



Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

Dear All,

Welcome back to a new term, a new year and a new decade! I hope that the Christmas break was a good one for you all and that you found time to rest as well as enjoy the festivities. As always, we have hit the ground running and our first week back has been packed with learning opportunities.

I caught the new adaptation of 'A Christmas Carol' over the Christmas period and although it had mixed reviews, one line within the programme stuck with me. It comes after Scrooge has been visited by all three ghosts and although not specifically repentant for his past actions he resolves to make each future day the best that it could be.

My initial reaction was that that intention would be seriously tiring, particularly as we all find ourselves in a myriad of different situations each and every day, but that it should still be an aspiration. I hope that 2020 is a great year for us all and that by putting positive energy into each day we see and experience the benefits.

As always, thank you for your continued support and contribution to the life of Longfields.

Attendance and Lateness Reports

This term I will be running our attendance and lateness reports as usual. If your child's attendance is below 95% please do not be surprised if you receive a letter from myself as a reminder, or, to arrange a meeting with myself. Regular attendance is extremely important to our children's learning experience and overall attainment levels. Just 10 days off school over the whole year equates to an attendance level of 95% and an 85% attendance level equates to missing a whole term of school over the academic year.

I know that we all have an off day now and again due to illness and occasionally things happen that cause our schedules to change, but it is important that your child is in school and on time.

Please make every effort to get to school on time and allow your child to access their learning for the **whole day**

FAMILY ACTIVE FUN

There are still spaces left on the exciting new programme provided by Cherwell District Council aimed at getting families active together (and having fun!) The first session does start on Wednesday 15th January 3:30pm - 4:30pm in the school hall. If you would like to find out more information then please visit the school website.

Christmas Choir Event

Thanks to all those who turned out for the extra Christmas Sing event. This was arranged for the families who made the Bing Sing in Oxford possible by donating tickets. It was a lovely evening, with minced pies and mulled wine and of course, our choir singing their hearts out.



STAFF NEWS

Miss Walker is off travelling!

I am sad to have to announce that we will be losing Miss Walker at Half Term as she will be taking some time out of teaching to go travelling. We will all be very sad to see her go but wish her a fantastic time as she tours around warmer countries and climates. We hope that we will see her again once she safely returns from her travels in the summer. In regards to nursery staffing we will be welcoming back Mrs Hamilton and Mrs Foster after the break as they both return from their maternity leave.



Shakespeare Dance Workshop

As part of our continued work as a Shakespeare Hub School in Bicester some of our Year 5 and 6 children took part in a full day Dance workshop.

Again, it was an absolutely amazing day all based around A Midsummer Night's Dream but told through the medium of Bollywood dance. It was superb seeing the children throw themselves into the activity and then put on a performance later in the school day.

Well Done to all involved.

School Life App

Some parents are not receiving updates from school via the School Life App because they are only seeing the public site. For safety, school messages are only available to those who have logged in. Parents should log into the app :- just open the app, click the two houses at the top, select log in and enter your user name and password. If you don't have your username or password, just email- office@longfields-primary.org

We can re-set this for you.
Thank you



We Are Going Cashless!

Increasingly we are living in a cashless society and as with many other organisations we have taken the step to go cashless.

In the next couple of weeks please look out for a letter explaining how this will work and the new process needed to make payments for school trips etc.

Please note that payment for school dinners will continue to be direct through Fresh Start.

CABIN CLUB

Thank you for your ongoing support in regards to Cabin Club – This provision continues to be an invaluable facility for many at the school and I know is enjoyed by all who attend.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Please note that there will be no Cabin Club on the last day of the Summer Term – This is Friday 17th July – all pupils will need to be picked up from school at 3:15p.m. on that day.

SUMMER CABIN CLUB

Summer Cabin Club is back by popular request. We will be running Cabin Club for two weeks as a holiday provision this year.

This will be the first two weeks of the summer holiday (week beginning 20th July and 27th July). Please contact Mrs Peiton if you are interested and look out for further information.

The Book People



Help us give **FREE**
books to schools!

If you are planning on buying any books in the near future then why not visit The Book People. They are donating a £1 for every order over £10. Just find the link and nominate Longfields

MINDFULNESS at LONGFIELDS

At Longfields we are committed to promoting the well-being of all the children and the staff. To achieve this, we are developing our use of **Mindfulness** across the school. Practicing **Mindfulness** techniques can help children change their mindset from a FIXED mindset to a GROWTH mindset.

Mindfulness can help children feel empowered, so they can learn to try new things and take more risks, overcoming anxiety when they make mistakes.

Mindfulness means paying full attention to something. It means slowing down to really notice what you're doing. ... When you're **mindful**, you're taking your time. You're focusing in a relaxed, easy way. Across the school, every class takes part in a mindfulness activity for 10-15 minutes each day.

These activities may include

- Breathing exercises
- Listening to music
- Yoga
- Exercise
- Mindful colouring – focus on the shapes, pencil stroke
- Keeping a Feelings Journal
- Paper folding
- Weaving

CAR PARK

A reminder that the school car park is for staff only. Please do not use it to drop children off or wait for them at the end of the day. If you are spotted using the car park without permission please do not be offended when you are asked to leave. This is for the safety of staff and children attending school. Thank you

Online Safety

You may have been aware in the news of the increase in stories relating to children's on-line activity and the types of content they are able to access and the adverse impact this can have on their emotional well-being.

It is very difficult to police or monitor what our children are doing all the time, particularly if they have their own connected devices.

Please do ensure that you are fully aware of the content your children are viewing. There are some useful on-line safety links for parents on our website.

Search under: Useful Information/e-safety.
Please do have a look

Dates for your diary:

Please see School Life calendar for full dates

22 Jan - Mrs Langton & Mr Kellam's classes to Ashmolean
27 Jan - Mrs Edge & Mr Jenkinson's classes to Ashmolean
12 Feb - Woodlands meeting – current Year 5 parents
14 Feb - Last Day before half term
24 Feb - First day back after half term
26 Feb - Y6 to Junior Citizen
26 Feb - Book Fair until Tuesday 3rd March
2 Mar - Parents Evenings this week
5 Mar - World Book Day
3 Apr – Last day before Easter holidays