



Longfields' Latest 30th Jan 2019

Plenty Going On!

Dear All,

It's been a good start to the January term and there has been plenty going on to keep us on our toes and always learning new things. As always, the weather becomes a little more unpredictable at this time of year so please keep an eye out for any App messages that might be weather related. Will there or won't there be snow? Each forecast seems to say a different thing, but we will endeavour to keep you posted via the App.

Thank you again for your continued support.

School Closure - Snow

There are reports of snow over Thursday night and we are reaching that time of year where the threat of snow could be more often. Please ensure that you are logged in to the school App as this is the way we will inform you of a closure or late opening. We will also put something directly on to the website and inform the local radio stations as normal but the app is our primary method of communication so please ensure you are logged on and ready.

Please note any school closures will also effect Cabin Club timings too.

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.

Solar Assembly

No this was not an assembly powered by sunlight, but an excellent insight for our KS2 children into the latest renewable installation here at Longfields.



Our installation will produce over 40000kw of energy per year. That is enough to power a kettle for 3 years and power 10 average households for a year. There are now over 36 million solar panels installed in the UK and by 2036 our panels will have reduced our CO2 output by 300 tonnes. That is the equivalent emissions for driving a car to the moon and back 3 times. Some amazing figures for our installation.

Science with Atomic Tom

Atomic Tom has been a regular visitor to the school over the past few years. Delivering Science workshops in term time as well as Science clubs/days during the holidays. It has been great to have Tom back again over the past couple of weeks with over half the school benefiting from his approach to science. I'm sure many of your children have come home talking about their experiences. Tom is doing a science club in February half term [on Thursday morning \(21st Feb\)](#) between 9 and 12 at the School. If your children enjoyed his visit and would be interested in attending his science morning please book online at www.atomicscience.org/online-bookings!! He will be doing further dates in the future holidays!

Sporting update – Tri-Golf

A little quieter over the past couple of weeks, although this week has included a visit from a golf professional from Magnolia Park Golf Club. Many of our children got to take part in Tri-Golf sessions in the hall and enjoyed taking part in a new sport.

Teaching Assistant Vacancy

We are currently advertising for a Teaching Assistant to work in Key Stage 1. We are looking for someone with relevant experience of working with children. The post will be to work alongside some of our children with different learning needs. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be then please do pass this information on or think about applying yourself. All applications should be through the correct channels via the Oxfordshire County Council's School's Vacancies website.

Shakespeare Connections

We have recently become a Hub School for the Shakespeare Trust and have already seen benefits from this move. Our KS2 children recently experienced a day of assemblies and workshops on 'A Mid-Summer Night's Dream' and some of our older children have gone on to be involved in an art project based on the play. Clay busts of a selection of characters are mid creation and are currently being fired in the kiln. On their return they will be glazed and re-fired and then become permanent fixtures here at Longfields. This has been a fantastic experience and it has been amazing to listen to the children's knowledge about Shakespeare and in particular 'A Mid-Summer Night's Dream'.



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 me (Mr Hollidge) before the end of term. Thank you

Parent Evenings

Advance notice of dates to keep clear.

Please note that our next Parent Evenings will be during the week 4th-8th March 2019. As usual these sessions will be able to be booked through the school App and booking will be available from Wednesday 13th February. Once again, we look forward to seeing you all.

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.**

From January onwards 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.

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.

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**.

HELP NEEDED

Can you spare a little bit of time during the day to help out with hearing children read in Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2). Reading is so important to us as a school and it is always great to have help so that our children can read to an adult as often as possible. Please either pop in to the office or try and catch Mr Davies if you are able to spare just an hour a week.

Thank you in advance

Music for Schools Foundation

A chance to blow your own trumpet, toot your own flute or learn to play clarinet, cornet or saxophone!

Music for Schools is a charity that gives music lessons in schools, and we are coming to your school on Wednesday 13th February at 3.30pm. Your child will have the opportunity to try each instrument and we will tell you all about how to sign up for lessons.

Come and see our Music Man to find out more – no obligation, packages to suit all budgets.

Dates for the Diary

Please see School Life Calendar for full dates

31 Jan - Y6 & Reception Height & weight
6 Feb - Swimming starts-Mr Kellam & Mr Jenkinson's classes
11 Feb-Everdon meeting after school, hall,Y3 parents
12 Feb - Y6 Junior Citizen
13 Feb - Parents of 2,3,4,5 &6 music meeting 3.20pm in hall
15 Feb - Last day before half term
25 Feb - First day back after half term
27 Feb – 5 March - School Book Fair
4 Mar - Parents Evenings this week
7 Mar - World Book Day
20 Mar – Woodlands meeting after school-Y5 parents
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 3rd INSET)**
24 July - Last day before Summer Holiday
4 Sept - First day back after Summer holidays