

# Welcome to the 2021-2022 'Our School Year'

Dear Parents, Children and Friends,

It has been wonderful to have finally had an 'almost normal' school year. The last two of these letters talked about Lock-downs and Home Learning, and I am so pleased to say that apart from a short but significant outbreak in February, things have slowly been returning to what we are used to.



I would like to thank our fantastic staff, who have worked incredibly hard again this year. They have been focussing on planning and creating fun experiences for the children whilst ensuring they are learning as much as they can, filling the gaps caused by the pandemic, and helping them to reach their full potential. The children have also shown amazing resilience, and during this year I have managed to spend a lot of time in classrooms. The thing I have seen above everything else, is how happy the children are. This feeds in to how engaged and hard-working they are within their lessons, and this really has been a joy to see. This has also been noted by visitors to our school, including our School Improvement Partner and Paul Hussey, our Chair of Governors, which has made me feel incredibly proud. We know that the Pandemic has affected children's attainment across the country, and this is evident at Loughton Manor too; but it is vital to focus on the journey the children have taken and just how much progress they have made despite this. Overall, at Loughton Manor we strongly believe that the children's wellbeing is the absolute priority and we feel that our children are happy, kind, and attentive – and this is what we hope for.

We started the school year with visits for our Nursery and Reception pupils. These took place within the school grounds, and although we will be pleased to return to Home Visits in September, they were still so valuable in terms of transition and us getting to know our new families.

In the Autumn Term we held our Macmillan Coffee morning as well as Children in Need day and Christmas Jumper Day, raising funds for worthy causes. We celebrated different cultures through our One World Week celebrations, Diwali Day and Christmas celebration day – and we also welcomed back our favourite party entertainer, Colonel Custard, which was enjoyed by the whole school. Friends of Loughton Manor has worked extremely hard this year to raise funds, starting with the Halloween Discos, the much-loved Christmas Shop and our new event, Family Carols in the Playground. They paid for the Circus Day, Reindeer visits and the children's Christmas parties.

The Spring Term was another busy time for us. A significant Covid outbreak within school meant that we had to revert to a mixture of Home Learning and School Learning in Year One. Staff were particularly helpful and flexible at this time, with many part time staff working additional hours to enable us to keep school open, despite many members of staff needing to isolate. Introducing our new phonics scheme and then the implementation of the reading books was a huge undertaking this year, although I am pleased to say that the children are really enjoying these lessons. It has been impressive to see the progress the children have made in their phonics knowledge since this was introduced and I look forward to seeing how this progresses. We supported Comic Relief and also had our own Break the Rules Day! Year One had a Victorian Day as well having a Toy Making Workshop.

During our Expressive Arts Week we created a wide range of artwork of a high standard. Local company Playful Pottery came to work with the children, and every child in school created a beautiful tile, which are now on permanent display in our main reception area.



World Book Day was in March, and it was lovely to see so many wonderful costumes! We were thrilled to be able to invite parents in to our Mothers' Day Assemblies and I know the children were so happy to have you there. Several parents commented on how pleased they were that this event could take place.

Year Two had an extremely enjoyable trip to Warwick Castle which reinforced their learning. The Spring Term ended with an Easter Celebration Day and Easter Discos run by Friends of Loughton Manor. I enjoyed a tea party with those Year One and Two children who had managed to achieve their writing targets, which was a special treat for me too!

So here we are in July and the school year genuinely seems to have flown by. The Summer Term has been another busy time for us in school which started with our Spring Fayre, organised by Friends. This was an extremely successful event and we are so grateful to everyone who volunteered or came to support it. We were blessed with the weather and so proud of the children's dancing. I also felt extremely proud, and quite emotional, to be able to officially open our outside theatre, with the help of Rose, Karen Burzio's granddaughter. Karen was a colleague who worked at Loughton Manor for many years and who had a deep love of the theatre; and she passed away in 2019. The outdoor theatre seemed an appropriate memorial for her and I know the children are starting to use it during their day to day activities.



FS have enjoyed activities such as their Pirate Day, their cafes and their trip to Green Dragon Eco Farm. Year One presented a fantastic performance of 'Billy, No Buzz!' and also enjoyed their trip to Whipsnade Zoo. Year Two also shared a wonderful performance with us and enjoyed their trip working with staff from The Parks Trust. Year One and Two children had a special Judaism Celebration Day and we had a whole school Science Week too. Friends have been working hard again, selling doughnuts and planning an adults only quiz fundraiser. Our new event 'Food from Around the World' which sat alongside the Loughton Scarecrow Trail event was a huge success and raised a lot of money for us to spend in school. Look out for this again next year – I feel like it might be an event to be repeated! Our Queen's Platinum Jubilee event was a really special day and we were able to invite governors, local residents from Cavendish House and Zoe Nolan to share the celebration with us. Books for Breakfast was such a lovely event and one which was extremely well attended – it was so lovely to be able to invite all our families into school for an event like this again.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents for being so supportive and also to members of our Governing Board who give up their own time to work with us. Also, huge thanks go to the Friends of Loughton Manor for all of the exciting events they have planned and for providing us with the funds to pay for activities and to subsidise our school trips during the year.

And finally...as this very busy year draws to a close, I am sad to say that we have to say goodbye to some of our fantastic staff. Charlotte Morriss, Andreia Johnstone and Hannah Brazeley have all successfully completed their teacher training year and have secured jobs for September. Laura Harvey will be leaving us temporarily to go on maternity leave - we wish her so much love and happiness during this special time. Kelly Gale who went on maternity leave last November has also decided to leave us, focussing on her family. Alex Wolfe has been part of the Loughton Manor family for an extremely long time, starting as a trainee and then remaining here once he qualified. Whilst we will be really sad to lose him, we are very proud of him for securing a job as Assistant Head at Caroline Haslett School.

To all our Year 2 children – we will miss every one of you so much, and know you will continue to grow and shine in your new setting, wherever that may be. And for everyone else, we look forward to welcoming you all back in September, and wish you a restful and enjoyable summer holiday.

Best wishes,

*Daniela Thompson*

Headteacher

## Letter from the Chair of Governors, Paul Hussey

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We do hope that you enjoy this booklet, Our School Year. As a Governing Board it has been wonderful to be able to start visiting school to see it in action once more. As restrictions have lifted, we have gradually been able to meet in person and I have appreciated the opportunities, in particular since Christmas, to come in and say hello to children and staff.

As a Governor new to school, I have enjoyed getting to know LMFS. I have been really impressed with the supportive and caring learning environment and the positive relationships that exist between families and the school. I have heard about the ways families ensured that their children carried on learning during lockdown. Thanks to their efforts and to the work of staff at the school in maintaining online resources of the highest quality, children continued to make progress.

At the end of what has been another challenging year, the Governors again want to say a huge 'Thank you' to every member of staff, all the children, and parents too. You have all risen to the challenges brilliantly, and we are so proud of how well the children have coped with the varied ways of learning, coping very well with returning to school life and routines. School is about social learning as well as academic, and these early lessons in building friendships and working co-operatively are so important. Demonstrating these positive relationships is vital, and my thanks go to all the adults in school who serve as excellent role models for the children.

As well as the support from the wider community including visiting specialists, we give particular thanks to our Leadership Team, who again have stepped up and developed their senior leadership responsibilities with confidence and commitment. Thanks go to Daniela Thompson, Headteacher, and Assistant Heads Gemma Kinsella and Lucy Lock for tackling with such insight and resilience the many challenges involved in making sure children make up any gaps in their learning so that the impact of the pandemic is minimised.

We wish everyone in the Loughton Manor First School community a happy and relaxing break in the coming weeks. This booklet goes some way to showing what a brilliant place LMFS is for the children in our community and I commend it to you.

## Who are the Governors and what do we do?

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The Governing Board have a very important role in the leadership of the school. We are a group of volunteers made up of teaching and non-teaching staff, parents, community representatives and members appointed for their cultural and/or professional knowledge, all of whom are local to Loughton. We work closely with Daniela Thompson, the rest of the staff and the local authority, to carry out our statutory responsibilities.

### **Chair of the Governors**

Paul Hussey

### **Headteacher**

Daniela Thompson

### **Vice Chair**

Anna Bretts

### **Staff Governor**

Alex Wolfe

### **Co-opted Governors:**

Sue Tapley

Anna Bretts

Martin Wakley

Cameron Tapley

Lizzie Bancroft

Rosie Crook

### **Parent Governors:**

Thomas Lowe

Anand Rai

### **Associate Members:**

Les Piascik

James McAuley

Gemma Kinsella

Lucy Lock

### **Local Authority Governor**

Vacancy

### **Clerk to Governors**

Frances Bennett

The governing board has three main strategic duties set out in the 'Governors' Handbook':

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

We meet on average twice a term as a Full Governing Board, supported this year by the Curriculum Committee, which has responsibility for monitoring and supporting the delivery of the National Curriculum across the school.



# We Love Books and Reading!

## Monster Phonics

In February we launched our new whole school phonics scheme, Monster Phonics. Children and even the grown-ups dressed as monsters for the day and learned all about the characters that help us learn to read and write. Children also helped to create artwork to decorate a Monster Phonics display in each classroom.



**Author Visit:** In June, local author Naomi Wilkinson visited us to share one of her stories, Soloman Scarecrow and the Great Rescue. Every class from Nursery to Year Two had an individual visit in the library where Naomi read her story and gave the children the chance to meet Soloman Scarecrow! Children loved asking questions about where she gets her ideas from. Naomi also explained the process of how her books are created, right from the initial ideas through to publishing.

## Little Lending Library

In the Summer term we unveiled our Little Lending Library under the cover at the front of school. A large selection of books, magazines and comics are on offer for all to borrow, anytime.

## We have a Reading Dog!

Bertie the cavapoo started visiting us in September. He's from the Canine Concern charity, and he comes in every week with his owner to hear different children read, to help them feel more confident with books and reading aloud. He saw several children in Year 2, and then lots of Year 1 had the chance to read with him too. Bertie also joined Year 2 on our walk up to the Central Library! Bertie will be back in September to hear lots more children read their books to him.



## World Book Day

In March we celebrated World Book Day along with children and families in over 100 countries around the globe. Our day of sharing books and stories also involved us dressing in our pyjamas and enjoying a lovely cup of hot chocolate with our home time story!



## Books for Breakfast

In June we held our annual Books for Breakfast event. It was incredibly well attended with parents and children enjoying the beautiful weather, delicious croissants and most importantly the space and time to relax and share some great stories.



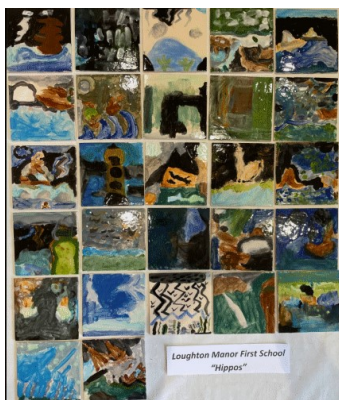




## Take One Picture...

As usual, our Expressive Arts Week was centred around the National Gallery's Take One Picture initiative. Launched in 1995, Take One Picture is a countrywide scheme for primary schools which aims to inspire a lifelong love of art and learning. Every year they 'take one picture' from their collection to inspire work in different areas of the curriculum in primary classrooms. This year the focus was on Shipwreck on Stormy Seas, by Claude-Joseph Vernot.

Foundation children acted out their own shipwreck and drew boats. Year 1 looked closely at the picture, and created line drawings of their own ships which were miniaturised to create a moving ship against backgrounds which we had used different media to create. We also used our musical skills to create a soundscape of a sinking ship. Year 2 used their pencils in different ways to create tone, focusing on seagulls and the stormy clouds in the painting (pictured right).



## Our Amazing Tiles

Playful Pottery came to visit us, and every class in school created tiles around our theme of the sea under stormy skies. Our tiles were then taken away to be glazed and fired, and they are all on permanent display in a stunning collage in our main school reception.





# What I Liked About Hippos and Elephants

## Design, Technology and Art

During our History topic on the Great Fire of London, we linked our learning with Design, Technology and Art. We learnt all about fire engines through the ages, along with their similarities and differences. Then we designed, made and evaluated our own. They were all so individual and the children loved making them.



Children learnt about creating a vehicle with a moving axle and fixed wheel, attaching the parts together with a glue gun.



I loved making a lighthouse, a castle and a fire engine in DTA!



During our Art lessons we learnt to blend chalk pastels to create a fiery background. We then cut out a silhouette of the London skyline and attached the two together to create a wonderfully effective piece of artwork.



## Warwick Castle Trip

We were so excited for our trip to Warwick Castle. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day, with so many saying how wonderful the bird show was! They were great ambassadors for the school and were great at sharing their knowledge.



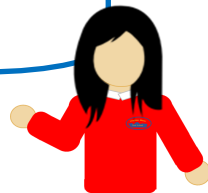
# What I Liked About Hippos and Elephants



I really enjoyed visiting the library. Bertie the dog walked with us and were able to get a library card and choose our own books!



My favourite memory of Year 2 was archery. I liked shooting at the target and got lots of turns.



I liked going to Lodge Lake with the Parks Trust. We did pond dipping and I saw a dragonfly nymph.

I loved Jubilee day. We had to dress up in red, white and blue. We waved our flags and sang the national anthem. Then we ate cake!



# What I Liked About Giraffes and Lions

## Monster Phonics

We have a brand new phonics and reading scheme, used across the school. Lots of Year One children had the chance to read their Monster Phonics book to Bertie, our new reading dog!



"I love Monster Phonics because it's fun!"



## Toymaker Visit

Our day with The Toymaker started with an introduction to lots of different toys from the past. We learned about how different toys can move by being pulled, pushed, squeezed and rolled. In the afternoon we got to design and build our own wheeled toy to take home.

"My favourite thing was when the Toymaker made the monkey flip!"

"It was fun designing the toys."

"I liked playing with the toys from the olden days."

"I liked hammering on the wheels lots of times."

## Whipsnade Zoo

We have learned about animals in the summer term, and loved our trip to Whipsnade Zoo where we could see so many of them in action!

"I liked seeing the giraffes best because we are in Giraffes class and they had gorgeous eyelashes."

"I liked all the animals but I liked giraffes the best as they have long necks and eat the trees."

"My favourite thing at the zoo was the elephants because they had so much to play with."

"I liked seeing the fishes because they were swimming everywhere and were really cool."



We had a Circus Day at Christmas time (left) and had lots of fun designing and baking gingerbread too (right).

We also spent some time at Lodge Lake and enjoyed pond dipping and looking at the natural world on our doorstep.



## Our Performance: Billy No Buzz

We were so happy to put on a performance for our families to enjoy with us at last, and Billy No Buzz was fantastic!

I loved Lodge Lake because it was relaxing.

I love Maths because it helps me learn my numbers.





## What I Liked About Tigers, Zebras and Monkeys

It was great to be able to do more of the things we love this year and what a great year we have had! In September we expected the children to struggle to settle after many of them missing much of their pre-school provision, but they amazed us with their enthusiasm for learning and resilience, and quickly became familiar with the boundaries and expectations of school. Thank you to all the families for their support throughout the year. It has been lovely to see the children develop and grow and we wish them luck with the next stage of their school life.

**Christmas:** As usual we had many fun learning activities to enjoy. We started December with our annual School Book Week, all our learning around The Christmas Pine written by Julia Donaldson. The Monkeys created some beautiful trees demonstrating their mark-making skills and Zebras and Tigers wrote description words on trees. Zebras and Tigers then rehearsed and performed their nativity, Everyone Loves a Baby, which was videoed for parents. They sang, danced and spoke confidently and many parents commented on how much they enjoyed it. We then enjoyed Christmas lunch, parties, special visits from Father Christmas and his reindeer, Colonel Custard and Circus Day.

**Zebras and Tigers Café:** The children opened their Minibeast Café where they served homemade pizzas and drinks. They seated their families, took their orders, served them and collected their payment. They received lovely feedback from the parent's visitor's comments book.

**Forest School:** All children had at least a half term block of visits to Forest School with our Forest School leader, Mrs Humphries. They had a wonderful time exploring the woods, playing in the mud kitchen and making potions amongst many other exciting activities.



At the end of January we had our annual **Expressive Arts Week** which saw the children take part in the Take One Picture project. The focus was the painting, 'Shipwreck in Stormy Seas' by Claude-Joseph Vernet. The children painted tiles with a visiting pottery company, acted out their own shipwreck and drew boats.

Our topic on transport, **On the Move**, is always one of the children's favourites. When learning about road transport all children drew Mrs Holland's bike. We were amazed by what they produced, even the youngest Monkeys children. The Zebras and Tigers enjoyed **'Bike Day'** when they brought in bikes and scooters and cycled and scooted around school. When learning about water transport we had our annual **Pirate Week**, including Pirate Dress up day. As always, the children have great fun making their own treasure maps, writing a message in a bottle and walking the plank!! Our final special week happened right at the end of the year with **Science Week**. The focus of our learning was recycling and protecting our environment by becoming more sustainable. The children designed their own school garden, learnt how to recycle and made their own bug hotels. The Zebras and Tigers helped to embed their learning about rail transport with a visit to Mk Train Station where they took a train from MK to Bletchley and back. Many children had never been on a train and showed great excitement as they learnt about the workings of the station and rode the train.

**Green Dragon Eco Farm Trip:** It was fantastic to reinstate our annual trip and we were lucky enough to explore a new venue. Zebras and Tigers learnt about, and fed farm animals, saw some wild animals, including lynx, wallabies and a silver fox! The staff at the farm commented on how well behaved the children were and the children had a fantastic day, (despite a little rain)!

"The Green Dragon Eco Farm trip was the best day of my life!"



## Friends of Loughton Manor First School (FLMFS)

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Friends of Loughton Manor First School is a registered charity, led by our wonderful parents to raise money for the school. We spend this money to try to make our children's experience at the school the best that it can be.



It was a delight to go into 2021/22 able to plan a more 'normal' year – we were able to welcome back much-loved in-person events, as well as introduce some new ones. So far, we have raised an estimated £9,700, so hope to exceed £10,000 by the end of the year. Our key fundraising events were:

Halloween Disco and Cake Sale - £665

Christmas Raffle - £2000

Christmas Carols - £283

Break the Rules Day - £277

Easter Disco and cake sale - £380

Spring Fayre - £5000

Around the World Food Event - £750

We held a brand new event—Loughton Advent Windows Trail— our traditional Christmas Shop, plus Krispy Krème Doughnut sales, Lolly Fridays and more.

In the autumn we paid for the circus to come to town (school) and later in the term arranged for some special guests from Lapland to visit – the children loved meeting Santa and his beautiful reindeer.

We were able to put some money towards the purchase of books for the new Monster Phonics scheme which is now being used by all the children in school—and we are pleased to say we have subsidised school trips to Warwick Castle and

Whipsnade Zoo now that the children can get out and about again.

Our 'star buy' of the year was making a significant contribution to a beautiful outdoor theatre, which is now being used by our children to perform, play and learn, and is a fitting tribute to Mrs Burzio. We intend to use money raised in the Summer Term to contribute to outdoor instruments to complement this performance space.

As we say goodbye to our Year 2 children, they will each receive a dictionary as a reminder of their learning journey here at Loughton Manor First School.

So, following a bumper year of fundraising I will be stepping down as Friends Chair with head held high, and in the knowledge that, as ever, we have done ourselves and our children proud. All of your hard work has not only bought much-needed resources for the school, but has brought much fun and joy to our children, our parents and our local community. We hope that you are all as proud as we are of our efforts.

We hope to see you in the early autumn at our AGM, where I will pass on the baton to someone else to continue the great work of Friends and bring some fresh and exciting ideas to the committee. We usually start with a social meet and greet, before going into the 'formal' meeting where we will elect the official committee.

So, whether you fancy trying your hand at being Chair or one of the other committee roles, would like to offer your time, ideas or expertise in any other way, or just want to come and make friends, we would encourage you to join us.





Finally, we would like to give our heartfelt thanks to every single one of you – for being part of our wonderful committee, for sharing your ideas, for securing raffle prizes, for running stalls, for attending our events.....the list goes on.

We hope that you all have a wonderful summer and can't wait to see you all for more of the same next year!



**Email:** friendsofloughtonmanor@gmail.com

**Facebook:** LoughtonManor1stSchoolParents

**Website:** friendsofloughtonmanor.co.uk

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## Breakfast and After School Club

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This has been another great year with our children in Breakfast Club and After School Club. It has been so lovely to see our children having fun and playing with other children they don't normally see or mix with and to watch new friendships growing.

We call our meal times our 'restaurant' and it has been lovely to see our children enjoying a wide variety of new foods and learning how to behave in our restaurant.

We have had so much fun, both inside and outside, even turning our daycare room into a real life 'McHart's' restaurant, celebrating pancake day with some super pancake flipping and making our very own pizzas.

We have really enjoyed creating our own flower garden at the front of the school for everyone to see and enjoy, and we have also loved being outside on our new scooters (I think this may be the children's favourite thing to do!).

The children went CRAZY with our new SUPER SIZED inflatable beach ball and it was lovely to see so much fun and laughter, even from the grown-ups.

Let's hope our children continue to enjoy Breakfast Club and After School Club as much as they have this year.

We wish you all a fantastic summer holiday and we look forward to seeing you in September. Have fun!

*The Daycare Team*

"I love drawing and playing with the Hotwheels!"

Evan

"Every day there's new toys coming out which are fun and exciting!"

George

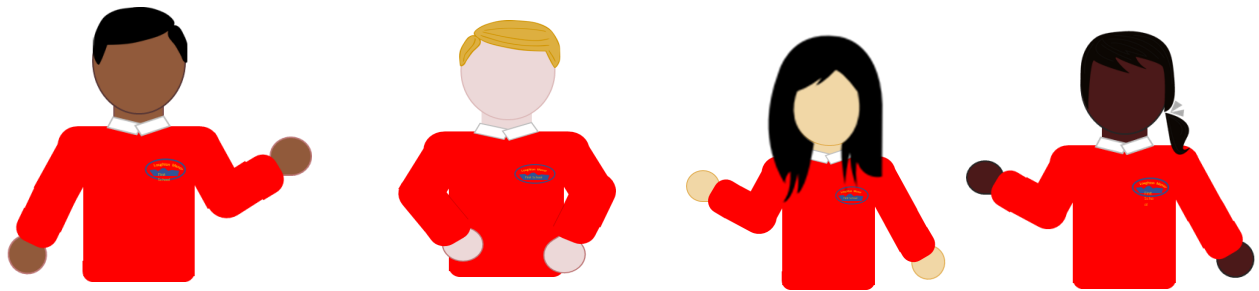


"The food is yummy, yummy, yummy!."

Lily



“Building a lifelong love of learning, in a safe and happy school”



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