



Lodge Farm Primary School

Learning in Mind, Community at Heart

Friday 20th December 2024

Dear parents/carers,

Our final week of the term has ended! We have been walking the fine line of enjoying the festivities whilst also maintaining routine and structure and our children have done very well with managing their excitement.

Our drill for a 'missing child' was carried out successfully on Thursday and our little friend here >>> was found in record time! Thank you to the parents for their patience with the gates being temporarily closed while the search was underway. This is part of our procedure to make sure that every child is safe.



Our children were reminded of our school rules this week:

Be safe,
be kind,
be the best
you can be!

They know that all of the behaviours we expect to see around school are based upon these three simple rules. To help us display these around the school, we would like to invite the children to join in with a little competition to design an 'our school rules' poster over the holidays. Children could use the template below (see the bottom of this newsletter) or design their own. Remember, the poster must say: 'be safe, be kind, be the best that you can be'. All entries will receive a certificate and a house point. There will also be a small prize for winning entries from EYFS, KS1, lower KS2 and upper KS2.

We hope you all have a wonderful holiday and we look forward to seeing the children return to school on **Wednesday 8th January**.

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!



School Events:

- 20.12.24 – End of term at 1:15pm
- 6.1.25 – INSET Day (school closed to children)
- 7.1.25 – INSET Day (school closed to children)
- 8.1.25 – Children return to school
- 23.1.25 – Y2 Parents Vs Children Dodgeball at 3:30pm
- 29.1.25 – Lunar New Year
- 4.2.25 – O2 Young Voices Choir
- 6.2.25 – Y1 Craft Evening
- 7.2.25 – NSPCC Number Day
- 11.2.25 – Safer Internet Day
- 13.2.25 – Y6 Valentine Dinner for Parents
- 17.2.25-21.2.25 - Half term
- 27.2.25 – Y3 Film Night
- 4.3.25 – Pancake Races
- 6.3.25 – World Book Day and The Big Book Swap
- 10.3.25 – British Science Week
- 12.3.25 – Y4 Quiz Night
- 14.3.25 – Red Nose Day
- 17.3.25 – Parent's Evening and Summer Uniform Bonanza
- 19.3.25 - Parent's Evening and Summer Uniform Bonanza

Please see the school website for complete term dates.



Our first star values have been returned and we are very excited to see them being put onto our Values Tree during Celebration Assembly today. Thank you to the parents who have observed their children upholding our values and made a contribution to this and a big well done to the children for their hard work!

The children in Earth House enjoyed their treat afternoon on Wednesday this week. Their reward for earning the most House Points this term was time on the indoor apparatus. Mrs Bull and Miss Samson were helped by the House Captains to put out the climbing frames and ropes for the children to enjoy. They also had an extra snack in the form of a bag of crisps and a drink. We hope they had lots of fun and inspire the other houses to keep up with their quest to earn as many House Points as possible ready for our next treat afternoon in the Spring term.

Mrs Simpson carries out a Values Assembly every Monday morning and the focus for this week was the value of **Pride**. As we approach the new year, we start to think ambitiously of our new year resolutions. We aim high, and rightly so, but we must also take pride in the small steps we each take towards these. It is important to reflect at the end of the day on the things we have achieved and can be proud of. I expect there will be many things! Focusing on these help us remain positive, upbeat and keep aiming high. Our challenge was to think of what we have done today to make us feel proud. Looking at the achievements section of his newsletter this week, I know I am very proud of each and every one of our children for the hard work and dedication they show.



“ **Becoming proud of yourself is the best gift you can give yourself.** ”
- Margo Vader



[A message from Mrs Bull \(Family Support Worker\)](#)

Hi everyone,

I thought that it was time to talk to you all about the changes I have been making around Family Support in school. I am still based in The Den and, as far as the children are concerned, the Den will be the same for them. However, for parents and carers it will now be seen as the Family Hub. Sounds fancy, doesn't it! It is now a nicer space for us to meet and talk, discuss problems and generally help each other.

We have some new seating and facilities to make tea and coffee so please come in to talk to me. I am happy to give advice where I can and if I can't help there and then I will always try to find an answer for you and get back to you as soon as possible. We also have a food pantry. This is available to anyone that needs it. Just come to the office and ask to talk to me.

I am hoping to have guests in to give advice too, such as Angels support group or Citizen's Advice. I will send out dates for these when they are set up.

Another project that I will be starting in the new year, is a Walk and Talk group. I know many people like to be out in the fresh air, going for a walk so what could be better than joining with other friends from school and going for a walk together? My plan is for this to take place on a Thursday morning, meeting at the front gate at 9am. I am hoping that we can build up to walking to the lakes and back but promise that we can start slowly and build up to this. Oh, and if it is pouring with rain, I will be sensible and cancel but a bit of drizzle won't put me off. So, see you at 9am on 9th January.

Please remember that the Kaotic Angels will make deliveries every Monday, even in the holidays, so please come along and stop food going to waste. From now on, the food will be available from 9.30 to 10.30 on Monday mornings. I will be on the school carpark with my Christmas hat all 3 Mondays that the children are not in school. Please don't leave me on my own!

Lastly a huge thank you for all the support you have given me this year, especially green squares for the Christmas Tree. It was a huge success. Watch out, as I may have another idea for next year.

Happy New Year to you all.

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. Please be aware that the newsletter is also saved on our school website.

Congratulations to Emma for her fantastic achievement in gymnastics. Emma has passed Core Level 10 in SGC award scheme.

Arthur has had a superb week of achievements, achieving man of the match in football and also achieving his next grading in Karate.

We are super proud of Maisie for performing as Little Elsa in The Snow Queen. Last week she carried out six shows in two days and had been rehearsing two nights a week since September! She was amazing!

On Sunday 15th December, Cassidy, Lucy and Rhea all participated in the annual Christmas display at their gymnastics club, SSAC. All three girls performed brilliantly to a large audience, showcasing all of the skills that they have learnt this year. Rhea was awarded The Most Improved Gymnast for her squad and Lucy was awarded The Most Promising Gymnast for her squad. Miss Orlandi, who is a gymnastics coach at the club, was super proud of the girls for their enthusiasm and confidence when performing. What an amazing way to end the year!

We hope you are very **proud** of your successes, everyone!



Attendance

As of today, our whole school attendance stands at 95.7%.

This is above the national average of 94.6% so well done everyone!

Please remember that we are still aiming for our target of 97% and please do continue to support us in ensuring we have every child in school: **every day, on time!**

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.

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.



Lodge Farm Primary School calls out for votes to get a share of Tesco's Stronger Starts fund

Lodge Farm Primary School is bidding for a cash boost from the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme.

Stronger Starts provides grant awards of up to £1,500 to local community projects, with a particular focus on children and young people.

Three groups in every community have been shortlisted to receive grant awards and Tesco customers can vote for the group they think should take away the top award in their local Tesco store.

Lodge Farm Primary School is one of the groups on the shortlist in **Stevenage**.

You will be able to vote in the following stores:

- Broadwater Stevenage Superstore SG2 8DT
- Stevenage Extra SG1 1ES
- Woolmer Green Express Express SG3 6FP
- Old Stevenage Express Express SG1 3EF
- Stevenage Chells Express Express SG2 0LU
- Hitchin Station Lyon Express Express SG4 9SP

Voting is open in all Tesco stores from Mid-January to the end of March 2025. Customers will cast their vote using a blue token given to them at the check-out each time they shop.

Lodge Farm Primary School is seeking funding to help provide much needed food and supplies for our new food bank.

Tesco's Stronger Starts – previously known as Tesco Community Grants - has already provided over £117 million to more than 67,000 projects across Britain.

This £5m Stronger Starts grant programme, delivered in partnership with Groundwork UK, helps schools and children's groups provide nutritious food and healthy activities that support young people's physical health and mental wellbeing, such as breakfast clubs or snacks, and sports equipment for after school clubs.

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