commences Monday 11 January 08:30