

# The Linden Centre

## School Newsletter



### A message from our Head Teacher

What a year it has been... Looking back over the last twelve months since I took on the Headship of The Linden Centres, you could never have predicted the year it turned out to be. From not being able to say goodbye to our leavers last year and having to stay away from centres this year to prevent mixing of bubbles. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all pupils, parents, colleagues and the wider community for their support and ongoing commitment to each of our Linden Centres. It is only because of your support that we have kept going.

Our Spring Term return may not have been all that we had hoped for but we are keen to make sure that each and every pupil continues to do their very best and still manages to get the grades they deserve at the end of this school year.

### Reading

The Linden Centre has purchased a lot of new books to enable reading interventions to take place. After testing week has been completed, intervention reading books will be assigned to those that require it. Time with your child's teaching assistant will be allocated to try and improve reading, spelling, grammar, punctuation and comprehension skills. It is really important that children read daily. This needs to be done at home to assist the work in school and should be recorded in their reading diary (primary) or school diary (secondary). Children will be able to receive Lennon's Linden Loot for consistent reading at home.



We have also purchased a selection of class reader texts. This will allow children to read with others and read for pleasure. Please encourage your child to bring their book home and ready together.



The Linden Centre

### Attendance

Our overall school attendance is 76.58% however removing long term absences, our school absence is 93.17%. This is FANTASTIC!

This demonstrates the importance of school and with a percentage of over 90%, it shows that children love coming to school.

### Centre Updates

Primary SS	We recently said goodbye to our last cohort of part timers from the assessment group and these have returned full time to their mainstream schools. We have been focusing on our new intake of children and we can't wait to get to know you all over the next 6-10 weeks.
Primary Specialist	Year 5-6 really enjoyed their topic over the Autumn Term on 'Earth Matters' and had been making planets and painting their own Earth. Year 3-4 thoroughly enjoyed their 'Vikings' topic and finding out lots of facts about The Vikings. Year 1-2 have now finished their topic of 'Carnival of the Animals'. As a centre, they enjoyed getting into the Christmas spirit by decorating the centre including a giant Santa model of Mr Lennon.
Secondary SS	After creating a girl and boy class, learning has improved in both classes. The competition on earning Linden's Loot is now healthy and academic skill development is evident in both too. Students have enjoyed their first full term of music its going really well so far.
Secondary Specialist	Our students are loving the After-school activities in Art and Computer Science. Some fantastic talent in the Secondary Specialist with music and some brilliant rapping going on.
Whole school	All centres enjoyed a whole school trip to Birches Valley on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec filled with outdoor activities and Christmas Tree Shopping. Primary students enjoyed the Gruffalo Trail and getting extremely muddy whilst Secondary students built dens, enjoyed tree climbing and enjoyed some warm treats.  All musical instruments have arrived, I am sure we will all have loads of fun within 2021! Primary will be focusing their music on singing, recorders and keyboards whereas Secondary will be focusing on singing, keyboard musical composition and guitars.

**Term dates:**

**SPRING TERM 2021**

Main Term Monday 4th January to Wednesday 31st March

Half Term Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February

Professional Development Day: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January and Thursday 1st April.

**EASTER HOLIDAY:**

THURSDAY 1st APRIL TO FRIDAY 16TH APRIL 2021

**SUMMER TERM 2021**

Main Term Monday 19th April to Monday 19th July

May Day Monday 3rd May

Half Term Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June

Professional Development Days Tuesday 20th July and Wednesday 21st July

**PUPILS' SUMMER HOLIDAY BEGINS Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Special Occasions

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 – National Reading Day 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. Please bring in your favourite book to read during tutor time and reading time.

27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Holocaust Memorial Day (A look into Holocaust during tutor time)

5<sup>th</sup> February 2021- Wear Red Day (British Heart Foundation) £1 contribution

9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – Safer internet day (discussed in tutor time)

12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – Chinese New Year – in school celebrations

4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – World Book Day (come into school dressed as your favourite book character)

12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 - Science Day for British Science Week

19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Comic Relief 'Red Nose Day'. Wear PJs to school day - £1 contribution

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021- St. Georges Day Celebrations

29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – International Dance Day (24hrs danceathon)

27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May – National Paddling Week (water based activities)

7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – Pride month – celebrate by wearing a colour from the rainbow or rainbow clothing to school. £1 contribution.

14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – Celebrating Dementia – Cupcake Day.



18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – International Picnic Day

7<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – World Chocolate Day

### Website

Our school website has started to be filled with information. Keep checking the pages for updated information. Find it here: [www.lindencentre.co.uk](http://www.lindencentre.co.uk)



### Covid-19 Update

Covid-19 update – We continue to follow DfE and Government guidance with regards to keeping your children and colleagues safe around Coronavirus. Please remember that if your child (or a member of your household) has symptoms, they must stay at home and self isolate for the 10 days. This will not affect their attendance.

We continue to offer home learning for students not able to access in school lessons – please contact the school office if this is required due to coronavirus. Remote learning for Secondary Pupils is also available from the school website. Please go to your child's class and access the teaching daily.

Secondary pupils will be able to take weekly rapid flow tests within school. Any parents not wanting their child to take part in this should inform the school office.

### Staffing

We have some new colleagues joining our 'Linden Team'.

Miss Johnson	KS1-4 TA
Mrs Turner	KS1-4 TA
Mr Hall	KS1-4 Teacher + Assessment Lead
Mrs Green	Student, Parent and Colleague Pastoral and Welfare Leader
Mrs Hodson	KS1-4 HLTA <b>**PROMOTION**</b>



We are sorry to say goodbye to Miss Williams from our Secondary Provision. Miss Williams has found a new job and sadly left us this term. We will really miss her and wish her well in her new position.



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### Leavers 2020

A big well done to those that left us at the end of Autumn Term. We have had a large number of students return to mainstream or begin their transition into mainstream and also some students move on to a new placement.

Remember where we are – we would love to still hear from you.

#LindenLeavers2020

### Parents, Teachers and Friends of The Linden Centre Association (PTFA)

We would love to continue to develop our relationships with parent/carer(s) and would welcome parent/carer(s) or friends to join us in promoting activities for our young people. Mrs Green will be looking for parent/carer(s) and friends to join our PTFA. Our first meeting will be **11:00am on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February** at Primary Specialist, Overdale or via Teams (lockdown dependant).

For more information, please contact [Shara.Green@taw.org.uk](mailto:Shara.Green@taw.org.uk) (Please note that Miss Green does not start with us until the end of January and so you will not get an immediate response).

### Uniform

Wearing a school uniform is very important to us.

School uniform is as follows:

Shoes- Formal Black Shoes (No trainers)

Trousers- School black trousers / Skirt (atleast knee length with black tights)

Shirt- White Shirt, Blouse or Polo Shirt

Sweatshirt- School black sweatshirt with a logo

Those children remaining with us in January that are not linked to another school will be expected to wear the full correct school uniform.

### PE Kits

Wednesday is PE day. On this day, children may come to school dressed in PE/Sports gear. Please be mindful that they will be wearing this outfit for the day and so a tracksuit would be preferred. Please also consider the PE topic and the weather on the day and come to school dressed appropriately for this.



### New starters

We are pleased to be welcoming some new children to each of our sites in January. Please familiarise yourselves with 'New Starters' tab on our Website and we hope that you all enjoy our schools as much as everyone else. We look forward to meeting you all and getting to know you.

### Behaviour points- Lennon's Linden Loot

In September we launched our new Behaviour Points system 'Lennon's Linden Loot'. Students earn points throughout the day based on general behaviour, learning, engagement, quality of work, homework, respecting our values and being positive. Each of these points get collected virtually and on a Monday, students are given their weekly tokens (known as 'Lennon's Linden Loot').

Students can spend Lennon's Linden Loot as if it were currency in our 'Kiosk' or they can choose to keep some to save for bigger items (such as a visit or a half termly trip). We are hoping that students will learn the value of saving however for those that would prefer instant gratification, this is also available.

### Christmas Trip

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December, we took the whole school on a trip to Birches Valley. Our KS1-2 enjoyed the Gruffalo trail whilst KS3-4 enjoyed Den Building and walks. All centres chose their Christmas tree before returning home.

Here are some pictures of our fun day out.

