

Have a Wonderful Christmas!

Dear All,

This year I think I'm going to try and make more of the Christmas break than I might normally do. Yes, I'll be seeing less people, and some of my family I'll just meet on screen (the new normal!), but this last 9 months has had an impact on how I think about many things, as I'm sure it has done for many people.

Making the absolute most of time with family and valuing those small moments that might get lost in the busyness of the season. Trying to be in each moment and enjoy each minute for what it is, and focusing on all the positives and the joys of Christmas Festivities.

I know that I have said this many times, but thank you for all your kind words and support this year; it certainly has been a testing one. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope you have a wonderful break. And I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all the staff at Longfields for their heroic effort this year. Let's hope that as we venture into 2021, that as the year goes on, things become easier and that our sense of community continues to go from strength to strength.

Please remember that we return to school on Tuesday 5th January.



Thank you to Yarnton Home and Garden Centre for the Christmas tree for Foundation Stage.



COVID UPDATE

Firstly, thank you for your continued support. I have no doubt that we will still be following our current restrictions on our return so please keep following the school guidance.

- **If you have been abroad during the Christmas break, please ensure you follow the relevant quarantine guidance before returning to school in the new year.**
- **Please make sure that you leave the school premises via the gate leading to the alley, not via the school car park.**
- **The car park can only be used as an exit if you have to go back to Nursery to drop off your child.**
- **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 or outside the front of school as this can cause congestion.**

As cases begin to rise again nationally, please ensure you are tested should you have any symptoms, with all results reported to the school office.

A GREAT CHRISTMAS WEEK



It has been wonderful to see our children enjoying a week of Christmas activities and learning including:

- Coming to school in Christmas jumpers or simply Christmas colours for the whole week.
- Raising money for 'Save the Children'
- Santa Fun Run
- Christmas decorations
- Superb Christmas windows

It has been a lovely end to the term and I very much hope the happiness of the season extends to you all for the Christmas break.

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

A huge thank you to the PTA and to everyone who bought tickets for the Christmas Raffle.

We managed to raise over £900!

Thank you all for an amazing effort.



SANTA FUN RUN

We had a great time on Monday. Dodging the showers, or should I say the torrential downpours, whilst running around the field to Christmas music. Thank you to the parents who loaned us the 2 huge snowmen for the day, it certainly added to the occasion.

Thanks to everyone who took part and to the majority of children who tried to avoid the mud!



CHRISTMAS WINDOWS

Please have a look on the school website under the GALLERY section. There is a folder called Christmas windows where you will be able to see the children's wonderful artwork.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

In regards to Christmas dinner, we are still planning to have a delayed festive feast **on 21st January**. We may have to arrange a few sittings to ensure it doesn't compromise the bubble system, but please do book up online with Fresh Start as soon as you can.

Hot Dinners - back on the menu

Thank you to everyone who has signed back up to our hot meal service. Even though we have had to create a couple of sittings to keep bubbles intact, it has been great to see the children enjoying their hot meals again and our numbers are now almost back up to previous levels in regards to children ordering and partaking.

Don't forget to order lunches with Fresh Start over the holidays for next term.

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.

There are some parents also using residential parking bays in Hertford Close – please refrain from doing so and continue 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.

BIKES and SCOOTERS

Can I remind all children and adults that bikes and scooters should be walked and not ridden whilst on the school premises. Unfortunately, we had an incident last Thursday where another child was ridden/crashed into. Please help by ensuring that your child walks/pushes their bike or scooter.

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

We can re-set this for you.

Thank you

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 strokes
- Keeping a Feelings Journal
- Paper folding
- Weaving



Street Tag

We are delighted to announce that Longfields School will be participating in the Street Tag Oxfordshire Schools Games for the second season, which will be starting after the Christmas Holidays.

About Street Tag

- For communities, Street Tag is exceptional at bringing together families, neighbours, and communities to get out more, by turning streets and green spaces into a virtual playground, to increase families' outdoor experience in walking, running and cycling to earn rewards.

Step by step of how to participate in Street Tag and how it works

- **Install** the Street Tag app on the App Store or Play Store (or at www.streettag.co.uk)
- **Join the school team using the QR code.**
- There can be up to 250 players in our school team.
- During the Street Tag experience, families, staff, and children record their distances indoor and outdoor, walking, running and cycling by scanning virtual tags at various locations and then convert their steps through the steps sync feature into Street Tag Points (each tag are worth 10 points on average). Watch our total distance (points) accumulate to climb up on the School Leader board, creating competition and being physically active. A great opportunity to engage in a fun play experience with the opportunity to earn prizes.
- Overall Street Tag delivers active happiness to families.

There will be prizes for the top 3 schools on the leader board.

Schools QR Code



Dates for your diary:

Please see School Life calendar for full dates

18 Dec - Last day before Christmas Break
5 Jan - First day back at school (Tuesday)
12 Feb - Last day before half term
22 Feb - First day back after half term
4 Mar - World Book Day
23 Mar - Y6 & Reception Height & weight
31 Mar - Last day before Easter holiday
19 April - First day back after Easter
28 May - Last day before Half Term
8 June - **TUE First day back (Mon 7th INSET)**
22 July - Last day before Summer Holiday