



'FRIENDS OF' LODGE LANE

Registered Charity number 1186022

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our Spring newsletter. We had a committee meeting recently and we are busy planning some exciting events for the coming months, which we know the children will enjoy.

Thank you for all your support for the events we ran during the Autumn term, especially all the Christmas events and the Winter Fair.

We raised the following amounts:

☆ Christmas Card Project	£545	☆ Clothing bin	£37
☆ Winter Fair	£908	☆ Fireworks Colouring	£50
☆ Christmas Shop	£371	☆ Aviva match funding	£1,000
☆ Christmas Parties	£283	☆ School lottery	£212
☆ Topsy-Turvey Thursday	£145	☆ Stay and play	£134
☆ Apple Crumbles	£274	☆ Other donations	£21

An amazing total of **£3,980**... Thank you all!

With this and also historical amounts raised we have funded the following:

☆ Cat in the Hat Theatre trip	£2,070	☆ Play equipment on field	£5,887
☆ Library books	£1,200	☆ Book week author visit	£500
☆ Year 1 playground	£597	☆ Christmas books	£152
☆ Library Beanbags	£139	☆ Christmas sewing kits	£113
☆ Kitchen equipment (toy)	£93		

A grand total of **£10,751** spent on enhancing our children's education and time at school. We think this is brilliant and again want to thank anyone who has helped raise these funds.

Future of Friends of Lodge Lane

Without wanting to sound dramatic, we have lots of committee members with children in year 2 who will be leaving Lodge Lane this summer. For most, these are their youngest children, so they will also be leaving the Friends of Lodge Lane committee. This includes both the Chair of the Committee (Gemma Thompson) and the Treasurer (Becca Eagling). Whilst the committee could still run with less members it cannot run without a Chair and Treasurer.

At the AGM in September/October Gemma and Becca will not offer themselves for re-election and someone else will need to take their places. This could be one person or it can be a shared role. It would be much better if they were able to do a soft hand over during the next few months to enable a smooth transition and to handover as much knowledge as possible.

If you would be willing to take on one of these roles or if you would like further information about what the roles entail, please could you email llisfriendsof@gmail.com

Unfortunately, without people taking on these roles the PTA will have to close and the fundraising would stop.

SUMMARY OF DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

See below for the dates which are covered in this newsletter (more information on each is within the newsletter).

EVENT	DATE
Mother's Day Shop	Friday 21 st March (Scopay cut off 9am Tuesday 18th March)
Easter Egg Hunt	Friday 4 th April 2.45pm-3.15pm
Father's Day Shop	Friday 6 th June (will open on Scopay after Easter)
Tombola non-uniform day	Friday 13 th June
Summer Fair	Friday 27 th June 5pm - 8pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mother's Day Shop - Friday 21st March 🌸

We will be running a shop for Mother's Day (or a special person) on **21st March 2025** during school hours.

Payments can be made via Scopay, we are asking for a £2 donation per item. Each class will take turns to come along to our shop and choose a gift, which they can then wrap and write a tag for. We have a few of our committee helping with this. In previous years this has been a lovely activity for them to enjoy and choose a gift themselves. We have some great gifts available.

You can buy multiple gifts if you would like but, if you do, on the day it would be helpful to let your child know who they are buying for (e.g. Aunties, Grandparents etc).

The closing date for Scopay donations is 9am Tuesday 18th March.

Easter Egg Hunt - Friday 4th April 🐣

This will take place in the back playground on **4th April 2025** at the end of the school day. The children will have to find some Easter related items around the main field/playground to then exchange along with a fee (TBC) for an Easter egg. The cost of eggs has significantly increased this year, but we are trying to get some donations to keep the price as low as possible. We will confirm the price in the next few weeks.

If there are any allergies, please email us on **llisfriendsof@gmail.com** and we can arrange for dairy free/vegan/alternative eggs for those children.

Mrs Dewing has agreed that we can start the hunt at 2.45pm to ensure people who need to get to other schools for sibling collections can still take part. Children will not be allowed to start the hunt until they have been collected by a parent/carer however.

SUMMER TERM EVENTS

Father's Day Shop - Friday 6th June

In a similar way to the Mother's Day shop, we will hold one for Father's Day on Friday 6th June 2025. This will be available on Scopay after Easter.

Tombola non-uniform day - Friday 13th June

We are holding a non-uniform day on Friday 13th June. We are asking in return, if possible, for tombola prizes to be donated for the summer fair. We are holding an adult and child tombola, so crafts, gift sets, wine etc. This would all be greatly appreciated. Please hand these over to your class teacher or school office on the day.

Summer Fair - Friday 27th June

We are now busy planning our Summer Fair and can confirm this is taking place on Friday 27th June 2025 from 5pm - 8pm.

If anyone owns a business and is able to donate a raffle prize to us, we would be very grateful. Either a prize linked to your business or something else. We will ensure that prizes and the businesses who have donated are mentioned on Facebook in the promotion of the event.

Stay and Play

Every Wednesday during term time the committee runs the Stay and Play group in the main hall from 8.30am - 10.00am. We have crafts, songs, tea, coffee and biscuits. The cost is £1.50 per family.

Clothing Bin

The clothing bin is in the school car park. Please donate any clothes, shoes, belts or handbags. These need to be in carrier bags and please no soiled items. We raise funds based on the weight of the items which are taken away periodically.

FUTURE PROJECTS WE ARE SUPPORTING

Playground equipment

The school would like some more play equipment for the main field for the children to enjoy at playtime and lunchtime which they would like us to fund. Once a suitable option has been found we will look to get this ordered.

Maths books

We have agreed to fund some picture books with a maths focus and these will hopefully be arriving in the coming weeks.

Other areas

We support the children in other ways throughout the year as well, with books from Santa and providing refreshments for the last day before Christmas. We subsidise each child on their school trips and provide funds to enable the chicks, ducks and butterflies to be in the school in the summer term.

Safer Parking

We are supporting the school to try and ensure that people who are parking near school do so in a safe manner and have provided funds for the new banners which are now on display on the school fence. We were pleased to see the impact that the visiting police officer has had but we would like to see this replicated without the need for their presence. If you need to bring your car on the school run, please do so considerately and don't park on the pavements or opposite the yellow zig zag lines as this makes it unsafe for people crossing the road.

And finally.....

Thank you to all parents, families and carers who support the Friends of Lodge Lane; we have a great community around Old Catton. As a committee we work hard to organise all the activities and we work with the school so that the fundraising benefits all of the children. We currently have 22 members on our committee as well as Mrs Dewing.

A big thank you to all the members for their ideas and hard work.

WAYS TO SUPPORT US

Match Funding

Do you work for a company which offers matched funding? Some companies offer donations to charities where their employees help to raise money. For example, if you worked for one of these companies and volunteered at one of our events, we may be able to claim additional monies from your employer to match the amount you helped to raise. This is how we gained £1,000 from Aviva this year.

Volunteering Days

Some companies also offer a volunteering day or hours for their employees to enable them to give their time to charitable causes. If this is something your employer offers and you would like to help us then please let us know.

Useful Links

- <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/lodge-lane-infant-school>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Lodge-Lane-Infant-School>
- For other online shopping check out easy fundraising, you can raise money for your school without even having to put your hand in your pocket.
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lodgelaneinfants/donation/>
- We have a partnership with StampTastic whereby any sales via the link below generates money for the school PTA <https://stamptastic.co.uk/> 'PTA' code is the NR67HL

Other Ways

A reminder of the other ways which you can help support our fundraising efforts.



We have the clothing recycling bin in the car park and also the ink cartridge bin in school. We get commission for amounts recycled.



Support our fundraising events whenever you can... buying raffle tickets, ice-creams, donating prizes etc



A weekly lottery where you can earn the school money and be in a chance of winning prizes yourself



Use the PTA code NR67HL when making purchases at stampastic and we get commission



Visit the easy fundraising website or app before making purchases online to see if the retailer offers any % donations

How you can help Friends of Lodge Lane



Our larger events usually require more help than the committee alone can give so we ask for some of your time



Buy pre-loved school uniform from the boxes in the school reception (& donate any good quality items you no longer need)



Your School Lottery

The below gives some more information about the school lottery and how you can support it. This is a weekly draw and as well as the main national prize one of our supporters wins a smaller amount each week.

Lodge Lane Infant School
Everyone Learning Together...

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

WIN WIN

SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY

It's A WIN-WIN Situation!

★ **BOOST School Funds**
★ **WIN up to £25,000**

TICKETS £1 EACH

To start supporting, visit:
YourSchoolLottery.co.uk/play
and search for: Lodge Lane Infant

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older.