



Lodge Farm Primary School
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“Learning in mind, community at heart”

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Headteacher: Helen Turner

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to our termly Reception Newsletter. We really value all lines of communication in helping to build relationships with you and before school have an ‘open door policy’, if you wish to catch up with any member of the team. Staff will be available for a quick chat in the morning but please do not be offended if they ask you to pop in later or to make an appointment through the office, as obviously the children come first and if they are unsettled in the morning they need our time. We use letters to communicate curriculum coverage and also to keep you up to date with our future plans. Please look out for our weekly newsletter in your child’s book bag.

We are very pleased with how well the children have settled into their new classes and appreciate your support in encouraging their independence in coming into school. We are actively encouraging the children’s self-help skills so please do not be alarmed if it appears that we are not helping your child immediately as they arrive in class. We only intervene when they have ‘had a go’ and obviously we are very aware of their individual needs and levels of development.

The morning routine

You may have heard all about our ‘Busy finger’ activities that are on the carpet when your children come in to the class. We would like to welcome parents to participate and share the activities with the children and support them in readying themselves for the morning, this will also give you the opportunity to look around the classroom displays, time to discuss with a member of the reception team any queries you may have or messages to give and a chance to look through your child’s learning journal. During this time, children also need to make their lunch choice on the classes dinner boards. Please discuss what option they would like to have and encourage them to find their name and put it in the corresponding column. We have an open door policy and welcome all parents in class throughout the school year. If your child is happy to say goodbye at the door parents do not always have to come in.

Groupings

We will be starting our proper timetable next week and this will include adult directed activities, where the team work with small groups to build the children’s skills. The children will be placed in different ability groups for these. This enables us to tailor our teaching to meet their needs and plan independent activities according to their stage of development. Please do not be alarmed if your child changes group. If we have any concerns about your child’s progress we will speak to you directly, therefore group movement is not a cause for concern.

A plea for junk modelling materials

We would really appreciate it if you could regularly bring in recyclable materials for our junk modelling. We need: boxes (large and small), bottle tops, ribbon, buttons, bottles, pipe cleaners and yoghurt pots. Anything that can be made into a model will be greatly appreciated.

We are also currently developing our outside space for the children and would be very grateful for any of the following if you have them to spare!

- *old sieves/ bowls/ colanders
- *bamboo canes for den making
- *large pieces of wood
- *plastic pipes and guttering for the water/ construction activities
- *plastic crates
- *Large pebbles
- *empty picture frames (just the frames)

Reading at Home

Reading books and key words will be sent home please look out for them in your child's book bag. We say parents should read with their child five times a week, this can be any days across the week. Please write in their reading record to say how they got on with the book or if they have enjoyed any other books from home.

What can you do at home?

We will be sending home some blank stickers for you to share news about your child at home. These stickers will contribute to your child's Learning Journal. Each week we aim to send you a brief overview detailing the teaching and learning occurring. There is a section on the letter that details suggested activities that you can do at home with your child which will help to consolidate learning from school. This is not 'homework' and does not need to be handed in, however if your child is proud of something they have done we would love to see it!

Our behaviour code

We want all our children to feel safe and happy at school so we will be talking to your children about 'making the right choices' in all aspects of their day. We constantly model our expectations and '**catch the children doing the right thing**' to exemplify what we are looking for. We give constant reminders about our behaviour code but if a child does not change their behaviour when they have been reminded, an age appropriate consequence will be put in place ie missing five minutes of choosing time. We have high expectations of all of the children but are very aware that we can all have an 'off day' so if they are feeling a bit down or if there is anything that has happened at home that you think may have an impact on their day it would be really helpful if you shared that with us. We all know as adults how the world can seem against us when we feel tired or 'stressed' and this is the same when you are four or five. We all know how hectic family life is but a rushed morning or a late night can really affect your child, so just let us know.

Voluntary contribution

To help cover the cost of consumables that are used in Reception, for example pasta, flour, salt, balsa wood, food for tasting and cooking, we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £3.00 per child for this term. Please return the slip at the end of this letter. Thank you.

Helping Parents

We are always pleased to have parents in to help and if you would like to join us, please let a member of staff know. All helpers in school are required to be registered with the DBS. Parents will be welcome to help after the Christmas period.

Please remember:

- To return your wellies to school, as they are needed for outdoor play.
- All children need a named cup in school for drinking water.
- P.E. day is on a Monday for both classes. Please ensure your child has their **named** P.E. kit in school and that earrings are removed or covered. Long hair also needs to be tied back.
- To provide a set of spare uniform if your child has an accident or is dirty from outdoor play we can then change them into their own clothes. These can be kept in their PE bags.
- 'All About Me' sheet is returned.
- Permission to collect sheet is returned.
- Summer holidays sheet was sent out, please send back to tell us about what your child did over the Summer break.

Thank you for your continued support, please do not hesitate to speak to us if you have any queries or questions about this upcoming term.

The Reception Team

Mrs Stoeri-Smith, Mrs Dear, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Manley & Mrs Gearing

Voluntary Contribution:

Name of child _____

Please find enclosed a voluntary contribution of £ _____

Thank you