



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

Friday 13 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

On behalf of myself, the governors and the staff, I wish you all a Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to school.



The majority of the information in this newsletter was sent out just before the end of term. However, with a lot of things having happened between then and now (Christmas and New Year!), I thought it would be a sensible idea to redistribute the information. So, if you feel like you have read it before then you probably have! But read on, as there is some new stuff too.

Christmas Celebrations



We 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 were magical. We were 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. In December, they ran 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.

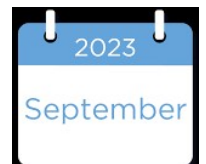


Advent Calendars

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 are 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.



Request for leave of absences

Headteachers are only allowed to grant leave of absence to pupils in *exceptional circumstances*. Department for Education guidelines are clear that taking term-time holidays or extended leave will not be considered as an exceptional circumstance. If leave of absence is declined by the school, yet parents or carers still remove their child, then this would be classed as unauthorised absence for which a fixed penalty notice and/or prosecution could be pursued.

Requests for exceptional term time leave must be made in advance of any arrangement being made. This will allow sufficient time for the request to be considered by the school. The request must be made in writing (letter or email) by the parent/carer using the 'Leave of absence request form' that can be collected from the school office. One form per child per request should be completed. Please note that both parents (if applicable) are required to sign this form. You will be notified in writing about the school's decision.

Illness

If you haven't been ill over Christmas, then you probably know someone who has! There are lots of viruses still circulating at the moment including: Strep A and Scarlet Fever, Flu, Covid and stomach bugs. We take guidance from the Derbyshire Health Protection teams and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) on how to manage and control illnesses in school. They also advise on other infection control measures – e.g. the time a child should be absent from school with a specific illness. We know this can be confusing so please contact the school office if you have any questions or have a look at this useful link: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

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 shortly with further details and parental consent required. 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





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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.

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

Citizenship themes

To support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness of children, we follow assembly themes which are the focus of our daily collective worship. Each theme usually lasts two weeks and is also the basis of behaviour for learning across school for that time. The weekly citizenship awards are also based on the assembly themes. For your information, the themes for this half term are: fairness, friendliness and service.

Celebration Assembly

Our celebration assembly is always a favourite part of the week. If your child is in receipt of either an award, we will notify you by text the Friday before the assembly (a week's notice). We will resume our weekly celebration assembly on Friday 20 January 2023.



Upcoming events to be aware of:

Tuesday 17th January 2023 – Chinese Dance Workshop

Our whole school topic this half term is 'China'. To ignite our children's curiosity around this topic and to immerse the children in the magic of Chinese New Year, we have arranged for the children to take part in a professional movement workshop run by the professional external company 'Dance Days'.

The workshop will take place on the morning of Tuesday 17th January 2023 and all classes will be involved. Children need to come to school wearing PE kit on this day. A voluntary contribution of £2 is warmly welcomed to cover the cost of the workshop and this can be paid via ParentPay.

Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 5pm – SATs meeting for parents of children in Y6 in the School Hall

Mr Raybould will be hosting a meeting to inform you about the Y6 (end of Key Stage 2) SATs (Standard Attainment Tests). Amongst other things, you will find out about what SATs are, when they are taken, school preparation and what you can do to help your child at home. Please let us know if you can't attend and we can send you the meeting information.

Diary Dates

Please see below for further information. Please note that events are subject to change.

Kind regards

Mr Simon Beahan
Executive Headteacher



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Longstone Primary School Diary Dates Spring Term 2023

Half Term 3 (30 days)

Diversity Theme: SEND and disabilities

9.1.23 Citizenship Theme for next two weeks: Fairness

Monday 9 January 2023	Start of Spring Term 1 – School open to pupils at 8:50am
Thursday 12 January 2023	FOLS AGM/Meeting – White Lion – 7.30pm – All Welcome
Friday 13 January 2023	No Celebration Assembly Rowling Wider Opportunities music teaching resumes (weekly)
Sunday 15 January 2023	Closing Date for Admissions into Reception for September 2023
Monday 16 January 2023	Extra-Curricular Clubs to start
Tuesday 17 January 2023	Chinese Dance Workshop – all pupils to wear PE kit Y6 SATs parent meeting 5pm School Hall
Wednesday 18 January 2023	Morpurgo swimming starts each Wednesday from 2.00 – 3.30pm (weekly for the next 10 weeks)
Thursday 19 January 2023	Read Together Session for parents – 8.45 - 9.05am
Friday 20 January 2023	Weekly Celebration Assembly for invited parent/carers resumes (every Friday 9.10am – 9.30am)

23.1.23 Citizenship Theme for next two weeks: Friendliness

Tuesday 24 January 2023	Y2 SATs parent meeting 5pm
Thursday 26 January 2023	Y5/6 Sports Hall Athletics (12 pupils) – Graves Sports Centre, Sheffield 12:30 – 3.30pm
Monday 30 January 2023	National Story Telling Week Curriculum and Standards Governor Meeting – 6.00 pm
Tuesday 31 January 2023	RDSSP Cross Country Event next round (selected pupils) - Y3- Y6 – Whitworth Park – 1 – 3pm - details TBC
Thursday 2 February 2023	Wheelchair Basketball Event – details TBC

6.2.22 Citizenship Theme for next two weeks: Service

Monday 6 February 2023	Children's Mental Health Week – details TBC
Tuesday 7 February 2023	Safer Internet Day - 'Want to talk about it?'
Thursday 9 February 2023	Y5/6 RDSSP Mini Basketball Finals (selected pupils) at Anthony Gell – 3.30 – 5.30pm – details TBC Read Together Session for parents – 3pm – 3.30pm

Monday 13 February 2023	RE Week Y6 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 14 February 2023	Y6 Parents' Evening
Thursday 16 February 2023	Y3/4 Dance Festival (all pupils) at Medway Centre, Bakewell – 12:30 – 3:30pm
Friday 17 February 2023	School closes to pupils for half term holiday
Half Term Holiday – Monday 20 February 2023 – Monday 27 February 2023	
Half Term 4 (25 days)	
Diversity Theme: Inspirational Women	
27.2.23 Citizenship Theme for the next week: Lent	
Monday 27 February 2023	Whole School Training Day – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 28 February 2023	Start of Spring Term 2 – School Open to pupils at 8:50am
Wednesday 1 March 2023	Morpurgo Swimming resumes each Tuesday from 2.00 – 3.30pm
Thursday 2 March 2023	Read Together Session for parents – 8.45 - 9.05am 'World Book Day' – theme to be decided!
Friday 3 March 2023	No Celebration Assembly Rowling Wider Opportunities music teaching resumes (weekly)
6.3.23 Citizenship Theme for the next week: Patience	
Monday 6 March 2023	RDSSP Rearranged Tag Rugby Finals (selected pupils) – Cromford Meadows 1.30 – 4.30pm – details TBC
Thursday 9 March 2023	Y5/6 High 5 Netball Festival (all pupils) at Longstone 12:30 – 3:30pm Resources Governor Meeting – 6:00pm
Friday 10 March 2023	Weekly Celebration Assembly for parent/carers resumes (every Friday 9.10am – 9.30am)
13.3.23 Citizenship Theme for next two weeks: Respect	
Monday 13 March 2023	Parents' Evening – Reception - Y5 – 3.40 – 6pm
Tuesday 14 March 2023	Parents' Evening – Reception - Y5 – 3.40 – 6pm
Friday 17 March 2023	Comic Relief 'Red Nose Day'
Wednesday 22 March 2023	Full Governing Body Meeting – 6:00pm
Thursday 23 March 2023	Y5/6 Cluster Hockey/Quad Kids (all pupils) at Tideswell – 12:30 – 3:30pm
27.3.23 Citizenship Theme for the next week: Easter	
Monday 27 March 2023	RE Week
Thursday 30 March 2023	Easter Service at Church - time TBC
Friday 31 March 2023	Citizenship Award of the Term for parents/carers – 9.10 – 9.30am End of Term - School Closes to pupils for Easter holiday
Easter Holiday – Monday 3 April 2023 – Friday 14 April 2023	
Monday 17 April 2023	Start of Summer Term 1 – School Open to pupils at 8:50am