



LORENDEN

Parents' Handbook: House and Rewards Systems

Houses

There are two Houses: Swallows and Amazons. Their Year 6 captains are appointed through democratic election at the beginning of the academic year by the staff and children in each House. Pupils wishing to be considered for the important role make a presentation outlining their vision for their leadership.

Each child is welcomed into a House on arrival into Year 1 and stays in that house throughout his or her time at the school. Early Years pupils are encouraged to work as a class.

These groups provide a focus for creative, sporting and academic activity. House Meetings are held regularly and the children are encouraged to participate at all levels.

Housepoints

Housepoints are given for good work or behaviour and are totalled weekly by the House Captains and announced by the latter in the Friday assembly.

The winners, each term, may wear their 'home clothes' on the last day of term.

House Competitions

House captains organise house competitions during the year, such as:

Poetry Speaking
Creative Writing
Maths Quizzes
Lorenden's Got Talent

Gems

Gem Power

The Gem project has been developed by Dr Tom Robson as a child-friendly way of interpreting the dispositions that one needs to be an effective learner. It gives the school a way that the children can understand, see and enjoy, of building of all the good work done in the EYFS. These also link to the core values of Lorenden : 'We Care. We Share. We Strive. We Succeed.'

Learning dispositions are represented by gems and when a child/the class display a disposition, they are rewarded with the appropriate gem. They particularly enjoy the empowerment aspect and receive:

- **Diamond** power for being responsible and identifying a problem; for having tried to solve his/her problem rather than relying on an adult; for having used the different strategies that they have been taught to identify what they needed to do when they got stuck (*We Strive*)
- **Ruby** power for supporting others; for giving support by listening and smiling and helping them when they have a problem (*We Care*)
- **Emerald** power for being courageous and sticking with it when things get tough; for being brave enough to have a go with their 'learning' even though they knew that they might make a mistake; for being comfortable with making mistakes as they know that these help them to learn; for learning from their mistakes and 'bouncing back'; for remaining calm even though they were upset or angry (*We Strive*)
- **Sapphire** power for keeping focused; for keeping on task despite distractions; for listening to others (teachers and others in the class) again, despite distractions; (*We Care*)
- **Amethyst** power for co-operating; for learning with a partner, sharing ideas and listening; taking it in turns to listen and share thoughts adding new ideas to old ones; applying **all** gem powers to work with a partner (*We Share*)
- **Topaz** power for collaborating and working in a big group, sharing at least one idea with a big group; taking turns to share ideas; asking different questions to ensure that everyone has understood that everyone has understood their ideals; applying all the gem powers to working with a team. (*We Share*)

When a child is awarded a gem they go to the Head's office, receive the appropriate 'gem' and place it in their house jar. Each gem represents five housepoints and these are collected weekly by the house captains with the winners announced in the Friday assembly. Half termly reviews to parents include numbers of gems gained by their child. The 'Spirit of Lorenden' Award is given to the pupil who has received the most Gems each ½ term.

Speech Day

This is a formal event at the end of the year where cups are awarded mainly to Year 6, but also to pupils in other year groups. Many of the cups have been at Lorenden for a long time and we hope it will remain that way. To this effect, when a cup is awarded to a pupil it is theirs to admire and look after until June the following year when it should be returned to the school in the same state that it was received in. The School Secretary reminds parents nearer the time. Should a cup not be returned the school reserves the right to invoice parents for a replacement of the same quality.

