



# Longfields' Latest 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019

## A Sunny Return!

Dear All,

Welcome back to Term 4 and the first signs of spring in the air. I can't quite believe the amazing weather we had at the end of February, the sunshine certainly brought a smile to everyone's faces.

Term 4 is another busy time with a number of events taking place: World Book Day; Comic Relief; Parent Evenings; Shakespeare Week and much more.

As always we are working hard to try and enrich each and every child's learning experiences. It is really important that you have attended Parent Evenings and generally keep in touch with your child's teacher. We always want to work together for the benefit of our children.

Thank you again for your continued support.

### Staff Changes in Foundation Stage

As you will know, we have two members of staff in Foundation Stage who are expecting additions to their families.

Mrs Hamilton and Mrs Foster in our nursery will be going on maternity leave this Easter and we wish them all the very best. We have now secured additional cover and support in nursery whilst they are away. Mr Evans (who was working in Reception before Christmas) will be joining us until the end of the academic year in nursery, alongside Miss Hynes who has already started with us.

Please do make them feel welcome – I know the whole nursery team will be continuing to work their hardest to give our children the best possible start to their time in school.

### School Gardens

Those of you who walk down the side of the school field each morning will notice that our school gardens have had a facelift and have now been tended to in readiness for blooming in the spring. Families have worked hard so far and I know will continue to do so.

Unfortunately we have had a few children running behind and even over these gardens and upsetting the work that has already been done. Could I please ask that these areas are respected so that we can all enjoy what is to come in the Spring.



It has been great to see many of you attending the Book Fair and purchasing some excellent reading material for your children. Through your purchases we have managed to purchase over £420 worth of books for the library. Thank you.

This year's World Book Day is tomorrow (Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March) and our theme is animals. Your child can come in a full blown outfit or just a simple accessory to show what kind of animal they are. They can be an animal linked directly to a book or simply their favourite animal if they can't find that link. We would also like each child to bring in the book their character comes from or simply their favourite book as a stimulus for discussion.

We look forward to seeing the menagerie on Thursday morning.

### 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, as well as 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.**

## Shakespeare Week

As a Hub School for the Shakespeare Trust we will be taking an active part in Shakespeare week this year. Week beginning the 18<sup>th</sup> March will see

lots of Shakespearian content in classes throughout the school. We have already had some great input from the Shakespeare Trust, including the Midsummer Night's Dream busts made last term. We have now heard that these are going to be displayed in Stratford-upon-Avon during the week in The Marble Hall at Shakespeare's birth place.

Well done to all those who took part in this activity – not only did we learn a lot but also produced some amazing art work.



## After School Clubs

After school clubs start next week and your child will have received a club confirmation slip by the end of the week. This term we have over 11 clubs running either after school or at lunchtime and we hope these will enhance and develop our children's school experience.

We are always looking for new activities and experiences to offer at club level so if you have a talent that could be channelled into a club opportunity and could give up an hour after school, one day a week for a term, then please do contact myself or your child's teacher. We are always looking for new and exciting opportunities.



**This year Longfields are going to be raising as much money as possible for Comic Relief starting next week. We will be having a school totaliser with different staff agreeing to be silly in different ways as we reach each total.**

**If we manage to raise over £350.00 Mr Hollidge is going to be GUNKED!**

Look out for the bake sale, book stall and the spare change challenge. The week will end with a 'wear something red day' and hopefully, the GUNKING assembly.

## Year 1-2 Blenheim visit



As part of our 'Through our Window' topic, Key Stage One enjoyed a trip to Blenheim Palace, learning about Winston Churchill. The children learnt a lot about both Winston Churchill and the first Duke of Marlborough during their tour of the palace. The fantastic weather also allowed us to have a picnic at lunchtime and stretch our legs around the palace grounds.

## March Sporting Update

Our busy sports schedule has continued over the last two terms. Despite the snowy weather during the KS1 Multi-skills Festival, all the Year 2 children had a fantastic time and set a great example for the school. Year 5/6 have been to our first Netball competition in several years and they should be very proud of themselves. PE and Sport within school has continued to cover a wide range of activities and it has been great to see all of the classes making use of the sunshine to get outside and be active. Good luck to the Year 5/6 Hockey team for their tournament this afternoon.

## Cabin Club

### Notification of Price increase

This Easter Cabin Club will have been established and up and running for 2 years. From the days of starting with just 4 or 5 children a day, we are now in a position where places are at a premium and a waiting list is in operation. As you will know, we have invested in both equipment, staff and substantially in extra space which the children absolutely love. We have always tried to keep this facility as affordable as possible, but after 2 years at the same rates we have decided to increase the session costs for both Breakfast and After school care as from the start of Term 5 (after Easter). These costs will rise by 50p per session with the new costs being as follows:

**Breakfast Club £4 per session**

**After School until 5p.m. £8 per session**

**After School until 6p.m. £11.50 per session**

I hope you will all continue to use this facility on a regular basis. I know that the children absolutely love their time there and positive reports are a regular occurrence.

## PE in School

Over the last term we have had a number of children unable to take part in PE lessons because they do not have their kits in school. PE is a statutory part of the curriculum and an increasingly important part of having a healthy lifestyle.

Could you please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school all week so that they are able to take part in the whole curriculum. **Please note that your child can only miss PE for a legitimate reason and that the class teacher needs to be informed of this in writing.**

We will begin to send a note home if your child does not have a suitable PE kit in school. Thank you for your co-operation.

## School Attendance and Lateness

Please can I remind everyone of the importance of regular school attendance and arriving on time.

I know that we all have an off day now and again and occasionally things happen that cause our schedules to change, but it is important that your child is in school on time. Missing the start of the day can have a negative impact in a number of ways. If too late, then the key input at the beginning of a lesson can be missed and this then needs to be recapped, with the flow and organisation of the lesson having to be adapted at the last minute. Please make every effort to get to school on time and allow your child to access their learning for the **whole day**.

### Dates for the Diary

#### Please see School Life Calendar for full dates

4 Mar - Parents Evenings this week  
7 Mar - World Book Day  
12 Mar – Y5 & Y6 Whipsnade Zoo  
20 Mar – Woodlands meeting after school-Y5 parents  
4 Apr – School Photos – class groups  
5 Apr - Last day before Easter holiday  
23 April - First day back after Easter  
13 May - Y6 SATs this week  
24 May - Last day before Half Term  
4 June - **TUE First day back (Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> INSET)**  
20 June – KS2 Sports- Starts after a.m. registration  
10 July – KS1 Sports - Starts after a.m. registration  
24 July - Last day before Summer Holiday  
4 Sept - First day back after Summer holidays