



Longfields' Latest 14th Oct 2020

Thank you for your support!

Dear All,

I would like to thank you all again for your support over the last few weeks. It has been great to continue seeing everyone in the morning and at the end of the day (come rain or shine!) and as the weather gets colder I'm sure stamina will be tested, but I'm intending to still be there, just maybe with a few more layers! Life does still feel pretty surreal, but having the children back at school has brought back some form of normality. In fact, our attendance so far this term has been fantastic – it currently stands at just below 97% across the whole school. Thank you for that and let's keep it going.

As always, thank you for your continued support and contribution to the life of Longfields.

Hot Dinners - back on the menu

We have decided to start our hot meal service again after half term. This does cause some logistical challenges but we are confident we can keep the children in their bubbles whilst they are eating (dividing the hall in half helps with this!). Reception, Year 1 and 2 will be able to eat their lunches in the hall (timetabled so that bubbles do not mix) and Key Stage 2 children will have their meals delivered to their class.

Meal manager is open from 14th October so you should be able to log on and book meals for after half term. Final orders by 27th October. Please do look carefully at what you are ordering and the menu has been slightly simplified to allow for quick service and to facilitate a move back to hot food.

It will be great to have hot food again as the weather starts to get a little colder.

Fresh Start are bringing back hot meals!

From 2nd November 2020 your child will be able to get a hot meal again.

Don't forget it's free to all KS1 and FSM pupils. The initiative is based on the well-known benefits to children's attainment and development of eating a balanced diet and the belief that it's of paramount importance to return to hot meals as soon as possible.

To book a meal
Please go to our website
www.freshstartcatering.uk

Orders for the new hot menu in half term 2 will be available from Wednesday 14 October.

Contact us on
Email: support@freshstartcatering.uk
Phone: 01869 226675

Fresh Start

Non-School Uniform Day

We will be having a non-school uniform day on Thursday 22nd October (the last day of term!).

This will be to raise money for the PTA. There will be sealed boxes in each class and it is suggested that each child bring a donation of £1 to put in the class box.

Please note that this is just a non-school uniform day and there is NO THEME.

Thank you



Halloween Competitions

The PTA have arranged for two Halloween competitions to take place. These will be open to all children over half term, with a family house prize too.

If you would like to enter the children's competition then please take a photo of them dressed in their Halloween costume and email it in to fols@longfields-primary.org

For the House decoration competition simply photograph your decorations (inside or out) and email it to fols@longfields-primary.org

In order to take part in the competitions you will need to go on to Scopay and pay the £1 entry for each child and the £1 entry for the House. To be in with a chance of winning you need to make sure you have paid. Final photographs must be received by Friday 6th November. Winners will be announced on Thursday 12th November.

Looking forward to seeing all those ghoulish costumes.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!

Please keep your eyes on the PTA facebook social media page (parents of Longfields Primary School) and on the noticeboards around school.

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

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

VIRTUAL PARENT EVENINGS

**Now - week beginning
16th November**

Please note that our Parent Evenings are now scheduled for the third week back after half term. We will be running these through Microsoft Teams this year.

Booking will open as normal after half term on the school app, but when you book you will need to enter an email address into the comments box and this address will be used to invite you to the meeting.

The meeting invite will be for the duration of the whole Parent Evening session, but please do not join until a couple of minutes before your allotted time. You will then have to wait in the virtual lobby area until you are admitted to the meeting by the class teacher. Please note that at the end of your allotted time you will need to leave the meeting or your session will be closed by the teacher, this will be because other parents will be waiting for their meeting to start. Please help us stick to time. Further instructions to follow soon in case you are unsure how this will all work.

Microsoft Teams Support



Microsoft Teams

Over the summer we have been working hard on adding to the online support given during lockdown. 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

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. I am hopeful that the single yellow restrictions will mean it is easier to drop off in the morning, as it will mean people are unable to park all day and walk into town to work. As always, could I please ask all parents and carers to park legally and respect our local neighbours.

Please help with compliant parking

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

Be Careful where you walk!

Recently we have had a couple of reports about dog mess not being cleaned up along the alleyway and around the grass verges. Please be responsible if you are a dog owner and keep your eyes peeled if you are not. Take care

Flu Vaccinations

Thank you to all those who signed their children up for the flu vaccinations yesterday. It all went very smoothly. If you missed out for any reason, then please contact your local surgery for information on how you can now receive this vaccination.

COVID UPDATE

Thanks for your continued support at drop off and pick up times. Could I ask you to be mindful of a couple of things –

- 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 as this can cause queuing back into the school

As cases begin to rise again nationally, if you feel more comfortable wearing a mask when you drop off and pick up then please feel free to do so

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.



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 stroke
- Keeping a Feelings Journal
- Paper folding
- Weaving



Longfields have been taking part in the World's biggest race! As part of the virtual London Marathon that took place on the 4th October, some of the children have been running (jogging or walking) 2.6 miles. That is the equivalent of 12 laps of our field! It has been fantastic to see the children getting involved and keeping themselves active.



Each year we work hard to contribute toward the annual Poppy Appeal. They have been hit hard by COVID and are unable to put as many collection points out as normal. We will be trying our hardest to allow everyone to buy goods and contribute as usual but are still working on that plan. We will message through the App once we have it all sorted.

Thank you in advance for your support

Dates for your diary:

Please see School Life calendar for full dates

22 Oct - Non School Uniform Day
22 Oct - Last day before Half Term (Thursday)
2 Nov - First Day back after Half Term
16 Nov - Virtual parents evenings taking place this week - more details to follow
18 Dec - Last day before Christmas Break
5 Jan - First day back at school (Tuesday)