

LODDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

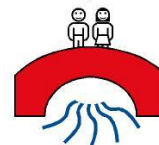
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Loddon
Primary School



16th December 2016

NEWSLETTER NO 6

Dear Parents/Carers



House Gems

Congratulations to the following children who have received a Values 'House Gem' celebrating their actions in promoting our school values.

Izzy Ph	Eagles	Earth	Quality and thoughtful homework
Krish K	Greylings	Fire	Peace homework
Ali K	Kestrels	Water	Quality homework
Jessica F	Hawks	Earth	Art and DT work showing quality, confidence, ambition, independence and happiness.
Jayden B	Hawks	Air	Responsibility and independence when completing home learning.
Madele M	Seahorses	Air	Peace book
Uzair M	Greylings	Earth	Quality writing and happiness poster
Matthew H	Eagles	Air	Quality, understanding and ambition in home learning
Mahiyah M	Jellyfish	Air	Being responsible at all times
DJ D	Bennu	Fire	Showing responsibility and caring at the Christmas market
Sophie H	Kites	Air	Happiness presentation

Bring your child happiness with books!

This article first appeared in <http://www.bookstart.org.uk/news/blog/274> September, 2015 by [Kate Hancock](#)

Children's book expert and mum-of-one, Kate Hancock, shares some tips to help you encourage reading for pleasure. 'Since becoming a parent, I've become aware of the large number of articles about helping children be happy and fulfilled; I've (unsurprisingly) been particularly interested in pieces about the emotional benefits of reading for pleasure. As a life-long lover of books I'm very aware of the power of reading; a good book can help you relax, allow you to escape into another world for a while and help to make even the most arduous of journeys or waits a real pleasure, whatever your age.'

Children today often have a huge amount going on; friends, family, school, hobbies, TV, social media and online games can all play an important role and in some cases books and reading can be forgotten or viewed as an activity solely for school or nursery hours.

Reading for pleasure can have wide-ranging emotional benefits for children (and adults), as well as helping vocabulary, communication, concentration and imagination. With all the other things children have in their lives it can be a challenge to encourage them to read and enjoy books outside of the classroom or playgroup, especially if they struggle with reading.



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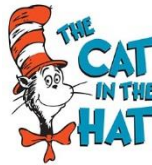


Over the 15 years I've worked with children's books (as well as a lifetime of reading for enjoyment) I have encountered lots of different tips to help children of any age discover or re-discover the pleasure of reading. If you want to help a child realise what a wonderful thing reading can be here are a few things to bear in mind:

- **Think about what your child already enjoys.** If they like animals, exploring, finding out about the human body, computer games or any other topic then try to find books with these as a theme. Your child's school, local bookshop or library should all be able to recommend books that will appeal to your child's interests and hobbies... or try the [Bookstart Bookfinder!](#)



- **Explore alternatives to fiction.** Lots of children don't like 'made-up' stories. There are some fantastic non-fiction books available for all ages, like the ever-popular 'Horrible Histories' series, with lots of fascinating and sometimes disgusting facts that your child will love to share with you. Joke books can also be a big hit, children love making themselves and others laugh. For younger children choosing books that feature a favourite TV or film character can be a great introduction to the joys of reading.



- **Picture books aren't just for pre-schoolers.** Lots of children of all ages (and adults – I've always loved picture books!) really enjoy looking at illustrations when reading. There are some wonderful picture books available that have some quite sophisticated themes, such as William Grill's stunning *Shackleton's Journey*, so don't think your child should have moved on from enjoying picture books. The rhyming text in picture books by authors like Julia Donaldson and Dr. Seuss can be huge fun to read aloud and really build confidence in new readers.
- **Consider comic-strip books.** If picture books no longer appeal but your child loves artwork then classics like Tintin or Asterix series are ideal. Graphic novels and Manga titles might also be good to try although do check the content as some have some very adult themes.
- **Above all, get involved!** Reading shouldn't just be a solo activity and can be enjoyed with family members and friends. Choose a book together, then take it in turns to read to each other and talk about what you have read or what might happen next.

Reading for pleasure can be a wonderful and enriching activity, whatever your age. Helping children realise the vast potential for enjoyment in books is something that everyone can be involved with and can have lasting, positive effects for us all.

There are lots and lots of wonderful books with festive and wintery themes, and everyone has their own personal favourites. Why not give the gift of a book this Christmas?

Further ideas for reading books for each age group are available via the book finder at:

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/children/booklists/?skip=20#/d/books/bookfinder/>



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Requests for Leave of Absence

We would like to remind all families that leave in term time can only be granted in *exceptional circumstances* such as a child's hospital appointment, the death of a relative or other family emergency. There is no entitlement to any leave in term time. Please also note that you may be asked for further evidence to support your exceptional circumstance at the time of application.

The school policy on attendance, which follows Department for Education guidance, is published on our website. Requests for leave should be submitted a month in advance other than when an unexpected emergency situation has arisen. It will take up to 5 days to process your request and forms submitted with insufficient notice will not be authorised.

Please don't ask for time for a holiday or travel outside of the school holidays unless an additional *exceptional circumstance* can be evidenced as part of your application. The Department for Education policy we are required to follow will not allow us to authorise your request unless you can evidence such *exceptional circumstance*. Applications for travel and holidays are currently taking up a lot of school administration time despite the school policy being clear they cannot be authorised. Before you submit your form please make sure you have read the school attendance policy. Thank you.

Lunchtime Controller vacancy

We are looking for a friendly and capable person to join our lunchtime team in Years 1-6, a permanent contract, to start as soon as possible. The post involves a variety of tasks including setting up tables in the dining hall, supervising the children as they eat, supervising and facilitating play for children outside during the lunch hour and providing first aid. Training can be provided. Applicants should enjoy working with children and be available to work Monday to Friday during term time from 12.15-13.20. If you are a positive team player who is willing to 'muck in' and support our children to have a happy play experience we would love to hear from you. You will be on Grade 3 Fixed SCP 14 and earn £2,002.36 per year (£8.54 per hour worked).

Applications will be considered on receipt.

Change of menu for Tuesday 20th December

Caterlink have advised us of a change of menu for the final day of term. The menu choices will be Jumbo fish Finger served with Chips & Tomato Sauce***Cheese & Tomato Quiche Served with Chips & Tomato Sauce***Garden Peas or Baked Beans followed by Chocolate Shortbread***Yoghurt***Fresh Fruit Platter. There will not be a jacket potato option available.



Christmas Services at St. Nicholas' Church - Tuesday 20th December

Please remember to bring warm, waterproof coats for the children. Reception and Lower Phase children (F2, Year 1 and 2) will be walking to the church for a service starting at 9.30am. Middle and Upper Phase (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6) will walk to the church a little later to attend a service at 10.30am. Volunteers will be needed to walk with the children, please talk to your child's class teacher if you are able to help.



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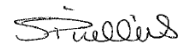


Christmas Holiday

Please note we finish at 3pm on Tuesday 20th December, the last day of term. Foundation Stage morning children finish at 11.10 and afternoon children at 2.50pm. Please arrive promptly to collect your children. Pupils return to school on Thursday 5th January 2017.

And finally our best wishes for a Happy Christmas with friends and family. We look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Phillips
Headteacher

Diary Events List: Autumn term 2016 and Spring term 2017

Date	Time	Event
16/12/16	lunchtime	School Christmas lunch - no alternative menu available
16/12/16	15.20 k.o.	Y5-6 Home Football match vs Radstock Primary (selected children)
20/12/16	As shown	Christmas Celebration at St Nicolas Church: Children in F2-KS1 9.30am Children in KS2 10.30am
20/12/16	End of day	Final day of Autumn term - Children finish 30 minutes earlier than their usual time.
21/12/16- 3/1/17		Christmas holiday
4/1/17	All day	INSET day - School closed for staff training
5/1/17	All day	Start of Pupil Spring term 2017
9/1/17	All week	First week of School clubs
10/1/17	13.30-14.30	Year 2 RE Inspired session: Signs and Symbols at Brookside Church
11/1/17	9.00-10.00	PSA Parent Tea/Coffee morning in The Hut
18/1/17	8.30-9.30	Personnel & Finance Governor meeting: attendance by Chair or HT invitation
18/1/17	9.00-10.00	PSA Parent Tea/Coffee morning in The Hut
25/1/17	9.00-10.00	PSA Parent Tea/Coffee morning in The Hut
26/1/17	18.00-19.30	Curriculum committee Governor meeting: attendance by Chair or HT invitation
31/1/17	13.30-14.30	Y4 RE Inspired session: Sacred Texts/Story telling at St Nicolas Church
1/2/17	9.00-10.00	PSA Parent Tea/Coffee morning in The Hut
1/2/17	18.00-19.30	Environment Committee Governor meeting: attendance by Chair or HT invitation
2/2/17	10.15	F1 prospective parents monthly tour
5/2/17	All week	Y5 Bikeability training
7/2/17	Morning	F2 RE Inspired session: Noah at Foundation Stage Hall
8/2/17	9-10.00	PSA Parent Tea/Coffee morning in The Hut
8/2/17	18.00-19.30	Full Governing Body meeting: attendance by Chair or HT invitation
9/2/17	During day	Y1-6 Art exhibition - details to follow
13/2/17	All week	Spring Half term holiday
20/2/17		Start of second half of Spring term