

Goldman Sachs

The Lodge – One Year On

Next to the front door of the Lodge is a plaque stating:

**The Lodge
“Realising Dreams”
Thanks to our Goldman Sachs Partners**

That the Lodge would make a big difference to us here at Pakeman was undoubted from the start, but no one here quite anticipated the amazing benefits to the whole school community and beyond, of this incredible space. The Lodge has made a profound difference to us and we are enormously grateful to the Goldman Sachs’ partners who have made realising dreams at Pakeman School happen in so many ways ...

The official opening of the Lodge on the 9th July 2013 by Barry Edwards, the Mayor of Islington was the start of many wonderful things that have happened at Pakeman School in the past year.



The commentary below explains how the Lodge has transformed what we do at Pakeman, making use of this marvellous facility for myriad activities throughout the school week and beyond!!

1. Breakfast Club

Until September 2013 the Middle Hall, next to the school kitchen, was home to Pakeman's breakfast club. Although it ran smoothly here for nearly 10 years, the location was not ideal because the Hall is so big and there was little in the way of activities for the children once they had eaten. All this has changed now that breakfast club has moved to the Lodge where Janet and Jackie cater for anything between 10 and 22 children every morning from 8:00-9:00am. The early mornings see the Lodge buzzing with children having a nutritious breakfast of cereal, bagels and juice, generously provided by Magic Breakfast. There are books and games for the children, and as the Lodge opens out onto the playground, the children can go out for supervised play from 8.30am.

The children often express their appreciation of the atmosphere and facilities offered by the Lodge. In the words of some of them who go to breakfast club and/or Playcentre:

I think the lodge is very pretty, because the ceiling has holes and it looks very cool. When you go breakfast club, you feel very comfortable. When you go to play centre, you can play what you want. I think the building is really nice and pretty.

It is fun in the lodge, because you can play outside or inside. Also, there are loads of toys to play with. There are loads of games. You can do drawing and other things. The lodge is a very nice and beautiful building.

In the lodge, it is fun because when we go to Play Centre we get to play lots of games and in breakfast club, they give us a choice of what we want for breakfast. I have also gotten to work with Nicky doing sewing and I like the lodge.



Breakfast Club in the Lodge

2. Play Centre



One of the school activities benefitting most from the Lodge's facilities is Playcentre which runs every day after school from 3.30-6.00pm. Formerly, Playcentre was housed in the old playground 'shed', which, due to age, was dark and dingy. It had no toilets, only very rudimentary handwashing and kitchen facilities, and poor storage space. The heating system was also inadequate, and in the winter it was absolutely freezing!

Cooking at Playcentre in the Lodge

The modern and comfortable facilities in the Lodge have completely changed the Playcentre experience for children and staff and everyone loves the time they spend there. The children have a great time thanks to Vicky, our Playcentre Manager, Jackie and Lisa, our Playcentre workers, and Errol, Sophia and Fahema who volunteer. While there are occasional off-site sports activities and visits, for example to the cinema and park, on-site the children now have regular cooking sessions, and they do lots of arts and crafts and playground activities. They also have iPads, DVDs, books, games and puzzles, all of which are kept in dedicated storage space for this purpose within the Lodge. One of the children who regularly goes to Playcentre said: *'When I go to Playcentre, I like finding new friends ... I feel happy and I enjoy it. The building is very nice with its shape and you can do loads of fun activities in there'.*



Enjoying tea time



Concentrating on painting gift boxes



Enjoying the weather and having fun in the playground

3. Lunchtime Clubs

Day	Club	Year Group
Monday	Table Games	3-6
Tuesday	DS (Maths games)	1-2
Thursday	DS (Maths games)	3-6

Every Monday, Tuesday and Friday the Lodge hosts a lunchtime club run by a young leader taking part in our young leadership scheme, helped by Madeline who sets up the equipment and supervises the sessions.



Year 3-6 lunchtime DS club

Jawad, one of our young leaders said that he really enjoys being a club leader. He explained that his job involves helping club members who need support with the DS games, and he said *'I want to make sure that everyone who comes to DS club has a great time'*. The facilities in the Lodge provide a perfect setting for this to occur. Whereas previously the lunchtime clubs took place in the Bottom Hall, everyone agrees that they work so much better now because the Lodge does not suffer from the inevitable interruptions caused by people walking through the hall to get to classrooms on the ground floor and to access the two staircases to the upper floors. The children really appreciate the change of environment offered by this space. One of the lunchtime club children pointed out: *'the Lodge is good because the pictures on the wall look nice. I like playing games in there. I go there at lunch time.'*

4. Volunteer Readers

We currently have 17 volunteer readers who come into the school once or twice a week to read with 3 children each. However, until this year, finding space to read with the children was always difficult, so it was a priority to improve the environment in which they worked. They do an absolutely brilliant job of raising the children's reading levels and building their confidence and it is by no means an overstatement to say that the Lodge has completely transformed the readers' and the children's experience, as the volunteer readers themselves testify!!

Having the Lodge - the space, quiet environment and its ongoing sense of specialness - has utterly transformed the activity of reading with the pupils at Pakeman. Previously we would sit on hall benches or in the corridors, making games and any quiet concentration time very difficult. Now, having the Lodge,

the pupils are eager to come in, very happy to sit down and to start work. The Lodge makes the pupils and the business of reading, feel valued and very important within Pakeman: the Lodge ensures that the pupils get absolutely optimal benefit from their one-to-one sessions.



Volunteer reading sessions – making use of all available space in the Lodge

I personally appreciate very much not having to sit on child-sized chairs for an afternoon - my back used to seize up after 2 hours on the little chairs that are prevalent elsewhere in the school!

When I joined Pakeman in the New Year 2013, the Lodge was still being built and we used the middle hall of the school for reading (which of course doubles as the lunch hall). Hence there was initial noise from clearing up after lunch and also the general hub-hub and coming and going of classes. It has made the whole thing much more pleasant for all concerned with minimum distraction and pleasing surroundings. The Lodge has made a world of difference.

I started as a reading volunteer three years ago and until the Lodge was built, I remember what a nightmare it sometimes was to find a quiet corner to read in. Sometimes I would come in early just to search for somewhere rather than use up the time I had with the students traipsing around looking for a place.

My favourite place was a tiny room, almost a cupboard, next to the top floor hall, but even then, when the kids did indoor PE, it seemed like trying to concentrate on reading while the Battle of the Somme was being re-enacted next door. So as far as I am concerned, the lovely light, quiet Lodge is a Godsend for me and the kids I work with.

Before the Lodge....it was often tricky to find a space to work - quite frequently we had to move as the area was needed for other activities. So individual sessions were often disrupted, and, consequently, shortened.

The Lodge provides a warm, bright, communal space. Children know where they're going to work and enjoy coming to the building. There's sufficient storage for a good choice of books and games. Previously, this was limited by the amount the reading helper could carry while they searched the building looking for a place to work. It's been immensely helpful working around other volunteer readers. I've learnt many more techniques, and we frequently exchange tips or explain new games. Also, when appropriate, helpers and children can join forces and play games together.

The children who have volunteer readers also love having the opportunity to be in this space:

I like the lodge because there are games and the big TV where you can watch films on. Also, with my reader, I like all the books in there. I like that it is bright in there with lots of windows.'

5. Volunteer Readers' lunches

Every term we have had a volunteer readers' lunch to show our appreciation for the time, effort and great work they do reading with the children. Some of them commented at a recent lunch:

It was lovely to come to the Lodge for lunch to meet all the reading helpers. Thanks to Nicky for organising it.

Lunch today was terrific: thank you so much for taking the time to organise it - it is great to see everybody and hear their exploits and successes. Having Lynne there to explain the benefits and being able to ask her the specifics makes it hugely worthwhile.



Volunteer Readers' Lunch

6. Kathy Loader – SEN Support Worker

Cooking with Kathy in the Lodge



Kathy does some fun baking sessions in the Lodge with her Year 5 literacy group, an activity that was not possible pre-Lodge. Here they can be seen baking cupcakes. Having weighed their ingredients, they divided the mixture into the cake cases and then timed the cooking process, all the time discussing the culinary process and extending their vocabulary. These sessions enhance the children's learning process.

7. Lorraine – Additional Support

Lorraine works in the Lodge every Monday and Tuesday morning with small groups of 3-5 EAL (English as an additional language) children from Reception to Year 5 in 45-minute long activity-based learning sessions focusing on literacy (eg. reading, writing, talking, sounds, role play and collaborative group work). Lorraine says that the children really enjoy having lessons in the Lodge, that they often talk about the mural on the dividing door and that their '*learning is enhanced by this environment*'.



Lorraine with a group of young learners

8. Courses for Parents – Family Learning

We work very successfully in partnership with the educational charity, School Home Support and Family Learning (part of Adult and Community Learning, jointly run by Islington Council's Learning and Working Team and City and Islington College). We used to run courses in the Bottom Hall of the main school building, but being a thoroughfare to the school office, the upstairs classroom and the Reception and main playgrounds, there were continual interruptions. Moreover, the crèche we offered to parents while they studied in school had to be in the same space as their learning. Being a separate building, with a soundproof dividable space, the Lodge is far better suited to the teaching of adults. We strongly support parents to improve their English, so during the Spring and Summer terms we have been running an entry level 2 ESOL class in the Lodge on Wednesday mornings taught by a specialist ESOL teacher for parents of children both at our school and other Islington schools. The Lodge has transformed their experience because of the dedicated learning space it offers. In addition, by using the dividing door we are able to offer an on-site crèche for the small children of parents attending the course that does not interfere in any way with their learning.



An ESOL Class at Pakeman

9. Coffee Mornings for Parents

In the course of the year Kathie Martins, our Home School Support Worker has organised several social and themed coffee mornings (eg. All about kids summer holidays, school nurse, phonics, reading and welfare benefits) in the Lodge. Having the Lodge's kitchen facilities and the contained comfortable space for people to sit and enjoy these occasions has been a huge bonus. Such events formerly took place in the Bottom Hall and they were not as enjoyable, as there were no kitchen facilities on hand, which meant transporting urns and refreshments from one place to another, and, as with other events in the Hall, there were repeated interruptions. Parents attending the coffee mornings have made very positive comments about being in the Lodge on these occasions:

It was a very good coffee morning and really helpful – the school nurse spoke to us about keeping our children healthy. It's a good place to learn because it's quiet. It's very comfortable and there's a really nice kitchen.

10. Pupil Premium Courses

Following our success in the 2013 National Pupil Premium Awards, being named National Primary School of the year, we have so far run eight fully-booked courses for headteachers, deputy and assistant headteachers, SENCOs, pupil premium coordinators, school business managers and governors from other schools who are keen to learn from our good practice and experience, and there are more planned!



A rapt audience at one of our pupil premium courses

Due to space limitations, it would not previously have been possible to host large groups of people for day-long courses. However, the Lodge has opened up new possibilities for us and we are incredibly proud to be able to showcase our school using this space – it is not only beautifully designed, it is the perfect platform for delivering courses due to the comfort it affords to delegates.

10. Staff Training

Being separated from the main school building, the Lodge has proved to be conducive to learning and training for both children and adults, and all staff have benefited from its facilities during staff training sessions. Echoing several other users, a number of staff have commented on the benefits of having training in this separate calm and refreshing environment within the school grounds.

11. Good as Gold

We want the Lodge to be widely and well used and to this end the children have had regular access to the building for various activities since it opened last summer. However, they nevertheless continue to regard it as a special place within the school, and rightly so because it is such a delightful place to spend time. Among other things it is awash with light, it has an incredible ceiling that looks like a night sky and a gorgeous mural on the dividing door. For this reason, we have been using the Lodge for a very special activity on Friday afternoons – celebrating with children who have made outstanding achievements in behaviour, academic performance and other activities by giving them a special treat, like ice cream or popcorn! The children love being selected for a ‘good as gold’ treat, so this is a great motivator for them.

12. Cooking with Justine

Since the Lodge opened in September 2013, Justine has been teaching groups of Year 5 children to cook, something that was not previously possible as we did not have a suitable place to do this. It is just wonderful to see the children so excited to see Justine arrive, laden down with bags full of ingredients, and making their way to The Lodge full of enthusiasm ready to work hard with her for two hours each Monday afternoon. They are learning to chop, peel, weigh and mix, and always manage to produce delicious meals and snacks that they get to enjoy eating. Cooking is a fantastic addition to our curriculum. Justine says, *‘I have seen a real improvement in the children’s knowledge and skills, as well as their passion for tasting new flavours’*.



The cooking group learning food preparation skills ...



... and then enjoying what they’ve cooked!

One of the children who has done cooking in the Lodge commented:

I like how we always do activities, watch movies. Sometimes we get to cook and we make new friends from other classes. We also play lots of fun games. I like how the Lodge has lots of people who enjoy it.

13. Radio Station



The Lodge office has recently become home to a radio station, bought partially with our pupil premium award. Staff have started receiving training and, in turn, they will train pupils in the next academic year, so that they can develop their own jingles, plan their own shows, broadcast plays and interviews, and lots more.

One of our volunteer readers has significant experience in radio programming. She has started exploring the system and is going to help us to maximize the potential of this fantastic addition to our resources. We believe that it will help us to develop the children's communication, literacy, teamwork and vocational skills as well as giving them a voice, building their confidence and enhancing inclusion within the school. Having a radio station has been a long-held dream – the Lodge has given us a setting within which it is possible to achieve it.

14. Office

As well as housing our radio station the Lodge Office is used for several other purposes:

- Layla (Marketing and Communications Coordinator) uses it regularly as a quiet space to work.
- Vicky (Playcentre manager) uses it for Playcentre administrative tasks.
- Every first Thursday of the month Sherika, our Parent Champion from Islington Learning and Working, uses it to offer parents confidential one-to-one consultations to help with courses, getting back to work, moving from part-time to full time work, interviews, and much more.
- The Reception teachers use it for parent consultations because of the privacy it affords.

15. Functions

The Lodge offers an ideal space for various functions and we have taken full advantage of this by holding:

- A party to celebrate the opening of the Lodge, to which the Goldman Sachs partners, architects, builders, governors, staff and others were invited.
- End of term staff parties
- A breakfast before school for staff
- A coffee morning for staff

The staff really appreciate having this space in which to socialise. Among the positive comments made was: *'Having everything on hand – kitchen, toilet, tables, comfortable seating, and big doors that open up into the playground make it a great place to hold events'*.

16. Claire – Speech and Language Therapist (with Islington Speech and Language Therapy Service).

Claire uses the Lodge once a week for working with the children on her caseload, their families, external professionals and Pakeman’s teaching staff. When not working in the Lodge, she is based in the SEN room in the main school building.

Claire pointed out that the Lodge is

... an ideal space for carrying out therapy as it provides a quieter and calmer environment compared to the main school building. There are also less visual distractions compared to the main school building. The wall displays are minimal. It is always clean and tidy, and there is plenty of storage which means resources are kept out of sight. This is ideal for a therapy space as the majority of the children I work with have significant attention and listening difficulties.

The space can be used flexibly. I tend to divide the space and work in the room with the large glass windows. There is enough space to comfortably carry out play-based sessions on the floor with the younger children, as well as using the small and large table for table-top activities when working with the older children.

When I meet with parents to take a case history, as part of the initial assessment, the Lodge provides a professional, friendly and private space which I feel is most appropriate for this kind of meeting.

17. Rehana – Family psychotherapist with Islington Community CAMHS

Rehana comes into school once a fortnight and uses the Lodge to see children and families. She said, ‘*the Lodge is a lovely place and offers the space for children to come to see me in a different setting within the school*’. She also explained that it is a good fit for the kind of work she does as it sets the context for therapy work in a different atmosphere than an office or classroom setting:

I have noticed that when children and parents enter the Lodge for the kind of serious work I do, it lightens their mood and they feel more relaxed and children can move around to engage in therapy play while talking about their difficulties.

18. Easter School and Year 6 Boosters

The self-contained nature of the Lodge means that it is ideal for running revision classes for the children. Little time is lost in transitions compared to working in the school building, and this encourages the children to quickly settle down to work. In addition, because it is possible to divide the space into two completely soundproofed areas this facilitates group work without disturbance. One of the staff members running these activities pointed out that ‘*it is altogether a really positive learning environment*’.

19. Dom – Manager of our Shine Saturday School

Dom booked the Lodge for a whole afternoon to host a Shine conference for several delegates who manage other Shine projects. Dom reported that the benefits of holding the conference in the Lodge included *'a calm and well-equipped environment away from the hustle and bustle of the main building'*. He also said that participants commented on the light and airy environment there, which they found *'conducive to feeling relaxed whilst focusing on work'*.

We hope this document captures the transformation that has occurred at Pakeman Primary School as a result of the myriad uses we are making of the Lodge, the benefits and enjoyment being derived from this amazing space by countless children, parents/carers, staff, volunteers, outside agencies and other visitors to our school, and our warm appreciation of your immense generosity in making all of this happen.

Thank you so much. Please come and visit us any time you would like to – we would absolutely love to welcome you to our school.