



Lodge Farm Primary School

Learning in Mind, Community at Heart

Friday 10th January 2025

Dear parents/carers,



Welcome back and happy new year to you all! We hope that your holiday was restful and full of time with friends and family. We were happy to see the children return with such enthusiasm, even with such an icy start to Wednesday!

The staff were in school on Monday and Tuesday carrying out training on various topics. Our safeguarding updates were carried out and we had a Behaviour Bootcamp to attend, where we looked at all the possible causes of low-level disruptions and how these can be mitigated. We know that all behaviour is purposeful and indicates a need to be met:

WHAT THIS HAS TO DO WITH LOW LEVEL BEHAVIOUR?

- Our students have these **same needs**.
- THINK!! They have a fun cup, a love and belonging cup, a freedom cup!
- Because of their **age**, they can't meet these needs freely.
- So how might we see this playing out in our classroom?

The illustration shows five hand-drawn mugs of different colors and patterns. The labels on the mugs are: 'Power & Mastery' (yellow), 'Fun' (pink), 'Freedom' (yellow), 'Survival' (blue), and 'Love & Belonging' (pink).

It was interesting to see the importance of the strong teacher presence and the difference non-verbal cues can make to ensure our children stay focused and on track in the classroom.

We also had a very interesting presentation carried out by our Mental Health Lead, Mrs Kaur. She spoke about the importance of our role, as teachers, in ensuring every child has a champion and all the support they need to be successful. She also demonstrated the use of the Calm Corner

School Events:

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

12.2.25 – Y6 Valentine Dinner for Parents – please note the change to date. See separate letter.

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

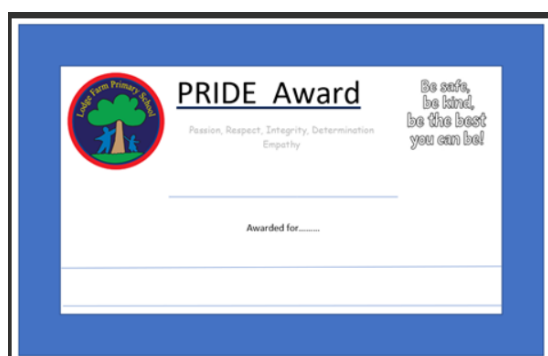
19.3.25 - Parent's Evening and Summer Uniform Bonanza

Please see the school website for complete term dates.

in her classroom. These have now been established in every classroom and the teachers are teaching the children how to use them effectively. Please do ask your child about theirs and what they are for!

Finally, the **school rules poster competition closes on Monday 13th January!** Please make sure you have handed your child's entry in to their teacher or the office by the end of the day. The poster can be entirely your own creation or you can edit the poster at the bottom of this page. We can't wait to see them all.

Our School Values



EYFS teachers are looking forward to awarding pupils within Nursery and Reception our new 'PRIDE award' certificate. Teachers will be looking out for children who are showing our values of passion, respect, integrity, determination, empathy or pride, and issuing certificates to pupils each week to celebrate this.

If you run out of star values tags, please let your child's teacher know. A few more have been returned and we are very excited to see them being added onto our Values Tree during Celebration Assembly. Thank you again 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!

Y2 Parents Vs Children Dodgeball

Come and join us on Thursday 23rd January for a game of Children vs Parents Dodgeball! The session will be 3:40- 4.10pm and will take place in the KS2 hall, please enter through the school office.



RSPB Birdwatch

Yesterday's KS1 and KS2 assemblies were about the RSPB Birdwatch which takes place in January. A number of children were keen to take part and to see what birds they could see in their garden or local area. Some children have already been spotting today during their lunchbreak!

If your child would like to take part at home, the office sent out an email which contained two identification guides and different ways in which the children can record the bird species that they can see, depending on which year groups they are in. Once they have completed their birdwatch, they can bring their record sheet back into school and give them to Mrs Penfold who can send the results off to the RSPB. Please submit all results by **Friday 7th February.**

If your child would like to take part in their own Birdwatch and submit their results themselves, please follow this link: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

Happy 'twitching'!

Mrs Penfold

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

Hi everyone,

What a lovely morning we had for our first 'Walk and Talk' yesterday. It was chilly but the sun shone for us. We met at the main gate at 9am and set off on a short route around the local area. We started chatting as we set off and were still chatting when we got back to school. We would love for you to join us. See you next Thursday!

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.

On the 30th December, Aurora went to the pantomime with her mother and her nanny to see Peter Pan. It was her first time at the panto and she was very excited. Whilst awaiting the show to start, Aurora was asked if she would like to go up on the stage and sing with Aidan O'Neill (who played Smee).

Towards the end of the show, Aurora was invited onto the stage to meet with Smee. He interviewed her and she told the theatre about her experiences with the tooth fairy. She then went on to sing 'a sailor went to see see see' with Aidan and three other children from the audience. We are very proud of her. Well done, Aurora, your confidence is definitely something to be proud of.

[Attendance](#)

We are back for a fresh term and so pleased to see so many children return refreshed from their holiday. We know there were a few nasty bugs going around previously so hopefully everyone has returned feeling fit and energised.

Remember that you can check your child's attendance anytime on Arbor. 90% is often seen as a good score, but with attendance this unfortunately isn't the case! This means that your child has missed 10% of their learning time... that is a lot!

'Good' attendance is 95%, but we are aiming for 97% as we want the absolute best for our children. Please help us achieve this goal and ensure there are no avoidable absences.

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.

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