



Longstone CE (VA) School
The Cross
Great Longstone
DE45 1TZ

Telephone: 01629 640377

Email: enquiries@longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk

Website: www.longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Simon Beahan

Tuesday 20 December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

With me steadily working my way through the chocolates in my advent calendar, it seems that Christmas is just around the corner. We close for the Christmas break on **Wednesday 21 December 2022 at 3:30pm**. School will reopen to pupils on **Monday 9 January 2023 at 8:50am**. This is a nice long break so I hope everyone has the opportunity to feel rested and refreshed.



On behalf of myself, the governors and the staff, a sincere thank you to everyone who has supported the school in some capacity during the year. I hope that you all have a peaceful and healthy holiday and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Well done to everyone!

The autumn term and the run up to Christmas is always busy. It is clear that everyone is very tired this week and is deserving of a great holiday! Well done to all of our children for their hard work and effort this last term. They continue to show an amazing attitude and enthusiasm towards their learning and are always keen to shine! Thank you also to the staff team - we are very fortunate to have such a hardworking and dedicated group of adults who ensure the children are provided with the very best opportunities and are looked after with care. And finally, thank you to our governors – volunteers who work hard behind the scenes to both support and challenge the school to be the best it can be.



Christmas Celebrations



We have enjoyed lots of Christmas festivities during December. Amongst other things, we enjoyed the school nativity, the Christmas Story at St Giles' church, Christmas dinner, Sparkle and Shine, a trip to the Panto (oh, yes, we did!), Decoration Day and Christmas jumper day. Thanks to everyone who supported and enjoyed these events. They have been magical. We have been so pleased to enjoy so many of our traditional Christmas events and thank you for supporting them so enthusiastically. It's a credit to our staff, wonderful children and our wider school community.

FOLS

We are so lucky to have such a wonderful and dedicated FOLS group. This month alone they have run the Christmas Bazaar and Film Night. We are always extremely grateful for the resources and enrichment opportunities FOLS fund. Thanks to all who contributed and were able to support in some way. If you can get involved with FOLS in any capacity then please get in touch! All monies raised go back into the school.



Party Day – Wednesday 21 December 2022

Children can come to school in their party clothes on the last day (note of caution: it could be a bit mucky on the yard at break and lunchtime!).





Advent Calendars

Thanks to everyone who was able to donate an advent calendar this year (we got over 60!) and they arrived safely at a Matlock food bank.

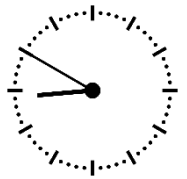
New Starters in Reception for September 2023

If your child was born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 you'll need to apply for their infant or primary school place by midnight on 15 January 2023. They'll start school in September 2023. You can apply online at: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-school-place.aspx> or call 01629537479. Please note that all applications made on time receive equal consideration. Applying after the deadline may reduce your chances of getting a place at your preferred school - particularly if it is popular. If your child has a statement of educational needs or an Educational Health Care Plan contact the county special needs section on 01629536539. Please share this information with other prospective parents who might not have children at the school and feel free to tell them that we are a great school!



Start of the day...

New year, new routines! It is great to see so many children getting to school punctually so that the children are in the classrooms ready to learn at 9:00am. The classroom doors are open for the children at 8:50am. Please ensure your child is punctual so that they can make the most of the learning opportunities provided for them.



Attendance Letters



In January, you will be receiving a termly letter detailing your child's attendance information for the autumn term. Our aim is that all of our children are here **on time every day**. However, we know that is not always possible as children can become unwell – there's lots of viruses and bugs going around at the moment! However, the government continue to make the importance of regular and punctual attendance clear to schools. The aim of the letter is to ensure you have the full information about your child's current attendance and are aware of the importance of good attendance whenever possible.

Morpurgo swimming

Swimming begins on Wednesday 18 January 2022 for children in Morpurgo. The children leave school at 2pm to return to school by the end of the day for pick up at approximately 3:30pm (the buses can run late!). Please ensure their swimming kit is in school each Wednesday for the next 10 weeks. You will receive a separate letter in January with further details and will need to return a consent form to school. Please contact the office if you would like to volunteer to go swimming and support the class.



Let it snow!



There may come a point when we get another dollop of snow. We will always endeavour to open school. However, when there is particularly severe snow or ice, the school has to consider the safety of the children, parents and staff in getting to and from school. We also have to ensure that there are enough adults in school to supervise and teach the children. Sometimes, due to travelling distances, it is difficult for staff to get to school or arrive on time. If there are adverse weather conditions, the school will text parents as soon as we have decided about whether school is open. We will also put a message on Facebook and the school website. It could be that we decide to open a little later to allow children and staff to travel to school safely. It could be that we decide it is in the best interests of everyone to close the school for the day. In making any decision regarding change to our usual arrangements, we are mindful of the health and safety of all concerned as well as understanding of the difficulty's families may have in terms of planning in advance, finding childcare etc. We will do our very best to make sure that any decisions are the right ones given the information available to us and that they are communicated to you in good time. We are sure that you will also have contingency plans in place – and let's hope that we don't have to use them! Parents need to make their own judgement regarding the safety of their journey to and from school.



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The Dangers of Frozen Water

Following the recent tragic events, involving primary school children on a lake in Solihull, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue have produced a safety poster, The Dangers of Frozen Water. Please find attached. This information was emailed last week. <https://staywise.co.uk/public/resource/the-dangers-of-frozen-water-factsheet>
<https://staywise.co.uk/public/resource/water-safety-winter-safety>

Healthy Snacks



Have a break... have a piece of fruit! We want our children to live active and healthy lifestyles whenever we can. Children in Reception and key stage 1 will all receive fruit each day morning and don't need to bring one from home. However, for all those other children who would like a snack from home, we ask that it is a healthy option.

Parent Pay

Please ensure that Parent Pay accounts are in credit for school dinners.



Getting in touch...

Please note that there isn't always someone in the office. If you need to get in touch then please ring the school, leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Alternatively, email the school at enquiries@longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk

Diary Dates

We will distribute spring term dates after the Christmas break.

Kind regards

Mr Simon Beahan
Executive Headteacher

THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may over balance or trip and fall in.

ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50 % of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank. you may find it easier to roll.

If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible.

Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for **'HELP'** and dial **999** or **112** if you can

DO NOT walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to **'KEEP STILL'** and offer reassurance.

If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.