

# Loddington Church of England Primary School Newsletter

*Respect, Friendship, Honesty, Trust, Peace and Perseverance*



**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are three weeks into the Spring term, and we have achieved a great deal already! The children have been absorbed in their learning, with new topic areas across the school. Please see the class updates for further details.

In terms of building work, the rooms upstairs in the schoolhouse have all had a fresh coat of paint. The library renovations are well underway, with just the carpet to be replaced over half term. The children are delighted, as we are with the new look and ease of being able to choose books more efficiently. A huge 'Thank You' to Mrs Wilcoxson and Mrs Poyner for the many hours cataloguing and sectioning all the books.

The improvements do not stop there. We are also replacing all the lights throughout school to be as energy efficient as we can. This work will take place outside of school hours. I am very grateful to Mr Wyatt, who has been attaching new laminated outdoor posters to the playground, brightening up the area considerably. Our newly treated front door is also looking marvellous. We just need to reinstate the flag at the front of the school! Perhaps after Storm Isha and Jocelyn have passed!

Mrs Dowsett



## School Vision



Loddington Primary is a family community where everyone is nurtured and truly valued. We strive to ensure that all our children enjoy school in our happy, welcoming environment. Through our engaging curriculum and placing Christian Values at the heart of what we do, we hope to inspire children to become confident and caring individuals who live life in all its fullness.

***Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it in all its fullness." John 10:10***

***Our focus value is Respect.***

***Luke 6:31 "And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them."***

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Head Teacher - Mrs Helen Dowsett



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## African Drumming

As part of Northamptonshire's Music and Performing Arts Trust, we are participating in a whole class 'First Access' project in Year 3/4. Every Tuesday, a music specialist teaches African Drumming. The 10-week project is a fantastic opportunity, however finding space for 31 large drums has not been easy!





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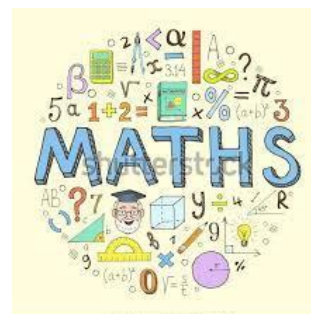
## Math's Workshops

We look forward to seeing you at our Math's Workshops.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February** - for Parents of children in Year 3/4/5/6.

Please arrive from **2:45pm** and the session will finish by **3:15pm**.

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February** - for Parents of children in Year R/1/2. Please arrive from **9:00am** and the session will finish by **9:30am**.



## RSPB Bird Watch Survey



From Friday 26<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January it's the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch Weekend. This is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year hundreds of thousands of nature lovers take part helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring.

**Year 5/6 participated today with the Big Schools' Birdwatch at our Forest Wetland area and it would be great if families could take part at home too.**

**All you need to do:** Spend 1 hour recording the birds in your garden, balcony or local park. Only count birds that land. Record the highest number of each bird species you see at one time. Submit your results online or by post. For more information on what to do, identification charts and recording charts, go to [www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch)



## House Teams Tally - Weekly Winners



Date	House Team Colour
12 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Red
19 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Yellow
26 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Red

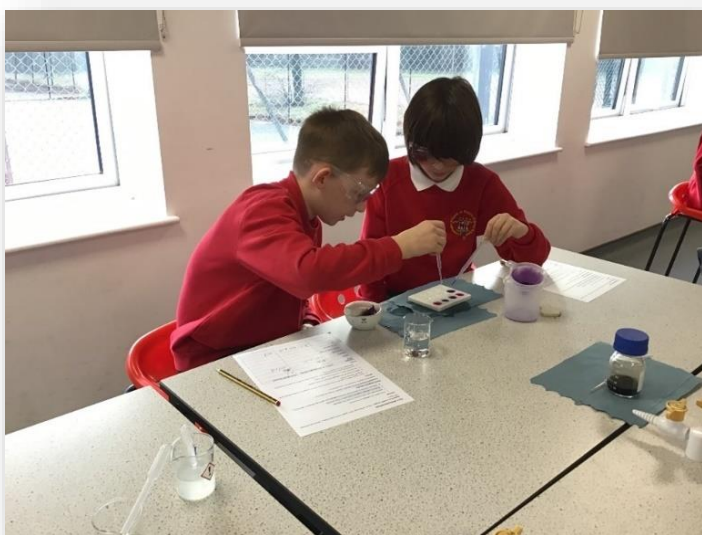




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## Year 6 Science Taster

This week, Year 6 have had a very exciting opportunity - they have been to a 'Science Taster' session at Latimer Secondary School. In the session, they tested different liquids, using indicators, to find out if the solutions were acidic or alkaline. They completed two tests using different indicators to see which was more effective. They began by grinding purple cabbage in a pestle & mortar and adding a liquid which they then filtered. All the liquids were then tested. They repeated the investigation and used a universal indicator the second time. As you can see from the pictures below, the children had to be precise with their equipment and the solutions generated some wonderful colours! The children were all thoroughly engaged through the session and had a brilliant time!



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## Year 3/4 visits to the John Lowther Centre

Year 3/4 had a fantastic time during their visits to the John Lowther Centre. The instructor led activities that they took part in were archery, shooting, tunnelling and orienteering. They all had a fantastic time, showing great teamwork and courage in the activities that they hadn't done before.



## Sports News

All year groups are participating in gymnastics in PE lessons this term. Learning how to control muscles, body tension, flexibility and strength which are all vital for an healthy active lifestyle. Upcoming Competition: **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January, KS2 Invasion Competition** - Football, basketball and tag rugby activities.

## Café St Leonard's



Once a month, St Leonard's Church in Loddington host a Saturday breakfast in the village hall. I was there last Saturday cooking delicious bacon butties for the community, in preparation for our school to host a breakfast!

This year, in place of Mother's Day and Father's Day gatherings, we would like to invite you to save the date - **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 9:00am-11:30am** when we will be serving a delicious mix of breakfast items, fresh filtered coffee, croissants, fruit, bagels, and a great deal more.

Payment is by donations and all money collected goes back into the school. It is a drop-in session, arrive anytime between 9am and 11:30am. More details to follow.

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## Centenary Celebrations Update

After some careful thought and planning, FOLs have decided to celebrate our Centenary differently to original plans set out! We appreciate that as a small team, it is going to be difficult to plan and prepare a full day of events without significant support, therefore we are going to host a series of one-off events, consequently we will **not be holding an event on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May.**



The majority of these will take place on **Fridays throughout June from 2.45pm-3.45pm.** We will host our traditional May Day celebration with dancing on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May, serving refreshments throughout the afternoon and hosting a Bake-Off with a theme of our 160<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

Look out for more information on the events taking place throughout June: traditional games on the playground, tuck shop, football challenge, grand raffle, Centenary themed fancy dress and more fun celebrations!

## Candlemas

We hope to host a Candlemas service on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. This will be a school service and our next parent service will be at Easter. Details will follow.

## Vision and Values Day

Following on from our celebration of Spirituality last term, we are planning a focus day on our school vision and values on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February.** The children will take part in a range of activities in classes, some led by our clergy, to really investigate and explore our biblical John 10:10 quote and how it underpins our aspirations in school for all children.

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## Class Prayers



### Year R/1

Dear God,

Help us to show kindness. Let us show respect to each other and be kind to the teachers and children in school. Help us to treat people how we want to be treated.

Amen.

### Year 2

Dear God,

Help us to show respect to everyone including people that are different to us. Help us to be kind and patient with one another. Help us to be helpful and listen. Help us to respect our school and resources.

Amen.

### Year 3/4

Dear God,

Please help us to remember to treat others as we would want to be treated ourselves. Show us how to be generous and loving in all the ways we can. Let us all find respect in our hearts and help those around the world live in peace and harmony together.

Amen.

### Year 5/6

Dear God,

Thank you for the respect I get from friends, family, teachers and others. I am sorry for those who don't show respect. Please help people to respect each other, you never know what someone is going through.

Amen.

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## Fluency Focus in Reading

In school, a key focus for us is children's fluency. Children need to read with increasing automaticity so they can concentrate on the content of what they are reading. Fluency is the number of words a child can read accurately per minute and includes the patterns of rhythm and sound. The journey to adult fluency takes considerable and **continuous practice**; it is therefore useful to consider fluency as progressive: children should be fluent for their age and stage. Once children have practiced decoding the same word several times, they become more able to read the word 'at a glance'. Familiarity with texts also supports fluency development.





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It is a priority for our children in Reception and Year 1 to achieve fluency in the early stages of learning to read. This means that they can read with sufficient accuracy and speed. Fluency frees up children's working memory which will allow them to focus on comprehension. **Repeated practice at home and school is an effective way of developing fluency.** This is a key reason why we ask children to read the same text several times.



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## **Year R/1 - Phoenix**

Wow, what a busy start to the new term R/1 have had! They have settled back into their school routines well and are enjoying our new topic 'Adventures around the World'. Reception have immersed themselves into their new text 'The Train Ride'. They are becoming fantastic story tellers and have created wonderful story maps. The children have also been working hard with their phonics and I have been amazed at the wonderful writing that is being produced. Year 1 are enjoying their story 'Wombat goes walkabout' and have written wonderful setting descriptions. In Maths, Reception have been consolidating their number knowledge to 5 and have loved exploring what shapes they could spot around school. Year 1 have been working hard on exploring fact families and using a number line to subtract. In History, the children have been enjoying learning about toys from the past and are enjoying naming a range of materials in Science. Keep up the great work R/1! 😊



## **Year 2 - Dragon**

Year 2 have hit the ground running since coming back from the Christmas break! In Maths, we have been exploring money and have been using our prior knowledge to compare amounts, make amounts in different ways and add and subtract amounts of money in pounds and pence. We are looking forward to sharing what we have been learning in Maths with you all very soon. In English, our new text is "Wombat Goes Walkabout". We have learned about Australian animals and have been using writing techniques such as repetition and word choice to make our writing more interesting. We have also been reading our class story "Amazing Grace" and developing our inference, prediction and summarising skills in Reading sessions. Our Science topic this half term has been Humans, Food and Exercise. We thoroughly enjoyed looking at our baby pictures and discussing how we have grown and changed. In Geography, we have been exploring the area of Northampton and are looking forward to visiting Northampton to develop our mapping skills further. In R.E. we have been learning about Islam and are looking forward to exploring this faith further during our trip to Wellingborough Mosque. You have been working so hard Year 2, keep up the great work! 😊





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## Year 3/4 - Centaur

It has been a busy start to the new term for Centaur class. In English we have been reading the "Incredible Book Eating Boy" by Oliver Jeffers which is about a boy who can't stop eating books. We have written some super sentences together, and we have now got to the stage of planning our own stories which we will be working on next week. In Maths, both year groups have been working on written strategies for multiplication, and I've been thrilled to see so many children working on their times tables at home - some fantastic results! In Science, we have got well into our work on teeth, comparing the various types of teeth in humans and animals, and how they are suited to their diets. We have also made observations about the teeth we use when eating different foods and used mirrors to observe our own teeth. In Art, we have worked hard on 3D sculpture, looking particularly at the work of Anthony Caro, and have been working on techniques for joining 3D shapes together. We have also loved our African drumming and are working towards a performance nearer to Easter time. Well done Centaur class - hard work as always - keep it up!!



## Year 5/6 - Griffin

Over the last couple of weeks, Year 5&6 have been working hard in English on their balanced arguments. Through shared writing, they have been learning how to structure the argument, use conjunctions and formal language. Next week, they will begin planning and writing their own balanced argument on a chosen topic. Year 6 have been working incredibly hard in Maths, our current unit is Algebra, the children have been learning about forming expressions, equations and substituting values. I'm very proud of how hard they have been working 😊 In Geography, the children have continued their learning about North & South America. We have looked at human and physical features in both continents and which countries and states have the higher population levels. In Science, the children have completed a lamb's heart dissection in order to improve their understanding of the circulatory system. Year 6 have also had the fantastic opportunity this week to take part in a Science lesson at Latimer Secondary School. Have a lovely weekend everyone. 😊



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	<b>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</b>
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	KS2 Invasion Festival Competition (Selected children only)
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 6 English booster session at 8am (Selected children only)
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Year 6 Maths booster session at 8am (Selected children only)
	KS2 Parents Maths Workshop from 2.45pm-3.15pm.
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	PDET Year 5 Maths Enrichment Day. <b>Please arrive at 8.40am.</b>
	R/1 Forest/Wetland Visit
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 2 Geography visit to Northampton.
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 6 English booster session at 8am (Selected children only)
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 6 Maths booster session at 8am (Selected children only)
	KS1 Parents Maths Workshop from 9am-9.30am.
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 2 Visit to Wellingborough Mosque.
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 6 English booster session at 8am (Selected children only)
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 6 Maths booster session at 8am (Selected children only)
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	R/1 Forest/Wetland Visit
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	<b>HALF TERM HOLIDAY</b> 😊

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