



## Well Done Everyone!

Dear All,

Over a month into 2021 and things don't seem to have changed that much. I can't quite believe that we are now approaching half term and that we are still in lock down. These certainly are trying times for us all and not what any of us were hoping for at the start of a new year. But this is where our sense of community comes in. I cannot thank you all enough – Staff, pupils and parents. The support we have received as a school over this latest period of lock down has been amazing. We worked so hard to ensure we had online learning up and running in such a short space of time and the messages of support were not only welcome but gave us all a real lift. And nearly 6 weeks in, you are still sending messages of encouragement and thanks and they are still having a positive effect on us all at school. So, a real Thank You to you all for being part of a community that supports each other, both in word and in deed.

Let's hope that as we move further into 2021, that we can get our children back into school and that our sense of community continues to go from strength to strength.

## ON-LINE SUPER HEROES

Messages online for our staff have been amazing and I am immensely proud of the work all our staff have put in to support Home Learning. One or two messages on Facebook even described our teachers as 'Super Heroes'. I, of course, agree whole-heartedly but also wanted to add my thanks to all of you 'Super Heroes' at home. Whether you are a pupil logging on each day and working hard or whether you are a parent or carer who is supporting home learning together with juggling work and all the other daily life 'balls' and 'plates'. Keeping them all in the air cannot be easy. Thank you all for being 'Super Heroes' and working so hard. We sincerely hope that we may hear some good news from government after half term and that maybe we might be able to return to some sort of normality in early March.

Thank you again for your amazing work.

## Thank you to 'Logistex'

A huge thanks to Dave Lake and the team at Logistex (a local company and part of the DHL supply chain). As a company they have supported local schools during the pandemic across the country by supplying laptops. Longfields was chosen as the only school in Bicester to receive a new laptop to help support on-line learning. This is already being put to good use – THANK YOU

## 'Bike Bank' coming to Longfields

I am really excited to announce that Longfields has been chosen to be the first school in Bicester to run a 'Bike Bank'. We will hope to start the scheme in the Summer term which aims to encourage families and children to cycle to school and therefore help our local environment. The scheme will see us holding a bank of 20 bikes (including some adult sizes) and will enable us to loan out bikes to family groups for a period of time. Therefore encouraging cycling to school and all the benefits that that affords. Currently the project is in its infancy and there is much paperwork and planning to be done, but we are hopeful that by the summer term we will have the scheme up and running (or should I say 'rolling!'). Please look out for more details next term.



## SAFER INTERNET DAY

This week has included 'National Safer Internet Day'. With most of the nation spending considerably more time in front of screens and on the internet it is important to remember that being on-line may not always be a safe place to be.

Please ensure:

- You know what your child is accessing online and that it is appropriate for their age.
- That you monitor their screen time.
- You set up Parental controls on your devices should you need to.
- That your child's behaviour online is appropriate and that they do not get drawn in to unkind or inappropriate conversations or comments (even with friends).
- That all school-based systems are used purely for school work and that on screen behaviour matches the behaviour we would expect when in school.

The links below offer a lot of support in this area:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>  
<https://www.childnet.com/>

## Woodlands

As you may have already heard, we have had to cancel the Year 6 residential trip this year. With the government restrictions, we simply haven't been able to go ahead. We will be trying to put together some kind of activities later in the year. If you have already paid or made part payments for the trip then please contact the office for a refund. Thank you

## Half Term

We hope that you all have a good half term break. Thank you for your ongoing support this term and even though we won't be able to go on those days out or holidays, I hope you all manage to get some rest.

## Parents Evenings

We have taken the decision to push back our normal Parent Evenings until after the Easter Holidays. We are hopeful that after the government have made their announcement on 22<sup>nd</sup> February that maybe we will have children back in school for three and a half weeks before Easter. It therefore makes more sense to push these meetings back to a time where there has been more face-to-face contact between all children and their teachers. I know that many of you will have had regular contact with teachers over this latest lock down period too.

We will give more information regarding dates when we return after Half Term.

## School Meals

**For those children who are in school, don't forget to order meals over the holidays for after Half Term.**

## 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

## 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](mailto:office@longfields-primary.org)  
We can re-set this for you.  
Thank you

Dates for your diary:

### **Please see School Life calendar for full dates**

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 7<sup>th</sup> INSET)**  
22 July - Last day before Summer Holiday