



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

Telephone: 01629 640377

Email: [enquiries@longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Website: [www.longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Executive Headteacher: Mr Simon Beahan

Thursday 16 February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

The snow drops are emerging, the days seem a little longer and the February break is upon us after another busy half term in school. **School closes for the holiday on Friday 17 February** (today). We reopen to children at 8:40am on **Tuesday 28 February** as we have a whole school training on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February and we are closed to pupils. I hope that you all have a happy, healthy and restful break.



### Children's Mental Health Week



We enjoyed a fantastic Children's Mental Health Week. Amongst other things, we have been on walks, teamed up with our buddies to connect, had 'wheelie' good fun on our scooters, learnt about online safety AND dressed to express! Well done to everyone for joining in and let's continue using our SMILERS every day to look after our well-being. Please visit the Place2Be's website at <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/> for information.

### Well-being support

The Changing Lives Service is Derby and Derbyshire's Children and Young People's Mental Health Support Team. You can refer your child for support if you have concerns about their emotional wellbeing. You can contact the service for more information and advice on: 0300 303 4663 or email [drcs.adminchanginglives@nhs.net](mailto:drcs.adminchanginglives@nhs.net).



To find local information about support you can access yourself, this is available via the Derby and Derbyshire Emotional Health & Wellbeing Website: [www.derbyandderbyshireemotionalhealthandwellbeing.uk](http://www.derbyandderbyshireemotionalhealthandwellbeing.uk)

### Early Help Team

We are aware that parents want to do the best for their family but, sometimes, extra help and support may be required. If you feel you need some support with anything, no matter how small, please get in touch. We can refer families to our Early Help team based at Lady Manners School. Early Help is provided by all who work with children, young people and their families or carers nationally. It is an important part of how we provide support to families who may need a little extra help.

### Safer Internet Day



The school also took part in Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 7 February. We believe that online safety education is a crucial element of the curriculum and an essential part of young people's development. You will find useful links to websites, video clips and key information at the links below and we highly recommend that you look at them. They provide practical advice and safety tips to help manage online safety issues, and discussions surrounding suitable behaviour online.

- Tips, advice and guides for parents and carers from the [UK Safer Internet Centre](https://www.saferinternet.org/)
- Advice for parents and carers from [Childnet](https://www.childnet.com/)
- Reviews and information about games, apps, TV shows and websites from [Common Sense Media](https://www.commonsensemedia.org/)
- Help on using parental controls and privacy settings from [Internet Matters](https://www.internetmatters.org/)
- Information and reporting of online grooming or sexual abuse from [CEOP](https://www.ceop.gov.uk/)



### Y3 and Y4 swimming

Swimming resumes on **Wednesday 1 March 2023 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. Please ensure their swimming kit is in school each Wednesday.

### Start of the day...

It is great to see so many children getting to school punctually so that the children are in the classrooms ready to learn at 9am. 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.



### FOLS



As ever, FOLS are considering ways of raising money for the school and hosting exciting events. The next event is a 90's themed quiz night to be held on Thursday 2 March at The White Lion in Great Longstone. FOLS will also be hosting a meeting on Friday 17 March (time TBC) to gather volunteers and ideas for the Summer Sizzle. All are welcome.

### Celebration Assembly

Our celebration assembly is always a favourite part of the week. If your child is in receipt of 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 10 March 2023.



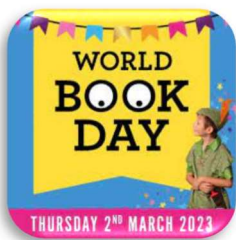
### Let it snow!

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 difficulties 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.



### Citizenship themes and Diversity

To support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness of children, we follow assembly themes which are the focus of our daily collective assembly. 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: **Lent, Easter, patience and respect**. Our diversity theme for the next half term is '**Inspirational Women**'.



### World Book Day

You should have received a letter about World Book Day on Thursday 2 March. We have a range of exciting activities going on in school. We will be finishing the day with a Reading Together Session for parents at 3pm. You are invited to come and dive into a book with your child. That's it – that simple! These will run every month.

### Parents' Evening

Thanks to those who were able to attend the Y6 parents' evening recently. For all other year groups, parents' evening will take place on Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 March 2023. You will receive a letter with further details after the half term break.



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### **Year 2 and Year 6 SATs**

Both year 2 and year 6 will be taking their end of key stage SATs the week beginning **Tuesday 9 May 2023** (school is closed on 8 May for the Coronation Bank Holiday). Please ensure your child attends school and arrives punctually as the tests will take place in the mornings. If your child is going to be late or cannot attend, please notify the school as soon as possible. We will send a timetable nearer the time.

# **SATS**

### **SATs meeting**

Thanks to all those parents who were able to attend the recent parent meetings for Year 2 and Year 6 SATs. We hope you found it useful and please get in touch if you require any further information or have any questions.

### **Longstone Preschool**

We were all saddened to hear about the closure of Longstone Preschool at Christmas. It has been a constant in Great Longstone for many years and we were proud of our relationship with them and the amazing opportunities it has given to our children. We had ongoing conversations with the preschool trustees and also the local authority to explore ways of supporting it once it was understood there were challenges in keeping it open. Unfortunately, it was agreed by the local authority that it wasn't a viable option for the school to run or 'absorb' the preschool in any way.

### **Please use the main entrance**

Please ensure that all adult visitors use the main entrance at that the beginning and end of the day and during school hours if you wish to speak with someone or enter the building. This is to ensure the safety of our children. All children should enter and exit the building through their classroom doors. Thank you.

### **Amazon Wishlist**



Thanks to all those who have bought an item on our Amazon wish list – we are very grateful. If you would like to 'donate' an item to school, please visit our wish list at:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/l/2JSX1GLECZI61?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/l/2JSX1GLECZI61?ref=wl_share)

### **Toys in school**

We ask that children enjoy their toys at home rather than bringing them into school where they can get lost, broken or be a distraction.

### **Sports Success**

Mrs Reeves and the children have been busy enjoying lots of successes in a range of sporting events this half term including: indoor athletics; basketball; cross country and sports hall athletics. Well done on your efforts and team work.

### **Diary dates attached**

Please find the updated diary dates up until the Easter break. Please note these dates and events are subject to change.



Kind regards

Mr Simon Beahan  
Executive Headteacher

## Longstone Primary School Diary Dates Spring Term 2023

**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 – 3pm 'World Book Day'
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 DASN County Cross Country Finals (selected pupils)-Mount Saint Mary's College, Spink hill 10.30am start.
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'
Tuesday 21 March 2023	Whole school visit to 'Yorkshire Wildlife Park'
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
<b>Easter Holiday – Monday 3 April 2023 – Friday 14 April 2023</b>	
Monday 17 April 2023	Start of Summer Term 1 – School Open to pupils at 8:50am



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