

## Great performances on Boxing Day



What started out life many years ago as the Lucton School v Croft Ambrey Running Club Challenge has now become a more friendly event, seeing how many runners are willing to get up on Boxing Day morning to take part in a run around one loop of the Croft Cross Country course.

Due to the wet weather, a decision was made to avoid running over the top of the Ambrey this year to miss the mud bath, which may have been fun, but too high a risk of injuring the runners, so it was a fast 2 mile route.

It was great that there were so many runners – 42 for Croft and 29 for Lucton – and lots of supporters. Amongst the elite runners, Pat Wright (Croft) and Sam Johnson (Lucton) had a hard fought battle for first and second place with the shortened course possibly making all the difference. Pat's winning time of 12.17 is a very fast time on a hilly course. Third place and the Lucton pupil trophy went to Forbes Wilson in a time of 13.13 – he is proving to be a very fast runner, his name

dominating on the trophy. Malachy Clarke was the fourth finisher, taking home the Senior Boys Prize and the third female home was Lucton's Darcy Clarke 16.11 – winning the Senior Girls Prize.

Ted Moffatt won the junior boys in 22.31 and Emily Stevens Junior girl in 25.58. The hot drinks and mince pies provided by the school and presentations from Bryan Markham at the end were a lovely way to end. **More pics inside!**

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# Prep School News

Happy New Year to you all. On Tuesday, the playground was an absolute babble of noise as the children busily swapped stories of what they got for Christmas and what they had been doing as well. The parents all looked quite relieved to get back to some routine and I think the children were too. One of the things I like to do is ask what was the favourite present; they are only allowed to choose one. There have been technological presents (and who can quite believe that the first tablet was in 2010?) Lego, a lot of creative presents such as clay, teddies, games, and even trips. It is lovely to see their excitement and then to have to choose between presents; oh, so difficult!

With a new term (and year) we have quite a few new topics. Reception will be having a wonderful time with Castles. No doubt they will end up using the playground toys to build them and I expect that imaginary dragons will be slain and rescues will be taking place. It will be great fun to wander in and see what they will be making, drawing and writing about castles. Year 1 will be investigating the Victorians. Now that is a massive topic with all sorts of possibilities: steam trains, metal warships, tracing the trade across the seas, great clothes and hats, battles (pace, Zulu and the Charge of the Light Brigade), proper



hospitals. Children have already been bringing in some artefacts from home and we have been enjoying some of the old books. Year 2 will be looking at Nurturing Nurses, Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Clavell; learning how to bandage us all. I should imagine that there will be bandaged teddies and that min hospitals will be set up in the playground. Year 3 have a number of new topics with Rainforests and the Bronze Age at the forefront. In the past there have been animals hanging from the ceilings and climbing up the walls as well as homemade flint spears and axes that are amazingly sharp. Year 4 will be finding out that the earth is still building and renewing itself through volcanoes and earthquakes whilst also studying the beginning of the Roman Empire. Year 5 will be looking at the weather and climate. No doubt the fact that the climate does and is changing will





be looked at. They will also be looking at chemical reactions and how some materials can change state. I haven't touched on the new art, music and drama topics as there isn't room. Suffice it to say that the new term definitely brings some new learning to be involved with.

We are already planning our Christingle Service at St Laurence's. You might think that Christingle is just to do with Christmas; far from it. In fact it is all to do with the birth of Jesus and his first few weeks of life including his presentation at the temple and Candlemas; which was an old tradition of blessing the candles for the year. For us it is a wonderful excuse to sing and perform in a beautiful setting. It is on 29th January; the whole school will be going and you are invited to come along as well. We do hope that you can.

January may be dark, but we are bright and happy and don't even notice! That

leaves me space to invite you, family and friends to our Friday Assemblies to banish the dark January days, celebrate the children's achievements, catch up on school news, have a cup of tea and even use the school pool. Do try and come along if you can.

## Forest School

The task was to build a bridge. The criteria was that a) it was off the ground and b) that we could stand on it. Well what fun and how muddy could we get in the process! A few animated discussions about the best method took place. Some were small but a group of girls were really ambitious in trying to span something the width of a car!

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## Friends update

Happy New Year to you all! We will be having our January Friends meeting next week on Wednesday 15th January at 7.30pm in the main school meeting room – all are welcome if you want to join us – we will be planning out the events for this term. There are still a few remaining 2020 Prep School Calendars available, please email: [luctonfriendschair@gmail.com](mailto:luctonfriendschair@gmail.com) if you would like one.



## Boarding News

We are delighted to welcome back all our boarders after what we are sure was a restful and relaxing holiday. The boarders all arrived safely throughout the day on Monday and it was a quiet night in the house with most of them having a well-earned early night after a long day of travelling. We are very grateful to the catering staff who provided an evening meal on Monday. The boarders have quickly settled back into their routine and were up and out early on Tuesday for the first day back in school.

We have welcomed a number of new students to the boarding house and there have been some good friendships made already. It has been wonderful to see old

and new boarders integrate so quickly and it really helps in creating the fantastic family atmosphere that we have in the boarding house.

This term looks to be another busy one for the boarding house. We have a full programme of weekend trips and activities planned, and we will also be putting on another open-mic night along with various games and tournaments. The Friday film club will also continue in the cinema room.

The whole boarding house team would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and prosperous new year, and we look forward to keeping you updated with all that goes on in the house over the coming weeks.



## Equestrian News

### Jake's Blog

We've had an excellent holiday – some have gone home, some to fields but all had a rest and a change! Mouse and Rose are still away! Charlie is back fit and ready to go, having been home to Miss Coates and hacking around at her house. Bertie has learnt how to hack out over Christmas – a

complete new experience for him and I have been chaperoning him, thanks to Miss Quick and Miss Coates! Miss Griffiths and Miss Annette have been hacking Ravi, Squirrel and led Zola and Jig so we've all been having fun. We welcome Alfie for a short time while Des is still recovering. He says he hadn't realised what a hard time school was but is enjoying the different challenge.

# Reading Challenge

The school library is undergoing a change; it is peeling off its old dust jacket and getting a new front cover.

To celebrate this Ms. Quick has started a Book Club for middle and senior school students.

They'd like to invite you all to participate in a reading challenge for 2020. If you would like to sign up and pledge to read 20 books in 2020 please get in touch with Ms. Quick. Parents and staff are encouraged to sign up too. You can undertake a smaller or bigger amount too.

There will be prizes and regular updates of the reading challenge chart throughout the spring and summer term.

"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies . . . The man who never reads lives only one." – George R.R. Martin



## The Friends have donated a Pirate Ship

Over the last few weeks, work has progressed on the newest feature at Lucton Nursery, a huge, wooden Pirate Ship which has gone up in the Nursery Meadow, beyond the Prep School.

The groundworks and surrounding surface are being funded by the school and the materials and construction of the pirate ship are courtesy of The Friends of Lucton School. A great big 'Thank You' from us all at Lucton!



# Sports Report

## Boxing Day Run

As you will have seen from the report on the front page, the turnout was very good considering the awful weather.

Forbes managed to achieve the 'First Lucton pupil' for the sixth year in a row! Former teacher, Sam Johnson managed an excellent 2nd place overall, following his victory last year and Lucton pupils featured really well in their various age categories. I also think that this is the first time that 3 out of the 5 first runners home were representing Lucton!





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