



Newsletter May 2024

Longstone CE Primary School

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April flew by in the blink of an eye and before we knew it May was upon us and the bank holiday awaits! The month of May sparks the beginning of a very busy time in our school calendar with Y6

SATs, residentials, sports events, trips and wild week to name a few events that our children will soon be getting stuck into.

Our New Headteacher - Mr Knight!

This week you all received a letter from our Chair of Governors, Mr Ian Pykett, with the exciting announcement that our new Headteacher, Mr. Mark Knight, will be joining us in September. Mr Knight has already been into school on a few occasions to get to know Longstone and the children and no doubt you will continue to see his face on a regular basis until his full time appointment begins in September. I know you will all join me in welcoming Mr. Knight with open arms and we are all excited to work under his leadership and show him what a special place he has found in Longstone.

Sporting Champions!



The summer term has already seen some wonderful sporting achievements for our talented and dedicated pupils. Back in April, not one, not two....BUT THREE Longstone teams made it through to the county cross country finals held at Mount St. Mary's College...an incredible achievement in itself. Absolutely all of the children ran superbly and our Longstone spirit shone through. Lena Frederick led from the front and ran a superbly paced race, maintaining her lead throughout and finishing a good 15m ahead of the second-placed girl, picking up the overall gold medal for her efforts.

To add to our Longstone sporting success, our athletics team also attended the county athletics championships and came home with the gold medal! Another incredible achievement. A huge well done to our wonderful children for putting their all into their sporting activities and to Mrs Reeves for her expert skill and coaching of these future sports men and women.





Tree Work



Recently a specialist tree surveyor came to inspect all of the trees that we have on our school site. Unfortunately, they found some dangerous trees that require urgent attention.

The tree in the brick circle, next to the climbing frame, is suffering badly from ash dieback and as a result it's roots are unatble, meaning it moves int he wind and wet weather. Because of this, the tree will soon be felled. The staff and children are very fond of this tree and we will be very sad to see it go. Discussions are taking place about what we can do with the tree stump/cut wood, any suggestions warmly welcomed.

In addition to the playground tree, the large Horse Chestnut in the old pre-school garden has been deemed extremely unsafe due to severe lightening strike damage - this means that this tree will have to be removed as a matter of urgency this bank holiday weekend.

Dinner Money

A quick reminder to all to top up your ParentPay accounts to pay for your child's school dinners. Accounts should have a positive balance at all times.



Punctuality

Another reminder to all that the doors to school open from 8.50am to be ready for learning in the classroom by 9:00am. Our registers close at 9.10am and learning begins promptly, children who arrive after this time will be marked as late.

We have also noticed an increased number of unsupervised children being dropped off on the school site or walking to the school site alone from 8.30am. Please note, there are no staff outside supervising children at this time, so please try to wait with your child or arrive when the doors are open.

Wild Week!



Perhaps the most anticipated week of the year, wild week, will commence week beginning 5th June. The staff have worked hard to organise a host of exciting activities for the children including tai chi, a specialist forest school teacher and a visit from Pomeroy Farm and their farm animals! Not to mention the fact that Rowling Class will be heading off to Caythorpe Court for their long awaited

residential and Years 2,3 & 4 will be visiting Lea Green on 6th June. Miss Sedgwick is beavering away behind the scenes to collate a wild week timetable which will be winging its way to you very soon!

Good Luck Y6!



On Monday 13th May our Year 6 pupils will be taking part in their SATs. The children have all worked extremely hard and we are so proud of their attitude towards working hard and trying their best. Please join us in wishing the Year 6 children "the best of luck" for their SATs and let them know that whatever the outcome, we know how hard you have worked and the world is your oyster.

All year 6 families received a letter from Mr Raybould on Thursday with some details of the SATs timetable and the SATs breakfast club that will be open from 8.20am Mon 13th May-Thursday 16th May, with the added treat of Mrs Phelps' sausage sarnies on Thursday to celebrate the last day of SATs!



Dates for your Diary

- Monday 6th May School Closed – Bank Holiday
- Monday 13th May Y6 SATS week (Breakfast club from 8.20am)
- Thursday 16th May Cluster Cricket Youlgrave Year 5/6
- Monday 20th May Whole School Photos
- Monday 20th May Caythorpe Court Residential Meeting for parents 4pm
- Thursday 23rd May Bunting Cup @ Cavendish Fields (Year 5/6 two teams)
- Friday 24th May Break up for May Half Term
- Monday 3rd June INSET DAY - school closed to pupils
- Tuesday 4th June School reopens to all pupils for Summer Term 2 2024
- Wednesday 5th June Y5/6 to Caythorpe Court 2 night residential
- Wednesday 5th June Wild Week in School R-Y4
- Thursday 6th June Y2.3 & 4 @ Lea Green
- Tuesday 18th June Y6 Lady Manners Transition Day
- Monday 24th June Changing Lives Friendship Event Y5/6
- Thursday 27th June Cluster Cricket Related Multi Skills Donaldson class
- Thursday 27 th June Rowing Class to Yoto Carnegie Awards @ LMS School
- Thursday 4th July Class Swap Day (Y6 at Lady Manners all day)
- Tuesday 9 th July Sports Day (More information will follow)
- Thursday 11th July Cluster Rounders Rowsley Year 5/6
- Wednesday 17th July KS2 Play Performance 2pm and 6pm T
- uesday 23rd July Last day of Summer Term

Goodbye for Now



Just one final note from myself as I write my last newsletter of this headship...

I joined Longstone school back in 2011, and over the years, I have got to know all of the children and families extremely well. Primary schools are a unique and all-encompassing place to work, and Longstone has without doubt become an extended family to me.

As I leave for maternity leave any day now, I would like to say "THANK YOU" to each and every member of the Longstone School community; To the children who bring absolute joy to me everyday with their jokes, pictures, hand written notes, chats and hugs...and to the parents with whom I have shared the highs and lows of parenting and educating with - always working together to strive for the best for our children. I feel privileged to have been afforded the opportunity to serve my first headship in such a captivating and inspiring school.

A special thanks goes to the Longstone staff team - we are extremely lucky to have such compassionate and talented educators guiding our children and helping them become the best version of themselves, and I mean that wholeheartedly. Please smile at them, give them a wave....and feed them the occasional cake whilst I am gone!

Take care Longstone and I will see you in a year!

Mrs Rawding.