



Longfields' Latest 25th Nov 2020

Thank you for your support!

Dear All,

Thanks, as always, to you all for your ongoing support. We continue to work hard each day – trying to make things as normal as possible and, apart from living in a bubble, we are covering many different topics as we journey through this term. I can't believe we are half way through the term already and the Christmas break will soon be upon us.

STAFF NEWS

It is with great sadness that I need to inform you that Mrs Langton will be retiring from teaching at Christmas. The last 8 months or so have made us all think about our priorities and what is most important to us, and Mrs Langton has made the decision to spend more time with family. It has been a real privilege having Mrs Langton as part of the Longfields team and we will all miss her.

We are pleased to welcome back Mrs Davies to the Year 1 team at the end of this term.

We are looking forward to having her back with us on a full time basis

With Mrs Davies returning to her class, this will enable Miss Clark to move across to Year 3 to continue the great job Mrs Langton has been doing.

Hot Dinners - back on the menu

Thank you to everyone who has signed back up to our hot meal service. Even though we have had to create a couple of sittings to keep bubbles intact, it has been great to see the children enjoying their hot meals again and our numbers are now almost back up to previous levels in regards to children ordering and partaking.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

In regards to Christmas dinner, this is a little bit more of a challenge as the majority of the school normally join us. The logistics of feeding nearly 400 children in shifts is too complicated at the moment, so we have decided to have Christmas Dinner in January (21st to be precise).

Please look out when we get back after the Christmas break and make sure you order for your children. We will extend the festive season – and why not join us!!

Parent Evenings

I know there will still be a small number of you waiting to catch up with class teachers, but our venture into Microsoft Teams Parent Evenings seems to have been a great success.

Yes, there were a few teething problems at the beginning of the week, but the overwhelming feedback from you all has been positive. It is so strange how we have all had to adapt over the past year and this can sometimes seem a little daunting, but well done to everyone for helping this adaptation work.

THANK YOU

Microsoft Teams Support



Microsoft Teams

Many of you will have signed up and agreed to the protocols around the use of Microsoft Teams for your child. Equally, there were some families who did not sign up. We are hoping to use Microsoft Teams within school a little more as well as for home learning and therefore a letter will be sent home to those still needing to sign up and agree to the online protocols. Please read the letter carefully and sign up via Scopay.

Thank you

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

COVID UPDATE

Firstly, thank you for your continued support, but as we begin to see this new system as 'normal' there are just a few stretching the rules.

Could I therefore ask you to be mindful of a couple of things;-

- Please make sure that you leave the school premises via the gate leading to the alley, not via the school carpark.
- The carpark can only be used as an exit if you have to go back to Nursery to drop your child
- Please drop off and pick up at the correct times for your child's class
- Please try to give space to all those following the one-way system, particularly if the flow slows down or becomes congested.
- Once leaving the premises, please do not hang around in the alley directly opposite the gates or outside the front of school as this can cause congestion

As cases begin to rise again nationally, please ensure you are tested should you have any symptoms.

Message from-Lead Officer
Childminding Oxfordshire Early Years Team

Childminding

A rewarding and flexible career

Do you love children and want to help give them the best start in life, then being a registered childminder could be the ideal career for you?

Childminding offers fantastic career opportunities - from making a difference to a child's life, being your own boss and working from home.

We need you! To ensure sufficiency of childcare places we need more childminders in your area.

To help you meet Ofsted registration and associated costs, **start-up grants of up to £700** are available in some areas.

For more information click

[Becoming a Childminder](#)

Or search for 'Becoming a Childminder' on the County Council's website

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Parking around Longfields

Please continue to observe the new parking restrictions around the school. This includes the area of new double yellow lines where there is to be no parking and single yellows for partial restriction.

There are some parents also using residential parking bays in Hertford Close – please refrain from doing so and continue to park legally and respect our local neighbours.

Please help with compliant parking



Halloween Competitions

Thank you to all those who entered our Halloween dress up competition. I had great fun looking through the fun and gruesome photographs. Well done to all those who entered and to the winners from each category. A great piece of virtual fun.



Poppy Appeal

With just online purchases available this year, we still managed to raise over £290. Well done to you all.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!



Well done to everyone as we raised £319 for Children in Need this year. Another fantastic effort.

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

BIKES and SCOOTERS

Can I remind all children and adults that bikes and scooters should be walked and not ridden whilst on the school premises. Unfortunately, we had an incident last Thursday where another child was ridden/crashed into. Please help by ensuring that your child walks/pushes their bike or scooter.

THANK YOU

SCHOOL SPORT and PHYSICAL EDUCATION

A reminder that last academic year we achieved the Gold Quality Mark. Well done to all our staff and pupils for the dedication shown towards physical education and school sport.

We received an external inspection from the Youth Sport Trust in regards to our school PE status.

I am very pleased to remind you all that once again we have reached the GOLD standard for the delivery and participation in school sport and curriculum PE.

This is not an easy award to achieve or retain, so well done to all involved, particularly Mr Tyler who is currently leading this area.



Christmas is going to be a little different this year and there are many things that we have had to cancel – performances and nativities, our carol singing, school choir performances, Christmas Tree Festival, let alone the changes we will all have to make out of school too.

So we are trying to make the end of term a little more special by having a Christmas week (the last week of term).

This week will include:

- Coming to school in Christmas jumper or simply Christmas colours for the whole week.
- Christmas themed academic work
- Christmas crafts
- Our own mini Christmas Tree festival – each year group decorating a tree.
- Class Christmas window competition

We are asking for a £2 donation for the week, with £1 going to Save the Children (Christmas Jumper Day) and £1 for the PTA.

Christmas Cards

We have been asked by some parents whether we will be allowing Christmas Cards to be exchanged in school this year. To ensure that we are working in a covid safe way, we are happy for children to bring cards into school if they want to, but **only for children in their class bubble.**

Please keep your eyes on the PTA social media page and on the noticeboards around school.

There is a great opportunity to buy some Christmas stocking fillers and gifts whilst supporting the school.



The children in year 4 have been closely following the progress of Pip Hare, who is competing in the 'Around the World' sailing race. They became interested in her when learning about Dame Ellen MacArthur, one of our inspirational people. Every few days we read her blog and check the position of her boat. If you wish to follow her at home then the link is <https://www.piphare.com/blog>. Pip is aware that she has the support of Longfields School and we are planning to send a short video message to welcome her home.

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 strokes
- Keeping a Feelings Journal
- Paper folding
- Weaving

Dates for your diary:

Please see School Life calendar for full dates

18 Dec - Last day before Christmas Break
5 Jan - First day back at school (Tuesday)
12 Feb - Last day before half term
22 Feb - First day back after half term
4 Mar - World Book Day
23 Mar - Y6 & Reception Height & weight
31 Mar - Last day before Easter holiday
19 April - First day back after Easter
28 May - Last day before Half Term
8 June - **TUE First day back (Mon 7th INSET)**
22 July - Last day before Summer Holiday