November Newsletter

Dear Families,

What a busy and happy start to the school year! Our Reception children have been getting to know their new school, making friends and growing in confidence. The huge footprints they found in the outdoor area certainly sparked plenty of curiosity! Meanwhile, Year 1 have been helping the rabbit escape from the well and were overjoyed to be successful and Year 2 have been finding out all about Henry Blogg, the famous Cromer lifeboatman and one of the RNLI's most decorated crew members.

A particular highlight was welcoming M&M Productions into school for *The Wizard of Oz*. The children were captivated by the singing, dancing and clever set changes—and certainly enjoyed booing the witch! A huge thank you to the Friends of Lodge Lane for making this experience possible.

Across school, we have introduced our three rules: **Safe, Brave, Kind**. Through our assemblies, children have also met the Guard Dog and the Wise Owl, helping them begin to understand their emotions and what helps them feel calm and ready to learn.

We are looking forward to welcoming families to our parent–teacher meetings next week. These are a lovely opportunity to share how your child has settled in, celebrate their achievements and talk together about the next steps in their learning.

Thank you for your support throughout the half term, including helping us make the school grounds safer at drop-off and collection. There is lots to feel proud of as we look ahead to the next half term.

Sarah Spears
Head of School



STAFFING NEWS

As Tiger Class families are already aware, we will be saying a fond farewell to Tiger Class teacher, Roisin Surtee, at Christmas as she leaves to train as a dance psychotherapist. Dance has long been a passion of Roisin's, and we wish her every happiness as she takes this exciting next step. That said, we will be very sad to see Roisin go as we have all loved having her as a member of the Lodge Lane team. Her warmth, patience and care have made her very popular with the children and she is a wonderful, dynamic and supportive colleague too. We shall make sure that we all enjoy Roisin's final half term with us.

I am delighted to share that we have appointed Miss Caitlin Tuttle as Tiger Class teacher from January. Caitlin currently teaches in Reception and comes very highly recommended to us. She really impressed us all with her calm, caring manner and excellent teaching during the interview process. We feel she will be a lovely addition to the Lodge Lane team. We are planning visits next half term so she can meet children and families and have a thorough handover with Roisin. The rest of the Reception team will remain unchanged and will help Caitlin and the children settle smoothly into this new chapter.

I am sure you will all join us in wishing Roisin all the best for the future and extending a warm Lodge Lane welcome to Caitlin.



POPPIES AND OTHER MERCHANDISE



Poppies and other merchandise will be on sale at school each day from Tuesday 3rd until Friday 6th November. We ask for a minimum donation of 20p for a poppy and £1 for all other merchandise. This year, please come to the office with your child after school to purchase poppy-related merchandise. All proceeds go to The British Legion and children will be learning about Remembrance Day in assembly.

CHEEKY MONKEYS

For those of you who aren't aware, we run an extended school provision called Cheeky Monkeys. Breakfast Club runs from 7.15-8.30am. After School Club runs from 3-6pm.

The Breakfast and After School clubs are only open to children from Lodge Lane and a small staff team supervise the children in their play, both indoors and outside on the main playground. Children can also have breakfast and snacks if they wish.

If you would be interested in using any of these clubs for your childcare spaces can be booked via Scopay. Please email cheekymonkeys@lodgelaneschool.co.uk or ask the school office for more information. You can also follow Cheeky Monkeys on Facebook.

ALL ABOUT FAMILY DIGITAL MAGAZINE

We've been asked to share the autumn edition of *All About Family*, a free digital magazine for parents and carers. It includes advice on online safety and parental controls, understanding ADHD, healthier packed lunches and the benefits of outdoor play. There are also contributions from the NSPCC and St John Ambulance, including Halloween and Bonfire Night first aid advice. Take a look—you may find something useful for your family!

Here is a link to the Autumn edition.

INDEPENDENCE

Helping your child become more independent at home makes a real difference to their confidence in school. Please give them time to practise everyday tasks such as putting on and fastening their coat, managing their shoes, using the toilet and washing their hands, opening their lunch packaging and using a knife and fork. Carrying their own belongings and tidying away toys are helpful habits too. We know children develop at different rates and some will need extra support. Encouraging them to have a go before stepping in, and celebrating their efforts, will help them build these skills little by little.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Our attendance so far this year is 95.2%, which is lower than at the same point last year. Term-time holidays and extended trips have contributed to this. Please help us protect children's learning by planning holidays outside term time wherever possible.

Currently, 31 children have attendance of 90% or below—just over twice last year's number at this stage. Teachers will discuss this with relevant families at next week's parent–teacher meetings, taking individual circumstances into account. Percentages can change quickly early in the year, but 90% attendance over a full year means missing almost four weeks of learning.

Regular attendance matters from Reception onwards, helping children build friendships, routines and confidence.

Please arrive on time too. Doors open at 8.30am, and children should be in class ready for registers at 8.50am, with learning beginning straight afterwards. If you are late, please sign your child in at the office and select the correct lunch option.

If attendance or mornings are difficult, please speak to us so that we can work together to help. Thank you for your support.



Y2 RNLI WELLIE WALK

Year 2 can't wait to do their wellie walk to raise money for the RNLI on Tuesday 3rd November. This term, Year 2 have been learning all about Henry Blogg, the famous Cromer lifeboatman and one of the RNLI's most decorated crew members. During his incredible years of service, Henry Blogg helped to save 873 lives at sea and took part in 387 rescues.

The RNLI will be paying us a visit so that the children can compare modern day RNLI with the RNLI in the past. Could you sponsor them so they can raise as much as possible for this very good cause? Between them, they will be walking the same distance as from Lodge Lane to Cromer. They've already raised £165 + £34 in Gift Aid - let's help them to smash their goals. Click on the link to donate. Go Year 2!
https://fundraise.rnli.org/.../jamesflowerdew/y2-fundraiser

PARKING

Thank you for following our safety routines so brilliantly. The school site is now much safer in the mornings, and your support has made a real difference.

However, parking on the road outside school continues to cause concern. I know many of you feel equally worried, as you often tell me when we speak at the gate and I have received emails from concerned residents too. I have asked our local councillor, Antony Little, for help. He has raised the matter with the parish council and Highways, who have visited to look at the situation and I am waiting to hear what the outcome will be. Please also share your concerns directly with Antony so he can hear from the families affected.

Please park a little further away and walk the last part of your journey, keeping crossing points clear so children and families can see and be seen.

We ask our children to be Safe, Brave and Kind, and it is important that we model this too. Considerate parking is a simple way to help keep everyone safe and to be kind to our neighbours too.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

If you haven't yet booked your parent–teacher meeting on Scopay, please do so now.

Please make every effort to attend one of the appointments offered, as these times have been set aside especially for meeting with families. If you cannot attend any of the available appointments, please speak to your child's teacher. They will do their best to arrange an alternative, although availability is limited alongside their teaching, planning and other responsibilities.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

CHILDREN IN NEED

We will be raising money for **Children in Need on Friday 13th November**. We're keeping it simple this year: children can wear Pudsey or Blush ears or simple face paint alongside their normal school uniform, for a suggested donation of **£1**. Taking part is entirely optional, and all children should wear their school uniform as usual.

WINTER FAIR

As you know, the Friends of Lodge Lane work really hard to raise money to provide additional experiences for all the children in school as well as to provide events that bring the community together whilst raising money. Their first event this year takes place on Friday 4th December November from 3pm – 5pm at school. There will be all cakes, refreshments, games, crafts, tombola and a raffle. Do you have a contact that could provide a raffle prize? If so, please let the Friends of Lodge Lane know via their email address llisfriendsof@gmail.com.





We will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 27th November. In order to take part, children need to bring in donation for the tombola stall please. This can be a craft activity, a small soft toy, a book, a box of chocolates, a bottle of wine – anything really that can be used on the stall.

END OF TERM

School closes for the Christmas Holidays on **Friday 18th December** and school starts again on **Tuesday 5th January 2027**.



NOVEMBER		
5th	Menu change	See class windows
9th	Hedgehog Class parent/teacher meetings	08.40-11.40am
9th	Owl Class parent/teacher meetings	08.40-11.40am
9th	Turtle Class parent/teacher meetings	3pm and 4-5pm
10th	Panda Class parent/teacher meetings	08.40-11.40am
11th	Leopard Class parent/teacher meetings	08.40-11.40am
12th	Turtle Class parent/teacher meetings	08.40-11.40am
13th	Tiger Class parent/teacher meetings	08.40-11.40am
13th	Children in Need	See above
16th	Turtle Class parent/teacher meetings	3pm and 4-5pm
17th	Turtle Class parent/teacher meetings	4-5.30pm
18th	Turtle Class parent/teacher meetings	4-5pm
19th	Butterfly Class parent/teacher meetings	1.20-4.30pm
19th	All classes parents/teacher meetings	3.30-6.30pm
24th	YR Screening – National Measurement Programme	
27th	Free dress day	Tombola/raffle donations please
21st	Friends of Lodge Lane Winter Fair	After School

DECEMBER		
4th	Friends of Winter Fair	After school
7th	Y1 Christmas Play	2-3pm
8th	YR Nativity	2-3pm
9th	Y1 Christmas Play	2-3pm
10th	YR Nativity	2-3pm
10th	Christmas Jumper Day	10th
11th	Butterfly Class Christmas songs and party	2-3pm
11th	Friends of Christmas Shop	
15th	Y2 Christmas Carols for parents	2-3pm
16th	Christmas lunch	
18th	**Last day of term**	
JANUARY		
5th	**School reopens**	