LUDLOW JUNIOR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,
Over the past few weeks, you may have heard your child talking about being at their ‘Brain Best’, ‘Prepping for Best’ or discussing their ‘5C needs’ - or perhaps you haven't heard any of this and it is just very wishful thinking on my part! Whether you have heard these phrases or not, they are part of some important work taking place across the school that will continue to develop over the coming months.



At Ludlow, we want all children to feel supported and successful. We believe that children achieve their best when high levels of support sit alongside high expectations. Put simply, we want every child to know that we will help them, but we will also expect them to take responsibility for their actions and the effort they put into helping themselves.

Over the last term, staff have been undertaking training and children have been taking part in assemblies designed to help them better understand themselves and the different things that can affect how they think, feel and behave. We have been introducing a shared language across the school so that children and adults can talk about challenges in a consistent and positive way.



Rather than simply telling children what not to do, we want to help them understand what they can do and what they might struggle with. This means supporting children to develop practical self-help strategies, recognise when they need support, prepare themselves for success and become increasingly independent in managing their emotions, behaviour and relationships when challenges arise.

This work is based on what is known as the Empowerment Approach (Changing Chances - Home). At its heart is a simple belief: when children understand themselves better, they are more able to take control, overcome difficulties and develop lifelong strategies that support them both in school and beyond.

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High Support. High Expectations.
This is not about lowering expectations or making excuses for poor behaviour. Quite the opposite.

We know that simply telling children to “make better choices” is often not enough. By helping children understand themselves, recognise what affects their behaviour and learn practical strategies to manage challenges, we are giving them the tools they need to be successful.

At the same time, we are developing a clearer and more consistent understanding of what we expect from all children at Ludlow and how we support them to achieve it. This work gives us a much stronger platform from which to raise expectations, apply them consistently and support every child to meet them.

What Happens Next?
This work is still at an early stage, but over the coming months we will continue developing a shared understanding of behaviour, relationships and learning across the school. This will help shape our new Behaviour Policy, which will be introduced in January 2027 and will set out our expectations and approach in a way that reflects these principles.



Find Out More
Before the launch of the policy, we will be holding an online information evening for parents and carers on the 30th November from 7pm-8pm. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the approach, see how it is being used in school and ask any questions you may have. Further details about this will be shared soon.

I am genuinely excited about the difference this work can make for our children, not just in school but in the longer term too. Helping children to understand themselves, develop resilience and learn strategies that they can draw upon throughout their lives feels hugely important.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Kind regards,
Ryan O'Hearn
Headteacher

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READING CHARTER - SILVER AWARD

📚🌟 We've achieved Silver! 🌟📚

We are absolutely delighted to share that Ludlow Junior School has achieved the Silver Southampton School Reading Charter Award!

Four of our wonderful pupils proudly attended the awards ceremony to celebrate this fantastic achievement. They were treated to an inspiring talk from author M.G. Leonard, who shared what inspires her writing and her fascinating love of beetles! 🪲 The children even had the opportunity to meet her in person and get a book signed – a very special experience for our young readers!

Achieving Silver has been a real team effort. We have worked hard to ensure that our curriculum gives children opportunities to explore a wide range of genres and that our libraries reflect the diversity of our world and the breadth of our wider curriculum.

Most importantly, we have been working to help our children see themselves as readers, develop their own reading identities and make the most of every opportunity to read for pleasure. ❤️

A huge thank you to our families for all the support you give reading at home. Your encouragement makes such a difference in helping our children develop a lifelong love of books.

🥇 Next stop… GOLD! 🥇

Our next challenge involves taking reading out into the wider community, so you may even spot us coming to read in a place near you!

Here's to more books, more adventures and more children discovering the joy of reading! 🥹



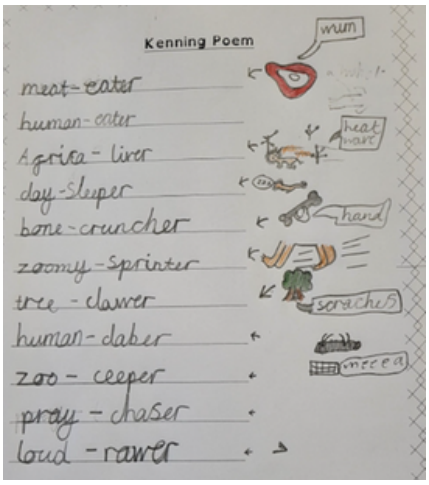
LUDLOW JUNIOR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER YEAR 3

In Year 3, we have been developing our mathematical understanding through NumberSense sessions. Through visualising numbers, exploring different representations and sharing our mathematical thinking, the children are developing their confidence and fluency with numbers. Regular opportunities to discuss how they see numbers, explain their strategies and justify their reasoning are also deepening their mathematical vocabulary and helping them to make connections between different number concepts. By focusing on subitising, partitioning, number relationships and flexible thinking, we are encouraging children to see numbers in different ways, understand how numbers work together and become more confident, independent mathematical thinkers.

KENNING POEMS

In English, Year 3 have been exploring the exciting world of kenning poems! The children have really enjoyed experimenting with words to create imaginative descriptions using a simple noun-noun or noun-verb structure. They have been thinking creatively about how to describe people, animals and objects in unusual ways, such as sky-painter or wave-chaser. This has encouraged them to expand their vocabulary, make thoughtful word choices and develop their creativity as young poets. We have loved seeing their unique ideas come to life through these short, powerful and playful poems!





LUDLOW JUNIOR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER YEAR 4

History- Roman Day

We have really enjoyed celebrating our Roman topic with a whole day dedicated to Roman activities! We started with a fashion show where children had the opportunity to strut their stuff and show off their costumes and props! Thank you so much for the support given to getting costumes ready and props made. The children looked fantastic! After the fashion parade, we did some Roman art: colouring shields or drawing a Roman soldier step-by-step. They looked amazing! In maths, we learnt about Roman numerals and used our knowledge to crack a Roman themed joke! Some of us also completed colour by Roman numeral pictures. We finished the day with Roman invasion games where the children learnt about how the Roman Empire grew by conquering other lands. What an exciting way to celebrate such an interesting and important topic.











Maths - Numbersense and 3 x tables

In maths, we are having a big push on times tables. We have been continuing our learning from year 3 with Numbersense and are well into the 3x table unit. Children are also practising on ipads so that they can answer questions quickly. If you're child isn't confident with a timer, on Times Table Rockstars you can hide it. This is a great idea whilst they are still learning their facts. At home, children could try TTRS, or timestables.co.uk where you can select the tables your child is working (1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 11. https://www.timestables.co.uk/speed-test/ Thank you for your support.

Number Sense Maths



LUDLOW JUNIOR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER YEAR 5

✍️ English – Becoming Young Journalists

Inspired by the thrilling spy novel Stormbreaker, the children have stepped into the role of journalists, writing their own newspaper reports. They have also been developing their creative writing skills by crafting exciting narratives based on the story.

We are particularly proud of the improvements in the children's handwriting and presentation. It is wonderful to see them taking such care and pride in their work!

🚀 Science – Our Amazing Universe

Science has been out of this world! This term, the children have explored space and our solar system, discovering more about the planets and the wonders of the universe.

We were incredibly lucky to welcome astronomers from the University of Southampton, who answered the children's brilliant questions. The excitement continued as the children stepped inside an inflatable planetarium set up in our school hall for a truly immersive experience!

Our trip to Winchester Science Centre was another highlight. The children explored fascinating exhibits and showed fantastic curiosity throughout the day. They were also praised for their excellent behaviour, making us incredibly proud. It was a real pleasure to take such a wonderful group of children on this memorable trip!

🎵 Music – Strumming Along!

The children have begun learning to play the ukulele and have thoroughly enjoyed trying out a new instrument. They have been developing their musical skills, building confidence and having lots of fun making music together. We look forward to hearing how their playing progresses!

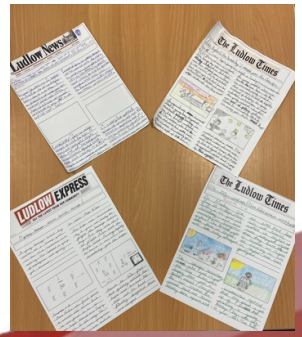
🌎 Geography – Exploring the Western United States

In geography, the children have been discovering the western United States and learning about its impressive physical features, including rivers, mountains and coastlines. They have compared these landscapes with those found in the south of the UK, identifying similarities and differences between the two regions.

The children have enjoyed broadening their geographical knowledge and discovering more about the world beyond their own local area.







LUDLOW JUNIOR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER YEAR 6

YEAR 6 ART – GIACOMETTI





This half term, Year 6 have been exploring the work of artist and sculptor Alberto Giacometti. They have researched his distinctive style, investigated his techniques and explored how he captures character and form in his sculptures. Inspired by his work, the children have used their creativity and sculpting skills to design and create their own clay busts, developing their understanding of shape, texture and form along the way. We have been very impressed with their creativity and the unique sculptures they have produced!

YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL – MANOR ADVENTURE




Year 6 had a fantastic time on their residential trip to Manor Adventure! The children took part in a range of exciting activities, including the giant swing and rock climbing, challenging themselves to step outside their comfort zones and try new experiences. Throughout the trip, they developed valuable life skills such as teamwork, communication, resilience and problem-solving. It was wonderful to see the children supporting and encouraging one another, building confidence and making lasting memories together.

LUDLOW JUNIOR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER YEAR 6

YEAR 6 HISTORY – WORLD WAR 2



This half term, Year 6 have been learning about World War II and exploring how the war affected Britain and its people. They have discovered what life was like on the home front, including the impact of rationing, evacuation and the Blitz. Through their learning, the children have developed a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by families and communities during wartime and how the conflict shaped Britain's history.