

Lockyer's Middle School

November 2023 - Autumn Term 2 - Issue Number 73
Headteacher: Miss A. Dufek . Deputy Headteacher: Ms F. Locke
01202 692779 - office@lockyersmiddle.org



Headteacher Update

Welcome back to Autumn 2. I hope you enjoyed the half term break despite the weather. Our Lockyer's pupils continue to impress me with their positive attitude towards learning especially through what has been a wet week.

Training Day

On Monday we had an inspiring training day, where we worked in collaboration with our Initio Trust middle school colleagues building on our ambitious curriculum. It was wonderful to have so many subject specialists focusing on creating the best possible learning experiences for our children, using well-documented research about how children learn over time. Our Science teachers were also joined by Enthuse Partnership specialists, focusing on how to develop and assess children's scientific working skills with engaging investigations. In addition to this, we had a guest speaker from the NHS leading a master class on the RSE curriculum. A very packed and informative day, enabling the staff at Lockyer's to continue to develop their understanding and ability to deliver a high-quality curriculum for all!

Anxiety Workshop

On the **22nd November from 4:00-5:00pm**, the **Mental Health Schools Team** will be delivering a workshop in school for parents/carers on '**supporting your child with their anxiety**'.

This session is available for parents/carers who are looking to understand and support their child with anxiety or worries. The session covers theory around anxiety in young people, potential triggers and maintenance factors, and key strategies to support their child with managing worries. It also explores parental wellbeing and the importance of this when supporting their child.

Please complete the Google form via the link below to express your interest in attending:
<https://forms.gle/HMfjufyy5pNFDrX6g>

Please could you complete this by Wednesday 15th November at the latest.

Reading

Reading is such an important part of children's education and as such we prioritise this both in school and as homework, Mr Dyer and Ms Locke were thrilled to be able to lead an assembly on reading, ensuring all children were aware of when they should be reading and quizzing, as well as to introduce the Year Group competitions: we are running a challenge between classes for a MUFTI day towards the end of each term for the winning tutor group in each year. Every pupil's participation is important for



winning this competition. Please support your children's progress by encouraging them to complete books at home and complete Accelerated Quizzes in school. Reading is one of the biggest factors of a successful education - the more you do, the easier it becomes. We love our books here and are happy to help children find the right choice for them if they're not sure what to read next; all they need to do is come and see Ms Nash, Mr Dyer or Ms Locke for some suggestions!

I wish you all a great weekend and look forward to seeing everyone on Monday morning.

Best wishes,

A. Dufek

- Headteacher

Upcoming events

SATs Information Evening

Next Tuesday we are holding a **Year 6 SATs information** evening **6:00 - 7:00pm**. At this meeting details of these tests will be shared, followed by three short workshops on Reading, Mathematics, and SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar). It is our aim that you will leave this evening with a clear understanding of what will be required of your child when they complete these tests, whilst also providing practical advice on how to support your child at home. Please complete our google form via the link below by midday on Monday 6th November if you would like to attend this information evening:

<https://forms.gle/LCc2JNXzWv5NW9p67>

Year 5 Parents' Coffee Morning



On **Wednesday 15th November** we are inviting our **Year 5** parents for a **coffee morning**. Whilst in school, you will be able to meet with staff and other Year 5 parents over a coffee in the hall as well as have an opportunity to visit the Year 5 block to see all of our pupils working in their English lessons. We would love for you to come and join in with us.

Year 8 'Time in a Bottle'

On **Friday 1st December**, PS Productions are coming to perform '**Time in a Bottle**' to **Year 8**. Pupils will watch a performance and then take part in a workshop. Following a child's experiences with alcohol and peer pressure, this play aims to show how a series of choices may affect work, health, relationships and self-esteem, allowing children to reflect on the choices they make when faced with a difficult situation, and to question the relationship between alcohol and the media. Teaching staff will be present during the initial performance and for each workshop. Further information will follow later this term.

Winter Disco

Our Winter Disco will be held on **Wednesday 6th December** in the School Hall. Tickets will be on sale during breaktimes and lunchtimes from Monday 27th November for £3.00 each.

Year 5 & 6 - 6pm - 7.15pm

Year 7 & 8 - 7.45pm - 9pm

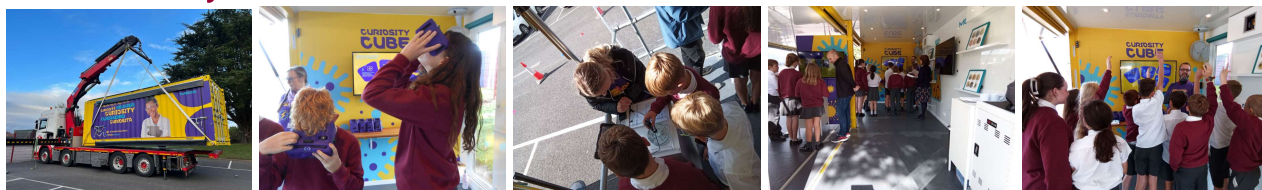
Lockyer's Christmas Concert

Our Annual Christmas Concert will be taking place on **Tuesday 12th December at 6pm** at St Nicholas' Church. As ever this will be a wonderful occasion to celebrate all of our fantastic musicians and musical groups from our school.



What's been happening at Lockyer's?

Merck Curiosity Science Cube



The students were very excited to see the Merck Scientists back at Lockyer's in October, especially as they had brought their mobile laboratory, 'the Curiosity Cube', with them. Years 6-8 took part in sessions learning about contamination. The pupil's favourite activity was using the virtual reality headsets to find the bacteria and viruses contaminating the surfaces of a classroom. Trying to pronounce the names of the microorganisms was definitely a challenge but everyone got into the spirit of it and gave it a go. The students also tested soft drink samples to check they had not been contaminated and used microscopes to find pollutants on the beach and in water. The scientists were, as always, impressed by our student's enthusiasm, knowledge and politeness.

A massive thank you to Merck for bringing their incredible facility to our school. We are looking forward to having the Merck volunteer team back in March to work with Year 6; May to work with Year 7; and July for Year 5.

Year 6 SEN Coffee Morning

On Wednesday 4th October, our SEN department held a coffee morning for the parents and carers of our Year 6 SEN children. It was extremely positive, with lots of chatter and feedback. It was great to see so many attending and we look forward to carrying out more of these in the not too distant future.

World Mental Health Day 2023



On the 10th October we celebrated World Mental Health Day in school. We all took part in some extra physical exercise, to boost our endorphins and help with Positive Mental Attitude. Our Years 5's and 6's (and some of the teachers!) took part in an early morning Daily Mile, whilst our Year 7's and 8's had extra fresh-air time in the afternoon.

It was certainly an extremely popular and positive way to celebrate such an important day.

Young Carers Group



This academic year has seen the start of a monthly Young Carers Group run by Mrs Pugh (Pupil Wellbeing Lead and Young Carers Champion).

The group offers the opportunity for children identified as Young Carers to feel supported, make friends and have fun!

In September we got to meet one another as a group for the first time and start to think about what the children hoped to gain from meeting as Young carers.

In October we welcomed Emma from MyTime (Young Carers Charity) who told the children about who and what MyTime can offer and the Group started to think of a group 'name and brand' and to start forming their 'Group Charter'.

All of the children that have attended so far have shown such Courage and Respect by coming along and getting involved and meeting one another!

The next Young Carers Group is running on the 17th November. If you believe your son/daughter is a Young Carer and would benefit from attending the group, please contact the school office and ask to speak to Mrs Pugh.



Friends of Lockyer's

The first Friends meeting took place on 2nd October, with an extremely motivating and positive start to our school year. Many, many ideas were put forward; different events and ways to raise the much-needed funds for the school.

Pre-Loved Uniform Sale

We held Uniform Sales on the 17th and 19th October, during the Meet the Tutor evenings. We will be holding our next meeting very soon. Please come along to support us. All new ideas welcome...

The Friend's will be supporting the upcoming school discos in December. The discos are a vital part of school life - for both the student's social activities and to raise much-needed funds for the school.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 7th November -	Yr 6 SATs Information Evening
Wednesday 8th November -	Flu Immunisations
Friday 10th November-	Report Card 1 home to parents
Wednesday 15th November-	Year 5 Coffee Morning
Friday 17th November-	Children In Need (details to follow)
Friday 1st December -	Year 8 'Time in a Bottle'
Wednesday 6th December -	School Disco
Tuesday 12th December -	Christmas Concert
Wednesday 13th December-	Chartwells Christmas Lunch Day
Thursday 14th December -	Last Day of Term
Wednesday 3rd January -	Students Back to School

School Dinners - Cut-Off Dates



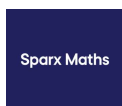
Deadline to place order

Sunday 5th November 2023
Sunday 12th November 2023
Sunday 19th November 2023
Sunday 26th November 2023

For Week Commencing

Monday 20th November
Monday 27th November
Monday 4th December
Monday 12th December

Achievement Badges



All children at Lockyer's Middle School can work towards becoming a Maths Master, Millionaire Reader and Tassomai Titan (*Key Stage 3 pupils only*).

- To be a **Maths Master** you need to have answered 700 questions correctly on the Sparx Maths platform,
- **"Read through the Rainbow"** and collect certificates for every 3 successful book quizzes.
- To be a **Millionaire Reader** you need to have collected a million words from successfully completed quizzes.
- To be a **Tassomai Titan** you need to have answered 5,000 questions correctly.

How many badges can you collect this academic year?



Extra-Curricular Achievements



Thank you so much to everyone who has sent in their extra-curricular achievements. It has been a spectacular half term, with so many achievements.

Well done to Freddie, Thomas, Lilly, Charlie, Evie, Izzie, Polly, Bradley, Riley and Finn on your fantastic accomplishments. We love celebrating these in school and with our Lockyer's Community. Please keep them coming in!

Social Media

Please follow us on



Facebook Lockyers Middle School

X (Formerly Twitter) @Lockyers_Middle

We aim to provide regular updates.

You can also use our **school website to learn more about our school**. Visit

<https://www.lockyersmiddle.org>



Road Safety in our Community

Please continue to have conversations with your children about crossing roads and walking safely on pavements to and from school. Especially as the daylight hours are getting shorter, it is even more important to reiterate the need for being aware of your surroundings when out and about.



ePraise App for Parents

Don't forget to download the ePraise app for parents.

This will give instant access to see how your child(ren) are currently doing in school. The App can be found on all Android and Apple devices.



Allergies

Please ensure that **children do not bring nut-based products into school**.

Please also ensure that **children only have a healthy snack at break time each day**.



Uniform Expectations 2023 - 2024

A reminder on our uniform expectations as shared with you in the summer term. Parental support is required to ensure that all pupils are well presented. The standard of dress is important because it sets the expectation for work and provides the opportunity for collective pride in our school community as well as a clear structure for students and parents to follow.

UNIFORM	GUIDANCE NOTES
Skirts	Grey pleated or flared style skirts (No pencil skirts). Skirts are to be worn without being altered or rolled and should finish just above or on the knee.
Trousers	Grey suit-style trousers (No jean type). Trousers should be formal, not fashion in style (eg. skinny or flared).
Shorts	Grey tailored, formal schoolwear.
Shirt/blouse	White shirt/blouse with a top button.
Jumper	Maroon Lockyer's jumper with school logo only. Should any additional outdoor clothing be required, this must be in the form of a coat or jacket as non-uniform jumpers/ hoodies are <u>not permitted</u> .
Tie	Lockyer's tie should be knotted at the top button. 7 stripes as a minimum in length.
Socks	Plain grey or black knee-length or ankle socks.
Tights	Plain grey or black tights.
Footwear	Fully black leather/leather-look shoe style, this includes the sole and any logos. Trainers, high heels, slip on shoes, boots and open-toed shoes <u>are not permitted</u> .

Parents are asked to ensure that school uniform skirts and trousers comply with the above. Where there is any doubt in the suitability of an item of uniform in school, parents are asked to contact the Head of Year before a purchase is made.

Jewellery

- Pupils are permitted to wear one plain stud in each ear lobe only. This must be removed, or taped, if freshly pierced, during PE.
- Pupils may wear a watch.
- Fitbits/fitness trackers may be worn as long they have no messaging or camera facility.

For further information on PE uniform, hair and makeup please visit our website for guidance [here](#).

Attendance Reminders

From the start of last academic year the Department for Education has confirmed that School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.

Lockyer's Middle School expects pupils to maintain an attendance figure of at least 95% across the academic year and we will communicate with families if their child falls below this expected level to work with you and the Local Authority to bring about an improvement.



Child Protection

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead with responsibility for Child Protection is: **Mrs K. Whittaker**

The Academy Committee member with responsibility for Child Protection is: **Mrs King**

Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads with responsibility for Child Protection are:

Miss A. Dufek

Mr R. Ettling

Ms F. Locke

Mrs H. Pugh

School term and holiday dates 2023/2024

Autumn Term 2023

Half Term Holiday

Staff Training Day

Pupils Return

Last Day of Term

Staff Training Day

Christmas Holiday

Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October

Monday 30th October

Tuesday 31st October

Thursday 14th December

Friday 15th December

Monday 18th December – Monday 1st January

Spring Term 2024

Staff Training Day

First Day of Term

Half Term Holiday

Staff Training Day

Pupils Return

Last Day of Term

Staff Training Day

Easter Holiday

Tuesday 2nd January

Wednesday 3rd January

Monday 12th – Friday 16th February

Monday 19th February

Tuesday 20th February

Wednesday 27th March

Thursday 28th March

Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April

Summer Term 2024

First Day of Term

May Day Holiday

Half Term Holiday

Pupils Return

Staff Training Day

Last Day of Term

Monday 15th April

Monday 6th May

Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May

Monday 3rd June

Friday 21st June

Tuesday 23rd July

Article 3: *All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.*

