



EVERYONE COUNTS 'Our school is a welcoming, inclusive community where everyone counts'



Our Value for this Half Term is:

Compassion

& we have been

Celebrating Christmas

As we reach the end of term, we would like to wish all our parents and carers a happy, peaceful Christmas.

We know this is a busy time of year, but do ask you to try to keep up regular reading and simple maths activities with your children over the break and, as we approach the return in January, try to help them settle back into a routine of early nights.

A gentle reminder to ensure all internet-linked devices have parental controls enabled and that children's online activity — including any chat groups — is closely monitored; platforms such as WhatsApp and TikTok are **not suitable for children under 13** and pose a significant safeguarding risk.

Please try to also get into good habits of limiting screen time use as a family, please lead by example. 😊 The National Institute of Health notes:

*"As screen time reduces the amount and quality of interactions between children and their caregivers, it can also have an impact on language development. Contextual elements like co-viewing and topic appropriateness are key in determining how language development is impacted. Additionally, excessive screen usage has **poor / detrimental effects on social and emotional growth, including a rise in the likelihood of obesity, sleep disorders, and mental health conditions including depression and anxiety. It can obstruct the ability to interpret emotions, fuel aggressive conduct, and harm mental health and wellbeing in general.** Setting boundaries, utilising parental controls, and demonstrating good screen behaviour are all techniques that parents may use to manage children's screen usage. We can reduce the possible negative impacts of excessive screen time and promote children's healthy development and well-being by increasing knowledge and encouraging alternative activities that stimulate development, including regular involvement in conversations, encouraging clear speaking, listening and questioning."*

Thank you for your continued support and we hope you all enjoy a restful break together.

Mr Manning & Mrs Vines



CLASS NEWS!

Below you will find links to the website news pages for each individual class; including Forest School and Nursery. These pages will be updated regularly, to enable parents to see more of what their child/children have been doing in school; we are able to upload far more content this way, than via our newsletter. We hope that you will still enjoy seeing what the rest of the school have been doing too!



Breakfast and After School Care

We offer Breakfast Club from 7.45 to 8.45am with two different session charges - starting at 7.45am or at 8.00am.

Breakfast is served from 7.45 until 8.20am.

School pupils:

7.45-8.45am @£5.00

8.00-8.45am @£3.75

Nursery:

7.45-9.00am @ £7.25 age 3-4 / £6.65 age 2

8.00-9.00am @ £5.80 age 3-4 / £5.30 age 2

After School Childcare is available every day from 3.15pm (3pm for nursery children) to 5.30pm. There are various sessions / price blocks available and bookings should be made via ParentPay. **The cut-off for booking Afterschool Care is 10am on the day required. In an emergency, if you need to book after this time please ring school.**

Where possible, we do prefer Breakfast Club to be booked in advance but **you can always just turn up if necessary** - all we ask is that you log in and make payment later that day.

If you would like to pay for Breakfast and/or afterschool care via childcare vouchers, or the Government tax-free voucher scheme, you will need to make payments in advance which can then be allocated to your child/children's accounts - please contact the school office for further details.

Important

Drop Off and Pick Up Reminders



Parents / Carers are kindly reminded that the only times they should use the Staff / Visitor Carpark are:

- **7.45-8.15am, if dropping off at *Breakfast Club*, and**
- **4.00-5.30pm when collecting from *Afterschool Club*.**

When dropping off at *Breakfast Club*, we ask parents not to use the marked bays but, instead, to park along the side of the path, as members of staff who park in these bays are arriving at this time.

Thank you to everyone who is doing this! 😊

When dropping-off at the start of the school day, or collecting at the end, parents must please park in the Village Hall Car Park. **This includes mornings when you are late arriving at school.** If the school gate has been locked, please leave your car in the Village Hall Carpark and use the pathway to walk your child around to reception, and sign them in.

Parking in the staff carpark is extremely limited and mornings are particularly busy with staff arriving and the addition of delivery vehicles - we simply do not have the capacity for parents to use this carpark at these times.

Thank you for your support in this matter and the safety of everyone.

Whoops-a-Daisy Angel

The Christmas season began in style at Lea Primary, with our Early Years/KS1 nativity play, 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' performed by the children in Willow (Reception) and Maple (Year 1 and 2).

The play was a joy to watch, with fantastic singing, clearly spoken lines and wonderful costumes, all bringing the story to life. The children showed great enthusiasm throughout and performed with impressive confidence, making it a truly memorable occasion for everyone watching.

A huge thank you goes to all the staff, who worked so hard to put the play together and to support the children every step of the way.

Thank you also to everyone who joined us to celebrate and helped to give us such a wonderful start to our Christmas festivities here at Lea CE Primary School.





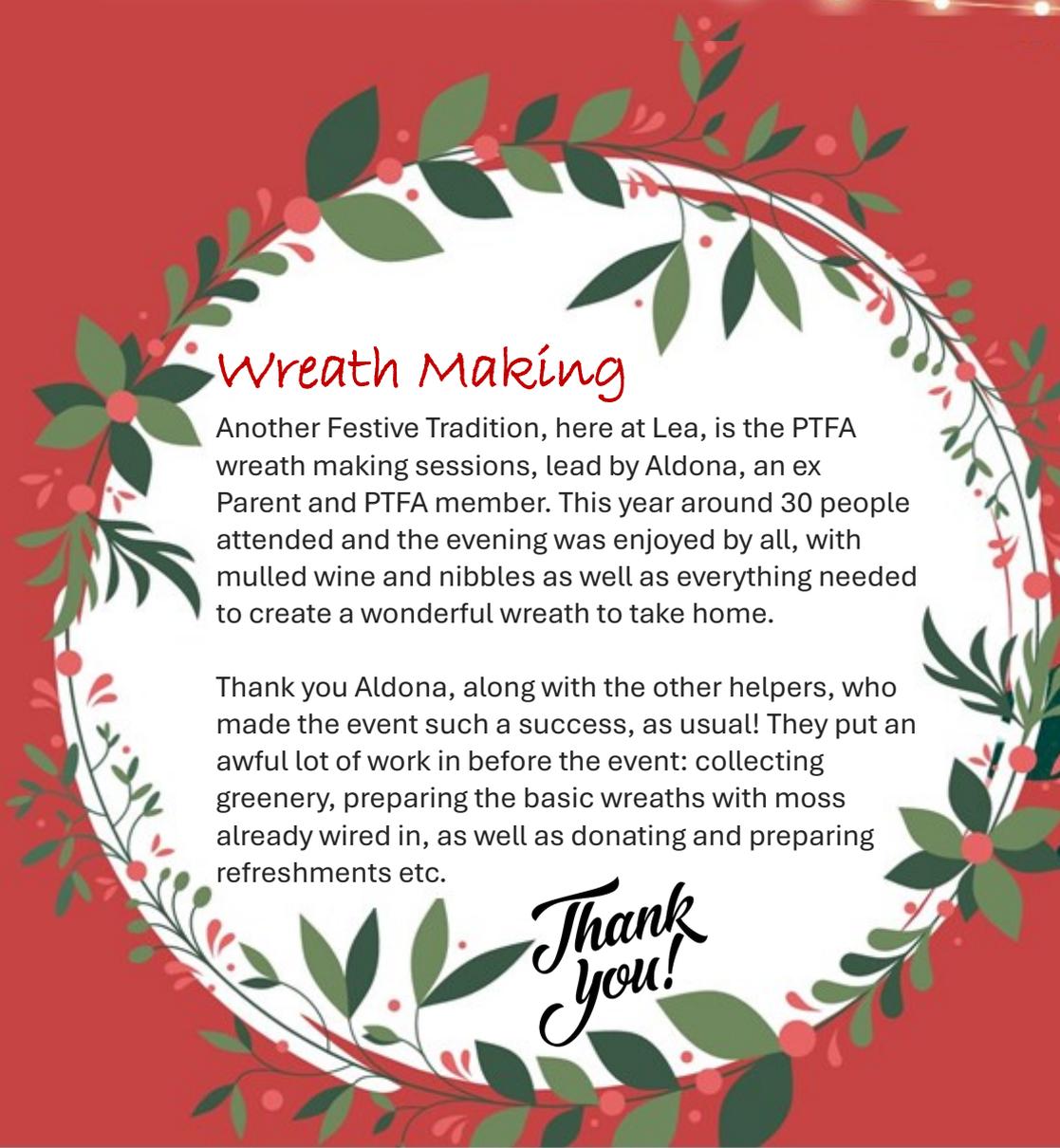
PTFA Christmas Fundraising

Christmas Fayre

A fabulous event supported by so many people – thank you to everyone who came and supported us, raising money for the benefit of the children.

£1676 was raised over all, which is an amazing amount and would not have happened without people working so hard to prepare activities, source raffle prizes, sell raffle tickets, set up the event, run stalls and help to clear away afterwards.

A HUGE THANK YOU to all of the wonderful helpers. It was a wonderful afternoon and it was so lovely to see the smiles on the children's faces.



Wreath Making

Another Festive Tradition, here at Lea, is the PTFA wreath making sessions, lead by Aldona, an ex Parent and PTFA member. This year around 30 people attended and the evening was enjoyed by all, with mulled wine and nibbles as well as everything needed to create a wonderful wreath to take home.

Thank you Aldona, along with the other helpers, who made the event such a success, as usual! They put an awful lot of work in before the event: collecting greenery, preparing the basic wreaths with moss already wired in, as well as donating and preparing refreshments etc.

*Thank
you!*





WHOLE SCHOOL PANTOMIME TRIP

At the end of November, our pupils enjoyed a fantastic trip to Hereford Courtyard Theatre, to watch the pantomime ***Mother Goose***.

From the moment the lights went down, to the final (very enthusiastic!) round of applause, the children were completely captivated by the colourful costumes, catchy songs and larger-than-life characters — with plenty of giggles along the way, especially during the audience participation parts, including Mr Eaton!



Even more impressive than the Dame's jokes was the children's behaviour throughout the visit. They were polite, attentive and represented the school beautifully, receiving compliments from the theatre staff on ***several*** occasions for their excellent manners and conduct. ***Well done everyone, a truly lovely morning!***

Huge thanks to our PTFA who greatly subsidize this trip each year, to make it affordable for all; it is very much appreciated.

Lea Primary School



Our school choir, consisting of nearly 30 children, from Year's 4, 5 and 6, have had a busy start to the Christmas period!

We started off the season participating in the annual Hereford Cathedral Community Carol Service on Tuesday 2nd December, where we came together with 5 other schools, including Hereford Cathedral Junior School Choir and their Senior Choir too. Ahead of the Advent carol Service, Mr Barlow, a Hereford Cathedral music teacher, came to practice with the children and Mrs Abbott. The children really enjoyed their time rehearsing with him. The Carol Service was held in the Cathedral and there were over two hundred in the congregation, including many of the children's family and relations. It was a magical evening, and such an experience for the children to participate in a massed choir, singing in parts. We feel honoured to be invited as, together with Gorsley Goffs, we were two of only four or five schools in Herefordshire to be invited. Lea children, along with four carols and two choral pieces, also performed 'The Snowman' as an individual piece.

Last week the choir then visited the monthly coffee morning at the village hall, again with Mrs Abbott, singing a variety of Christmas songs, and encouraging the audience to join in with some of the more well known ones. It was a lovely session and some of the children also gave the older residents of Lea a homemade Christmas Card.

We must say a huge thank you to Mrs Abbott for working with the children and supporting us in our love of singing.





HEREFORD
CATHEDRAL



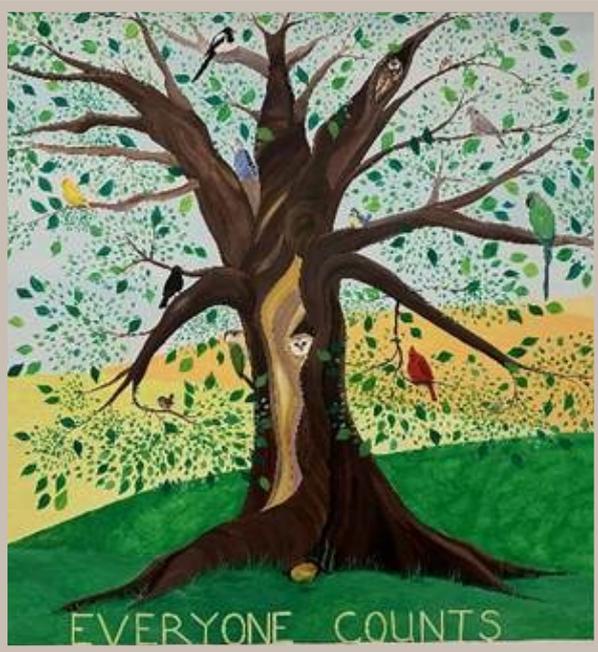
OPEN AFTERNOON – ‘EVERYONE COUNTS’

On our Open Afternoon in November, we welcomed a number of existing School Children’s parents and family, Potential New parents, parents of Nursery Children and also Stay and Play parents, to look round the school and Gateway Lodge Nursery. Our Year 6 children did an amazing job of showing the visitors around and were a real credit to the school. Many of our visitors complemented the children on their politeness and knowledge, including sharing about our main school values of Compassion, Respect, Courage Service and Hope and Aspiration, and how important these values are.

Visiting children all took away a book of their choice to share and there was cake to enjoy too.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in visiting either school or nursery, please get them to ring or email the school office admin@lea-primary.hereford.sch.uk

The dead line for applications for Reception Class 2026 is 15th January 2026



School admissions

Applications are now open.

Apply online today!

Primary School:

Parents with a child due to start school next September (ie born between **1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022**) need to apply now, for a Reception class place for their child to start school in September 2026.

This should be done via the Council online portal, link below:

[Apply for a Primary School Place](#)

The online portal is now open and closes on 15th January 2026

Please note that attending a nursery does not automatically guarantee a place at the associated primary school , therefore parents must still apply.

Visit from Jordan Salway

Assistant Headteacher @ John Kyle High School

In November, Mr Salway came to visit the Year 5 children and gave an introductory talk about what life is like at secondary school.

It was lovely to welcome him to Lea CE Primary School and the children were wonderfully polite and asked lots of sensible questions. He shared some of the things currently going on at JKHS including the management of mobile phones, lunch options etc.

After Christmas, John Kyle have invited our Year 5 children to spend a morning at the High School, with transport included, where they will be able to experience a couple of lessons with different teachers and also have a tour of the school.



Thank you, to those families who brought a Shoe Box into school, to be sent of to Eastern Europe.

Although we had decided not to participate in the Shoe Box appeal this year, we had one or two families who still wanted to kindly donate. We were able to accommodate this and arrange for their boxes to be collected.

We will ensure we participate fully again next year.

Thank you again – you will have made someone’s Christmas.

Attendance Matters



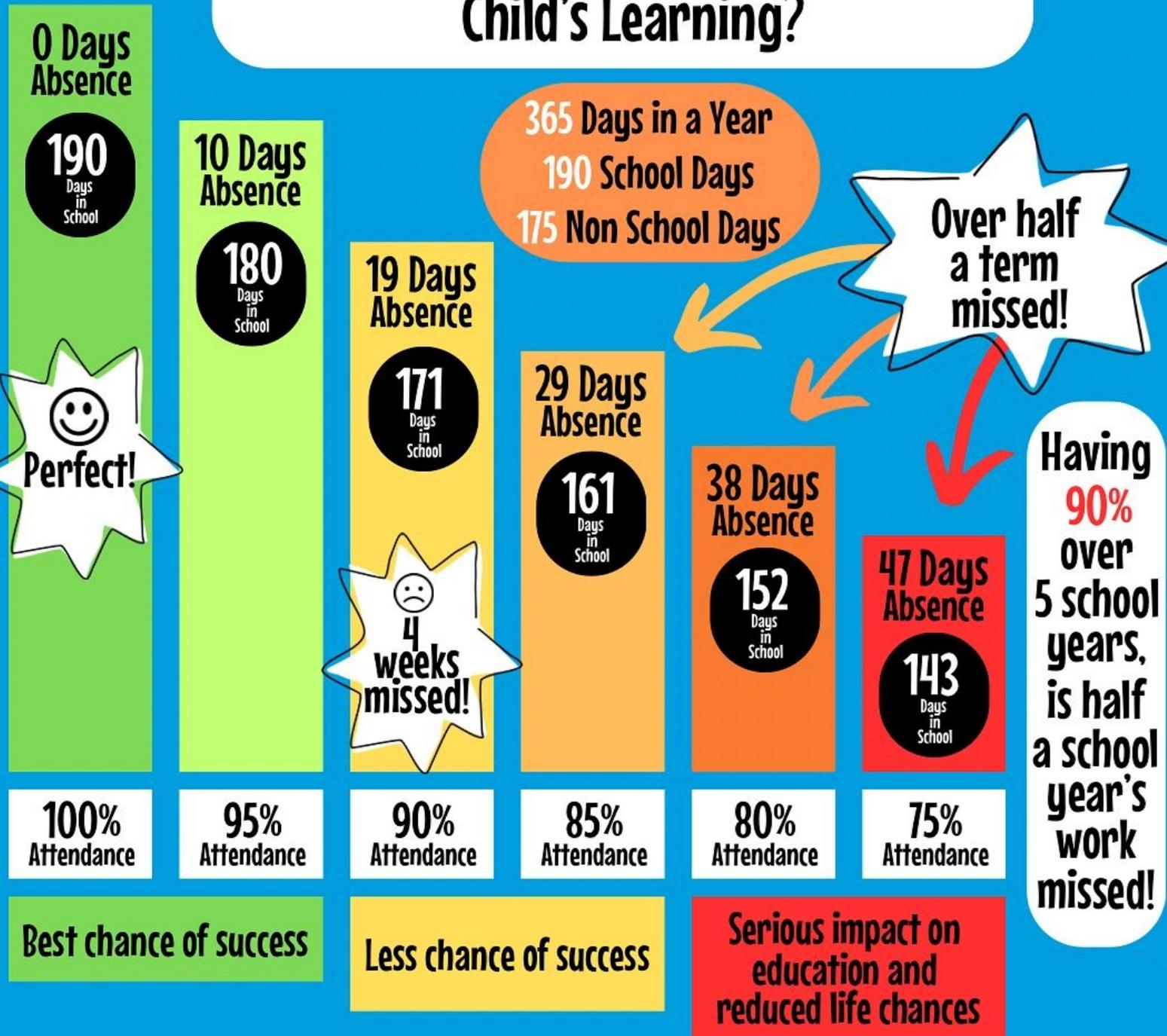
Every Day Counts....

We are working hard to help improve the overall attendance for your children at Lea Primary School. Thank you for your continued support in trying to maximise this for your child's learning, and encouraging resilience where possible.

We are, however, aware that where necessary children do need to take the required 48 hours time off in order to try and stop any spread within the school community. Thank you for your support in this also.

Please see the chart below which shows how attendance can effect a child's education.

How Does School Attendance Affect a Child's Learning?



Initial Dates for your Diary 2026!

| Date | Day | Time | Event |
|------------------|-----------|-------------|---|
| January | | | |
| 5th | Mon | | INSET day for staff |
| 6th | Tues | 8.45am | School starts for Children. Gates locked at 8.40am, |
| 8th | Thurs | All day | Chance to Shine Cricket starts (session for each class for 6 weeks) |
| 15th | Thurs | | Football event for some children (Y3 & Y4) |
| 16th | Fri | | Topic Webs |
| w/c 19th | Mon-Thurs | 3.15-4.15pm | Teacher-led clubs start this week |
| 27 th | Tues | TBC | Y5 Y6 Sports Hall Athletics John Masefield |
| February | | | |
| 10th | Tues | | Year 5 transition visit to JKHS |



WE WISH YOU

a very

MERRY

CHRISTMAS

AND

Happy New Year