



NEWSLETTER

"Learning in mind, community at heart"

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I hope you are all keeping safe and well. Your children have settled back into the routine of school so well. It has not been an easy year for anyone and your children are quite simply amazing.

Attendance since we opened to everyone on March 8th, currently stands at 96.6% which we are thrilled about. As you know, I always aim for at least 96%, so we have exceeded that. Thank you again for putting your trust in us – and following the outbreak we had before the Easter holidays, this means so much.

So, school is not all about COVID. We are continually striving to improve our provision through a cycle of review and reflection and development. We thought this newsletter should showcase our recent work to you all and keep you informed of what we have been up to – we certainly have not been resting on our laurels.

Spelling – Miss Brosnan

After welcoming all pupils back to Lodge Farm, we have been focusing on how to best support pupils with their spelling. To begin our journey, all the English books across the school were gathered in and key spelling rules were identified for each year group to ensure that gaps in spelling knowledge were being filled. This was followed by staff training which focused on how to ensure the best progress for all pupils. Subsequently, I was fortunate to watch snippets of a number of spelling lessons across the school. It was fantastic to see all pupils at Lodge Farm engaged, enjoying their spelling lessons and making progress. Our journey isn't quite over yet and our next step is to loop back and see the impact spelling lessons are having on progress in pupils' English books. I am excited to see both the progress the children are making and to delve into their most recent English learning!

Achievement for All – Mrs Simpson

You may remember previous communication regarding the Achievement for All programme that we signed up to last year. Well, we have been busy putting this into action! The programme gave us the opportunity to work alongside an experienced coach who would support the development of an action plan for the school, with a particular focus on how we spend our Pupil Premium Grant to best support our children. We began the work by bringing in 'Structured Conversations'. These were a great success, with two families from each class being selected to meet virtually with the class teacher on a termly basis to set targets for the children that would be worked on at school and at home. Following training on setting effective and measurable targets, we have just held the second round of Conversations. The teachers used the time with parents to discuss the children's progress and set targets for the final term of this academic year. The children have been given 'passports' which they will use to keep the targets at the forefront of their minds and maintain communication between school and home. A big thank you to the parents who have taken part so far – the plan is to rope in more of you soon, so watch this space!

Maths Fluency – Mrs Randall

As I am sure you all know, if a child is fluent in their maths knowledge, such as knowing times tables, number bonds or being able to count effectively, it has a huge impact on how they acquire new knowledge and skills in the wider maths curriculum. For this reason, we have been developing 'Fluency Sessions' which run alongside the maths lesson, designed to keep knowledge fresh in children's minds. On one of the warm sunny days since returning after Easter, I was fortunate enough to observe these sessions across KS1 and 2 (lucky it was warm and sunny as I was peering into the classrooms from the outside door so as not to enter the classroom!)

Observing the children taking an active part in their mathematical learning was wonderful – so many animated and engaged faces! It was great to see that all teachers were focusing on key learning to reactivate knowledge during remote learning and to prioritise the really important maths objectives for their year group. The teachers had drawn upon a wide range of strategies to help children retain the learning, such as using practical resources, displaying models and images, singing songs and lots of discussion. From this, we are hoping to collate best practise from across the school by filming some of the sessions which we can use internally for future staff training.

Early Years Foundation Stage – Mrs Tully

The Early Years Foundation stage (EYFS) is a very busy and exciting place to be at any time of the year. However, at the moment we have some really special things to be excited about and look forward to. In September the government are releasing an entirely new EYFS Framework, nationwide. We are busy making way for this which is the result of years of study into child development and pedagogy (the science of how children learn) as well as valuable input from Teachers, Early Years Professionals and other experts in the field. I'm really happy about the changes that have been made and 3,000 schools nationwide have already begun as early adopters of the new framework – all signs point to very positive outcomes for children and staff. This new framework has given us the opportunity to make some significant changes to our EYFS offer and although we have always offered an excellent EYFS provision we are going to be getting even better. So watch this space! I will be writing to all EYFS parents with further details next half term.

As a whole staff in EYFS we are also undertaking a new training called “Hygge in the Early Years” to complement our new framework. Hygge (pronounced - Hyoo-guh) is an ancient attitude to life that focuses on living in the moment and feeling the joy there is in everyday moments. For us it will be about providing the children with the opportunities needed to help them to develop a connection with nature which in turn supports good mental health development and a feeling of calm and balance. Our setting will offer a cosy, happy, home from home feeling. Children thrive and flourish within these environments and develop robust foundations for learning. Once we have completed this accreditation (at some point next year) we will be the only setting locally to offer this unique, cosy and fabulous EYFS environment and experience.

Online Safety – Mrs Penfold

We endeavour to keep you up to date with the apps and games that your child/ren may be accessing at home, and to support you in keeping your child/ren safe when they are online, whichever device they are using. Due to this, and to reach as many parents/carers and extended family members in our school community, the fortnightly #WakeUpWednesday online safety guides, courtesy of National Online Safety (<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>) are now emailed to you weekly. The guides are also available to view and download on our website (<http://lodgefarm.herts.sch.uk/parents/esafety/online-safety-newsletters/>) and on our Lodge Farm Facebook page. Having these guides available now, on our social media platform, enables you to share these with your friends outside of Lodge Farm too.

If you have any questions or concerns about how to keep your child safe online, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be able to advise and support you. If you have any concerns about the online safety of another child in the school, please contact us so that we can support the child, and their family, to ensure the child's safety.

Parents' Consultations

These will take place virtually on **Monday 10th May** (4.00 – 7.00pm) and **Wednesday 12th May** (4.00 – 7.00pm). The office will send out all the details you need about how to book and access these appointments. You will have a 10- minute appointment as usual, which will be booked online too. It is all very straightforward.

Enjoy the 3-day weekend – typical Bank Holiday wet weather, I hear!

Regards

Helen Turner

Headteacher

