



# Newsletter



September  
2017

## Recently at Lake Farm...

Eagle eyed visitors will have spotted a new painting in Lake Farm which was delivered to us during the summer holidays, but has taken many months to prepare. Local artist Judy Cook was commissioned by Mr Horsman to create an image which portrayed the hopes and dreams of all those who attend Lake Farm Park Academy. On Monday of this week, Judy came to school to do assemblies with the children to tell them the story behind the picture. We are very proud of the end result, and it will hang permanently in the corridor by the library so that everyone who visits will see it. Thank you Judy for all of your hard work.

On Wednesday of this week I held a 'Meet the Principal' event and hosted a coffee morning to raise funds for the excellent charity MacMillan. What a lovely event it was, and thank you to so many parents and friends for coming to meet me. I will be working on all of your comments, questions and challenges to me over the next few weeks, so please bear in mind you may not see immediate results. We raised over £90 at the morning coffee and cake sale, which added to the wonderful cake sale after school means we will be donating £300 to MacMillan. Thank you all for your generosity, baking and support.

In addition to the MacMillan fundraising, we also raised the awareness of Jeans for Genes which raises money for children with life altering genetic illnesses. The children learnt in assembly how a simple defect can make a big difference to someone's life. Many thanks to those who sent in money as well as their child in jeans. You generously donated £186.

Our next big fundraisers will be in the second half of the Autumn term, with Children in Need in November and Christmas Jumper Day for Shelter at the end of the term.

## Apologies from Parent Pay

Unfortunately, due to a bereavement, the promised support of Parent Pay at the beginning of the term was not available and so some families did not have quite the smooth transition we had planned. We all apologise for this, but there was not anything we could do. However, Parent Pay are now booked to come into school to help any families who are struggling to use the technology and make their payments. They will be in school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October between 9 and 10am in the main reception should any of you wish to see them. Please make use of their offer as school will not be handling cash for anything other than charity money going forward.

## Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you all for your hard work in improving the attendance and punctuality rates of our children. It really is important for them to come to school every day. You may have noticed that all classrooms are now sporting their attendance figures in the windows each week as well as a rainbow.

The rainbows work for each class and each band of the rainbow relates to a specific attendance goal.

1. 100% attendance for a day
2. 100% attendance for 2 days in a row
3. 100% attendance for 4 days in a row
4. 100% attendance for a whole week = NON UNIFORM DAY
5. 100% attendance for 2 weeks not consecutive = EXTRA PLAY
6. 100% attendance for 2 weeks consecutively = TRIP TO THE PARK
7. 4 weeks consecutive 100% attendance = trip out for the class

When your child's class achieves one of the sections of the rainbow, that arch will be coloured in.

Here are the attendance figures for the last two weeks. Please support us in achieving our goal of 96% attendance.



Ladybird	92.9%	Badger	99%
Butterfly	97.3%	Otter	93.7%
Grasshopper	89.2%	Fox	92.2%
Squirrel	92.8%	3MS	96.2%
Rabbit	94.6%	3NP	95.1%
Mole	96.6%	3KW	90%
Whole School to date:		92.9%	

Well done Badgers for the top attendance so far. We still lag behind all the other academies for attendance, so please help us improve.

### Something to think about...

A whole year has 365 days, a school year has 190 days. That leaves 175 days to spend on family time, holidays, visits, shopping and other experiences.

No absence	9.5 days absence	19 days absence	28.5 days absence	38 days absence	47.5 days absence
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
190 days of education	180.5 days of education	171 days of education	161.5 days of education	152 days of education	142.5 days of education
Good attendance Best chance of success		Poor attendance Less chance of success		Very poor attendance Serious impact on education and reduced life chances	



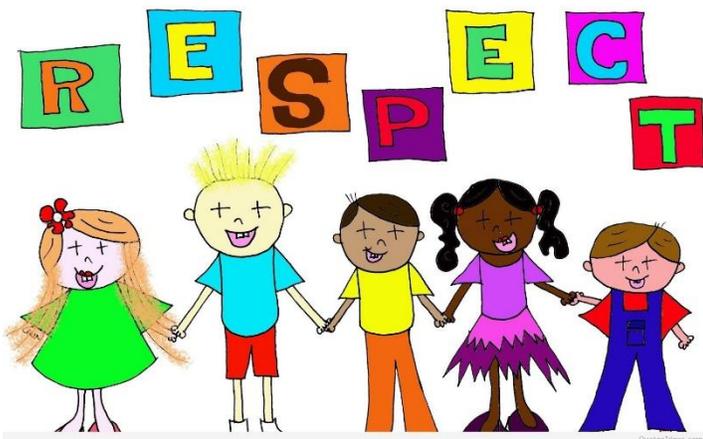
I fear the newsletter is going to become a fortnightly whinge about parking. I cannot believe that when our Chair of Governors visited last week he witnessed the parking chaos, and when he tried to

ask parents not to park on the yellow lines outside – an offense in the Highway code for which you can be fined - 5 people verbally abused him!

The design of the school is dangerous enough without parents making it harder for the children to exit safely. **Please do not park in the staff carpark at any time** and stick to the pathways. I am currently working with the site director, trying to work out how we can make the school better and have submitted some bids for funding. Some people parked in the staff car this week and blocked a member of staff in. This meant they could not leave to go to an important meeting. How inconsiderate.

Please remember the yellow zig zags are monitored by cameras which belong to the London Borough of Hillingdon and you will be fined if you park there during the given hours.

Residents are already ringing the school complaining. Please park sensibly and respectfully.



As you know, when the staff met in the first few days of school we reassessed our school values and are now striving to show all the children to have HEART – to be HONEST, to show EMPATHY, to ASPIRE, to show RESPECT and to be TEAM PLAYERS.

Leading on from my comments about parents and parking, I would like every member of the Lake Farm community to think about RESPECT. It is not shown so much in words as in actions. The dictionary definition is:

“due regard for the feelings, wishes, or rights of others.”

It has shocked and worried me on occasions to hear the way some parents speak to each other on the playground, how they speak to staff in the school offices, and how they speak to children. Please can I remind you to watch your language on the school premises, speak respectfully to my staff, who will always try their hardest to solve any issues, and most importantly, to model respect in front of your children. If you have an issue regarding another child,

please speak to their class teacher or their parent AWAY FROM THE CHILDREN. Do not take it upon yourself to reprimand a child that is not yours.

The safety of our children is of utmost importance at all times. If you are picking up a child and my staff do not know you, they will ask for a password – these are different for every day. You need to ask the office team for your one for that day. Please do not take your frustrations out on my staff if they challenge you. They are just keeping the children safe. Imagine the conversations I would be having with you if we had let your child go with a stranger. If someone is picking up your child for you, please make them aware of this and ensure they know your password.

It is very easy in this day and age to not think about the consequences of our words and actions. However, we can all impact on other people's days. Respecting others is a silent way to express our feeling for them. When a person shows respect for someone, then it means that the person has some value for them. Here are some hints for how to easily show respect every day:

1. Listen. I know it sounds easy, but listening–truly listening– can be one of the hardest skills to master. ...
2. Encourage. ...
3. Congratulate. ...
4. Be Helpful. ...
5. Say Thank You
- 6.

Please bear this in mind at all times. Thank you.

## Vacancies within the school

We currently have a vacancy for the role of dinner lady. This role needs someone committed to helping our children have fun and exciting lunch times every day. The role is in the infant classes and will be from 11.50am to 1.20pm every Monday-Friday. If you think you would be interested in applying, please see Mrs Nair at the main reception and ask for an application form. Closing date for applying is Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October. Successful candidates will be subject to references and DBS check

## Dates for the Diary...

2.10.17	9am	Parent Pay support meeting - please come along if you need help using this system
3.10.17	6pm	Talk 4 Writing Parents Workshop in the main hall
6.10.17	2.30pm	Year 2 Meeting - SATs
11.10.17	9am / 2.30pm	Reception How 2 Help – Phonics session
20.10.17 23.10.17		Training Day School Closed Half Term
30.10.17	8.50am	2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Term begins
14.11.17	3.30-6pm	Parents Evening
15.11.17	3.30-6pm	Parents Evening
17.11.17		Children in Need Pajama Day
w/c 11.12.17		Test Week
13.12.17		Reception Nativity
14.12.17		Nursery Concerts
18.12.17		Year 3 Carol Concert
19.12.17		Year 3 Carol Concert
20.12.17		Class Parties

## Volunteers

All volunteers who came to the coffee morning and meeting should have by now received a letter from me and we look forward to welcoming you in school as soon as we have sorted out the rotas. Please send your form back in as soon as possible, especially if we need to apply for a DBS for you.

If you missed the meeting but would still like to help out and commit to being a volunteer, please come in and ask for a form.

Thank you to everyone for your support.



I am proud to announce that Lake Farm Park has moved on in terms of communication and we now have an App which we will be using to communicate by. It is easy to download from the App Store – just search for Lake Farm Park Academy. It is free to use and download, so please tell everyone in your family so they can keep up to date using it.

We are in our early days of sending our messages and information, so please bear with us. Once downloaded, you can go to the settings page to choose which messages and alerts you see. We will put up reminders about events, photos of learning and special days as well as copies of letters. Eventually I would like to reduce the amount of paper the school uses to send all information letters via the App only, but this will not be for some time.

Please download the App and let me know what you think.