



Longstone CE (VA) School
The Cross
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Interim Headteacher: Mrs. Sophie Rawding

Tuesday 9th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! The children have had a wonderful start to the Spring Term and have all jumped straight back into their learning with gusto. It's wonderful to be back in school and I would like to say a huge personal thankyou for all of the support and warm wishes you have all given me upon seeing my face back in school and my new appointment as Headteacher.

As you may have heard from the children (or even noticed from my growing silhouette!), I will be in post as Headteacher until around May Half Term as my Husband and I are expecting another baby. It's a very exciting time for both Myself personally and for school, as the school governors work behind the scenes to appoint a new full time headteacher for our school - a wonderful and exciting opportunity for change. We will, of course, keep you all up to date with advancements in this area as and when we are able to but rest assured a thorough handover will happen when the time comes.

Now onto the fun stuff....



New Starters in Reception for September 2024

We are inviting all parents of September 2024 Receptions school starters to apply for our school. If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 you'll need to apply for their infant or primary school place by midnight on 15 January 2024. They'll start school in September 2024. 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. Please spread the news about our wonderful school and exceptional provision with parents of prospective school starters so that we are able to welcome more people to our fabulous school community.



Welcome Miss Sedgwick!

Miss Sedgwick has been thrust into Longstone life at full speed and has really enjoyed her first few days. She has already got to know the children well and is having great fun in Morpurgo class. Please feel free to give her a wave and say hello at drop off and pick up times. Parents & carers, please give her a wave at the end of the school day to help her get to know your faces as she dismisses the children.



The RSPB Big School's Bird Watch 2024!

Save your loo rolls! A little birdie told us that the RSPB Big School's Bird Watch is happening this month. We love our wonderful local area and appreciate our surroundings very much, so have decided to take part in the bird watch as a whole school. Next week, each child will be making a (nut free) bird feeder and on Friday 26th January all classes will be observing areas around school and submitting their findings as part of The UK wide RSPB annual Great School's Birdwatch campaign to help provide scientists with valuable data about bird species in our area. Please save loo rolls and kitchen rolls and bring them in Thursday 18th January. We will need enough for one per child!





PE Day Reminders

Donaldson	Wednesday & Thursday
Dahl	Tuesday & Thursday
Morpurgo	Tuesday & Wednesday
Rowling	Tuesday & Friday



Teamwork makes the Dreamwork

The school grounds are looking a bit battered and bruised after the barrage of storms over the Christmas holidays.



There are lots of sticks on the playgrounds and garden areas that are causing a nuisance at playtimes and presenting a hazard for tripping and slipping. We really need your help to pick up as many sticks as possible and put them on the stick pile in Morpurgo garden. It would be amazing if we could all pick up a few sticks each to help to clear the yard so sports and safe play can resume ASAP.

The storms have also washed countless amount of silt into our playground drainage channels leaving the playground a bit of a mucky place to play. We have a new school jet wash that is waiting patiently to be used. Please see Mrs. Needham in the school office if you are able to spare an hour to help us clean the playground up – it will save your washing machine as well as our carpets! The Donaldson garden has also lost the battle against the storms, if you are able to spare some time to help Mrs. Buttle tidy it up to make it more useable again, please speak to her. You are welcome into school any time.

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. Our registers close at 9am so please make your best efforts to get here on time. In the coming weeks you will be receiving a letter detailing your child's attendance information for last term. Please don't panic, we know that all children get unwell which will inevitably lead to the odd day off school. But if you are well, we'd love to see your smiling faces in school and on time so that you can join in with the fun and learning.



Going Home Time

If your child is going home with another parent or adult, please make sure you let the office or class teachers know in advance.



Tubes and Boxes!

Mrs Buttle is welcoming donations of tubes of all sizes and large boxes for the children to use in their engineering role play area. Please bring them into the school office or to the Donaldson classroom door if you have anything to donate.

Breakfast club

Would you be interested in breakfast club provision? We are currently exploring the possibility of starting a breakfast club if it would be viable. Please let Mrs. Needham know if you would be interest in breakfast club provision and on which days by Friday 19th January 2024.



Diary dates for the spring term later in the week.

Warmest wishes,

Sophie Rawding
Interim Headteacher