



# Lodge Farm Primary School

*"Learning in mind, community at heart"*

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Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents

As you know, we have been back to school full a full month now and it has been a busy few weeks for everyone – staff and children. It is lovely to be back to some semblance of normality. I thought this letter would provide an effective forum for keeping you all up to date to what has been happening.

## **The Curriculum and Good Quality First Teaching**

We are continuing to develop our curriculum. This is an ongoing job as our curriculum will constantly evolve through active reflection and evaluation. We are currently reviewing our INTENT for individual subjects – what do we want our children know and be able to do? We are bound by the National Curriculum but schools are allowed to put flesh on the bones of this document to make their curriculum inspiring, ambitious and useful to the children. As part of our work this term we have been focussing on Design Technology and Science. Our INTENT is definitely to make these subjects more practical.

We are also focussing on the IMPLEMENTATION. This involves visiting classes to see the learning taking place, looking at books and talking to the children about what they have learnt – not just in the lesson observed, but prior learning too.

Clearly a robust curriculum is important and one vital cog of the wheel, but it needs to be taught creatively to facilitate learning and making a change to the children's long term memory. Assessment for learning needs to be effectively used throughout each lesson. Teachers are like detectives – working out which children understand the learning and which children need a gap filled before it becomes a cavern. Each teacher has a provision map which shows how they support individual children across the curriculum. For example 1, if a teacher noticed a child struggling with cutting during a DT lesson, the provision map would detail how that child would be supported. For example 2, if a child is struggling with reading, the provision map would outline the extra support which will be provided to hopefully allow that child to make progress.

Miss Brosnan led a superb training session for staff on modelled writing. This is where the teacher models the writing process live in front of the class to support the children's own independent writing. Miss Brosnan wrote a piece inspired by The Little Matchgirl. She composed it in front of the staff talking throughout to model to us, "the children", her thought process and journey towards achieving the learning intention of creating atmosphere and developing characterisation. Please talk to your children about how their own class teachers use this in class to support their independent writing across the curriculum.

## **Reading at home**

We cannot over estimate the importance of this. We all know how busy life is and how sometimes there just are not enough hours in a day, but whenever you can, please find time to listen to your children read. Regular practice is vital and has such a positive impact on the children's ability to access the curriculum. The books we send home are for practice and your child should be able to read them with 95% accuracy. It is our job in school to teach reading – the fluency and the comprehension of texts. When the children read with you, it is all about practice.

## **Early Years Foundation Stage**

This is now a stunning environment for our youngest learners. It provides a wonderful learning space for them to grow and explore. It has allowed for a smooth transition to the implementation of the new EYFS Framework. Very exciting times! It certainly makes other parts of the school look well-loved!

## **Assemblies**

The focus of my assemblies this term has been on RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY AND RESILIENCE. We have talked about how Lodge Farmers show these elements in school. Whether it is in the classroom; on the playground or with our

equipment and environment. Under the umbrella of responsibility and resilience, we have talked about the children asking for help if they do not understand something. It is the grown ups responsibility to ensure that the children understand the learning and provide the necessary scaffolding and support to facilitate this.

### **Attendance**

The Government expectation is that every child attends school at least 95% of the time. Our standards are higher as we know that good attendance supports your child's progress in so many ways. And after the disruption over the last couple of years, attendance has never been so important. Our current whole school attendance figure stands at 94.5% which means that we are not meeting the 95% target. The school monitors attendance closely, looking at individual's time in school; punctuality and if there are any patterns forming. Please note we will contact you to offer support if we have any concerns and will then expect to see an improvement.

### **Welcoming visitors to Lodge Farm**

It has been lovely to finally welcome visitors back to the school once more and it has certainly made us realise how much we missed it during the last eighteen months.

Last week we welcomed Steve Frew, a former GB Olympic gymnast, into school. He worked with all the children leading some circuit training followed by an impressive assembly where he displayed his gymnastic skills. The children and staff all enjoyed themselves and I think my assemblies will be a tad boring from now on, as I cannot do a handstand – let alone hold it for a minute - nor will I try to do a flip over staff and children!

Mrs Bull, our Family Support Worker, held two coffee mornings last week for EYFS parents. Both events provided an informal opportunity to chat and establish relationships with the school and your child's class community. Mrs Bull has received some wonderful feedback, so please come along to the next one

### **Extra Curricular clubs**

These will be starting soon. A letter will be coming home shortly.

Thank you for your continued support and I will write again before the end of this half term with further developments. We are never standing still at Lodge Farm as we are always working to make your children's school the best it can be.

Regards  
Helen Turner  
HEADTEACHER



