

Welcome to the 2023-2024 'Our School Year'

Dear Parents, Children and Friends,

I know that I say this every year, but I honestly cannot believe how quickly this year has flown by and that it's time to put together another 'Our School Year' booklet.

We continue to place a high focus on children's wellbeing and always strive to achieve our school ethos of '*Building a lifelong love of learning in a safe and happy school*'. I am extremely grateful and overwhelmed by the commitment of all of the staff at Loughton Manor who work tirelessly to plan and deliver a creative curriculum which encourages a thirst and a joy for learning, and this is evident from the ways in which children are able to talk about their learning experiences within school. I would like to thank parents for the ongoing support and commitment you show in supporting your child and the school. Helping your children to develop and to be the best they can be is our mutual role and working together to achieve this is vital. Our Governors continue to be extremely hard-working and supportive, volunteering their time to work with us. The Friends of Loughton Manor First School continue to do a fantastic job in organising fun events for the children whilst raising money to support the school. This enables us to subsidise trips and buy those lovely extras that make the school a fun place to be.

We have continued to hold our usual events in school this year: Nativities, the Family Carol Concert, Year Two Music Concerts, the Year Two Singing Festival, and special visitors to assemblies, as well as trips and visits. We have also held our popular reading events, FS2 Books in the Woods, and Books for Breakfast, which were extremely well-attended. In June we had our 'Men Behaving Dadly' week, with many dads, grandads, uncles and other important men in the children's lives coming into school to do minibeasts stone painting and also to spend some time playing games with their child. We are intending to use the stones to create an installation in our car park area.

Just as we thought we were winding down to the summer holidays, we had the extremely overdue phone call to announce that our Ofsted inspection would take place. Unfortunately, due to the timings, we are unlikely to receive the final report until we return in September; but the strong community within which we work was evident throughout the process. We had wonderful messages of support from parents, and staff from other schools—and the parent surveys were overwhelmingly positive, so we thank you for taking the time to complete these. It was really lovely that the inspectors arrived just as Books for Breakfast was starting, and they commented on how well-attended and supported it was by families. I was able to tell them that this is indicative of all of our events.

Teacher training is something we are still committed to, and I would like to say huge congratulations to Yasmin Echcharki who trained with us this year in Lions' Class. I am pleased to say that she has achieved her QTS (Qualified Teacher Status), and whilst she will not be working at Loughton Manor next year, I am happy to confirm that she will be working with other children within our city. We look forward to welcoming two new teacher trainees in September.

To all of our Year Two children, we hope you settle quickly and happily into your new schools and we wish you success in Year Three. We hope that you continue to love learning, and we look forward to hearing how you're getting on. For everyone else, we wish you a fantastic summer break and look forward to seeing you all in September.

Best wishes,

Daniela Thompson, Headteacher



Letter from the Chair of Governors, Paul Hussey

I hope you enjoy this celebration of a successful and enjoyable year for everyone involved with Loughton Manor First School. The talents and enthusiasms of the children are showcased in these pages and paint a picture of the wide-ranging activities and learning experiences available to the children here.

I always enjoy my visits to school. Several times a year I speak with a small group of children from each year group about how they feel coming to school. I find out what they know about being safe in school and staying safe online and what being a good friend is all about. Their confidence and knowledge about these and many more aspects of school life is commendable and reassuring. We are bringing up children ready to enjoy the challenges and excitement of our world.

I say 'we' because, of course, the school is a wide community and depends for its success on many contributors – parents, grandparents, school staff, Governors, visiting specialist staff and members of the wider Milton Keynes area. These people bring their skills and spend their time to make the school a positive place where children can grow and learn successfully.

I am always impressed to hear about the role the school plays in supporting families who might be going through a bit of a tough time. It's as a result of the generosity of so many of you that this can happen, from donations of food and uniform to supporting fundraising events, your contributions are valued and appreciated.

My thanks go to the staff at LMFS who work hard for the children under the guidance of Daniela Thompson, Headteacher, and Assistant Heads Lucy Lock and Gemma Kinsella. All the adults at LMFS model and demonstrate the positive relationships that make the school a welcoming and enjoyable place to be. My thanks also go to the members of the Governing Body who volunteer their time to ensure children are supported to do their very best, to see that every child's needs are met and to help Daniela and the team to squeeze a quart from the pint pot of funding available.

From the Governors and myself, we wish everyone in the LMFS community a warm and enjoyable summer break. This booklet exemplifies what a special place Loughton Manor First School is and I hope you enjoy looking through it!

Paul Hussey

Who are the Governors and what do we do?

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 Governors:

Paul Hussey

Co-opted Governors:

Sue Tapley
Lizzie Bancroft
Rosie Crook
Jude Allan
Nick Smith

Parent Governors:

Anna Hawken
Dinuka De Silva
Chris Cadman

Associate Members:

Les Piascik
Gemma Kinsella
Lucy Lock

Headteacher:

Daniela Thompson

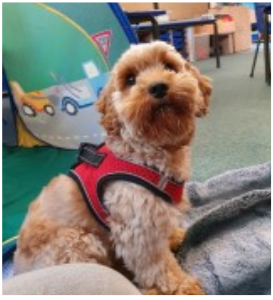
Staff Governor: Rachel Davidge

Clerk to Governors:

Dana Ciripan

Local Authority Governor:

vacant



Our Reading Dog

Bertie visited us on a weekly basis up until the Easter holidays this year, when his owner's commitments meant that they could no longer come. Bertie has loved meeting most of the Year 1 and 2 children, and hearing them read their Monster Phonics books. The children love having a Reading Dog and it can make a real difference to their reading confidence. We're on the lookout for a new reading dog, and hope to have good news soon!



FS2 Books in the Woods:

In May it was Zebras' and Tigers' turn for their special reading event. They had Books in the Woods after school and it was lovely to see so many families spending time together sharing books.

Books for Breakfast:

This very popular event was back again in July. We invited families for breakfast and to share a book with their child. Children were asked to bring along a book to donate on the day, and then choose a book to take home in exchange.

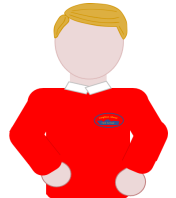


I liked going to the school library this year because I like reading books.

I loved when we found the 'Reading Bears' at Forest School and we get to take them home.



I like going to Forest School so I can climb up a tree and balance on a branch.



I like playing in the water outside and in the Mud Kitchen!



I like Monster Phonics, Wake and Shake and playing outside on the bikes.

Book Looks and Reading Consultations: We introduced these opportunities to come into school and see your child's school books—every half term when there is not a Parent Consultation. This was one of the outcomes of the parent questionnaires that we have tried to address, and the children were so happy and proud to show what they had been learning. FS2 parents were also invited to come into school to watch their child's teacher reading 1:1 with their child. We had some really positive feedback from parents and the teachers have said how this had such a positive impact on the amount of home reading practice children were doing after this.

Expressive Arts Week

Take One Picture...

Every year we take part in The National Gallery's 'Take One Picture' initiative. This year the painting was called 'The Courtyard of a House in Delft' by Pieter de Hooch. The children worked extremely hard to create some beautiful masterpieces, which parents and carers were invited to see at our Art Exhibition.

Year Two: Children created their own interpretation of a small section of the picture we chose together, using mixed media. Each child wrote a shape poem based on the soundscape of the painting, describing what they could hear. As a year group we created a sculpture of the archway featured in the painting. Each child painted a brick and we used a pool noodle to create our own archway! The children also used tools to carve out a pattern on a polystyrene tile and rolled paint on this to print several bricks to add to our collaborative wall.



Year One: We found the old walls and brick patterns really interesting in the painting, so we made our own 2D and 3D bricks. To make the 2D bricks, we first drew the straight horizontal and vertical lines, then used chalk pastel shading techniques to give the bricks a textured look. To make our 3D bricks, we painted small cuboid boxes, then used contrasting colours in the style of Kandinsky to make a modern effect. We then arranged our boxes into a real wall for the whole school exhibition. One of our top favourite parts of Expressive Arts Week was called The Secret Room. We used shoe boxes and a wide range of materials and media to create our own room, complete with miniature figures!

Foundation Stage: The children produced some wonderful work, including every child producing a stick person, handprint, a clay leaf and a reproduction of the painting. In Zebras and Tigers the children went for a local walk to see lots of different doorways and arches and then created artwork based on these. We then displayed the wonderful work produced by the children in our whole school art exhibition, which the parents then had the opportunity to view. We had many positive comments from the parents, who were amazed by the standard of work produced.



Extra special thanks went to Mrs Holland— even though she retired at Christmas, she helped to create a large scale version of the painting with groups of children, which was displayed in the hall.

So Much Fun at School...

"I liked getting to play with my Daddy in my school on Dad's day and when we did a café!"

"I like the caterpillars and when they went to a cocoon and then hatched to butterflies."

"I love PE, Maths Phonics, 'Wake and Shake' and going on the bikes."

Whole School Events



One World Week

During One World Week we celebrated the diversity within our community. The children moved around the school, taking part in a variety of activities linked to different countries.



I liked doing One World Week and making a Mexican plate.



Christmas: This is always a very busy and exciting time of year. The Monkeys put on a beautiful performance of their Christmas songs, and the Tigers' and Zebras' Nativities were as delightful as always! Each year group had a party, and we loved welcoming our regular Christmas entertainer, Colonel Custard. Once again we were able to come together as a school with all our families as well, at our Family Carol Concert at Christ the Cornerstone Church—it's such a lovely way to celebrate our community in this special season.



MK Lightning Assembly

We were extremely lucky that players from MK Lightning joined us for our assembly time. They spoke to the children about ice hockey, being part of a team and the excitement of the sport. Families were also able to buy discounted tickets to attend a game along with their children.



I loved when my Daddy came to school and painted rocks.



Men Behaving Dadly

In June we had our 'Men Behaving Dadly' week. We had so many dads, grandads, uncles and other important men in the children's lives coming into school, where they joined their child to paint rocks with pictures of minibeasts, and to spend some time playing games with their child. Our beautiful collection of finished stones will be used to create an installation in our car park area.

What I Liked About Hippos and Elephants



Milton Keynes Central Library

In the Autumn Term, Year 2 children walked to Milton Keynes Central library. By the end of our time at the library, every child had a library card and a library book to take home! The children loved exploring all of the different book options and listened intently when finding out how many books there actually are in Milton Keynes libraries that they are able to borrow! We do hope that the children have continued to use their library cards.



I liked reading different books in English lessons.

Design Technology (DT):

During our DT topic on 'Perfect Pizzas', children learnt all about a healthy diet. We researched different bread bases and pizza toppings, deciding on the best base and the most tasty toppings. Following on from this, we designed, made and evaluated our very own tasty pizza. Each one was very individual and the children loved making them.

I liked making pizzas as mine looked just like my plan.



Tring Natural History Museum Trip

We were so excited for our trip to Tring. We walked through Tring Park, trying to spot the different habitats and then spent the day exploring the museum. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day, with so many saying how amazing all the animals were! They asked lots of pertinent questions and were brilliant at sharing their knowledge with others.

Our Performance: Tadpole Rag and Caterpillar Boogie

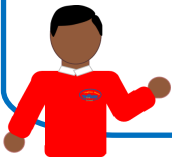
The children were absolutely amazing and thoroughly enjoyed performing their show for their families on the big stage at Denbigh School.



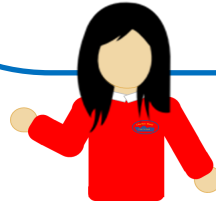
I enjoyed all of our school trips, and I loved our Year 2 performance at Denbigh School.

What I Liked About Hippos and Elephants

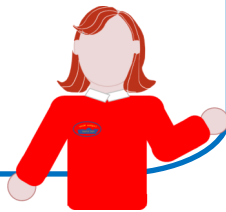
I liked Expressive Arts Week because I loved the painting.



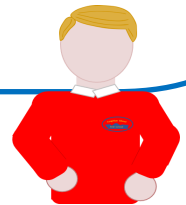
My favourite thing in Year 2 was learning about London and all its landmarks.



I enjoyed it when we did our Aboriginal art and I created an animal using dots.



In PE I really loved doing running races.



In Geography I liked learning about all the oceans and continents.



I liked finding out about stuff I didn't know when I visited Tring Museum.



I liked handwriting because we learnt how to do letters neatly.



What I Liked About Giraffes and Lions

Toymaker Visit

Our day with the Toymaker started with an introduction to lots of different toys from the past. Children thoroughly enjoyed learning all about how different toys can be pulled, pushed, squeezed and rolled. In the afternoon, every child got to design and make their own toy to take home. We're sure they will remember that day for years to come!



I liked the Toymaker because we got to make something and my dad is really creative.

I like English because we've been learning about Julian is a Mermaid and we designed our own mermaid costumes.



I liked visiting the Church because we got to learn all about it and we rang the bells. We got to see the little figures of baby Jesus and Mary.



Whipsnade Zoo

In the summer term we have been learning about 'Animals including Humans' in Science. We loved visiting Whipsnade Zoo and particularly in enjoyed our workshop: Katie the Zookeeper was really impressed that we knew so much about mammals, reptiles, fish, birds and amphibians!

I liked Whipsnade Zoo because I liked seeing the poison dart frog and the giant tarantula.



I liked doing the show because I liked doing the skeleton rock dance, and everyone was happy.



Our Performance: Skellybones

We went to the big theatre at Denbigh School for our Year 1 performance. We sang, danced and spoke really well, and our grown ups and teachers thought we were absolutely amazing!

I liked making my salad and eating it in DT.



I enjoyed the Science learning because I learnt about the different animal groups.



What I liked in Year 1 is that I got to make new friends.



What I Liked About Tigers, Zebras and Monkeys

What a wonderful year we have had in Loughton Manor Foundation Stage! It has been fun-filled and action packed! All the children settled in quickly, facing the challenges of a new setting quickly and with enthusiasm. We started the year with transition, welcoming many families, new and old. After a week of home visits, the Monkey children began their visits, first with their parents, then alone. In Zebras and Tigers, we start the year with our curriculum workshop, where the children and their parent visit a number of activities, to show how some areas of the curriculum are taught. A small number of the Zebras and Tigers started each day until they are all in at the end of the first week. Every year the staff are amazed by the children's resilience as they explore new surroundings and new faces.

Autumn Term: Our first topic of the year was 'All About Me' where the children became familiar with each other, learnt about each other's families, made new friends and we celebrated their similarities and differences. At the beginning of October we had our whole school One World Week. The Monkeys learnt about landmarks around Milton Keynes and the children talked about their families and homes. Zebras and Tigers made lanterns and fans when learning about Chinese New Year. We had our first Cookathon of the Year when all the Zebras and Tigers made their own delicious gingerbread men. The second half term was busy as usual with our Christmas activities starting early. The children loved visiting the Friends Christmas Shop where many of them chose gifts for their families. We celebrated books with our annual Christmas book week when our focus was the story, *The Snowman*, written by Raymond Briggs. The children in Monkeys used their thumbs to print snowmen, adding



Spring Term: The children took part in lots of fun learning and some special whole school weeks in the spring term. The children from Zebras and Tigers walked to our local Sainsbury's where they bought ingredients to make their own vegetable soup. All children in the Foundation Stage then peeled and chopped the vegetables which we blended to make soup to eat at snack time. The staff were amazed how many children tasted and enjoyed the soup. In the Spring the children also took part in activities relating to the topic of seasons, including all classes going on a spring walk to look for signs of spring. One of the terms topics was 'Real-Life Superheroes' where we learnt about the many important people in our community and had visits from a dentist and a train driver. In Spring 2 every child in Zebras and Tigers had the opportunity to learn to ride a two wheeled bike with instructors from Bikeability on their playground. Even the children who didn't manage to ride completely independently were taught the skills they need. We enjoyed the national World Book Day where children came dressed as a book character and shared their favourite book from home with their class mates. In Zebras and Tigers the children took it in turns to take home the story bears, taking them home to read them a bedtime story. In this very busy half term the Zebras and Tigers also performed songs and poems for their mothers at our Mother's Day assembly. There wasn't a dry eye in the house!!

Summer Term: In the summer term we started with the topic, *On the Move*, learning about different types of transport. The Monkeys children walked up to the local zebras crossing, where they learnt to cross the road safely. The children thoroughly enjoyed our annual Pirate Day. They dressed up as pirates, walked the plank and wrote a message in a bottle. During the term the children welcomed their families into school for some fun events. In the second half of the term we had our fun 'Men Behaving Dadly' event, where dads, granddads and uncles came into school to take part in activities with their children. Together they painted stones to go into our car park area and visited Forest School and took part in mindful colouring. Zebras and Tigers opened up their own Wild Café, where they prepared refreshments for their visiting families. The children took on the role as the waiting staff and served drinks and homemade fruit salad. At the end of the term the children enjoyed exciting trips. The Monkeys spent a day exploring Thrift Farm and enjoying their play facilities. Zebras and Tigers explored their local area where they enjoyed sessions with The Parks Trust, and enjoyed a visit from an ice cream van! It has been lovely to see the children grow in confidence and make amazing progress throughout the year. We hope you all have a wonderful summer and wish them all good luck next year.

"I like helping 'Silly Puppet' count carefully in Maths. I also liked making my gingerbread biscuit."

Breakfast and After School Club: The Daycare Team

WOW! It's been another amazing year in Breakfast Club and After School Club. Our popularity grew and we were able to accept more children this past year, and took on extra staff to accommodate the growing numbers. It has been so nice to welcome the new faces and to watch all the children having fun with each other, playing and laughing together and making lots of new friends.

Meal times have been great with the children. We always try to offer a meal that is healthy and filling to the children. The macaroni cheese and tomato pasta are still as popular as ever and according to some of the children it's the best around! The children are quite partial to the odd cocktail to drink at mealtimes (it's just a mixture of both orange and blackcurrant squash), as well as the milkshake that is available at the start of After School Club.



We've had so much fun playing and have done lots of things including: playing indoors and outdoors (weather permitting) using both the front and back playgrounds, puzzles and games, gardening, using the outdoor play equipment and outdoor musical instruments and stage area, dancing and games in the hall, arts and crafts, story time and playing with some of the toys we have been lucky enough to acquire.

We hope all the children have had a wonderful time in Breakfast Club and After School club this past year, and we would like to wish all our Year 2's who are leaving the school all the best in Year 3: we will miss them lots. And we are looking forward to meeting all the new children who will be joining us in September.

We hope you all have lovely summer break and look forward to seeing you all again in September.

The Daycare Team



I love After School Club because we always do fun activities that we don't do in school time, and we eat yummy food too!



Friends of Loughton Manor First School (FLMFS)

Friends of Loughton Manor First School (FLMFS) is a registered Charity, run by parents on a voluntary basis to raise money for Loughton Manor First School.

It is our mission to provide fun and memorable events, which also raise money to enhance the school life and experiences for every pupil.

So far this year, we have raised just over £9,500.

Our key fundraising events from this School year were the Halloween Disco, Break The Rules Day, Christmas Shop / Cake Sale, Krispy Kreme Doughnut Sale, the Spring Disco and the May Fayre.

May Fayre

It was lovely to see so many children and their families at this year's May Fayre, which is obviously our biggest fundraising event. We were extremely lucky with the wonderful weather and the event was a huge success. We hope you enjoyed it!

A massive thank you to everyone who sold raffle tickets, organised raffle prizes, donated items, helped set up, manned a stall or stayed behind to clear up. Thank you also to everyone who came along to spend their hard-earned cash!

Special thanks also to our May Fayre Sponsor and to those parents who used their Matched Funding from their employers to support our event—this money makes a massive difference.

How we've supported LMFS

This school year, as usual FLMFS provided a Christmas gift and paid for the children's Christmas parties. We also subsidised the cost of the main school trip for each year group, and purchased dictionaries for the Year 2 children who will be leaving us this year.

In addition, FLMFS purchased new equipment to improve the Foundation Stage outdoor play area. We also funded the materials for the 'Men Behaving Dadly' event, which was a huge success.

The Committee

Some of our Committee Members will be standing down at the end of the school year, as their children head off to Middle School. So, as always we will be looking for new members to join us when we have our AGM at the start of the new school year in September. If you would like to find out more about the work that we do, and make some new friends, then please get in touch.

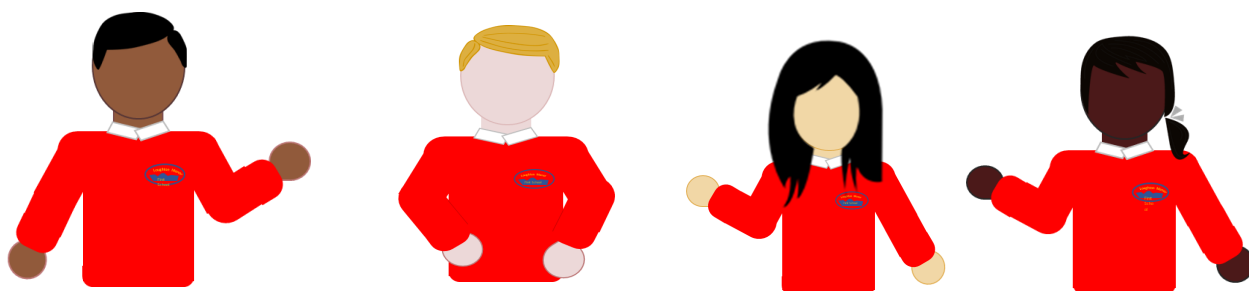
Email: friendsofloughtonmanor@gmail.com

Facebook: [LoughtonManor1stSchoolParents](https://www.facebook.com/LoughtonManor1stSchoolParents)

Website: friendsofloughtonmanor.co.uk



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



Loughton Manor First School

Paynes Drive

Loughton

Milton Keynes

MK5 8FA

