




LLS News

13/03/2026



Dear families

Next Friday (20th March) is Comic Relief's Red Nose Day. Please wear something **red**. If you would like to make a donation to Comic Relief please click here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rnd26-linden-lodge-school> 

Early Years families are invited to an Easter Fun stay and play session on Wednesday 25th March 10.00-11.00am

Have a lovely weekend.



Star of the Week

Kieran for being engaged and listening to instructions when at the pool.

Oliver for actively listening to the Hungry Caterpillar story and turning the pages.

Bethany for using her words to make choices and requests.

Elliot for doing amazing independent work on the Smart Platform this week! Well done, Elliot!

Lily for showing a clear understanding of cause and effect by pressing and holding a switch during her 1:1 music session with Vikki!

Enea for initiating interactions with his peers, showing enjoyment and affection.

Kiara for excellent engagement during a new potatoes growing activity and learning alongside other students.

Yusuf for being so impressive and focussed in cooking, following the instructions and with controlled scooping using both his hands from one container to another - well done!



Events and dates to remember



Spring Term Dates

Friday 20th March
Comic Relief's Red Nose Day
Wear something red

Friday 27th March 2026

Last day of term for students - School finishes at 1.30pm

The term dates for 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 can be found on the school website <https://www.lindenlodge.wandsworth.sch.uk/termdates>



Learning@Linden Lodge in the Minerva Department

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

'Drop and read' for World Book Day last week was a roaring success. Students across the department read independently for 20 minutes to celebrate. We hope to make this one a habit!



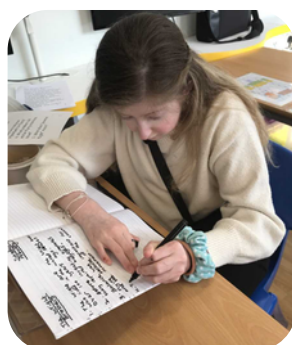
Some egg-citing additions to Minerva – 3 to be exact - for Science Week!

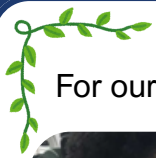


In Science, we have been investigating how the shape of an object can affect water resistance. Here, we are making models which are streamlined in preparation for our investigation.

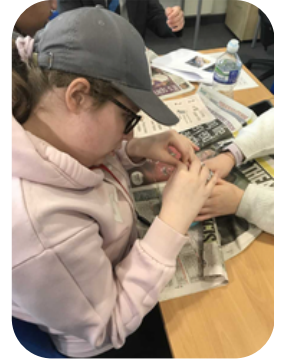


We have been completing some extended literacy tasks in Science by researching who invented aeroplanes and the forces which act on them!

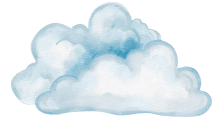
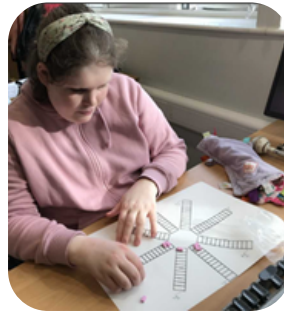
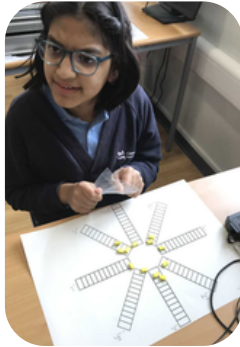




For our assembly with King's College we made seedling pots from newspaper.



The students in Minerva have been learning about weather in humanities and they used a Windrose to map out the wind over a period of a month. They have also been learning about the different clouds as well as the water cycle.



World Book Day

We have had lots of fantastic sessions to celebrate World Book Day across the past two weeks.

Students from Bassoon, Minerva 2 and Minerva 6th Form visited primary classes to read 'Monkey Puzzle' and explore sound books together.



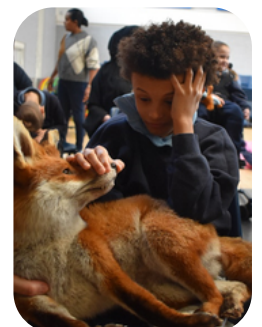
Maracas, Harp and Kalimba class had tactile book sessions with Alex from ClearVision.



Classes explored 'Four Seasons' and 'The Carnival of the Animals' sound books in music and created their own 'A Journey Through the Rainforest' sound story.



On Tuesday 10th March a sensory storyteller, Vanessa Woolf, visited the school to deliver an eco-fable about looking after the world, its animals and plants. Some of our taxidermy animal collection made special guest appearances!



Staff and students got into the spirit and dressed up as their favourite book characters



Habilitation Team Update

In Spring and Summer 2026, the Habilitation team will be running a regular feature in the newsletter on transitioning to adulthood. This will be a mixture of information-sharing, signposting to other organisations, and practical ideas and activities. For families of younger students, please look out for the START EARLY! label for practical tips and tricks that can be started at any age.



Supporting self-advocacy and making choices

Families of young people with a vision impairment often become amazing advocates for their family member, but as the young person gets older, it can be hard to know how to encourage the young person to take the lead. Here are some tips and tricks to help them gradually take on this role:

- Young people may find it tricky to interact with others and may need to practice certain interactions with someone they know well first before they can develop the confidence to have these interactions for real. Roleplay different scenarios to help build their confidence. This can include interacting with shop assistants, transport staff, or doctors. Make it fun using funny props and costumes!
- **START EARLY!** Teach your child that their voice matters from a young age by encouraging them to make choices, no matter how small. This can include choosing between different snacks, activities, or items of clothing. This can help them feel empowered to make bigger decisions later down the line.
- Consider bringing young people to meetings which affect them. Help them plan for meetings and appointments by helping them prepare any questions they may like to ask.
- When the young person is old enough, encourage them to learn about their eye condition together with you. Together you can prepare responses you both feel comfortable with for any questions they may get asked.
- Remember: problem-solving is empowering! Allow young people to make safe mistakes and try to solve them.
- Advocating for ourselves or a family member is often not an easy task and there may come a time where it is appropriate to reach out to an independent advocacy service. Advocacy services can help young people understand the decisions they are making. They can help challenge decisions that young people may not agree with and help ensure their rights are enforced. There are many different charities and organisations which offer advocacy services; some are free, others are at a cost. Available advocacy services vary depending on your location so searching for advocacy services in your local area is a good starting point! Other services include:

o VoiceAbility: <https://www.voiceability.org/>

o POhWER: <https://www.pohwer.net/>

The advocacy people: <https://www.theadvocacypeople.org.uk/>

Therapy Team News

The Speech and Language Therapy team is celebrating Swallowing Awareness Day on 18th March 2026 and would like to share information around this

SWALLOWING AWARENESS DAY

18 MARCH 2026

When Eating, Drinking & Swallowing become Difficult

Eating and drinking difficulties, known as dysphagia, are when people have difficulties or problems safely swallowing certain consistencies/types of foods and/or liquids, or might not be able to swallow safely at all.



Speech and Language Therapist Support

- Assess and identify possible causes of eating and drinking difficulties.
- Mealtime assessments
- Make referrals for further investigation e.g. videofluoroscopy, FEES
- Recommend changes i.e. food/drink texture, feeding positions, feeding equipment etc.



Signs of Eating, Drinking & Swallowing Difficulties

- Coughing/choking
- Changes in voice e.g. wet/gurgly sounds
- Difficulty chewing or controlling food/liquid in the mouth
- Food getting stuck in the throat
- Changes in eating habits e.g. slower eating, avoiding foods
- Significant unintended weight loss
- Recurrent chest infections or pneumonia
- Food/drink coming out the nose when swallowing
- Anxiety around mealtimes/eating/drinking



Linden Lodge Summer Scheme 2026



The preparations for this year's Summer Scheme at Linden Lodge are well underway and we would like to invite your child to attend!

Letters to apply for the scheme have been sent home this week.
All applications must be returned by Monday 23rd March 2026.

Summer Scheme will run for 2 weeks:
Monday 20th July - Friday 24th July 2026, 9.30-15.45.
Monday 27th July - Friday 31st July 2026, 9.30-15.45.
Your child may attend for one week or the full two weeks.



The poster features a bright blue background with a large white circle in the center containing the text 'Summer Scheme 2026'. Above the circle is the Linden Lodge School logo and name. To the right of the circle are two photographs: a red double-decker bus and a person interacting with a donkey. Below the circle are two more photographs: a boy with a pizza and a girl smiling. The dates '20th July - 24th July' and '27th July - 31st July' are listed to the right of the circle. At the bottom right, a white circle contains the text 'Join this year's fun-filled Summer Scheme with daily enriching activities and experiences for all!' and contact information for the scheme.

Linden Lodge School

Summer Scheme 2026

20th July - 24th July
27th July - 31st July

Join this year's fun-filled Summer Scheme with daily enriching activities and experiences for all!

For more information please email:
summerscheme@lindenlodge.org.uk