



Longfields' Latest 17th Sept 2019

Welcome Back

Dear All,

Welcome back to the start of another academic year. It was great to see so many smiling faces on the first day back and the school continues to retain the positive ethos and feeling that we strive so hard to maintain. It is always something that is commented on by the many parents I show around the school and we all hope that family feeling continues for many years to come.

We're already into week three of the new term and the children and staff are hard at work. We are constantly working to improve our standards and the opportunities we offer our children and this year there will be a big focus on our wider curriculum and mindfulness in school.

As usual, thank you all for your continued support and partnership as we look forward to another year.



Department for Education Curriculum Development

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have always tried to ensure that our curriculum at Longfields is both relevant and exciting. In line with the changing focus of Ofsted we are trying to further broaden our curriculum and focus on all areas, celebrating the merits that they all hold.

We have started by increasing our curriculum focus on the website. Please do have a look at the new content. We have also added a gallery section to each curriculum area – please bear with us as pictures are gradually uploaded as the term goes on.

Parent Evening Dates

Please note that the first Parent Evening Week of the new academic year is the second week after the half term – week beginning 11th November. I will update you regarding the opening of online booking (booking is through the school life app) as soon as this has been confirmed but please put this week in your diary and make every effort to attend. 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 stroke
- Keeping a Feelings Journal
- Paper folding
- Weaving

New Arrivals

Congratulations to Mrs Tolley on the arrival of a new baby girl to their family and Miss Palmer on the arrival of a baby boy to her family. All are well and we wish them all the best.

Staff Travels

Some advance notice that Miss Walker (now in Nursery) will be off travelling after the February half term. She was originally intending to fly out around Christmas time, but she kindly agreed to stay on until Mrs Foster and Mrs Hamilton return from their maternity leave. I am sure she will have the most amazing time out in Australia – we are all very jealous!

Woodlands and Everdon

Each year we send our Year 6s and Yr4s away on a residential trip. These are fantastic team building occasions as well as adding to the wider curriculum. Our Year 6s are currently away at Woodlands having a great time and our Year 4s are off to Everdon in a couple of weeks time. We hope they all have a fantastic time away.

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 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**.

General School Reminders

Please ensure that if you have changed any contact details either phone, address or email, that you inform the office of these changes as it is essential that we have up to date contacts.

Please remember that we are a **nut-free school**. We have a number of children with quite severe nut allergies and therefore ask that packed lunches do not contain nut products (peanut butter etc.). Children can bring a healthy snack (a piece of fruit) to school to be eaten at morning break time.

If your child is unwell please contact the school office, by email or phone by 9.30am, with the reason for the absence. Thank you.

Dates for your diary:

Please see School Life calendar for full dates

30 Sept or 2 Oct - Everdon Trip
8 Oct-Cotswold Wildlife Park –Miss Kardos/Miss Skinley
9 Oct- Cotswold Wildlife Park –Mr Davies/Mrs Davies
10 Oct – Individual School Photographs
25 Oct – PTA Disco
25 Oct - Last day before half term
31 Oct - **Closing date for secondary applications**
4 Nov - First day back at school
11 Nov - Parent Evening this week
30 Nov – PTA Christmas Market
11 Dec - Nasal Flu immunisation-Rec,1,2,3,4,5&6
19 Dec - Last day before Christmas Break(Thursday)