

This week...

Welcome back, and Happy New Year to all! We hope everyone enjoyed a restful festive break. We kicked off the year with a little extra excitement thanks to Tuesday's light snowfall.

Assembly themes were split this week.

The younger children looked at the reasons we go to school. They are well versed in the fact that school is for learning but we went further. We asked why bother learning at all?? We looked at people who have developed and honed their skills in different disciplines. It is really motivating to see a purpose to learning and then be able to connect the different school subjects to the real life purpose. The children reflected on the understanding and skills they would like to master this year and some were ready to say exactly what role they wanted to take when grown up. We have many budding scientists, vets, doctors and artists in the building. The children went back to class remembering to pay attention to the learning in order to achieve their goals.



The older children looked at the current understanding of cognitive processes- how the different parts of the brain process information. In an effort to examine how to problem solve without frustration, we introduced various historical figures such as Mary Anderson who invented the first functional windscreen wiper (for trolley cars), George Crum who developed the crisp almost by accident and the contaminated Petri dish of Dr Alexander Fleming creating penicillin. We rounded off with a look at the green Ladygrove Standard- **Attitude**. I explained how this rule was originally created by the Ladygrovers after looking at Growth Mindset work by Dr Carol Dweck. On our original slides from almost 10 years ago a Fixed Mindset is shown as blue and a Growth Mindset as green- hence our Ladygrove Standard being green for the original rule named "Have a Positive Attitude". The children later modified this rule (2 years ago) to simply 'Attitude'.

Class 10 started their swimming lessons today at the Didcot Wave. The instructor explained how the session will go and commended everyone for being early and being so sensible! **Class 11** will start their lessons from 6th March.

A **Year 6** group started their cycling proficiency today with our excellent long term volunteer leader Mrs Cruddis and her team. The group always starts their first session on the playground to check their bike roadworthiness and their level of skill before going onto the road. They got on well and feedback from the team was positive!

Pupil Responsibility Groups

A small group of Year 6s asked last year if we could arrange for the classes to get a chance to see what everyone else in the school is doing in their Enquiry Curriculum. Since they asked, they have been tasked with making it happen! They are working in small chunks, week by week, on a special sharing day later in the term. More on this when it has been developed.

The **Peer Mentors** meet later today to continue work on their first presentation to the school about the differences, severity and consequences of being mean, being rude or bullying.

The Year 4 **Diversity Ambassadors** wanted to start this new year off with reminding everybody of their motto to promote inclusion: *Everybody's different, everybody's special, everybody's unique and everybody's loved!*

PALS Events

Watch out for a few school and PTA events early this term:

- **Break The Rules day** is on Friday 23rd January. The children pay to break some 'prescribed rules' such as being able to have juice in their water bottle or calling staff by their chosen names. It's just for fun and everyone understands that these are not the real school/life rules. A list of rules can be found in the Notices Section below.
- **The Ladygrove Quiz Night** is on Friday 30th January. This is a PALS PTA led event with myself as Quiz Master. It's a social event and only as serious as the groups choose to make it! Sign up your group and come along with your own drinks and snacks. A copy of the sign up sheet can be found at the end of this newsletter and some paper copies will go home in bags next week.
- **PALS Dress Up Day** is on Friday 13th February. Children are invited to wear something red, pink, white or anything with hearts on! More details will follow.

Further details on PALS events will be in the Notices section below.

Parent Meetings will be held online during the week beginning Monday 9th February. Teachers will send out invitations through Google Meet via your email. We will explain how to arrange the appointment and timings in next week's newsletter.



Finally, we welcome back Mr Addison this week into Year 4, Class 10. After his sabbatical teaching in Chile, it feels like he never left!

Celebrating Success

Nicholas from Class 10, took part in the Oxfordshire Junior Chess Tournament (U9) last Saturday, 3 January, at Cumnor Primary School—his first competition after a few months' break from chess. He performed incredibly well, winning all six of his matches and bringing home a trophy, which he'll keep for a year until next year's competition. His tired face paired with that big, proud smile was absolutely priceless! Congratulations Nicholas!



Dates for Spring Term 1...





Please keep checking these dates for any additions or amendments!

Tuesday 13th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 6 Cycle Training - remember bikes and helmets!
Friday 16th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class 10 Swimming, remember towels and costumes!
Tuesday 20th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 6 Cycle Training - remember bikes and helmets!
Wednesday 21st January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reception and Year 1 PERFORM Drama Workshop, in school• PALS Committee Meeting, 7.30pm on Zoom (see below)
Friday 23rd January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PALS Break the Rules Day, see Notices section below• Class 10 Swimming, remember towels and costumes!
Tuesday 27th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 6 Cycle Training - remember bikes and helmets!• Year 4 Hill End Parent Meeting, 3.15pm, details to follow - Moved to 28/01
Wednesday 28th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 4 Hill End Parent Meeting, 3.15pm, in the school hall
Thursday 29th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 1 Poet visit, in school
Friday 30th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class 10 Swimming, remember towels and costumes!• PALS Quiz Night - see Notices section below
Tuesday 3rd February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 6 Cycle Training - remember bikes and helmets!
Friday 6th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class 10 Swimming, remember towels and costumes!

Tuesday 10th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 Cycle Training - remember bikes and helmets!
Friday 13th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PALS Dress Up Day, details to follow Class 10 Swimming, remember towels and costumes! Last Day of Term 3 - normal finish time

Notices

Attendance Please email the school office. <u>Do not email the year group.</u>	<p>If your child is not in school, you must notify us by leaving a message on our answer phone or by emailing office.2609@ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk before 9am on each day of their absence. <u>Email is preferable as we are finding it increasingly hard to understand due to unclear messages and poor telephone signal.</u></p> <p>Please state clearly and concisely your child's full name, class and their reason for absence - <u>being specific about the illness or medical needs</u>. You must inform the school in advance by email above, if you need to take your child for an educational setting visit, religious observance or similar. These absences will need to be pre agreed by us. No birthdays, cheaper holidays, altered holiday arrangements or similar will be agreed. In line with strict government legislation, they will be recorded as unauthorised on your child's attendance record.</p>
After School Club on Wednesday 28th January	<p>Please note that on Wednesday 28th January, children will need to be collected from ASC from the Nursery door (to the right of Reception Main Entrance) due to a Year 4 Hill End Parent Meeting taking place in the hall. Many thanks.</p>
Extended Schools Billing	<p>Term 3 charges for Breakfast and After School Club have now been added to your ParentPay account. Please ensure to logon and make payment as per the terms and conditions. Many thanks.</p>
School CENSUS Day Thursday 15th January	<p>National School CENSUS Day is when a snapshot of school data is taken and the information is used to calculate our future funding. We would like to encourage all children in KS1 and Foundation Stage to take up a universal free school meal on this school day in order for us to get our maximum funding.</p> <p>We have swapped the Thursday and Friday meal choices next week.</p> <p><i>On Thursday 15th January, the menu will be:</i> Fish fingers with chips or Cheese Omelette with chips, beans and a cookie.</p> <p><i>On Friday 16th January, the menu will be:</i> Mild Caribbean Chicken or Stew with rice, vegetables and Ginger Cake.</p> <p>Meals need to be ordered in the usual way on the day. KS2 children can also order this meal, payment made as normal via ParentPay, unless you are entitled to benefit related Free School Meals.</p>
Year 4 Hill End Residential - June 2026	<p>A letter was emailed via ParentPay yesterday regarding the Year 4 Hill End Residential, along with a Medical Form and Kit List. Monday 1st June 2026 – Wednesday 3rd June 2026 (Class 10) Wednesday 3rd June 2026 – Friday 5th June 2026 (Class 11) Please ensure to pay a £50 deposit and return the medical form by <u>Thursday 26th March</u> to secure your child's place. A copy of the letter can be found here.</p>
Enquiry Newsletters	<p>Our latest Enquiry Newsletters have now been published on the school website under the Curriculum tab. They will be shared on Google Classroom too. Here are some quick links! Reception Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6</p>
Christmas Card Donations!	<p>If you haven't already recycled your Christmas cards, please donate to school to be used for a Christmas activity in December 2026. Please drop off unwanted cards to the school office.</p>

<p>PALS Committee Meeting - Wednesday 21st January</p>  	<p>The next PALS Committee Meeting will be taking place on Zoom on Wednesday 21st January at 7.30pm. Keep an eye on next week's newsletter for the link.</p> <p>Friday 23rd January 2026 is Break the Rules Day! Choose which rules to break (see list below). Suggested donation of 50p for each rule broken. Simply hand your donation to your teacher on the morning of Break the Rules Day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Put squash in your water bottle ★ Bring in an unhealthy snack ★ Wear trainers for the day ★ Style your hair in a crazy style ★ Wear a temporary tattoo ★ Wear nail polish ★ Wear a hat in the classroom ★ Change your name for the day ★ Call your teacher by their first name ★ Bring in a cuddly toy <p>The Ladygrove PALS Quiz night is taking place on Friday 30th January. Arrival from 7.30pm, Quiz starts 8pm £5 per person Bring your own snacks and alcoholic/non-alcoholic drinks (and glasses!)</p> <p>Please complete and return the quiz entry form along with your cash payment for the whole team, in a sealed envelope to the school office post box. Please mark your envelope as "PALS Quiz Night"</p> <p>Teams can be a maximum of 8 people, 18s and overs only please. Smaller teams may be asked to combine. £5 per person. Cash prize for the winning team!</p> <p>You will find the team entry form at the end of this newsletter and a paper copy will come home next week.</p>
<p>SEND - The importance of routines - from The Witherslack Group</p>  	<p>Sleep routines Many neurodiverse children find bedtime challenging, so small changes can make a big difference. From building a consistent routine to creating a sensory-friendly sleep environment, we share ways to ease anxiety and support your neurodivergent child's needs. These ideas may also support the neurotypical child.</p> <p>Read Now</p> <hr/> <p>Webinar opportunity from CAMHS ★ Wednesday 28 January - Webinar ★ 12:00pm – 1:30pm Online via Microsoft Teams CAMHS - Will discuss demand avoidance and strategies to support your child or young person</p> <p>Register your place</p>
<p>Short Breaks Update for Families with Disabled Children and Young People</p>	<p>Please click on the following links to view the January Short Breaks Update and Parent Support Groups.</p> <p>Upcoming Activities Regular Activities Other Information Parent Carer Support Groups</p>
<p>External Clubs and Activities</p>	<p>If you are looking for external clubs and activities taking place in the local area, or for any upcoming holiday camps, please visit this page on our website - https://www.ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk/parents/external-clubs-activities</p> <p>New additions this week include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Angels Performing Arts - Spring Term Registrations ★ YouMove Free Activity Sessions ★ Messy Church - Saturday 17th January

Admissions to Primary School - Deadline next Thursday 15th January!

Admissions to Primary School (Academic Year 26/27): If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 (inclusive), you need to apply for a primary school place for September 2026. You can now apply online. Please visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions for further information. NB The deadline line date for online applications is 15th January 2026.

Please remember the following:-

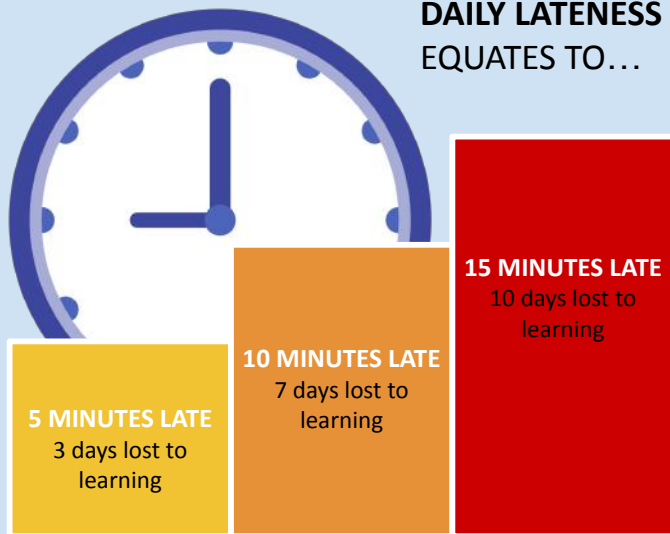
- It is the responsibility of parents/carers to apply for a school place by the deadline of 15 January 2026
- If your child is attending nursery classes within a primary school, you must still apply for a place in the main school
- You can list three different schools in order of preference. We strongly advise you to use all three preferences
- We advise you to enter your catchment (or designated) school as one of your preferences
- Attending your catchment school does not entitle you to free home to school transport if it is not your closest school and / under 2 miles away
- If your application is late, you are far less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools.

EVERY DAY COUNTS



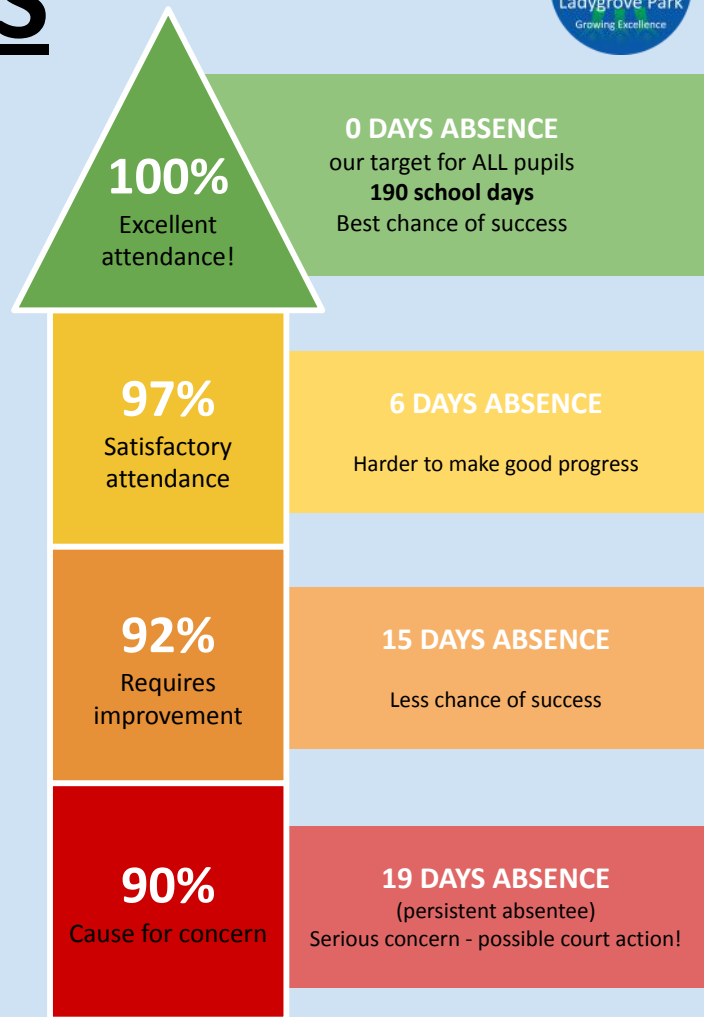
School and future **success** starts with
good attendance!

DAILY LATENESS
EQUATES TO...



REMEMBER

Your education is important - don't miss out!
BE HERE, BE PUNCTUAL



Autumn Winter
2025 2026

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

WEEK ONE

03/11/25
24/11/25
15/12/25
19/01/26
09/02/26
09/03/26

Option One

Creamy Coconut &
Chickpea Curry
Served with Rice

Beef Lasagne with
Garlic Bread

Roast Chicken, Roast
Potatoes and Gravy

BBQ Chicken
Pasta

Fishfingers
with Chips

Option Two

Vegetable Curry served
with Rice

Vegetable Lasagne with
Garlic Bread

Quorn Roast with Roast
Potatoes and Gravy

BBQ Quorn
Pasta

Cheese and Bean Pasty
with Chips

Vegetables

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Baked Beans

Dessert

Cheese and Crackers

NEW Apple Crumb Cake

Fruit Medley

Jelly with Mandarins

Cookie

WEEK TWO

10/11/25
01/12/25
05/01/26
26/01/26
23/02/26
16/03/26

Option One

Classic Cheese and
Tomato Pizza
with Wedges

Spaghetti
Bolognaise



Roast Chicken or
Quorn Roast Potatoes
and Gravy

Meatballs in Tomato
Sauce with Rice

Fishfingers
with Chips

Option Two

Vegetable Pizza with
wedges

Vegan Spaghetti
Bolognaise

Vegetables of the Day

Plant Balls in a Tomato
Sauce with Rice

Cheese Whirl
with Chips

Vegetables

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Peas

Dessert

NEW Gingerbread
Cookie

Chocolate and Beetroot
Brownie with Chocolate
Sauce

Fruit Salad

Sticky Toffee Apple
Crumble

Vanilla Shortbread

WEEK THREE

17/11/25
08/12/25
12/01/26
02/02/26
02/03/26
23/03/26

Option One

Jacket Potato served
with Cheese

Beef Pasta
Bolognaise

Roast Chicken with
Roast Potatoes and
Gravy

Mild Caribbean Chicken
with Rice

Fishfingers
with Chips

Option Two

Jacket Potato served
with Baked Beans

Tomato Pasta

Quorn Roast and Roast
Potatoes and Gravy

Caribbean Stew with
Rice

Cheese Omelette
with Chips

Vegetables

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Baked Beans

Dessert

Oaty Cookie

Pear Crumble

Fruit Salad

NEW Jamaican Ginger
Cake

Cookie

MENU KEY



Added Plant Protein



Wholemeal



Vegan



Chef's Special

ALLERGY INFORMATION:

If you would like to know about particular allergens in foods please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We use a large variety of ingredients in the preparation of our meals and due to the nature of our kitchens it is not possible to completely remove the risk of allergen cross contact.



Friday 30th January

**Arrival from 7.30pm
Quiz starts 8pm
£5 per person**

**Bring your own snacks and
alcoholic/non-alcoholic drinks
(and glasses!)**

Please complete and return the below, with cash payment for the whole team, to the school office post box. Please mark your envelope as "PALS Quiz Night"

Teams can be a maximum of 8 people, 18s and overs only please. Smaller teams may be asked to combine. £5 per person. Cash prize for the winning team!

Team Captain Name: _____

Team Captain's Email Address: _____

Team Captain's Contact Number: _____

Team Name: _____

Number in Team: _____ (maximum 8 people)

**All teams and cash payments must be returned by
Tuesday 27th January**



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Tuesday 27th January**



**Menstrual Health and
Period Education Advocates**

January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

All Yours Period Boxes

In December we celebrated our 5th birthday and are delighted to be able to offer period boxes again in 2026 to anyone who is struggling to access period products, for whatever reason. We are happy to support both adults and young people through this service.

You can request a free, confidential All Yours Box here:

<https://www.allyoursbox.co.uk/request>

Please note: If you are requesting boxes for more than one person (for example, multiple family members), please indicate the number of boxes needed and any specific product requirements in the comments box on the request form. This helps us make sure everyone receives what they need.

Boxes are prepared and delivered by volunteers, so please allow up to 21 days (though most arrive much sooner).

If we can't deliver to you directly, we'll let you know how to find your nearest collection point.

Period Pants

Unfortunately, we cannot deliver period pants to individual addresses, but we hope to be hosting more Period Pants Parties at locations across South Oxfordshire in 2026 so please keep an eye on our social media for more details. We are @allyoursmonthly on both Facebook and Instagram.

With best wishes,

All Yours