



EVERY CHILD CAN ACHIEVE

Luddenham News

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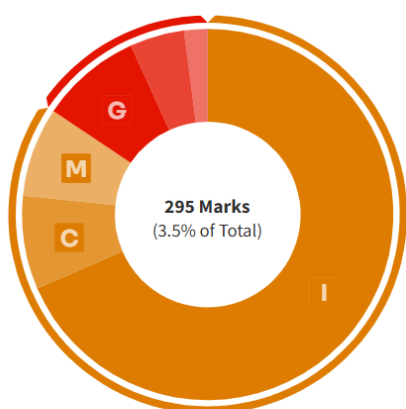
Term 1 – Issue 4 02.10.26

Should I send my child to school?

Being a parent is amazing, but comes with its challenges. I know, from my own experiences, that parents are making decisions all the time. One of the hardest can be, 'Is my child well enough to attend school?'

To help with making this decision. The NHS have produced a short video which can be found here: [Illness absence and staying healthy](#). Most importantly it highlights the need to keep the school informed. You need to do this using the Studybugs app. If at any point, you wish to discuss whether your child should stay at home, then give us a call on 01795 532061.

Our policy aims for every child to be in school 100% of the time. This is an aim. We know things can happen out of your control such as illness, but sometimes there are times when we're not feeling our best selves but that doesn't mean we stay at home. Use the guidance at the end of the newsletter to help you make the right decision. It might be worth screenshotting it or printing it to refer to at another time.



Absence Breakdown 2026-27 School Year

Currently our attendance is 96.5%, much lower than usual. Here is a visual breakdown of what this looks like. Code I is illness, Code C is an authorised absence, Code M is medical and G is an unauthorised holiday. The other two sections are unauthorised absences and lates after the register has closed, also unauthorised.

As you can see, we've already had a large number of illnesses this year - 101 days in fact and at the point of writing this, we've only been at school 20 days. I know for a fact some of these were really needed, but some were reported as, 'feeling unwell, ill, not themselves or coming down with something.'

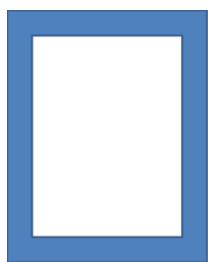
We have many children who come in, 'not quite themselves' who often perk up as the day goes on. Our team will always keep an eye on them, just let us know. We will call you if they really cannot be at school.

As I have said before, learning is built over time using small blocks. A maths lesson Monday will link to Tuesday and so on, missing parts of the sequence can really disrupt your child's learning. It can also be really tricky trying to plug the gaps of what's been missed.

Superstar Corner



Let us celebrate together your achievements outside of school this past week. Don't forget to send in your photos.



LSFA News

♥ LSFA Annual General Meeting Update

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our AGM, and to everyone who has volunteered to take on jobs, help with events and support the LSFA this year.

Here's a quick roundup of what we discussed and what your fundraising will be supporting this year:

💰 What we're funding now with our available funds -

- OPAL Play – more water-play equipment, crates, shovels, spades, chalk and other resources.
- Novel Study – purchasing a missing book from the sets we funded last year.
- Sensory Circuits – new mats for the morning sensory circuits.

Our Main Fundraising Goal – The Gardening Area

- The school have developed plans to make much more use of the area and incorporate it into the curriculum, with each class having a space that they can use and learn from.
- The school had hoped to secure a grant to fund the gardening project, but unfortunately the application wasn't successful. The LSFA would therefore like to help fund as much of the project as we can and help bring the school's plans to life.
- We think this could become a fantastic area for the children to learn, grow, explore and enjoy, so it will be a big focus for our fundraising this year.
- We don't yet know the total cost of the project, but once we do, we'll be able to set a fundraising target and let everyone know what we're working towards! 🎯

Our Other fundraising goals or this year -

- Continued OPAL Play support – including plans for flip bars, four-square grids, sensory equipment and a musical wall.
- School minibus
- Class trips
- Library magazine subscriptions

Fundraising plans

We'll be holding **all our usual events and fundraisers** throughout the year, including:

- Halloween Discos, The Christmas Raffle, Break the Rules Day, Easter Egg Hunt, The Colour Run and The Pool Party.
- 🕒 Disco Party Bingo – coming back after such a brilliant evening last time! Date to follow.
- 💎 Golden Ticket Easter Fundraiser – we're looking at swapping our traditional Easter raffle for a Wonka-style chocolate bar fundraiser, with lucky Golden Tickets hidden inside and prizes for the children who find them! 🍫 ✨

Lots to look forward to this year!

Thank you, as always, for supporting the LSFA. Every event you attend and every fundraiser you support helps us provide more for the children and the school. ❤️

Halloween Discos! 🧛 🎱

Just a reminder that our LSFA Halloween Discos are coming up!

🧛 **Yr R & KS1: Wednesday 21st October**

🧛 **KS2: Thursday 22nd October**

🕒 **3:30pm–5:00pm**

💷 **£4 per child – payable via Gateway and includes a snack, drink and glowsticks.**

👗 **Costumes:** Children can bring a named Halloween costume in a bag to school and will change after school ready for the disco.

🏆 There will be prizes for Best Costumes and Best Dancers, plus some spooky games and activities to enjoy!



🎵 **Don't forget your song requests!**

We want the children to hear their favourite songs at the discos, so please send in your requests using the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQLUOv8tSdSc4iaDwihvAosA1l70qdKiFn1j_rpKFVIO6KMw/viewform

🧛 **Pumpkin Competition**

Don't forget our pumpkin competition too! Get creative and bring along your spookiest, funniest or most imaginative pumpkin. We can't wait to see what everyone comes up with! 🧛 ✨

📄 **Entry: £1 per pumpkin**, payable via Gateway.

🏷️ Please clearly label your child's pumpkin with their **name and year group**.

🚗 **Pumpkins need to be dropped off during the morning car queue on Wednesday 21st October.**

🏆 There will be **one winner from every year group**, with a prize for each winner! Winners will be chosen at the Halloween discos.

Monday 5th October

Tuesday 6th October

Wednesday 14th October

Thursday 15th October

Friday 16th October

Monday 19th October

Tuesday 20th October

Wednesday 21st October

Friday 23rd October

Monday 2nd November

Tuesday 3rd November

Wednesday 4th November

Thursday 5th November

Tuesday 10th November

Wednesday 11th November

Monday 16th November

Year 5 digital leaders group – invitation only

Year 6 Wembley Game (England vs Czechia)

Year 1 & 2 Harvest performance to Year 1 parents 9.15am

Year 1 & 2 Harvest performance to Year 2 parents 9.15am

Kent Test results (Year 6)

Ranger's Day 1

Year R Share the Learning 2.45pm

Year 2 Share the Learning 2.45pm

Year 6 Share the Learning 2.45pm

End of Term

Staff Development Day – School Closed

Start of Term & Y4 Gym Sessions start

Year 2 Forest School sessions start

Year 3 Swimming Sessions start

Parents Evening 4:00 – 7:00pm

Parents Evening 4:00 -6:00pm

Odd socks day



Can you believe we are already in October?!

With only 15 school days until the next break – Watch out it's going to fly by!

Is my child too ill for school?

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)?

YES Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature. Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	Cold sores Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels. Conjunctivitis Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly. Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP. Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly. Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.	Impetigo They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school. Ringworm See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment. Scarlet fever They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics. Chickenpox Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	Ear infection If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away. Measles They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system. Vomiting & diarrhoea Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'