

Longfields Latest News

31st January 2025

In our assembly this week we looked at the significance of the Lunar New Year, a festival celebrated by millions around the world, marking the beginning of the new lunar calendar.

We discussed the origins of the Lunar New Year, highlighting its roots in ancient Chinese history and how it is celebrated across various Asian cultures. We spoke about the key traditions such as cleaning the house to sweep away bad luck, family reunions and special meals. We also explained the symbolism of the Chinese zodiac, focusing on the animal representing the current year. We highlighted traditional activities such as dragon dances and the significance of red envelopes. In 2025, the festivities began on January 29th and continue for 15 days, ending with the Lantern Festival on February 12th.

To update you on the appointment of our new headteacher, Mrs. Goodes, I want to reassure you of my ongoing commitment as the interim headteacher at Longfields Primary and Nursery School until the end of this academic year. Mrs. Goodes and I met earlier this week to discuss our plans and ensure a seamless transition for our school community. We will be working closely to maintain the high standards and positive environment that we all value. Please rest assured that our primary focus remains on providing the best possible education and support for all our pupils. We are committed to a smooth handover and will keep you informed throughout the process, including opportunities for you to meet Mrs Goodes.

Thank you for your continued support.

By working together and supporting each other we can make Longfields a more harmonious place for all our community, families, staff and at the very centre, our children. Please see the information that follows.

We wish those of our families that are celebrating the Lunar New year Xīnnián kuàilè 新年快乐 (New Year happiness) in Mandarin or In Cantonese "Gong hei fat choy" (恭喜发财), which means 'Wishing you happiness and prosperity.'

Warm regards,
Ms J Abbott
Interim Headteacher

Longfields Primary School and Nursery Opening Hours (Main School)

The school gates are open from 08:40 and close promptly at 08:50. The school gates are reopened at the end of the day at 15:15 for you to collect your child at 15:20.

The school day starts at 08:50 (children arriving after 09:00 will be marked as late).

School day ends at 15:20

08:50 – 15:15 = 6.5 hours

32.5 hours / week



Good working Relationships

As a school we are all aware of the importance of good working relationships and all recognise the importance of these relationships to equip our children with the necessary skills for their education. For these reasons we will continue to welcome and encourage parents and carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

We are committed to resolving difficulties in a constructive manner, through an open and positive dialogue. However, we understand that everyday misunderstandings can cause frustrations and have a negative impact on our relationships. Where issues arise or misconceptions take place, please contact a member of our office team, who will be available to direct you to the right person to meet with you and go through the issue and hopefully resolve it. Where issues remain unresolved, please follow the school's complaints procedure. This is available on the school website or a copy can be requested from the school office.

I feel we need to clarify the types of behaviour that will not be tolerated and we seek parental agreement to these expectations.

Behaviour that will not be tolerated:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the schools normal operation or activities anywhere on the school premises.
- Any inappropriate behaviour on the school premises.
- Using loud or offensive language or displaying temper.
- Threatening in any way, a member of staff, visitor, fellow parent/carers or child.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Sending abusive or threatening emails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications (including social media) to anyone within the school community.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/staff/governors at the school on Facebook or other sites
- The use of physical, verbal or written aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment of your own child on school premises.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own child. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences).
- Smoking, vaping, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises. (Alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events).
- Dogs being brought on to the school premises. (Other than guide dogs)

Should **any** of the above occur on school premises or in connection with school the school may feel it is necessary to take action by contacting the appropriate authorities or consider banning the offending adult from entering the school premises.

It is important for parents and carers to make sure any persons collecting or dropping children are aware of these expectations

Together we create a positive and uplifting environment not only for the children but also all who work and visit our school.

Jewellery/Nail Polish

We kindly remind you of our school policy regarding nail varnish, acrylic nails, and jewellery. To maintain a safe and focused learning environment, we ask that students refrain from wearing nail varnish, acrylic nails, and jewellery, except for small stud earrings. This policy is in place to prevent distractions and ensure the safety of all pupils during school activities. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us uphold these standards and support our efforts to provide a conducive educational environment for all children. We will be contacting families where we have concerns regarding how their children are coming into school.

Year 1 Trip to Oxford Science Centre

This week Year 1 visited Science Oxford and got the opportunity to be young scientists for the day. They got to use microscopes to closely observe objects, make parachutes that were launched into the air using an air machine and even watch water turn into ice! Staff were very impressed by how beautifully the children represented the school and a great day was had by all!



★ Stars of the week! ★



Dates for your diary:

06.02.2025—Year 5 to Hampton Court Palace
 11.02.2025—Parents Evening
 13.02.2025—Reception and Year 6 height and weight measuring
 13.02.2025—Parents Evening
 14.02.2025—Last day before February half term
 24.02.2025—First day back after half term
 06.03.2025—World Book Day
 20.03.2025—Class group photos
 21.03.2025—Red Nose Day
 03.04.2025—Year 2 to Hatton Country World
 04.04.2025—Last day of school before Easter holidays
 21.04.2025—Easter Monday (Bank Holiday)
 22.04.2025—First day back at school after Easter Holidays

Please see School Life Calendar/school website for full dates

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings will be taking place on Tuesday 11th and Thursday 13th February. Bookings will open on Monday 3rd February and will close on Monday 10th February. Appointments can be booked via School Life.

If your child is in Reception, you will only be able to book a slot with your child's key person.