



# Lodge Farm Primary School

Learning in Mind, Community at Heart

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear parents/carers,

We are very happy to report a fantastic first week back at Lodge Farm. The children returned full of news and excitement about their holidays and have been a joy to have back with us.

You may have noticed Mr Zeidan on the gates this week. We are pleased to say that he has joined the Senior Leadership Team as Assistant Headteacher and SENCo. Please do go and introduce yourself to him. He would love to say hello as he gets to know the children and parents at Lodge Farm.

During our INSET days on Monday and Tuesday, the staff were busy preparing for the children's return, making sure that everything is in place to ensure a smooth return. In particular, we spent a lot of time looking at how we teach writing in the school. We will be working on making our lessons as engaging as possible and ensuring that the shared writing carried out with the children helps them to structure their ideas and up-level their vocabulary.

We also carried out various safeguarding training sessions, with a special training session carried out by Marilyn Hawes on behalf of the charity 'Freedom from Abuse'. This was an extremely thorough and, at times, harrowing session on trauma awareness. We learnt a lot about the area surrounding Lodge Farm and the potential hazards to our children's safety. With that in mind, we are looking into extending an invitation to parents to attend a condensed version of this with Marilyn. We will keep you updated with how this plan develops.

## Lodge Farm Pupil Parliament

We were excited to share the news of our Pupil Parliament with Year 6 this week. This will be formed of several committees and presided over by a Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. Information on the other committees will follow.

Year 6 have the opportunity to apply for the role of Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. The successful applicants who make it through the initial process will be voted for by the rest of the school. This is a serious role to undertake as these children will also be our representatives at the Stevenage Pupil Parliament. They will visit the County Chambers and meet with the Mayor in order to address the issues raised. We can't wait to let you know who our new representatives are!

## School Events:

10.9.24 – Y4 Parent Information Meeting (9am)

10.9.24 – Roald Dahl Day

11.9.24 – Y6 Parent Information Meeting (6pm)

12.9.24 – Y5 Parent Information Meeting (9am)

13.9.24 – Monster Phonics Day

16.9.24 – Reception Phonics Meeting for parents (2-3pm)

17.9.24 – Y2 Parent Information Meeting (9am)

18.9.24 – Y3 Parent Information Meeting (9am)

18.9.24 – National Fitness Day

20.9.24 – Jeans for Genes Day

27.9.24 – Outdoor Classroom Day

3.10.24 – EYFS Harvest Festival

4.10.24 – KS1 Harvest Festival

7.10.24 – World Mental Health Day

14.10.24 – Parent's Evening

15.10.24 – School Photographer

16.10.24 – Parent's Evening

**Please see the school website for term dates.**

## The Summer Reading Challenge

A huge well done to all the children who took part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge. I was informed that one child had managed to complete this before the holidays had even begun! We hope you enjoyed all the books that you read and would love to hear which ones were your favourite. Tell your teachers all about them!

Thank you to the parents who sent in their child's name. They will be celebrated in assembly soon and their names will be added to our Wall of Fame in the library.

Remember, the local library is free to join and is a great place to go and spend some free time.

## Monster Phonics Day

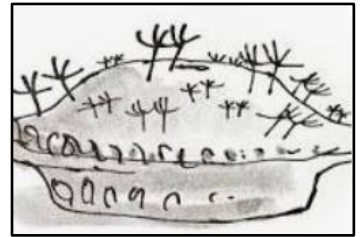
Parents of children in EYFS and KS1 will have received a letter from Mrs Rogers, our EYFS and Phonics Lead, regarding Monster Phonics Day. But, so the rest of the school are not confused, on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September you can expect to see our EYFS and KS1 children coming to school dressed either in the colour of their chosen phonics monster or even dressed up as that monster! They will have lots of fun carrying out their phonics-based activities on this day.



## Roald Dahl Day

This year, we decided to take a break from dressing up for Roald Dahl Day, but don't worry... that doesn't mean we can't still celebrate! Roald Dahl's birthday is 13<sup>th</sup> September and so this is the usual day for celebration but as we didn't want it to interfere with Monster Phonics Day, we moved it to Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

On Tuesday, Mrs Smith's singing assembly will be Roald Dahl themed, with some brilliant songs from Matilda featuring on the playlist. Some of you may have already spotted our themed lunch menu. We will have Mrs Twit's bird pie and mash or Mr Twit's wormy spaghetti on offer (I can confirm that the bird pie is, in fact, chicken!).



We will also be sharing some of our favourite Roald Dahl stories in class. This includes an extract from the new Twits sequel, 'The Twits Next Door'. This was written in the style of Roald Dahl by Greg James and Chris Smith.

We are sure the children will have lots of fun and will come home ready to read some more Roald Dahl at home!

## A message from our Family Support Worker

I am so glad to be back in school for a new year! For those of you who don't know me yet, my name is Mary Bull and I am the Family Support Worker. Please come and see me if you need help with anything, including uniforms, games, filling in forms, help with your child at home or just a friendly ear! You can contact me via my phone line (call the school number and select the option for the Family Support Worker) or my email is [maryb@lodgefarm.herts.sch.uk](mailto:maryb@lodgefarm.herts.sch.uk). If you see me on the gate, do come and say hello.

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 9am, there will be a coffee morning for Nursery and Reception parents. I would love to see as many of you as possible so that I can get to know you. Come along for a drink, biscuit and a chat! I will also have Sharon Young from the Family Centre visiting at this time. She will be happy to discuss any help that they can offer to parents and families.

We will be running a four-session course on parenting that is led by the Family Centre. This will begin on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. If anyone is interested, please contact me for further information.

*Mary Bull*

## 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](mailto:admin@lodgefarm.herts.sch.uk). Please be aware that the newsletter is also saved on our school website.*

We are very happy to start the new year off with a wonderful sporting achievement. On Sunday, Pixie participated in her first ever multi-sport event called the 'Duck and Dash'. This is an Aquathlon held in Letchworth and consists of a 50m swim immediately followed by a 600m run. Amazingly, Pixie came 5th overall in her age category in a time of 5 minutes and 41 seconds! Here she is proudly wearing her medal. Well done, Pixie. This is a wonderful achievement!



## Attendance

The school attendance team will be reviewing our systems and processes for notifying parents of their child's attendance. We will hold a weekly meeting to discuss individual cases and see what support measures may be put in place to ensure every child is in school as much as possible.

Please ensure your child is in school every day. The school gates open at 8:40am and this is when we begin our school day! Ensure your child is here on time so that they can access as much of their learning as possible. The gates close at 8:50am and if your child arrives after they have closed, you must go to the office for your child to be marked as present.

Our whole school attendance target is 96%. But more than this, we want to see every child in school, on time!

Remember, you can view your child's attendance on Arbor. If you are unsure of how to access this, please speak to the team in the office who would be happy to help you.

## PTFA News

Please see the page below for news from our PTFA.



# PTFA NEWS

## WELCOME BACK

A warm welcome to all the new parents joining Lodge Farm this year



**Do you shop at Asda?**  
If so please can you choose Lodge Farm School on your cashpot drop down and we will then receive 0.5% of anything that you spend (no additional cost to you)

### Suggestions

We are still collecting suggestions on how the money we raise should be spent, If you have any suggestions please email the PTFA on the email address below

Still need to label your childrens clothes?  
[www.stikins.co.uk](http://www.stikins.co.uk)  
quote code: 12321

30% goes to the PTFA

**Total Raised so far  
£3.180**

If you would like to contact the PTFA please email:  
[pta@lodgefarm.herts.sch.uk](mailto:pta@lodgefarm.herts.sch.uk)

**INFORMATION ON THIS YEARS PTFA EVENTS COMING SOON**