



Children across the school are busy rehearsing ready to perform to parents and family members over the next two weeks. All of our children are involved in some way which allows them to perform in front of a live audience at least once a year.

Infant Nativity

Our infants will be performing the Infant Nativity for parents on **Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th December at 1:45pm** in the school hall. Our youngest children in Reception will once again take on the lead acting roles with the children in Y1 and Y2 supporting in the wings as the choir. The performance should last approximately 30 minutes and parents will be allowed to collect their child (and older siblings) from their classroom doors.

KS2 Christmas Concert

Our KS2 children are busy rehearsing their Christmas poems and musical compositions for their performances to parents on **Wednesday 13th December, 1:40-2:40pm**, and **Thursday 14th December, 6-7pm**. On Thursday, please can children arrive from 5:45pm so they have plenty of time to go to the toilet and get their instruments.

Live Theatre Experiences

Last week, Reception, Y2 and Y4 enjoyed Christmas themed live theatre in Lancaster. Reception and Y2 visited Lancaster Grand Theatre to see Jack and the Beanstalk with Y4 seeing A Christmas Carol at the Dukes Theatre.



At Mossgate, through our planned curriculum enrichment, we want all children to experience live theatre at least every other year which is why Reception, Y2 and Y4 visited Lancaster last week. Y6 will see a live show in London during their visit in the summer term. We decided to visit in alternate years to keep the costs for parents as manageable as possible with other visits and residentials.

- Mon 11/12 No after school clubs this week or next week
- Wed 13/12 Y1&2 Gymnastics Competition at BLA, 3:45-6:30pm
- Wed 13/12 **KS2 Christmas Concert to parents, 1:40-2:40pm**
- Thurs 14/12 **KS2 Christmas Concert to parents, 6-7pm**
- Fri 15/12 **Reception Elm Class to Kingsway Court – singing to residents**
- Mon 18/12 No after school clubs this week
- Mon 18/12 **Christmas Dinner themed menu**
- Tues 19/12 Infant Nativity for parents at 1:45pm
- Wed 20/12 **Infant Nativity for parents at 1:45pm**
- Thurs 21/12 Choir singing at Arndale, 2-3:30pm
- Fri 22/12 **School closes for Christmas**



PSFA Update

Our PSFA met last Thursday 8th December to review recent Christmas events and to begin planning for the spring term. It was great again to see so many new faces and children at the meeting.

Santa's Grotto

This year we welcomed back Santa and his grotto. I hope the children and families enjoyed this experience last week. A huge thank you to our Father Christmas who we hope will be visiting us again next week when the children can choose a book as their Christmas gift which will be once again funded by the PSFA. Thank you to Natasha Chalmers for organising the reindeer food and donating biodegradable glitter and for loaning us her festive inflatables. Thanks also to Miss Turnbull for assisting Santa on most of the evenings and to Mrs Robinson.



Chocolate Tombola

The Chocolate Tombola raised **£169**. We have some tickets and chocolate left, so children can bring in money during the last week if they would like to have another go at winning chocolate. £1 for five tickets.

Secret Sant Gift Room

Our PSFA elves have been busy wrapping over two hundred gifts! Thank you to Amy Brown, Lorraine Molyneaux and Leanne Burbidge for purchasing the gifts and to Danielle Craddock, Gina Edwards, Michelle Coulson and Susan Kreuger for wrapping them. The children who have purchased the gifts online will be able to choose their gifts for family members next week which they bring home wrapped.

Christmas Bingo

Our Christmas Bingo was a wonderful event and made **£349** profit! A huge thank you to Amy Brown for contacting local businesses for prizes which we used for our prize hampers. Thank you to Nichola Foote for organising the mulled wine and Lorraine Molyneaux for the mince pies. Thanks also to Mrs Berry for creating the sweet cones to sell and organising the hot chocolate.

Thank you

Thank you to all the Mossgate staff who have volunteered behind the scenes and helped to set up before the events. Thank you to our new Chair, Leanne Burbidge who has taken on most of the co-ordinating and to Mrs Berry as Treasurer. Thank you to Miss Turnbull for her hard work behind the scenes in organising payments and to Miss Myers for sourcing gifts and organising other aspects in her role as Secretary.



Attendance & Punctuality Update

Over the last two weeks, I have written over one hundred positive postcards for attendance and / or punctuality. It's great to see that so many children have either 100% or attendance in the high nineties.

I understand that children get ill from time to time and in a small number of cases, some children have complex medical needs. In our recently updated Attendance & Punctuality Policy, I have included advice from the NHS about common illness and included this below.

As with all of our policies, we welcome feedback from parents and carers. You can find the updated policy on our [website](#) and paper copies are available if requested from the school office. Please send any feedback directly to me by email (head@mossgate.lancs.sch.uk).

Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school due to illness. In most cases, children are well enough to attend school and when they are busy with their friends, will often forget they are feeling ill. We can administer medicines like Calpol, if you complete the relevant form at the school office. If your child is well enough to go to school, but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let the school office know so that this information can be shared with the class teacher.

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about [managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](#). These state when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

For other common illness, recent NHS advice states:

- **Coughs and colds:** It's fine to send your child to school with a minor [cough](#) or [common cold](#), but if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.
- **High temperature:** If your child has a [high temperature](#), keep them off school until it goes away.
- **Chickenpox:** If your child has [chickenpox](#), keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.
- **Cold sores:** There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a [cold sore](#). Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.
- **Conjunctivitis:** You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have [conjunctivitis](#). Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.
- **COVID-19:** If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school. Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have [symptoms of COVID-19](#) and they either: have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities. Your child is no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if they have symptoms. But if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test.
- **Ear infection:** If your child has an [ear infection](#) and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
- **Hand, foot and mouth disease:** If your child has [hand, foot and mouth disease](#) but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.
- **Head lice and nits:** There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. You can treat [head lice and nits](#) without seeing a GP.
- **Impetigo:** If your child has [impetigo](#), they'll need treatment from a GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.
- **Ringworm:** If your child has [ringworm](#), see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.
- **Scarlet fever:** If your child has [scarlet fever](#), they'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise, they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.
- **Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease):** You don't need to keep your child off school if they have [slapped cheek syndrome](#) because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. But let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.
- **Sore throat:** You can still send your child to school if they have a [sore throat](#). But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away. A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of [tonsillitis](#).
- **Threadworms:** You don't need to keep your child off school if they have [threadworms](#). Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.
- **Vomiting and diarrhoea:** Children with [diarrhoea or vomiting](#) should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Online Safety Newsletter and Advice

Our latest newsletter has been sent by email and School Spider and contains information and advice about: age ratings for different apps, fake profiles and cyberbullying, Minecraft, Snapchat and toxicity in games. You can view these, and previous versions, on our website under 'Newsletters'. If you have any concerns regarding online safety, or simply want advice, please contact me at school.
