



Lodge Farm Primary School

Learning in Mind, Community at Heart

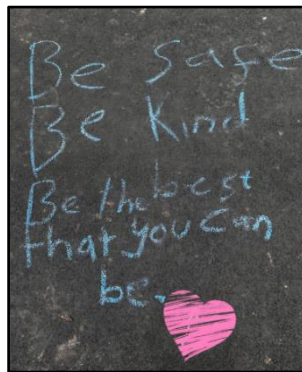
Friday 17th January 2025

Dear parents/carers,

The children have been enjoying some new equipment this week during their lunchtimes, with the arrival of more chalk, a large Connect 4 game, flower garden creation and a giant skipping rope. The Y4 Play Leaders had fun with the Y1 and Reception children playing 'don't step on the wiggly snake'! Whilst, the Y2 children are becoming very good at skipping! More equipment is due to arrive soon and the children are excited to bring back Craze of the Week and make the most of the fun activities.

Miss Irving and Mrs Tillett began their lunchtime clubs this week, with each KS2 year group being allocated a day to have the opportunity to take part. We will be speaking to the children next week and will feedback on how much fun they are having when they join in.

We were so pleased to see that our school rules are becoming so well known to the children, that they even used the chalk to draw them on the playground:



We spoke last week about the work Mrs Kaur has begun on supporting our children's emotional wellbeing, and she is also focusing on the wellbeing of the adults in school. The Wellbeing Team have had the brilliant idea of carrying out a game of Traitors... this will start on Monday and we can't wait to see what happens!

We would also like to say a huge congratulations to Miss Lansdown, who got engaged this week! The children are already discussing what they think the wedding will be like (and we think they are hoping for an invite!).

Our School Values

Passion
Respect
Integrity
Determination
Empathy

Our midday supervisors (MSAs) having been keeping an eye out for children who are upholding our values during the lunchtimes. They have spotted quite a few children in KS2 who have shown integrity and empathy to others so they were awarded our Lunchtime Luxury Award!

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

10.2.25 – Class Photo Day

11.2.25 – Safer Internet Day

12.2.25 – 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

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Please see the school website for complete term dates.

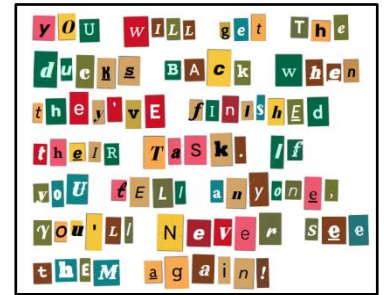
This is presented to them in Friday's Celebration Assembly, and their certificate is their ticket into lunch first on Friday with a friend. Well done to everyone who has achieved this this week.

A mystery in Year 4...

Yesterday morning, Year 4 were faced with a difficult task of finding Miss Lansdown's missing rubber ducks! They put on their detective hats and quickly got to examining the 'crime scene' for clues! They found a fishing net and a wet floor sign indicating that the ducks were no longer in Year 4. They were then given clues by the 3 eyewitnesses. Mrs Nation, Mrs Simpson and Mrs Smith all had



some interesting things to share and then Mrs Tillett even found a ransom note! The children used the crime scene, the clues and the ransom note to work out the 5 W's - who, what, when, where and why? After a thorough investigation, a whittling down of the suspect list (sorry to prime suspect, Mr Zeidan) and a search of the school, the children discovered it was in fact... Mr Angove who took Miss Lansdown's rubber ducks and had hidden them in his office! Mr Angove did a very good job at pointing the finger at all the other suspects! The children and staff had a brilliant morning and they look forward to now reporting the mystery in a newspaper article in English over the next week.



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.



A message from Mrs Bull (Family Support Worker)

Hi everyone,

A quick reminder to you all that I will be by the main gate on Monday morning, 9:30am to 10:30am. Please come along and see if any of the food we have would be of use to you. As well as the delicious M&S loaves of bread, we even had some beautiful bunches of flowers last week! Everyone is welcome to come and help us put these items to good use.

Don't forget to join us for our walk and talk at 9am on Thursdays. Meet us by the main gate and come along for a chat.

And lastly, a hint that I have a new craft project up my sleeve that I will explain in next week's newsletter...

Mary Bull

NSPCC Number Day

We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC, and their vital services, by taking part in Number Day on Friday 7th February 2025. Number Day is a great way to make maths fun and bring about a positive, 'can-do' attitude towards

it. On the day, the children will take part in a range of number-based maths, and KS2 will take on a friendly competition alongside other schools in the U.K. organised by Times Tables Rockstars: NSPCC Rocks!

Children are invited to 'Dress as Digits' on this day. They can wear an item of clothing with a number on it such as a favourite sports tops, cap or even a onesie. Or, why not get creative and design a unique t-shirt, hat or even become a human-sized calculator or dice!

Donations to the NSPCC can be made using our unique GiftT QR code or by giving a cash donation at the school gate on the morning of Friday 7th February. Please scan the QR code above or follow this link to the donation page: charity.giftt.tech/lodgefarm



To find out more about keeping children safe online, visit nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety

Mrs Penfold

Maths Lead

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 Henry, who was player of the match at football this weekend. We are very proud of him!



Attendance

On Friday last week, Lodge Farm's attendance was explored by external visitors, who were identifying ways in which we could improve our systems further. One of the suggestions they made was for our Office team to talk in greater depth with parents who are calling in to let us know their child is unwell. Therefore, please don't be surprised if we ask more questions than you are used to. For example, we may ask what your child's temperature is if you let us know they have a fever. All of this is designed to help us ensure your child is in school as much as possible and that we know where and how they are if they aren't.

We are also asking that parents call the school phone number and select 'option 1' in order to report an absence, instead of emailing the Admin email address. This is to ensure our Office team are able to collate the messages and record them onto our system as quickly and effectively as possible. Thank you for your help with this.

Remember, '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 Mrs Gowlett in 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.