Linden Lodge School
Provider of specialist education since 1903

LLS News

10/07/2026

Dear families

You will be receiving your child/young person's end of year report today. If you have any questions please speak to your class teacher.

After School Club has finished for this year. The After School Team look forward to welcoming everyone back after the summer break.

The C@LL Summer Event takes place on Sunday 12th July. Please come and join in the fun, starting at 10.30am if you would like to join a walk to Wimbledon Common. The BBQ will be served from 12.30pm and there will be outdoor activities and a steel band to entertain everyone.

We would like to remind you that school finishes for the summer break on Thursday 16th July at 1.30pm. School reopens for students on Friday 4th September at 8.50am.

Have a lovely weekend

Star of the Week

Harry for completing all his personal care routine with minimal support.

James for his independence in going away on a camping trip, being happy in a new environment.

Amarah for being able to join a residential camping trip, exploring her surroundings and being happy.

Drew for being happy on the residential camping trip, coping well in a new environment and engaging with new people.

Aisha for her being responsible independent and showing others what to do on the trip to woodlarks.

Phoebe for being happy, settled and engaging with new friends in residential.

Events and dates to remember

Summer Term Dates

Last day for students
Thursday 16th July 2026. School finishes at 1.30pm

Planning and Preparation Days
Friday 17th July 2026 & Monday 20th July 2026

INSET Days
Wednesday 2nd September & Thursday 3rd September 2026

School reopens for students
Friday 4th September 2026 at 8.50am

Please remember that Linden Lodge is a nut free school

www.lindenlodge.org.uk T: 0208 788 0107 @lindenlodgesch

Enabling Nurturing Succeeding

Therapy@Linden Lodge

TOP TIPS FOR PLAY AND CONNECTION

Play is an occupation a child or young person chooses to do for fun, enjoyment or amusement, following their own ideas and interests (RCOT, 2023).

Play is:

- For every age
- Fun and enjoyable
- Motivated by the individual
- About exploration and discovery
- A way to connect with others
- A right every child has

Emotional Wellbeing

Play helps children:

- Experience pleasure and enjoyment
- Reduce stress
- Build self-confidence and sense of identity
- Feel successful
- Develop emotional regulation skills

Relationships

Play supports:

- Connection with others
- Building trust
- Shared experiences
- Development of social interaction

Functional and life skills

Play helps children:

- Explore their environment
- Develop sensory and body awareness
- Build independence
- Develop problem solving skills
- Build on movement patterns
- Develop their communication skills

Play and social connection should start with regulation, spend time supporting the child or young person to feel safe. This may include finding a more quiet space, a familiar toy, a preferred song or a movement break.

DAILY CONNECTION ACTIVITY

5-10 minutes of child-led interaction / play focusing on emotional connection while developing autonomy and confidence.

- Ways to engage in play while allowing it to remain child-led:
  - Follow instructions
  - Imitate sounds or actions i.e. tapping drum in same sequence
  - Describe actions i.e. 'you threw the ball really far' / 'the tower fell down'
  - Limit opinions and demands i.e. 'I like …' or 'X first'
  - Allow for 'failing' – focus on the experience, not the end product
  - Do not offer rewards for engaging in an activity as play will no longer be self-motivated
- This time will provide the child/young person to develop their sense of autonomy and confidence while also connecting with others and developing trusting relationships.
- Ideas – musical instruments, blocks, peanut ball, trampoline, cooking familiar recipes, people games, water play, ball games, imaginative play (dolls, shops), playdough, food play, arts and crafts

Transitioning to adulthood

Money, Money, Money

This week it's a bumper edition as we focus on encouraging independence, accessible banking, and benefits.

Encouraging independence

- It is possible to identify all UK coins and notes without vision. Let your child explore real coins and bank notes, starting with just two different coins and encourage them to explore the difference between the two. Some of identifying features include:

o 1p and 2p coins have smooth round edges. They are copper in colour. The 2p coin is bigger than the 1p coin.
o 5p and 10p coins have ridged edges which can be felt by running a fingernail around the edge. They are silver. The 10p coin is bigger than the 5p coin.
o 20p and 50p coins have seven sides and are distinctively shaped. Their edges are smooth and they are silver in colour. The 50p coin is larger than the 20p coin.
o £1 coins are thicker. They have twelve sides, some of which are ridged. The middle is silver and the outer ring is gold.
o £2 coins are the heaviest and feel thicker. They are similar to a 50p in size, but are round. They are silver in the centre with a gold outer ring. The change from silver to gold can be felt by touch.
o £5 notes are the smallest bank notes and have no raised dots.
o £10 notes are larger and have two clusters of raised dots in the top left-hand corner.
o £20 notes are even larger still and have three clusters of raised dots in the top left-hand corner.
o £50 notes are the largest of all the bank notes and have four clusters of raised dots in the top left-hand corner.

- Your child may find it easier to organise and store different coins and notes in different sections of their wallet or purse ahead of a shopping trip, so that they are not under pressure to identify them at the till.
- Let your child try identifying bank notes using an app, such as Seeing AI.
- Help your child learn how much different items usually cost by exploring together in the supermarket. You could turn it into a fun guessing game!
- Ask your child to help you pay in stores using different payment methods. Encourage them to interact with shop assistants whilst doing so.
- Many ATMs can be accessed by people who are blind, by plugging wired headphones into a headphone jack. Explore and try out using a talking ATM together with your child!

Accessible banking

Banks offer varying adjustments to help customers with a disability access their services. These may include:

- Correspondence in accessible formats (Braille, large print, easy read, and audio formats).
- Longer appointment times.
- Allowing different forms of ID.
- Signature stamps for people who find signing their name difficult.
- A chip and signature card for people who cannot enter a PIN.
- Earphones to use at talking ATMs.
- Note gauges to identify different bank notes.
- Accessible banking apps.
- High-visibility debit cards.
- Audio-accessible PINsentry card readers.

Help your child explore which accessibility options different banks offer so they can choose the bank which is right for them.

Benefits and allowances

For this article, we have focused on some of the benefits and allowances specific to vision impairment and disability, and those that may change as your child transitions to adulthood. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of benefits that you or your child may be entitled to. If you are unsure whether you are claiming everything your child is entitled to, our recommendation would be to seek the support of a service, such as those linked below:

https://rnib.entitledto.co.uk/home/start
https://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators

RSBC Families First service offers help with applications and paperwork to ensure that you're receiving the right benefits:
https://www.rsbc.org.uk/pages/family-support
https://www.gov.uk/financial-help-disabled

Transitioning to Personal Independence Payments (PIP)

PIP is a benefit which helps disabled people with extra living costs. People with disabilities can receive PIP even if they work and have savings. There are two components to PIP: daily living and mobility. People may be eligible for the daily living component if they need support to safely prepare food, manage medicines, dress, manage money, and much more. People may be eligible for the mobility component if they need support to physically move around or to travel a route safely.
https://www.gov.uk/pip

Your child's Disability Living Allowance (DLA) will automatically end when they reach their 16th birthday and a new claim for PIP must be made. If your child receives DLA the Department for Work and Pensions should invite your child to apply for PIP when they turn 16. For fresh claims, you can start your claim via the phone or post, and in some areas, online.
https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/sick-or-disabled-people-and-carers/pip/before-claiming/if-you-get-dla/

The following link contains information on preparing for a PIP assessment:
https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/sick-or-disabled-people-and-carers/pip/help-with-your-claim/your-assessment/

Universal Credit

Universal Credit can help people, who are on a low income or cannot work, with their living costs. If your child is aged 18 and over and is unable to work due to a disability or health condition, they may be eligible for Universal Credit. They may need to complete a Work Capability Assessment to receive their full allowance.

Parents and carers who are on Universal Credit may be eligible for an extra monthly amount if they have a child with a disability. They may also be eligible for a carer's element.
https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit

Care needs assessments and disability-related expenses

Anyone over the age of 18 who requires care and support is eligible for a care needs assessment. A care needs assessment can identify whether the person requires practical support, equipment, and other services. https://www.nhs.uk/social-care-and-support/help-from-social-services-and-charities/getting-a-needs-assessment/

When your local authority carries out a care needs assessment, they will also carry out a financial assessment to find out whether the person can contribute to the costs of their own care. When this assessment takes place, it is important that disability-related expenses are taken into consideration as local authorities must consider these costs when deciding how much a person should pay for their own care. The local authority cannot charge carers for this care. https://www.carersuk.org/help-and-advice/financial-support/benefits-if-you-are-disabled-ill-or-injured/disability-related-expenses/

16 to 19 Bursary Fund

The 16 to 19 bursary fund is available to students aged between 16 and 19 who receive certain benefits or who are in the care of their local authority. The bursary is used to pay for education-related costs, like clothing, books, equipment, and transport.
Students who are aged 19 and over who have an EHCP and are continuing a course they started between the ages of 16 and 18 may also be eligible for a discretionary bursary. https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund

Blind Person's Allowance

People who are registered as Severely Sight Impaired can earn more before they start paying Income Tax by claiming Blind Person's Allowance. This means that they can get an extra amount of tax-free income on top of the standard tax-free Personal Allowance before the government will start taxing them.
https://www.gov.uk/blind-persons-allowance

Carer's Allowance and Carer's Credit

If you are caring for someone who receives certain benefits for at least 35 hours per week, you may be eligible to claim payments in the form of Carer's Allowance. A Carer's Allowance is only available to people who earn less than £204 per week after tax, National Insurance, and certain expenses.
Receiving a Carer's Allowance can impact other benefits. If caring responsibilities are shared, only one of you can receive a Carer's Allowance. https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance

National Insurance, and certain expenses. Receiving a Carer's Allowance can impact other benefits. If caring responsibilities are shared, only one of you can receive a Carer's Allowance.
https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance

A Carer's Credit allows you to take on caring responsibilities without impacting your ability to qualify for state pension.

If you are under state pension age and caring for someone who receives certain benefits for at least 20 hours per week, you may be eligible to claim Carer's Credit. Carer's Credit does not giveyou any extra money but instead helps fill any gaps in your National Insurance record and ensures you continue to build your state pension. Those that receive a Carer's Allowance will not need to apply.
https://www.gov.uk/carers-credit

Council Tax reductions

If you live in a larger property than you would otherwise need as a result of an occupant's disability, you may be eligible for the Disabled Band Reduction Scheme. This means your bill will be reduced to the next lowest Council Tax band. You would need to prove that you have extra space inside the property for using a wheelchair or an extra room which is necessary for the disabled person.

You may also be eligible for a discount if your family member is considered severely mentally impaired, but eligibility also depends on who else is living in the household. You would need a certificate from a medical professional stating that your family member is severely mentally impaired.
https://www.gov.uk/council-tax/discounts-for-disabled-people

VAT relief and vehicle tax exemptions

People with disabilities are exempt from paying VAT on certain products and services which are specifically designed or adapted for their disability. This can include adjustable beds, stair lifts, low vision aids, and more. Ask your supplier if you feel you may qualify for VAT relief on a product. People with disabilities may also be exempt from paying VAT on having a vehicle adapted to suit their condition or on leasing a Motability vehicle. https://www.gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/vat-relief

If your child receives certain benefits, such as the standard or enhanced rate mobility components of PIP, you can apply for a vehicle tax reduction or exemption on a vehicle registered in the name of your child's nominated driver. This vehicle cannot be used by their nominated driver for their personal use.
https://www.gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/vehicles-and-transport

Motability scheme

People who are in receipt of certain benefits, such as the higher rate mobility component of PIP, may wish to use their mobility allowance to lease a vehicle through Motability. Users of Motability can name up to three drivers on their vehicle. The vehicle must be used for the benefit of the person with the disability. Some users of the scheme benefit from leasing a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle, or a vehicle with adaptations to store equipment and get in and out, like hoists, swivel chairs, and transfer plates. For certain high specification vehicles, a non-refundable advance payment may need to be paid towards the cost of the vehicle if the user's mobility allowance doesn't cover the full cost. Motability cover insurance, servicing, MOTs, and breakdown cover. https://www.motability.co.uk/

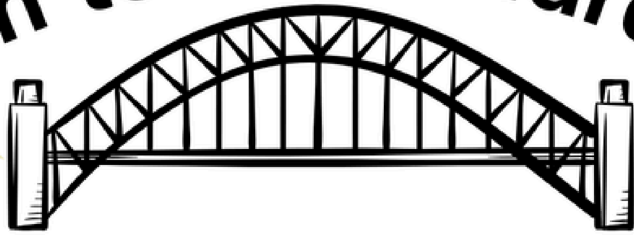
Grants from charities and organisations

Your child may be eligible to receive grants from charities and organisations. Follow the link below to search for grants your child may be eligible for.
https://grants-search.turn2us.org.uk/

Speech & Language Therapy Survey

The SaLT team are collecting parent feedback to support planning for next academic year. Please click on the link to complete a short survey. Parent & Carers Feedback - Speech & Language Therapy Survey (Summer 26)

Couch to Half-Marathon



Hello! For those who may not know me, my name is Becky and I am the Learning Resource Centre Manager at Linden Lodge. On the 13th September 2026, I will be participating in the Great North Run and fundraising for Guide Dogs. I began training in February, starting from zero having done no running previously!

Many of our pupils have benefited from the services Guide Dogs offer, from grants for specialist technology to the customisable large print books available in our library.

Jack, one of our receptionists, is a Guide Dog user and said: "Having my guide dog, Carpenter, has completely changed my life. He has given me the confidence to travel independently and safely, allowing me to go to places I once found challenging. Carpenter has helped me become more self-reliant, reduced my anxiety when getting around, and given me the freedom to live a more active and independent life. Beyond his practical support, he is a loyal companion who has made a positive difference to my wellbeing and confidence every day."

I would be so grateful if you would consider donating to my page by following this link [Great North Run - Becky] or by scanning the QR code below:

The Family Portrait Day will now take place on the 12 of July during our Family Walk and Summer Fun event. This will allow us to engage more participants and for families to have a broader range of activities than just the picture session, as there will be an all accessible walk on Wimbledon Common followed by a fun afternoon at school with a BBQ and entertainment.

So, if you would like to participate in the walk, please book your photo session for the afternoon. Or, if you would prefer to come in for the portrait session in the morning, you may want to skip the walk and stay afterwards to enjoy the BBQ and entertainment.

Two options are available for your booking:
Option 1: Costs £50 and includes 5 professionally edited and printed photographs in any size up to A4.
Option 2: Costs £60 and includes 5 professionally edited and printed photographs in any size up to A4 plus all phiotograp[hs taken during the session in digital format.
SPACES ARE LIMITED
CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR SESSION AND SELECT YOUR PREFERRED TIME

C@LL Community at Linden Lodge

NEEDS YOUR HELP

We need new volunteers to keep our events running.

C@LL has been running as a PTA for 7 years organising events such as Summer Walk and BBQs, Christmas Events, Online Music, Sibling Events, First Aid Training, Educational Webinars and much more….

No experience is needed, and you can contribute as much or as little time as you like.

What will you be doing?

• Helping to decide which activities best serve our community	• Supporting event planning by organising refreshments and entertainment
• Submitting fundraising grant requests using existing information	• Treasurer role: managing C@LL's modest income and expenditure
	• Connecting with other parent/carers and having some fun!

Could you be our new treasurer?

If you're interested in a no-obligation chat about becoming a committee member, or require further information, please contact Rebecca at rlotreanor@gmail.com or Jess at jesscrilly@yahoo.co.uk Our current treasurer is stepping down, so we urgently need to fill this role. Full training and support is available.

Without a committee, our events can't continue.