



Christmas Cracker this Saturday!

Dear All,

Thank you for your continued support this term. It has been great to see our children begin to experience some outside trips and events again – including trips to Cotswold Wildlife Park and Cross-country.

It continues to be good to see you each morning and at the end of the day, but can I please remind you all that school no longer has staggered start times. Children need to be in school by 8:55a.m.

We are still seeing many pupils arriving after this time, which means they can be marked as late in the register. Please can we make a concerted effort to be in school on time and pick up promptly at the end of the day.

We are looking forward to the rest of term and getting ready for the festive season.

Thank you again for your continued positive comments and messages of support.

CROSS COUNTRY EVENT

We took four teams of runners to Bicester School to the annual cross-country competition. The course was much longer than the children expected but they all gave it their best. We could not be prouder of how much effort the children put into the event.



As a school leadership we are looking at re-establishing our core values to form part of our school vision moving forwards.

We have been looking at a range of values over the past years but feel that we want to narrow our focus and make our values more meaningful.

With that in mind, the teaching staff have been delivering lessons on values asking the children which ones are important. We have consulted the whole staff as part this work and would also like to know your key values.

It would be great if you can follow the link below and put your top 5 - these suggestions are really to help us to shape our vision for the school moving forwards.

You can contribute up to 5 ideas for the school values by following this link.

<https://www.menti.com/8bbpw44kij>

The website we are using to host the question will give you the chance to enter your email address to get a copy of the results, but we will also be sharing the finished word cloud when the survey is complete.

Thank you in anticipation for your contribution.



Christmas Cracker Event

We are looking forward to seeing you all this Saturday. This will be a great chance to buy some early Christmas presents, meet up as a community and raise some more money for the school.

If you are able to help for half an hour or so, it is not too late. I know that the PTA would be very grateful. Please do contact them directly to offer your support.

I look forward to seeing you all at this event too.

Saturday 20th November
11a.m. – 3p.m.

After School Clubs

Thank you to all Longfields staff for volunteering to run this term's after school clubs (even during parent evening week). We are looking forward to our children enjoying the many activities we have in store for them. Please ensure that you pick your child up promptly at 4.15pm from these clubs.



We will be having a non-school uniform day on Friday 19th November. This will be to raise money for Children in Need.

You can donate your pound through Scopay. We look forward to raising money and a great cause.

Thank you in advance.

Flu Vaccinations



Flu Vaccination: Just a reminder that if you wish your child to receive the flu vaccination at school on Tuesday 23rd November, that you need to have signed the online agreement form by the 22nd.

Your child's annual flu vaccination is now due. The vaccination is painless and free, given by a quick and simple spray up the nose. Consent to vaccinate your child is now via an online consent form.

<https://www.oxfordhealthimms.co.uk/forms/flu>

Or see school website - blue scroll news at bottom of page-

<https://longfields.sch.life/Page/Detail/childhood-flu-programme-2021-1>

The unique code for Longfields school is: -

OX123008

Please submit your form by 5pm on 21 Nov.

Parent Evenings

Thank you to everyone who has booked up for Parent Evenings. We will be at the hands of technology, so please do not worry if things go wrong – we will be able to sort something out if a meeting doesn't go ahead.

Booking guidance can be found on the school website:

Please follow: Parents – School information – Parent evenings

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.

PLEASE WEAR CORRECT PE KIT

We have taken the decision to continue to let children come to school in their PE kits on their PE days, but there are many children just turning up to school in sports kit that is not part of our uniform. Please can you ensure that your child has the correct PE kit when turning up to school. I understand that as the weather gets colder then your child may need a sweatshirt or top in addition to the t-shirt, but could we please ensure the correct t-shirt is worn (not a football top that is the same colour)

Thank you.

SWIMMING

Did you know that only 55% of children can swim in Oxfordshire!!

As part of the national curriculum, it is our aim that all children are able to swim **25 metres by the end of Year 6**. Our current system for swimming means that children swim for around 6 weeks in the year and then wait for a year before they swim again. This period of time in the pool does not really give non-swimmers enough time to learn or for those weaker swimmers to properly improve. From January 2022, we will be changing the way swimming is taught at Longfields. Our Year 5s will swim until Easter and then our Year 4s will swim from Easter until the summer break. On our return in September 2022 the Year 5s will swim for the first half of the Year and then it will go back to the Year 4s for the other half.

The way this rotation works, means that children will swim for almost an entire year (split by the summer holiday). There will also be catch up sessions available to our Year 6 non-swimmers in the summer term. Although this means children will not swim at school until Year 4, it will hopefully mean that more of our pupils become competent swimmers and able to keep themselves safe in water.

Cotswold Wildlife Park



What a fantastic couple of days were had at the Cotswold Wildlife Park. After what seems like an eternity of not being able to go on school trips, it was brilliant to be able to take our Year 1s and 2s on a great day out. All the animals were out and about, and the behaviour of our children was amazing.

Well done everyone!

Bike Library The bikes are here!



Our bikes have now been delivered and we are nearly ready to loan out bikes to children and families who wish to cycle to school and/or use them for recreation.

Please do contact Mr Tucker if you are interested in being considered for a bike loan. It would be great to use them as soon as possible so please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Bikes will also be supplied with helmets and locks.

School Christmas Dinner

This year our school Christmas dinner will be on Tuesday 14th December. It would be great to have as many children as possible joining us in the hall for our festive lunch, so please do not forget to order through Fresh Start ahead of time.

If you would like to send your child in with a cracker on the day that would be great too, but crackers are not compulsory – Fun and Celebration is!!!

RECEPTION ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2022

Do you have a child who is 3 or 4 years old? Are they due to be starting school next September?

If so, then the closing date for Reception applications is Saturday 15th January 2022

Please go to the Oxfordshire County Council website to make your application.

Christmas Performances

As long as COVID cases do not get too high, we are intending to put on face-to-face Christmas productions for Reception and KS1.

This will be amazing, but there will be some changes to the way these are organised. Each child will only be allocated 2 tickets for a single performance on a designated night (this is not 2 tickets for each night). We may also ask for face coverings to be worn during the performance should we feel it necessary.

We are looking forward to what is a great Primary school tradition – look out for the dates in the next few weeks.

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

COVID UPDATES

It has been good to resume pretty much business as usual this term but that has seen us have more positive COVID cases in the last 5 weeks than we did in the whole of the last 18 months.

You will know that the guidance has changed in terms of pupils only needing to isolate if they test positive. After being identified as a close contact, pupils are asked to undertake a PCR straight away. We have found that in pretty much all cases this comes back as negative because the virus is still within its incubation period. With this in mind we have added a further layer of protection for staff and pupils, and this has an impact on those pupils who are living with someone who is COVID positive. In this instance, we are asking that the pupil undertakes an LFT each morning for the week following their negative PCR test, and only attends school if that test is negative. So far this term, these extra precautions have allowed us to identify 3 or 4 siblings who have tested positive at a later date than their PCR and has therefore helped us keep school a safer place.

CONGRATULATIONS



I have the wonderful pleasure of letting you know that our curriculum development schedule continues to have an impact on the learning experiences our children have on a day-to-day basis. This is further added to by the school being awarded the 'Primary Science Quality Mark'.

Led by Mr Davies and Miss Kardos, we have worked hard over the past year to meet the exacting standards to wear this Quality Mark. Thank you to all those involved and we look forward to this ensuring a quality science curriculum for all our children. Thanks again, especially to Miss Kardos and Mr Davies.

HIGH TEMPERATURES

As a school, one of the only guards we have against the spread of COVID is testing temperatures. If a child is feeling unwell at school, then this is something we do as routine. The result of our temperature test, regardless of any test done at home, has consequences, in that we will ask for the child to have a PCR test (a LFT is not sufficient). In addition to this, the latest guidance asks that even if the PCR test comes back as negative, if the child retains the high temperature, then they should be kept off school until 24 hours after their temperature has returned to normal.

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

We can re-set this for you.

Thank you

Dates for your diary:

Please see School Life calendar for full dates

20 Nov - PTA Christmas Cracker Event 11am-3pm
23 Nov - Nasal Flu Vaccination
6 Dec – Y3 to Gaydon Motor Museum
7 Dec – Y4 to Gaydon Motor Museum
14 Dec – Christmas lunch (Book via Fresh Start)
17 Dec - Last day before Christmas Break
5 Jan - First day back at school (Wednesday)