



# Longfields' Latest

10th Feb 2022

## World Book Day!

Dear All,

Thank you for your ongoing support this term. As you will know, we are continuing to manage the disruptions that COVID is causing and this term we have had many absences (both staff and pupils) although thankfully we have managed to keep all year groups open, even if it has been a stretch at times. Thank you all for your support and willingness to follow guidance and a huge thank you to our staff who continue to work hard to support our pupils and the wider school community. Let's hope that the situation continues to improve.

Your continued positive comments and messages of support are really appreciated. Please do make sure that you chat with teachers if you have any worries or concerns and equally if you want to share positive moments from home or school.

## Breakfast Club (Cabin Club)

One of the huge successes here at Longfields has been our thriving wrap around care offer. Cabin Club has been running for over 5 years and has gone from strength to strength. Although after-school places are still at a premium and are not always available, we do currently have places at

Breakfast Club, which starts at 8a.m. each morning. If using breakfast club would help you in the mornings, in terms of your working day, then please do get in contact with Mrs Pieton by email [cabinclub@longfields-primary.org](mailto:cabinclub@longfields-primary.org)

Breakfast sessions cost £4 per day and breakfast is served until 8:30a.m.

## PARENT EVENINGS

Please note that our parent evenings will be during the second week back after half term.

This is week beginning March 7<sup>th</sup>.

We will be offering face to face sessions or virtual meetings. Due to logistics, these alternative ways of meeting will have to be on different evenings, so please look carefully before you book your slot and ensure it is the correct meeting type.

## School Values

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our questionnaire regarding school values. We have had suggestions from all stakeholders (staff, parents, governors and pupils). We are pleased to say that there were 3 clear leaders in the results, and we have now adopted these as our key values for the school.

They are:

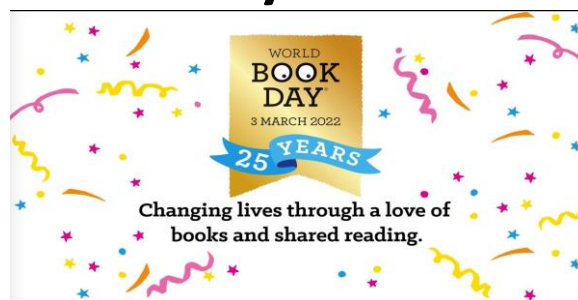
**RESPECT**

**HONESTY**

**PERSEVERANCE**

We are now working on key behaviours that embody these values and they will become the basis of our revamped 'Values Tree' and reward system. We will keep you informed.

## WORLD BOOK DAY Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March



We are so looking forward to celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. This year we are also looking forward to dressing up as part of the celebrations. Our theme will be:

## HEROES and VILLAINS

Your child will be able to come to school dressed as a hero or villain from a favourite book.

We are already excited about seeing the many different characters that will arrive at school that day. In addition to our dressing up day, there will also be other activities happening during that week. We will keep you informed.

## STAFFING NEWS

It is with sadness that I have to inform you that after an amazing 25 years of service here at Longfields, Cheryl Wood (from the office) will be retiring at the end of April. I am sure that you will join me in wishing her all the very best as she enjoys the next (maybe more relaxed) part of life. We will all miss her immensely and know it will be difficult to find the right person to replace her and the wonderful contribution she has made to our school community.

## Reading and Phonics

Over the last couple of months, we have started to introduce a new system for teaching phonics at school. One of the biggest areas of learning impacted by the COVID disruptions has been language development, reading and phonics development.

We have introduced the READ, WRITE, INC scheme throughout school, which will not only help our younger children in Reception and Years 1 and 2, but also offers support to those higher up in the school where it is needed.

## Volunteers Needed

As part of this focus on Reading we would like to ask if you have any spare time and could come in to school to listen to children read. If this is something, you might like to do then please talk to your child's teacher. As part of our safeguarding procedures, you will be asked to fill out a short application form with character references and have a DBS check, but once completed we would be glad to have your help. We look forward to hearing from you.

## THANK YOU

**A huge thank you to the small band of volunteers who helped Mr Tucker move and put up our new storage units and move the new play equipment around to the KS1 playground area. It was a real shock to turn up on a Monday morning and see the units had moved. Thank you ever so much for giving up your time on a weekend.**

## School Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy on the school Governing Body for a Parent Governor. Whereas in the past this could be open to any parent to be put forward, the process over the past couple of years has changed. The work of a Governing Body has become a little more involved and the Governing Body Association now encourages new governors to have the skills that are needed for a particular post at a particular school. For us here at Longfields we are particularly looking for someone with knowledge of finance systems; setting and monitoring budgets and/or local government experience. If you are a parent and fit these criteria and would like to put yourself forward for nomination and the election process, then please come in and see Mr Hollidge before 11<sup>th</sup> March Thank you.



**Please have a look at the notice boards around school – we are currently one of the beneficiaries of the Tesco community token scheme. If you do shop at Tesco, then please do collect the tokens and pop them into the Longfields School collecting tube. All monies awarded through the scheme will go towards improving the KS1 playground area.**

## New Parking Enforcement

You may have noticed that parking enforcement officers have been outside school on a regular basis. Please do not risk a fine by parking illegally. Please have a look at the news section of the website as this contains a pocket guide to the new parking enforcement in and around Bicester. This 'Glovebox Guide' helps to explain all the enforcement procedures.

# VEG POWER LUNCH BOX HACKS



As part of a national campaign, we have signed up to 'VEG POWER'. The main focus of this campaign is to encourage more vegetable eating, particularly at a younger age. Please have a look in the NEWS section of the website for the article 'LUNCH BOX HACKS' The PDF within the article gives some great ideas to slowly introduce more vegetables into your child's lunch box. If you are interested, I hope it may be of some help.

## COVID UPDATES

From the 11<sup>th</sup> January there are changes regarding the need for PCR tests.

- If you have NO symptoms but test positive on a lateral flow device, then you no longer need to book a PCR test to confirm the result. You will need to notify the relevant authority and isolate for 10 days unless you test negative on day 6 and 7 on a lateral flow device and then you may come out of isolation. If day 6 remains positive, then you need to test day 7 and 8. In order to come out of isolation you need to have a negative result for two consecutive days or reach day 10 when you are automatically released from isolation.
- Please note that if you have symptoms then you are still required to have confirmation PCR test.
- Please continue to notify school of all positive results as we are required to submit these to Oxfordshire County Council.
- If a member of your household tests positive, then pupils will need to test daily to ensure there is no spread to the school environment.
- As there is no longer a staggered start to the day, please ensure that younger siblings are picked up before walking around to KS2.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

## Attendance and Lateness

This may be strange to talk about attendance when there has been so much absence due to COVID, but it is something that as a school we monitor on a regular basis.

As we enter term 3 we will be looking a little closer at absence patterns. We will obviously take in to account any absences due to COVID, but this attendance analysis will highlight those children whose attendance is low or whose lateness is high. **Please note that school starts at 8:55a.m and that we no longer operate a staggered start to the day.** As attendance was highlighted as an issue for some groups of children during our last Ofsted inspection, we are expected, more so than normal, to ensure this issue is addressed.

Please do not be offended if you are contacted regarding your child's attendance. This may happen if your child's attendance is below 90% without good reason. In some instances where improvement in attendance is not noted, attendance contracts may need to be agreed with support from the County attendance team if needed.

Please help us to ensure all our children are in school as often as they possibly can be.

## Safeguarding



Please can I remind all adults that the use of mobile phones on site is prohibited. This is standard school safeguarding protocol. Please keep your phones in your pockets until leaving the school premises.

Thank you.

## 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**

18 Feb - Last day before half term  
28 Feb - First day back after half term  
3 Mar - World Book Day  
7 Mar - Parents Evening sessions this week  
9 Mar - Y6 & Reception Height & weight  
21 Mar - Y5 & Y6 Cadbury World  
22 Mar - Y1 Oxford Science Centre  
24 Mar - Y2 Oxford Science Centre  
5 Apr - School Photographs – Class Groups  
8 Apr - Last day before Easter holiday  
25 April - First day back after Easter  
9 May - Y6 SATs this week  
23 May - Y4 Everdon Trips this week  
27 May - Last day before Half Term  
7 June - TUE First day back (Mon 6<sup>th</sup> INSET)  
20 July - Last day before summer Holiday