

LODDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Loddon
Primary School



5th February 2016

NEWSLETTER NO 9

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.

Robbie N	Bennu	Air	Producing quality work and co-operating well with others in play
Ellie A	Kites	Water	Designing and making a quality Guide Dog model
Maisie H	Hedgehogs	Air	Quality writing of the 3 Billy Goats Gruff
Ewan N	Stingrays	Fire	Quality handwriting
Ian W	Turtles	Air	Quality work due to perseverance when working on transport
Aden M	Turtles	Water	Quality work due to perseverance when working on transport
Sriram P	Stingrays	Earth	Increased independence during lunchtime

Value of the month - Independence

'Children have to be educated, but they have also to be left to educate themselves.'

Ernest Dimnet

One of the problems facing parents everywhere is the simple fact that it is usually easier to do things yourself than to wait for your child to get around to it. As a result, parents (and school staff too!) typically take care of a lot of tasks and challenges that their children could have responsibility for themselves. Add to this the emotional distress of a parent watching their child frustrated or upset and it is little wonder that as parents we often end up taking over our children's lives rather than supporting them to solve upsets for themselves. And yet most parents would say they wish to develop their child's independence. So this month we ask you to give more opportunity for independence and next time you feel the urge to step in to ask yourself whether it is better done together or if your child can be supported to do it for themselves?

In school we will teach your children about their responsibility to maximise the opportunities you offer them for independence; through giving their best effort, being responsible, staying committed, not blaming others for their misfortunes and giving an achievement opportunity a realistic try. It is going to be a challenging value to work to yet we believe that with greater independence all our children can achieve more and we hope that you will share this belief and support us in this endeavour.



Please think!

If as a parent/carer you have a concern or question we will always listen to you and seek to address this. However, rude, abusive, threatening, or violent behaviour is not acceptable - take a moment to think. We ask that you are polite and considerate in your communication with everyone at school and that you remember that you are a role model to your children in the way in which you share verbal and written communication with others. We also remind all adults that it is never acceptable to approach an unaccompanied child in anger and if you have a concern you must take this to school staff and never to pupils directly.



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School Expansion

Following a meeting of the Wokingham Executive on Thursday 28th January I am writing, on behalf of the Governing Body, to update you on the decision to expand our school. To be honest, things have moved quickly. I do want to reassure you however that we have not taken this decision lightly and the pupils of Loddon were at the forefront of our minds in all the discussions we had with Wokingham. I've tried to anticipate in this letter the questions you might have and aimed to provide what detail I can at this stage.

Why do we need to expand?

At present there are not enough places in Earley for local children to go to their local school. We are informed by Wokingham Council, who are responsible for planning, anticipating and providing enough school places, that this does not appear to be a short term issue. As a values school it was important for us to do the right thing and provide local places for local children that want to come to our school.

Why Loddon?

This was decided on a number of factors, namely how well we are doing as a school due to the hard work and determination of the teaching team (and our pupils!), the strong leadership we have in place, and ultimately that we have the room on site to expand. We have non-teaching space within our wider school grounds which can be converted to classroom space. Furthermore, other local schools such as Hawkedon have already expanded offering three classes per year group.

Which part of the School are we expanding?

We are planning to create extra classrooms in the office space currently used by the Local Authority, which is next door to Foundation. At this stage, these classrooms are intended to help us deliver room for one extra Foundation Stage Class and one extra Year 1 class. This will allow us to initially provide an additional 60 school places. Naturally, later on, this will impact on the shape of Loddon as the upper school is built to house two classes per year. Future plans will be developed to address this.

How will it impact on the pupils at Loddon?

We are looking at the wider school to ensure we can still achieve what is important to us, such as being able to have a school assembly once a week with all pupils in attendance and ensuring we do not split a year group across two buildings.

When will the expansion work take place?

Building work on the Riverdale Building is planned to take place in the summer for minimal impact on teaching and learning.

What about the impact on traffic?

This featured heavily in our discussions with Wokingham Borough Council. They have factored this into the planning work and the current infrastructure is deemed sufficient. We are well aware that traffic is already an issue and are therefore pushing for solutions as well as reviewing our School Travel Plan.

What if I have more concerns and questions?

I would ask you to trust that we will always act in the best interests of the children of Loddon. If you have any questions related to the school expansion which I have not addressed then you can email me chair.governors@loddon.wokingham.sch.uk or Mrs Phillips head@loddon.wokingham.sch.uk. If you have any questions regarding the wider school places strategy, why Loddon was chosen or concerns on traffic then please contact Wokingham.

Finally I would ask you to bear with us. I have shared as much as I can with you and some of the detail is still to be confirmed. When we have the plans and more details we are keen to share these with you. Information on this will follow when available.

Rob Henderson - Chair Of Governors



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Cash payments in the school office

This is a polite reminder for those choosing to pay for school items, events or trips using cash. Please ensure you bring the correct amount of money required as unfortunately the school office team cannot provide change.

New resources in the Parent Hut

We have purchased some new resources for the parent hut e.g. tables, a sofa, toys. Please feel free to use them but ensure you look after them.

Request for help please

We have a new 8' x 6' Greenhouse. If you have any unwanted concrete slabs which we could use as a base for our Greenhouse and / or you could help us put the Greenhouse together then please let the School Office team know.

Goodbye and Good luck to Mrs Evans

Mrs Evans Key worker in Foundation Stage will be leaving us at half term to pursue other interests with her family. We wish her the very best and thank her for all her hard work whilst at Loddon. Interviews for her replacement are taking place today and we will write to the parents of Bats to confirm their new Key worker once this process is complete.

Second hand uniform sale - Change of date

Please note a change of date for the next second hand school uniform sale which will now be held in the Parent Hut on 2nd March. On 24th February Mrs Phillips will be delivering a Values presentation in the Parent Hut during the Parent Tea/Coffee morning between 9-10am.

Loddon Out of School Club - Half Term Holiday Club: Monday 15th - Friday 19th February 2016

There will be fun, games and a light tea served late afternoon. Charges: £10 half day 8.30am-1.00pm or 1.00-5.45pm, £18 full day 8:30am-5:45pm (non-refundable). To book please complete the form in the School Reception and return it to the club together with full payment or phone Dawn on 07968 278584 for information.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Phillips
Headteacher

Diary Events List: Spring term 2016

Date	Time	Event
08/02/16	16.00-16.45	KS2 Reading Workshop for Parents/Carers (second opportunity)
08/02/16	18.30-20.00	Parent Forum in the Hut
09/02/16	9.30-11.00	F2 REInspired session in the FSU Hall on Noah
09/02/16	15.30-16:15	Y5/6 Football Team vs Nine Mile Ride to be held at Loddon
10/02/16	09.00-10.00	PSA Tea/Coffee morning in The Hut
11/02/16	09.00-11.00	PSP Can Support Group run by parents in the Parent Hut
11/02/16	15.00-15.20	Y3 class sharing assembly - parents and carers welcome
15/02/16	All week	Half term holiday
22-23/02/16	All day	Y4 residential trip to Ufton Court
22/02/16	09.00-10.30	Reading FC Womens School Trophy Tour - visit to Loddon



24/02/16	09.00-10.00	PSA Tea/Coffee morning in The Hut - Head Teacher Mrs Phillips delivering 'Values' presentation.
25/02/16	09.00-11.00	PSP Can Support Group run by parents in the Parent Hut
29/02/16	All week	Y5 Bikeability training
29/02/16	16.00-16.45	KS1 Reading Workshop for Parents/Carers in Main Hall
29/02/16	18.00-18.45	KS1 Reading Workshop for Parents/Carers in Kestrels Class (second opportunity)
01/03/16	All day	World Book Day Author visit to school
01/03/16	08.30-09.30	Personnel & Finance Governor Committee meeting: attendance by invitation from Chair or HT
01/03/16	13.00-16.30	Year 5/6 boys and girls netball at Bulmershe
01/03/16	13.30-15.00	Y5 REInspired session on Inspirational Christian Writers at Brookside Church
02/03/16	08.30-09.30	PSA second hand uniform sale in the Hut
02/03/16	09.00-10.00	PSA Tea/Coffee morning in The Hut
03/03/16	09.00-11.00	PSP Can Support Group run by parents in the Parent Hut
03/03/16	10.15	F1 tour for prospective parents
03/03/16	15.00-15.20	Y4 class sharing assembly: Parents & carers welcome
04/03/16	TBC	PTA Spring Disco (Years 1-3 in lower, Years 4-6 in upper)
08/03/16	16.00-19.00	Parents' evening
09/03/16	09.00-10.00	PSA Tea/Coffee morning in The Hut
09/03/16	13.30-15.30	Y5 First Aid Training
09/03/16	16.00-19.00	Parents' evening
10/03/16	09.00-11.00	PSP Can Support Group run by parents in the Parent Hut
11/03/16	09.30-14.30	Wokingham Years 5-6 Girls football tournament
15/03/16	13.30-15.00	Y1 REInspired session on Parables at St Nicolas Church
15/03/16	TBC	Y5/6 Football Team vs Emmbrook Juniors to be held at Loddon
16/03/16	08.30-09.30	Governor Environment Committee meeting by invitation from Chair or HT
16/03/16	09.00-10.00	PSA Tea/Coffee morning in The Hut
16/03/16	18.00-19.30	Governor Curriculum Committee meeting: attendance by invitation from Chair or HT
17/03/16	09.00-11.00	PSP Can Support Group run by parents in the Parent Hut
17/03/16	15.00-15.20	Y2 class sharing assembly: Parents & carers welcome
21/03/16	14.00-15.00	Years 3 & 4 performance for parents & carers
22/03/16	18.00-19.00	Years 3 & 4 performance for parents & carers (x2 allocated tickets per family)
23/03/16	09.00-10.00	PSA Tea/Coffee morning in The Hut
23/03/16	18.00-19.30	Full Governing Body meeting: attendance by invitation from Chair or HT
24/03/16	09.30-11.30	Easter services at St Nicolas Church - Exact times TBA.
24/03/16	All day	Last day of Pupil Spring term - all session finish 30 minutes earlier
25/03-10/04/16		Easter Holiday
11/04/16	All day	First day of Pupil Summer term



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