

September Newsletter

WELCOME BACK!

Dear Families,

It doesn't seem possible that the new school year is already underway and Lodge Lane is once again full of energy, chatter and busy classrooms! It has been a real pleasure to welcome the children through the doors and see them reconnecting with friends, meeting their new teachers and beginning to find their feet in their new classes. We extend a particularly warm welcome to our new families in Reception and to our new children in Butterfly Class, Year 1 and Year 2. We hope you feel welcomed into life at Lodge Lane and we're sure you will feel like you've always been here very soon.

There is always a lot for children to adjust to in September, and some will take a little longer than others to feel completely settled. Please let us know if your child has any worries or if there is anything you think we should be aware of. Our experienced staff know the children well and will always work with you to help them feel happy, secure and ready to learn.

Each morning, the classroom doors open at 8.30am, giving children time to come in and get settled before learning begins at 8.50am. After this time, children will need to enter through the main office and be signed in. Please try really hard not to be late as this can make children feel particularly wobbly as well as disrupting the children already in class and causing additional work for Belinda in the office. However, we do understand that sometimes this is unavoidable.

This first newsletter contains plenty of important information about the term ahead, so please do have a careful read. A list of key dates can be found at the end and will be updated in each monthly edition. Details of events will then be sent out nearer each date. You can also check the school website calendar at any time for dates across the year.

We're all looking forward to the fun and challenge of a new school year ahead.

Sarah Spears
Head of School

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SAFE, BRAVE, KIND

This year, we are introducing three simple school rules: Safe, Brave and Kind. These rules give children clear and consistent expectations wherever they are in school. We ask children to make choices that keep themselves and others safe, to be brave when trying new things, making mistakes or asking for help, and to treat others with kindness and respect. Staff will use this shared language throughout the school day to help children understand expectations, manage their behaviour and put things right when things go wrong. You will see signs up around the school like the one shown above to help us remind the children of what they need to do. Families may also wish to use the words *Safe*, *Brave* and *Kind* at home, helping to keep expectations simple and reinforce the same messages for children.



CHEEKY MONKEYS WRAPAROUND CARE

We have good availability for Cheeky Monkeys breakfast and afterschool clubs. If anyone would like to use the club, the details are below.

Breakfast Club

7:15am to start of school day

The Breakfast Club offers a healthy breakfast of cereals, toast, fresh fruit with milk, juice and water to drink.

Activities are relaxed and focussed with the aim of creating a calm start to the day.

Cost: £5.75 per session.

After School Club

3pm –6pm

The After School Club offers free play sessions. With a wide range of indoor activities for the children to choose from including role play toys, construction, arts and crafts. Outdoor play opportunities are available too.

After School Club offers snack daily. Foods you may find on our menu include toast, wraps, pittas, crackers & raisins etc.

Cost: £4.50 per hour (increasing to £5.00 per hour from 2nd November 2026)

Sessions can be booked on Scopay. Your account must have money on to book the session, as sessions are paid for in advance.

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CAR PARK AND GATES



We know that drop-off and collection times are busy. However, the car park has become very crowded, and we are worried that someone could be seriously hurt. We need everyone's help to keep children and families safe.

The school car park is for staff and authorised vehicles only. Parents and carers **must not drive into or park in the car park** at drop-off or collection times unless they have permission from the school.

From **Monday 14 September**, the three spaces in front of the kitchen will be for **disabled use only**. Some children need these spaces so they can enter and leave school safely. Their families have permission from the school to use them. Please keep these spaces clear at all times.

The vehicle gate will remain closed at drop-off and collection times. If you have permission to use the car park, **you must close the gate securely after entering or leaving**.

Some families are still walking through the vehicle gate and across the car park. This is not safe because vehicles are arriving and leaving at these times. **Please do not walk through the vehicle gate.**

It is not possible for staff to supervise all our entrances safely. Therefore, from **Monday 14 September**, all families must enter and leave through the pedestrian gate next to the Scout Hut.

This gate will open at **8:20am** and **2:45pm**. The longer opening time should help reduce queues on the path. The internal school gates will then open at **8:25am** and **2:55pm**, so families can walk to their child's classroom.

We understand that this will be a change for some families, and the new arrangement may need some adjustment. However, everyone's safety must come first. We will review the arrangement after two weeks. Thank you for your patience, understanding and support.



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WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

School life is very busy and it can be tricky to keep up with events and all the things you need to remember, especially if you have more than one child and especially if you have children in other schools too! To help you with this, all the information you need is on our website.

<https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/lodgelane>

The calendar and newsletter sections are there for any information you may have forgotten or that you need to know in advance. The calendar for the whole year has been completed and any extra dates will be added as they are set.

If you click on an item on the calendar, it will give you more details of the event.

Newsletters are emailed to you each month and at the bottom of the newsletter, you will always find the dates that are coming up. Hopefully this is helpful in helping you to keep up with what you need to know.

Our Facebook page 'Lodge Lane Infant School' regularly shows things we have been doing in recent days/weeks.



Our other Facebook page 'Friends of Lodge Lane' is a public group and reminders and other information will be posted here. If you have not yet joined, please do so if you can.



SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

Keeping children safe is our highest priority. Because school staff have regular contact with children, we are well placed to notice changes in their behaviour, appearance or development that may indicate they need additional help or protection.

The school follows the statutory guidance set out in *Keeping Children Safe in Education* and *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, alongside the local safeguarding procedures of the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership.

If we are concerned about a child, we have a duty to take appropriate action. This may include speaking with the child or family, seeking advice or making a referral to Children's Services. Our role is not to investigate possible abuse, but to recognise concerns, record and share information appropriately, and ensure that children receive the support and protection they need. Taking safeguarding action does not in itself mean that a parent or carer is being accused of wrongdoing.

Lodge Lane also participates in Operation Encompass. This means that the police notify the school following a domestic abuse incident involving the household of one of our children. This information is shared securely with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and enables us to provide timely and sensitive support for the child.

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ATTENDANCE



Next week, you will receive a separate letter explaining our attendance procedures. Regular attendance is essential for children's learning and wellbeing.

Our whole-school attendance target is at least 95%, which we achieved exactly last year. Every day matters: even occasional days of absence can quickly add up and result in children missing important learning and experiences.

We understand that children will sometimes be too unwell to attend. If this is the case, **please telephone the school office before 9am** each day to explain the absence. Children who have experienced vomiting or diarrhoea should remain at home until 48 hours have passed since the last episode.

We are unable to authorise term time holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you decide to take your child out of school, please be honest with us; asking children to say that they have been ill when they have been on holiday can place them in a difficult and worrying position.

Please also consider important school events when planning any absence. Year 1 children will prepare for and complete the Phonics Screening Check during June. Year 2 children who miss rehearsals in the weeks before the Leavers' Show may find it difficult to participate fully.

If attendance is becoming difficult for any reason, please speak to us as early as possible. We will work with you to understand the barriers and identify appropriate support.



STAFFING

Just before the summer holidays, our caretaker, John Woodhouse decided to move on to a new position as Premises Manager at the Clare School in Norwich. We were very sad to see John go as he has been a very valued member of the team for a long time. He could often be heard whistling and singing around the school as he got on with his jobs and he was a very important part of keeping our school environment the safe and welcoming place it is. We wish John well in his new role.

We extend a very warm welcome to Kevin Daniels, our new caretaker who we will share with Garrick Green Infant School. Kevin has only been with us a week but has already become indispensable! He is a whizz at fixing things, creating things and no job seems to be too big for him. You may already have seen him around the site as he locks and unlocks the gates on a Monday and Wednesday so please do welcome him and say hello.

We also said sad goodbye to Theresa Lewis in the school office as she moved on to find a new position. Clare Riding will be joining Belinda the office some of the time. A very warm welcome to Clare for joining our team. We will now only have one email address to the office so please use this one for all queries: office@lodgelane.norfolk.sch.uk

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MEDICATION

If your child needs antibiotics administering, please go to the office to complete and form and drop the medication off.

DRINK BOTTLES



All children should bring a water bottle to school every day. Please write your child's name clearly on the bottle.



WELLIES

All children should keep a pair of wellies at school during the week. Please write your child's name clearly inside them.



BOOK BAGS

Children need to bring their book bag and reading book to school every day. Books can easily be ruined because of drink bottles leaking in book bags so please use the book bag just for books and carry drinks separately. If your child's book is damaged beyond repair at home, we will ask you to pay for a replacement.



UNIFORM

Please help us by making sure that every item of uniform has your child's name written in it. It is surprising how much lost property we gather each half term and obviously it is very difficult to return it if it isn't named. Even if your child's name is written in in a sharpie, this will help! It takes staff a very long time to work out who each item belongs to and obviously the children are so young, they can't really help us!

Please note that children should be in the correct uniform each day, including on PE days when they should wear joggers, leggings or shorts and a white t-shirt with a school jumper or cardigan. Please don't send them in football tops, hoodies, tracksuit tops etc. Please also note that children shouldn't be wearing jewellery, friendship bracelets etc and please keep their book bags free of bulky key rings as it means they won't fit in their trays.

ALLERGIES



Please remember that we are a **nut free school** - some types of chocolate spread and cereal bars contain nuts so please check the ingredients before you send any of these products to school. If you wish to send your child with chocolate spread, we will need to see a photograph of the ingredients to ensure this is nut-free.

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READING BOOKS

In Y1 and 2, your child's class teacher has been busy reading with your child to assess their current reading level. Most children will then be placed in a Guided Reading group with children of a similar ability, and will bring home their Little Wandle reading book for the week to practise reading at home with you on a Friday. You need to return this book the following Friday please so it can be changed.

In order to place children in the correct group at a level that is right for them, they may bring home a reading book which they have previously read. If this is the case, please don't worry - it is good for them to revisit previous books to build up their fluency. They will then move on to new books which they have not had before when we feel they are ready.

Please note: children in Year 2 who are fluent readers will choose from the coloured book bands and from a selected choice of chapter books in time and can change their books whenever they are ready rather than waiting for a Friday for their book to be changed.



INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR PARENTS

As always, we will be holding curriculum meetings for parents. There will be one for each year group and these will be led by the teachers. They are a really helpful way of finding out what your child will be doing, how the curriculum is designed and how you can help your child at home. It is really beneficial to attend the session if you possibly can. We understand that for working parents this can be very difficult so there will be slides available if you are unable to attend. However, it is hard to convey what we say in person in these slides so it is best to attend if possible. The dates for each year group are in the dates section at the end of the newsletter.

CHILDREN STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2027

If you know anyone whose child is due to start school next September, please encourage them to come and have a look round. We are holding some group sessions on the following dates and times. People can email or call the school office to book on to one:

Friday 25th September - 11am
Monday 12th October - 1:15pm
Thursday 22nd October - 9:30am
Tuesday 2nd November - 1:15pm
Monday 16th November - 9:30am
Tuesday 1st December - 11:30am
Thursday 17th December 1:15pm
Friday 8th January 1:15pm
Thursday 14th January - 9:30am

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FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

OUTDOOR AREAS

Staff spend a lot of time before school getting activities and resources ready in the outside areas so please ensure your children do not start playing with whatever is out there. We know that it is all very tempting, especially for younger siblings, but it is very disheartening for staff to go out to do some learning with their children, only to find that what they have set up and organised has been spoilt. Please also don't allow children to play with sports equipment on the back playground before or after school, including balls etc as we have unfortunately had some parents and grandparents hit with balls in the past. Thank you.

VOLUNTEERS

If any of you or a family member or friend could spare a couple of hours a week to volunteer at our school then we would be very grateful.

We need volunteers to listen to children read, to help with outdoor learning and we would also love someone to volunteer to keep our library tidy. Children use the library every day and are not great at putting books back in the right place or the right way up, despite lots of training!

We would also love a group of volunteers to help us look after our school garden better than we are managing currently!

If you are interested in any of these roles or any other voluntary role that you think you'd like to offer then please email Belinda - office@lodge lane.norfolk.sch.uk and she will discuss it with you.

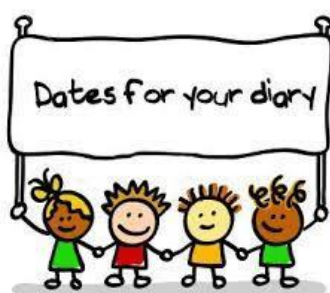
HALF TERM

School closes for Half Term on **Thursday 22nd October.**

and the children come back on **Monday 2nd November.**

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SEPTEMBER			
28 th	Y1 Info session for parents	2-3pm	School Hall
29 th	YR Info session for parents	2-3pm	
30 th	Butterfly Class Info session for parents	2.15-2.45pm	
OCTOBER			
1 st	Y2 Info session for parents	2-3pm	School Hall
8 th	Flu immunisations	Parents will receive email from Vaccination UK	
22 nd	Last day School re-opens 2nd November		
NOVEMBER			
2 nd	School reopens		
3 rd	Individual school photos		
W/C 9 th and 16 th	Parent/Teacher meetings		
20 th	Children in Need		
24 th	YR Screening – National Measurement Programme		
26 th	Dental Survey		
27 th	Friends of Free Dress Day	Tombola/raffle donations	

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DECEMBER		
4 th	Friends of Winter Fair	After school
7 th	Y1 Christmas Play	2-3pm
8 th	YR Nativity	2-3pm
9 th	Y1 Christmas Play	2-3pm
10 th	YR Nativity	2-3pm
11 th	Christmas Jumper Day	
15 th	Y2 Christmas carols for parents	2-3pm
18 th	Last day of term	
JANUARY		
5 th	School reopens	

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