



Acting Headteacher: **Mrs Claudia Thiele** BEd Hons NPQSL, NPQH

28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

The end of the Spring Term 2024 is starting to bring more sunshine, warmer weather and lighter mornings and evenings. Staff and pupils are now ready to enjoy a well-deserved break and some quality time with family and friends over the Easter break.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going support to the school; getting in touch with questions and suggestions and coming in for meetings, events and discussions. Your input and thoughts are much appreciated.

It is also a good time to update you on current developments and news.

We have worked hard this term to recruit new members to our support staff team, and we welcomed Mia Davies (LSA) and Rosalind Smith (CCW) to our team. Seyi Olu (LSA), Karen Eke (LSA) and Claire Singh (CCW) will take up their new roles after Easter. We wish Lindsey Swaine (AAC Team), who is due to go on maternity leave following the Easter holidays, all the very best. Our best wishes are extended to Anna Spiewak-Hernandes (LSA), who left Lonsdale in February.

The school's new Leadership Team, who took up post in January, have attended training to support them in their new roles. Educational visits to colleges, Stevenage Town Centre, a sports event in Hatfield and a local church enriched pupils' learning, and all classes are planning visits for the Summer Term. The school is now using a new online system to record accidents and incidents at school, which has helped greatly to follow-up and support more efficiently.

We shared our attendance policy with you last month and have worked with the transport providers to monitor arrival times to school. We are pleased to report that, with small changes implemented, we have seen a positive impact on the time pupils are ready to start their learning in the morning.

Swimming, lunchtimes and personal care remain the most staff-intense activities during the school days due to the high physical support needs of our pupils. This term has seen high levels of absence for staff, their dependants and pupils which, coupled with remaining vacancies, has led to times where difficult decisions had to be taken. We have not been able to run swimming in March, and we had to run a shortened school day. These measures have allowed us to keep the school open and allocate support and competencies into the places they were most needed. We would like to thank you for your understanding and support during those challenging times.

School leaders and teachers have worked hard throughout March to review timetables and arrangements. As a result, we have been able to re-start some lunchtime clubs and activities, and pupils can currently enjoy music, chess, various games, outdoor time, Lego and switch-toy activities, a film club, participate in an AAC club or meet Wally, the Marriotts school dog, who comes to visit on Mondays. Our after-school sports club on Tuesday has been running successfully this term, and we are currently considering pupils', parents' and staff ideas to extend our after-school offer. We have worked on developing new models to explore how we can take the school's swimming provision forward, and we will share this with you after Easter.

Our Governors held their board meetings this term where they discussed and finalised the school's Strategic Plan. This is now being put into its final format and will be shared with you next half term. Governors are passionate about ensuring that everyone's time at Lonsdale is as enriching and fulfilling as possible. We welcomed several of our Governors to school for various visits and to join school events and training. You can find out more about our Governors on our website:

<https://www.lonsdale.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Who+We+Are&pid=252>.

The Sports and PE Roadshow Day on 20<sup>th</sup> March was a recent highlight. It was great to see a number of families join our pupils to try a wide range of accessible sports throughout the day. We hope you found this day as exciting as the pupils, and we welcome any feedback about the day.

Please take a look at our weekly Learning @ Lonsdale Newsletter, where you can find out about all the amazing things our pupils get up to in their learning and throughout the week. We always add flyers to the newsletter to share local offers, opportunities and training with you.

<https://www.lonsdale.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Learning%40Lonsdale+Newsletters&pid=188>

Next term will bring wellbeing and work-related learning days, Lonsdale's Sports and Arts Weeks, and, of course, our leavers' proms. In addition, we will hear the outcome of the consultation to close the REP and extend Lonsdale School day places, and we will be planning and preparing for the next school year and supporting pupils' transitions.

This now leaves us with wishing you all an enjoyable Easter break. Thank you again for all the support you have given to the school this term!



Mrs Claudia Thiele  
Acting Headteacher



Chandra Green  
Chair of Governors

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