



# LLS News

13/02/2026



Dear families

This week is Children's Mental Health Week. Students have enjoyed activities including Sound Bath sessions. Thank you to everyone who has dressed in pyjamas or comfortable clothes today and for all of your donations for the children's mental health charity Place2Be. If you would still like to make a donation please click on the link: [https://www.justgiving.com/page/linden-lodge-school-6?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/linden-lodge-school-6?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)

We would like to remind you that the link for the Childnet Online Safety training session for parents and carers is still live.

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 10am - 12pm, we will be hosting a Transition Information Sharing Event for parents and carers in the Isobel Centre. Our speakers will be Nick Podmore, National Star & members of the Thomas Pocklington Trust Transition Team.

In addition to the half term break next week the school will be closed for an INSET day on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February and will reopen at 8.50am on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

Have a lovely weekend and half term break.

**World Book Day** takes place this year on **Thursday 5th March**. Pupils and staff are invited to dress up as their favourite book characters.

Please check home-school diaries today for your child's £1 book token. These can be exchanged for this year's World Book Day titles or be used for £1 off your preferred title.

If you do not receive your book token please contact your child's class teacher.

This year's book titles can be found here:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>

## Star of the Week

**Mariyam** for focusing hard during math's and literacy activities with different adults in class.



**Leyla** for trying lots of new foods during snack group!

## Events and dates to remember



### Spring Term Dates

**Monday 16th February 2026 - Friday 20th February 2026**  
Half-Term Holiday

**Monday 23rd February 2026**  
Inset Day 4 (no students)

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 10am-12pm**  
Transition Information Sharing Event in the Isobel Centre  
Speakers: Nick Podmore, National Star & members of the Thomas Pocklington Trust Transition Team

**Friday 27th March 2026**  
Last day of term for students

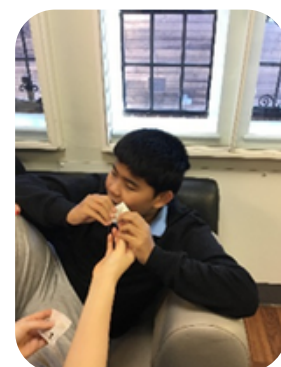
## Learning@Linden Lodge

### Secondary Department

Last week Kalimba participated in sensory story 'Nature in Italy' Students visited Italy and explored semolina fields in Tuscany. They explored the sounds of the growing semolina and chirping birds. Students explored then the texture of semolina with their hands followed by exploring it further with their other senses.



Oboe class have been having lots of fun learning in story time / library visits, tea & chat and food technology lessons. The pupils have been developing their social skills and independent life skills. Well done to all the pupils and to the staff team for supporting our learners.



## Learning@Linden Lodge

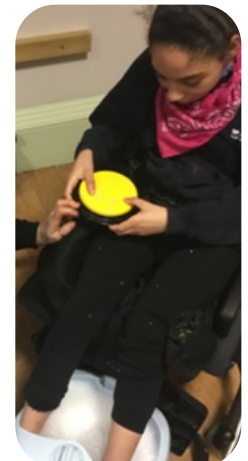
### Secondary Department

The pupils in Piano class have been enjoying their weekly snack/communication group. We have been focusing on developing our communication skills such as anticipation, requesting more/finished, expressing likes/dislikes and choosing, using a Total Communication Approach.

The pupils have explored: chocolate buttons, meringues, prawn crackers, sponge fingers, waffles, wotsits and yoghurt. We have also been working on self-feeding/drinking, washing our hands and wiping our mouth!



In Clarinet class we have been engaging in reading in the library helping to turn pages and actively listening and answering questions about books.



We have been enjoying developing our switching skills to use a foot spa and to greet our peers...



... and refining our fine motor skills using suction toys to practice pushing and pulling.



## Learning@Linden Lodge

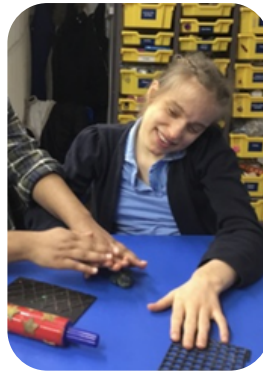
Using Eye Gaze and symbols to make choices.



Learning to be independent by peeling our own banana for snack time. And getting fruit for our peers to enjoy.



Exploring different textures in art.

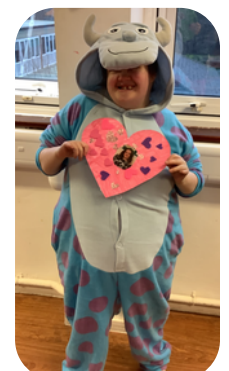


## Children's Mental Health Week

Students and staff enjoying a Sound Bath



Pyjama Day in Sixth Form



Residential



Young people at Residential and After School Club came together to celebrate friendships at a fun Valentine's Ball.

We laughed, danced and sang together.

Some young people got creative, making card for family and friends.





LOVE



# FOOD TECH MOCK EXAMS

Students did fantastic planning for their recipes, cooking and presenting their delicious creations. Super job!



Chocolate cake



Pepperoni Pizza



Thai salad and Mie Goreng



Pizza and Lemon cheesecake



Spaghetti Bolognese and Apple/Rhubarb crumble



Grilled chicken and vegetable kebabs/potato wedges and Sweet potato brownies



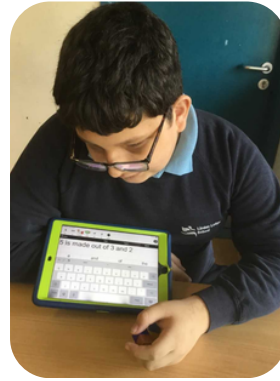
Minerva students made spring rolls to celebrate the upcoming Chinese New Year.



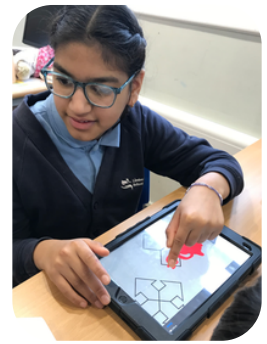
# Learning@Linden Lodge

## Maths

Monday 9th February marked the NSPCC's Number Day. In celebration of this day, we are sharing some photographs of our recent work in Maths.



Students in Minerva worked on fractions and dividing a whole into different parts.



## Learning@Linden Lodge

Last week some of the students in Sixth Form represented Linden Lodge at a Table Cricket competition at the KIA Oval in Kennington. We had a great time out and got to play against different schools in London.



## Jack Petchey Awards Ceremony



Congratulations to our winners who received their awards at the recent Jack Petchey Award Ceremony

## Fabulous Fundraisers!

Our fabulous fundraisers are running and raising funds again this year! Adrienne and Emma will be running 100km each in the month of February to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH). Their fundraising target is £800 in total so they need all the support they can get!

Please click on the link if you would like to make a donation for GOSH:

<https://fundraise.gosh.org/fundraisers/lindenlodge/gerunners>












## Therapy Top Tips: Fine Motor skills at home

For fine motor activities, remember the following:

1. Positioning is important. Using our hands in a more refined way requires a very stable trunk. Ensure feet are flat on the floor and supportive seating is used if required.
2. Start with sensory prep. We need to be regulated and ready to learn, to develop skills with our hands. Try doing some big body movements like swinging, animal walks, bouncing, jumping or dancing to music. Followed by some resistance work like carrying something heavy, big hugs, massage, blowing bubbles/ pinwheel or wall push-ups.
3. Introduce one task at a time and keep it short. Too many items and activities may be overwhelming. Using our hands in more complex ways can be tiring, make sure to keep the tasks short initially and slowly build up the amount of time.

Try some of the following household tasks that can work on fine motor skills:

For those who are using their hands to explore:	For those who are using their hands to manipulate items:
<p><b>Messy play-</b> You can use anything you have at home to explore like flour, icing sugar, pasta, scarves, kitchen foil, jelly, water tray with bubble bath etc. Help them bring their hands together to feel the substance between their hands and fingers. Monitor carefully for putting items in their mouth.</p>  <p><b>Homemade shaker-</b> Try make a shaker with a reused plastic bottle. Try hold it, shake it, roll it, knock it over etc.</p>  <p><b>Posting-</b> Try pulling items out or putting items into a container.</p>  <p><b>Tablet games-</b> try cause and effect games on a tablet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fluidity by nebulous design iOS and Android</li> <li>• Ratatap Drums by mode of expression, LLC iOS</li> <li>• Xylophone by Piikea St. LLC iOS</li> </ul> 	<p><b>Hang up the washing:</b> Squeeze pegs between the thumb, index and middle fingers to put them onto a washing line. Start with putting them on a container edge if this is too tricky.</p>   <p><b>Peeling fruit:</b> Use your fingers to peel fruits at snack time, try banana, mandarin, oranges, lychees etc.</p>  <p><b>Spray the plants:</b> Use a spray bottle to squirt water at plants or the counter when cleaning.</p> <p><b>Open and close containers:</b> Practice screwing on the lids to different size containers using both hands.</p> <p><b>Chalk:</b> Use large chalk on the sidewalk or outdoor wall to draw pictures or write your name.</p>   



## Vis à Vis: Building a Community for Children with Visual Impairment and Their Families

In January 2026, a new community-based group, Vis à Vis, held its first monthly meeting, marking the start of an initiative designed to bring together children with visual impairment (VI), their families, and professionals in a supportive and collaborative environment.

Vis à Vis has been established by The Acorn Practice, Twickenham, in partnership with its Patient Participation Group (PPG). The idea for the group emerged in February 2025, when a PPG member, who is also the parent of a child with a visual impairment, highlighted the potential benefits of creating a regular, local space for VI children and their families to connect, share experiences, and access practical support.

### 💡 From Idea to Action 📅

Following this suggestion, significant groundwork was undertaken to explore need, shape the group's purpose, and build meaningful links with key stakeholders. This included engagement with national and local organisations, education and health professionals, and local services supporting children with visual impairment and their families. These conversations helped to confirm both the demand for such a group and the value of a community-based, family-centred approach.

The result is Vis à Vis: a welcoming forum where families can meet regularly, children can build confidence and friendships, and information can be shared in an accessible and supportive way.

### 👥 The First Meeting 🗨️

The inaugural meeting in January 2026 was attended by several children and families, alongside other interested parties. Feedback from attendees highlighted how valuable it was simply to meet others with shared experiences in a relaxed, informal setting.

A guest speaker Anna Newson, Manager of Educational Services for Sensory Impairments (ESSI) spoke about Braille, alongside sharing a powerful personal family story about growing up with a father who was blind. This combination of practical insight and lived experience sparked thoughtful discussion and resonated strongly with both parents and professionals present.

### 🗨️ Looking Ahead 🗨️

Vis à Vis will continue to meet monthly, with future sessions planned to include speakers and discussions on topics such as:

- Independent living skills
- Building confidence and resilience
- Supporting transitions at school and beyond
- Access to local and national resources (additional topics to be confirmed)

The aim is for each meeting to balance information, shared experience, and peer support, ensuring that families feel informed, empowered, and less isolated.

### ❓ Why Vis à Vis Matters !

For children with visual impairment and their families, access to peer networks can be transformative. Vis à Vis provides a space not only for learning, but for connection — helping families realise they are not alone, and giving children opportunities to meet others who understand their experiences.

For professionals and local organisations, the group offers a valuable point of engagement with families, supporting joined-up working across health, education, and community services.

### 👤 Getting Involved ❤️

Vis à Vis welcomes:

- Children and young people with visual impairment
- Parents and carers
- Professionals working in health, education, and social care
- Local organisations with an interest in visual impairment

Further details about upcoming meetings, speakers, and how to get involved will be shared locally.

Vis à Vis is still at an early stage, but its beginnings reflect the power of listening to lived experience and working collaboratively to create meaningful community support.

The Acorn Group Practice

📅 Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month 6-7pm 📍 29-31 Holly Road, Twickenham, TW1 4EA  
✉ [visavistwinfo@gmail.com](mailto:visavistwinfo@gmail.com) 🌐 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/137678113746657>



**The Acorn Group Practice  
Patient Participation Group**

**Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of  
the month**

**Families together  
for our VI children**

**WHEN**

**6-7pm - Tue 10<sup>th</sup> Feb, Tue 10<sup>th</sup> Mar, Tue 14<sup>th</sup> Apr 2026**

**WHERE**

**Acorn Group Practice, 29-35 Holly Road,  
Twickenham, TW1 4EA**

**AGENDA**

6:00-6:10pm: Welcome & Social Time  
6:10-6:20pm: Community Spotlight  
6:20-6:40pm: Main Topic or Guest Speaker  
6:40-6:55pm: Group Announcements & Resource Sharing  
6:55-7:00pm: Wrap-up & Closing

**SUPPORTED  
BY:**



**Guide  
Dogs**



**achieving  
for children**

**CONTACT**

**visavisinfotw@gmail.com**



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Children & Guide Dogs welcome