



Longfields' Latest 16th May 2019

A Testing Term!

Dear All,

Term 5 is always a tricky one with most of our National Assessments taking part during this period of time. Over the past 6 years we have consistently had attainment results above the national average in all areas of school, but we also think there is much more to life than assessment. We work hard to try and ensure our curriculum is balanced and that our children are ready for all that life might throw at them – not just exams. Enjoying coming to school and understanding that learning is a life-long experience is equally important for us here at Longfields. Of course, we continue to work hard to ensure our attainment and achievement statistics are above average, but we also work hard to ensure our children feel happy to come to school; that the experiences they have help them to achieve and that their mind-set is one of growth and resilience. Thank you again for your continued support.

Arts Week 10th – 14th June.



In the second week back after half term, the whole school will be involved in an Arts Week. Our whole curriculum will be given over to the Arts (including sculpture, sketching, painting, song, dance and many other aspects). Our theme for the week will encompass 'Our Changing Planet' and will look at art using recycled materials as well as ecological themes as a basis for different art projects. We hope that by the end of the week we will have created many different pieces of artwork including some that will

become permanent installations at the school – within the grounds.

Please look out for further information, as we will be inviting you in to school, to look at what has been going on towards the end of that week.

We will also be asking you to bring in various recycling materials to help with our art work. A letter outlining these will be sent out next week.

Thank you in anticipation.

May Sporting Update

The children have really embraced the sporting values of determination and self-belief this term through their PE and extra-curricular activities. It has been fantastic to see so many children enjoying being active this term. Although off to a rainy start, our tennis players made us proud and remained determined against some really tough competition to finish in a very respectable 8th place. We look forward to attending both Quadkids Athletics and Cricket festivals soon, as well as lots of active after school clubs after half term to make the most of the improving weather

Yr1 Singing with Nick Cope

Year One have been working really hard to learn lots of songs by the singer and songwriter, Nick Cope, and on Tuesday 7th May we had an amazing opportunity to perform in front of a large audience alongside Nick at a music festival held at Kingsmere Community Centre. The children's singing was wonderful and they represented the school superbly. It was great to see so many parents joining us there to support the children.



Term 6 After School Clubs

Please look out for the new clubs letter which will be out on the first day back after half term. This letter is for the clubs we will be running during the last term. The letter needs to be returned by the Friday of that first week back and then the slips will be given out the following week. Clubs will start in week beginning 17th June and will run for 5 weeks.

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.

KS1 trip to Batsford Arboretum

Key Stage One children enjoyed a fantastic trip to Batsford Arboretum. Children were able to walk around the arboretum and learn about the jobs that Percy the Park Keeper would do in his park.

We also took part in a forest school session to take part in bug hunts, den building and explore a mud kitchen.

SUMMER FETE SATURDAY 6TH JULY 11am – 3p.m.

Please put this date in your diary if you have not already done so. We are hoping for another wonderful day of activities, stalls, displays, performances, food and drink. A sunny day has been ordered!!

Please do come along and support the school and raise money for those little extras for our children. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Staff News

Both Mrs Hamilton and Mrs Foster have now had their babies – a girl and a boy, respectfully. They are all doing well and we wish them all the best enjoying the new additions to their families and of course some restful nights!

WORLD OF CROCODILES

The children of year 3 and 4 had an amazing time at World of Crocodiles. Not only did they see the animals being fed but they even got to stroke an alligator and a python. Longfields School were well looked after by all the Crocodile staff who were very impressed with the wonderful behaviour of the children.



WELL DONE Year 6

A special well done to all of our Year 6 children on their attitude and commitment to this week's SATs. They have shown commitment and real maturity throughout the week and we are all very proud of them. We won't know the results until the beginning of July but they will not change how proud we are of them all. Well Done

SPORTS DAYS

Please note that our Sports Days this year are as following, starting after morning registration.

Foundation Stage: 16th July

Key Stage 1: 10th July

Key Stage 2: 20th June

We hope to see you all there to support these events. Thank you in advance.

Dogs on School Grounds

As a dog lover it is not always easy to remind people of this, but it is County policy that there are no dogs brought on to the school grounds at drop off and pick up time – This includes being carried by their owners

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 industry finance systems; setting and monitoring budgets. If you are a parent and work in finance and would like to put yourself forward for nomination and the election process then please come in and see Mr Hollidge before the end of term. 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**

School Gardens

**These are looking absolutely beautiful.
I actually had to stop as I was running past
the other day because they looked so
fantastic. Thank you to the families who have
committed to looking after these areas.
A wonderful job so far.
Keep up the good work.**

PE in School

Over the last term we have 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 continue 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**.

Message from Cherwell District Council

Dear Bicester Primary Schools,
We are assisting the University of Oxford with a hedgehog survey, and wondered if you would be able to promote this amongst your Bicester parents, please? We know that children -and in fact people of all ages- are keen to champion hedgehogs.

Map your garden to help hedgehog conservation!
Martin Besnier, a research intern at the University of Oxford, is investigating the movements of hedgehogs in Bicester. Gardens have been shown to play an important role in their conservation, but only if hedgehogs can access them: finding out more about the suitability of gardens for hedgehogs is key to their survival. If you are living in Bicester and interested in helping please sign up using the following form.
<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSeyRBXX7i0Zs-zR7.../viewform...>

Thank you for your help!

Dates for the Diary

Please see School Life Calendar for full dates

24 May - Last day before Half Term

4 June - **TUES First day back (Mon 3rd INSET)**

20 June - KS2 Sports- starts after a.m. register

6 July - FOLs Summer Fete 11am

9 Jul - Move up Day

10 July - KS1 Sports - starts after a.m. register

16 July – Foundation Sports - starts after a.m. register

24 July - Last day before Summer Holiday

4 Sept - First day back after Summer holidays