



Lodge Farm Primary School

Learning in Mind, Community at Heart

Friday 27th September 2024

Dear parents/carers,

This week we have been continuing our work on developing the children's awareness of our school values. Our Monday assembly focuses on what each value means and how they apply to us. So far, we have looked at Passion, Respect and Integrity.

P Passion was explored through the story of Taylor Swift and how she showed her passion for music through her resilience and refusal to give up on her dream, even when it wasn't the popular choice.

R Respect was explained through an episode of Bluey! The children watched Bingo and her parents show respect for each other through their ability to talk to each other and be honest about a problem.

I Integrity was explored this week. The children came into the assembly and found some house points on the floor. Every child handed these over to an adult and showed their integrity: being the best you and you can be, even when no one is watching.

Our next value is determination. How do you show this every day?

[A little reminder...](#)

As you may be aware, the KS1 gate opens at 8:30am due to the Nursery start time. We are finding that a few children from KS2 are entering through this gate and walking around to KS2. However, there is no adult there as the gate does not open until 8:35am and so children are on the playground unattended. Please be reminded that parents must remain with their child before 8:40am and no one should be on the KS2 playground before 8:35am. Thank you for your help with this.

[500 Words Competition](#)

500 Words is finally open for entries, it's time to get writing! Submit your stories on their website before **9pm on Friday 8 November 2024**:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

There are two age categories: 5-7 and 8-11 year-olds. All children need to do is write a story they would love to read in 500 Words or less. We would love children of all abilities to enter; spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked - it's all about creativity!

School Events:

2.10.24 – KS1 Harvest Festival (Y1 parents) at 9:15am

3.10.24 – EYFS Harvest Festival at 9:15am

4.10.24 – KS1 Harvest Festival (Y2 parents) at 9:15am

7.10.24 – World Mental Health Day

14.10.24 – Parent's Evening

15.10.24 – School Photographer

16.10.24 – Parent's Evening

31.10.24 – Secondary Application Deadline

5.11.24 – Y2 trip to Woburn Safari Park

7.11.24 – Book Fair (until 12.11.24)

11.11.24 – Flu Vaccinations

12.11.24 – Odd Socks Day (Anti-bullying Week)

15.11.24 – Children in Need

18.11.24 – UK Parliament Week

18.11.24 – Reverse Advent Calendar

27.11.24 – Y5 Growth Mindset Workshop

28.11.24 – Christmas Decoration Morning with parents

28.11.24 - Christmas Jumper Swap

4.12.24 – Flu Vaccinations

5.12.24 – KS1 Xmas Production (Y1 parents)

6.12.24 – KS1 Xmas Production (Y2 parents)

50 finalists will be invited to go to a glamorous grand final at Buckingham Palace in February next year, where the bronze, silver and gold winners in each category will have their stories read out by celebrities.

There are also lots of prizes to be won - each winner will take home a bundle of books and the gold winners also win 500 books for their school library. Not only that, the winning stories will receive an original illustration from Dapo Adeola, Nigel Parkinson, Lydia Monks, Momoko Abe, Rob Biddulph or Yasmeen Ismail.

We want children to have fun writing their stories, be as creative as they can and make us laugh, cry or just be blown away by what we are reading. **Children are encouraged to write a story they would love to read themselves.** Over the years there have been incredible stories submitted.

Children can only submit one story each. There are very few rules on 500 Words but a few points to remember:

All the stories **must**:

- **Be 500 words or less** (title is not included in the number)
- Be written by an individual and not a group
- Be a child's own original idea
- Be prose, not rap or poem

Stories **must not**:

- Give any personal details of the child, including their name
- Recount an historical event (but they can use a real person or historical character as a source of inspiration)
- Be created, written or developed by AI

All stories will be judged on the following criteria:

- Characterisation
- Plot
- Originality
- Language
- Enjoyment

Please let us know if you have submitted an entry and send a copy to admin@lodgefarm.herts.sch.uk

We would love to celebrate these at school and find our own Gold, Silver and Bronze finalists!

[Lodge Farm Pupil Parliament](#)

Miss Kaur and Mrs Simpson were blown away by the video applications for the role of Prime Minister by our Year 6 children. The thought and effort that had gone into these was fantastic. These were followed by face-to-face interviews that helped us to see the direction each candidate would like to take the school in. It was lovely to hear what they love about Lodge Farm and what they would like to do to improve the school. The most popular positive things said about the school were:

- How engaging the lessons are
- Every teacher works hard to make sure each child understands
- The school is very inclusive and everyone looks out for each other

The election takes place on Wednesday! Each class will view the candidates' videos and then place their vote. These will be counted up and the results will be announced on Friday. Miss Kaur and Mrs Simpson were very glad they did not have to choose as the quality of candidate was incredibly high!

[Help with lunchtime equipment](#)

If you have any toy bundles (such as Sylvania families, Duplo or Happyland toys) that you would be happy to donate to the school, please bring them to the school office or hand them to someone on the gate. We are looking to build upon our lunchtime equipment and develop some additional activities for the children to use during their break. Please note that we are avoiding any items with small pieces as these are likely to get lost on the playground. Thank you for your help!

[Harvest Festival – KS1 and EYFS](#)

We are pleased to confirm that we will be holding a Key Stage One Harvest Festival this year on Wednesday 2nd and Friday 4th October, where the children in Year One and Year Two will be performing a selection of harvest-themed songs for you to enjoy. EYFS will be holding theirs on Thursday 3rd October. The assemblies will start at 9:15am and are expected to last approximately 20 minutes. Due to limited space available, all children will be issued with two tickets and we are asking that Year One families please attend on the Wednesday and Year Two families on the Friday. EYFS parents are welcomed on the Thursday.

Once again, we will be collecting food items to support the amazing work carried out by a local charity, the 'Foodshed'. Please send any donations into school before our Harvest festivals. Any long-life items such as tinned vegetables, soup, jams and spreads, tinned spaghetti, tinned tomatoes, tinned potatoes, instant noodles, tins of meat, biscuits, crisps, cereals etc would be gratefully received. Please note, the charity are unable to accept any items with alcohol in.

Please see Mrs Dear's letter for any further information.

[Children's Achievements](#)

If you would like to share your child's achievement (this can be anything!) please send an email to admin@lodgefarm.herts.sch.uk. Please be aware that the newsletter is also saved on our school website.

Henry took part in the Stevenage swimming clubs annual club championships over the weekend. He won 2 bronze medals for 50 metres freestyle and 100 metres individual medley. We are so proud of him and all his hard work at training. Well done, Henry!

This week, Jack was awarded trainer of the week at football training.

Jack's coach said, "Jack's passing and 'never say die' attitude was, as always, superb so well done Jack. Keep up the brilliant work." A fantastic achievement!



[Attendance](#)

You will be receiving an email containing communication regarding changes to Fixed Penalty Notices. This is from the Statutory Attendance and Participation Team at Hertfordshire County Council and has been shared with schools for their parents.

The attendance team in school have spoken to several parents regarding support with their child getting into school in the mornings. Mrs Bull has many tips and strategies to help with this, so if you do require any help, please let us know. She is often on the gate and would love to chat with you!

If you would like any help or support with regards to your child's attendance, please speak to Mrs Simpson, Mrs Bull or the Office and we would be happy to help you.

[PTFA News](#)

Please see the page below for news from our PTFA.

[Community News](#)

St Hugh and St John's Hall is open every Wednesday (term time) from 2.15-3.15pm, offering a safe, warm space for parents and under-fives. Tea/coffee and other facilities available.



PTFA NEWS

UPCOMING 2024 EVENTS

- Decorate a mask competition (more information to follow)
- Elfridges Friday 22nd November (Our Christmas secret room)
- Christmas Fair Sunday 1st December (See poster below for information)



Total raised so far:
£3550.41

If you would like
to contact the PTFA please email:
pta@lodgefarm.herts.sch.uk

WAYS YOU CAN HELP US RAISE MONEY

- Selecting Lodge Farm on your Asda Cash pot
- Easy Fundraising - Turn your online shopping into free funds for the PTFA
- Donations - We will shortly be collecting for a number of different items. Please look out for emails
- Match Funding - Our funding doesn't just come from our events. Did you know that most companies offer charitable donations and funding upon request? If you think that you can help through a work place funding scheme please let us know.
- Your time - Why not help out at an event