



Longstone CE (VA) School,
The Cross,
Great Longstone
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Friday 23 October 2020

Newsletter – October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I can't quite believe that we are at the end of this half term. It's been incredible to have everyone back but, boy, everyone is tired! When it comes around, I hope you all manage a well-deserved rest and we look forward to seeing you after the holiday. School closes for the half term holiday on **Friday 23 October** and re-opens on **Monday 2 November**.

Amazing! Thank you!



I just wanted to thank you for your help and cooperation with the systems in place and to tell you how amazing your children continue to be in school. As their new headteacher, they have amazed me (although I'm not really surprised) with their kindness, good humour, generosity and intelligence.

However, given the rising rates of the virus, we still need to maintain vigilance in school and observe the rules contained in government guidance.

Please help us, and the fight against coronavirus, by:

- Ensuring your child washes their hands before coming to school
- Leaving the site as quickly as possible so there is a steady flow of people and cars with plenty of spaces to park
- Socially distancing whilst waiting/queueing
- Respecting different levels of personal approaches to social distancing and keeping safe
- Ensuring your child social distances as much as possible outside the school gates
- **Contacting the school office, via email or telephone, over half term if you child tests positive or is self-isolating so we can plan for the safety and provision of other pupils and staff**

Once again thanks for your support, it is genuinely appreciated.

Harvest message from Reverend James Croft

Dear Friends

I always think harvest comes at such a lovely time of the year as the autumn colours are always so stunning especially in this part of the Peak District. Ever since the beginning of lockdown in March, our church family at St. Giles has been keen to support the local foodbank at Matlock. Although we have supported the foodbank for many years we have tried to make extra special efforts during the current pandemic. During this year's Harvest season people have been especially generous in their gifts. As a church community we have been especially mindful of the poorest and most vulnerable in our society. Our Bishop has continued to stress the importance of this. So it has been so encouraging and heart lifting to hear all what Longstone School has been doing by way of celebrating harvest. Thank you for all your gifts of food and we shall ensure that the food will get delivered as soon as possible. Let all our gifts continue to be shared for the good of all.

Blessings
James



Harvest Celebrations

Please go to your child's class page to see their fab harvest videos (soon to be uploaded) and pictures!

The British weather...coats and wellies!

Please ensure children have coats and wellies in school each day after half term. Even if it is a bit wet and wild(ish), we like to get our children outside (we're a hardy bunch) and it is much more comfortable if they have a coat! We also ask that children have wellies in school so that we can use the whole of the school grounds even when the weather is a bit mucky! This is especially important as we need to use the entirety of the play areas, including the field, to keep our classes separate from each other at break and lunchtime. We rota the classes throughout the week to use different areas of the grounds. Please ensure items of clothing that come into school are named.



Y6 Transfer to Secondary School

A reminder that the closing date for applications is midnight on **31st October 2020**. Please find further information at Derbyshire Admissions <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-school-place.aspx>

Remote Learning – Google Education



We are in the process of finalising our remote learning offer for children who cannot attend school in the event of self-isolation, closure of class bubbles or closure of the whole school. We will be sending out user names and passwords for Google Education in the next few weeks. If we went into any immediate lockdown or had to close a bubble we would use our existing offer to support home learning. You will recall that this included learning being uploaded onto our 'Seesaw' platform.

Let's Celebrate

Apart from all of the usual day to day stuff excitement, we have also managed to cram in lots of other exciting things this half term including RE week, harvest celebrations, Y6 Bikeability, football festivals, a whole school cross country event, a non-uniform day for charity and much more! Well done to everyone involved for making these happen and enjoying them so much!

The Hive

The Hive breakfast and after school club is up and running again. Please get in touch if your child requires a place after half term.



Parent Meetings

You should be receiving a letter today with details on how we will be running this year's parent meetings on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 November.

Attendance and punctuality

Thank you to all who do their utmost to ensure regular attendance and punctuality. It is a great way to ensure our children get full access to their education. It is also important that your child is in school on time each day unless there is a valid reason. Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their children attend school regularly and on time. Please contact the school if you need any support around your child's attendance and punctuality.

Rec to Y6 - Flu Immunisations reminder

The School Health Team are due to visit us on Monday 30 November to vaccinate children from Reception – Year 6. Only children whose parents have given consent will receive the nasal flu vaccine. You should have received an email with further details and how to give consent online. Please contact the office if you require further information.

Website and Facebook

The school website is a useful resource for information and key dates. It is updated regularly and can be found at www.longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk Please remember you can also find us on Facebook (@LongstoneSchool).



Diary Dates

Please find a list below of diary dates for the rest of the autumn year. I'm sure that you will be aware that, sadly, we cannot currently run many of the things we would normally be doing. Consequently, I've only included diary dates for the autumn term as I am reluctant to plan too far ahead. However, we aim to continue to be creative and imaginative this year! Please note that events are subject to change.

Have a happy and healthy half term.

Kind regards

Mr Simon Beahan
Acting Executive Headteacher

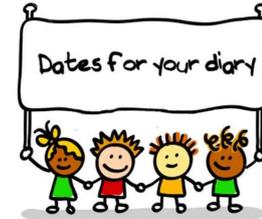


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Autumn Term 2020

Mon 2 November:	Children back in school
Monday 9 November:	Maths week
Tuesday 10 November:	Parent's Evening
Wednesday 11 November:	Parent's Evening
Friday 13 November:	Children in Need day
Monday 16 November:	Anti-Bullying week – United Against Bullying/Road Safety Week
Thursday 19 November:	Extra Time Whole School event – details TBC
Monday 30 November:	Rec – Year 6 Flu Immunisations
Tuesday 1 December:	Decoration Day
Monday 7 December:	Whole school RE week
Wednesday 16 December:	Christmas dinner day
Friday 18 December:	Class parties and then BREAK UP



We will keep you informed of any additional arrangements we make for Christmas