



Longstone CE (VA) School

The Cross

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Executive Headteacher: Mr Simon Beahan

Friday 31 March 2022

### **Newsletter – March 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been another busy and exciting term at Longstone and, like always, it has flown by. Never a week goes by when there isn't something exciting happening – Childrens' Mental Health Week, World Book Day, British Science Week, RE Week, Comic Relief, whole school visit to the YWP, a sporting event...the list goes on. All part of the rich tapestry of learning that enable us to 'Nurture, Ignite, Shine'.

In school, our children have been as hard working and enthusiastic as always. It's also been lovely to emerge from the darkness of winter and see the signs of Spring appearing around the school and the village.



School will **close for the Easter break on Friday 31 March** and reopen to all children at 8:50am on **Monday 17 April 2023**. We wish you all a happy and healthy holiday and we look forward to seeing you all again at the start of the summer term.

#### **An Easter message from Reverend Nicola McNally**



It was lovely to welcome Key Stage 2 into St. Giles church for 'Experience Easter' last Monday. Using six interactive installations, we followed the story of Jesus from the road to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the empty tomb on Easter Sunday. On the way, the children thought of their own hopes and dreams, how to care for one another, ate some tasty bread at a shared table and shared some of their own fears and prayers for the world as they pondered the darkness of death on a cross. We ended with the joy of finding Jesus not in the tomb but alive and with us always (and, of course, chocolate eggs). The Easter story, where a Servant King brings Good News for all who follow him, never gets old. I wish you all a very Happy Easter. Reverend Nicola McNally.

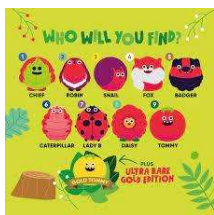
#### **Easter Events**

Thanks to FOLS (and the Easter Bunny) who have coordinated this year's 'egg-cellent' Easter Events including the Easter Egg competition and this afternoon's Easter Egg hunt. We have had some amazing entries this year. Well done to everyone who entered!



Thanks also to those parents who were able to attend and support our Easter Service at St. Giles's church on Thursday afternoon.

#### **Comic Relief**



The school celebrated Red Nose Day in March and raised a whopping **£189.08** for Comic Relief. The money raised will go towards helping important issues in the UK and Africa including homelessness, child poverty, domestic abuse and mental health stigma. Amongst other things, we held a 'Longstone's Got Talent' event as part of our celebrations and it was a pleasure to see that we have got plenty of talent in school! Well done to everyone involved, especially Miss Naylor and the Pupil Parliament, who coordinated all of this year's Comic Relief events.

#### **Lunchtime and After School Clubs**

We plan for our afternoon and lunchtime events to begin the week beginning 24 April 2023. We will inform you of our offer once we have finalised them after the Easter Break.

### World Book Day

Children are never too young to start their journey with books, and the benefits of reading are enormous—so thank you for helping us celebrate World Book Day with your child earlier in March.

### Year 6 SATs

Year 6 will be taking their end of key stage SATs the week beginning **Tuesday 9 May 2023**. Please ensure your child attends school and arrives punctually as the tests will take place in the mornings. We will share a timetable and finalised details with you after the holiday. If your child is going to be late or cannot attend, please notify the school as soon as possible.

# SATS

### Year 2 SATs

We are currently in the process of planning timetables and will confirm when the children are set to take them. We try to make Y2 SATs a very 'low profile' experience and we have the month of May as a window in which to take them and will keep parents of pupils in Y2 informed.

### Year 4 Multiplication Table Check

The Y4s will be taking the statutory Multiplication Table Check in June. Parents will receive further information about this check shortly.



### May Bank Holidays – School Closed

Please note that school is closed on Monday 1 May for the May Day Bank Holiday. School will also be closed on Monday 8 May to celebrate the King's Coronation weekend. We will be celebrating in school on Friday 5 May.

### School Lunches

You may know that Derbyshire County Council catering services will be providing our school lunches after Easter. We are very excited to be working with them. Further information, including menus, can be found at <https://www2.myschoollunch.co.uk/derbyshire/primary-schools/about-us/menu/>



### Vision

This year has been very exciting so far for our Longstone school community. Our new vision has really come to life through the corridors and classrooms of the school and is getting stronger every day. Your contributions to the parent questionnaire are hugely appreciated and have helped to inform future strategic plans and decisions that we make to drive the continuous improvement of our school.

We know you are all excited to see the results of the new school logo vote and we plan to reveal the logo that you have all chosen very soon, along with a new and improved school website!

### Sport at Longstone

Over 60 children from Years 1-6 have taken part in sporting events this half-term. This has included cluster netball, hockey and quadkids tournaments, a pentathlon session to gain personal bests, SSP indoor athletics, tag rugby and county netball and cross-country finals. The year 1 children had a great afternoon at Bamford, taking part in Tai chi, orienteering, tennis and relay activities.

The results have been fantastic:

Indoor Athletics – 1<sup>st</sup>; Netball – 1<sup>st</sup>; Hockey – 1<sup>st</sup>; Cross-Country – Year 3/4 girls' team – 2<sup>nd</sup>; Year 5/6 boys' team – 3<sup>rd</sup>



Well done to all the children who have taken part in these sports events. We are very proud of you all and in particular of the level of sportsmanship that has frequently been shown at these events.



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### **Y2 swimming**

After the Easter break, swimming will begin for the Y2 children in Dahl on Wednesday 26 April 2023. The children leave school at 2pm to return to school by the end of the day for pick up at 3:30pm. You will receive a letter with further details after the break.

### **Y5/6 Residential to Liverpool – Parents Meeting**

The one-night Y5/6 residential visit is taking place on Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 June. We will be holding a parent meeting in the hall at school on **Tuesday 6 June at 5pm**. This meeting is for adults only. We will be sharing further information about the trip and we will be able to answer any of your questions. If you are unable to attend, please inform the office and we can send you further details following the meeting.



### **Citizen of the Term**

Well done to children who received our Citizen of the Term awards at this week's Celebration Assembly. This highly prestigious and termly award is voted for by the children – a very powerful endorsement for children who have demonstrated how to be wonderful Longstone citizens.

### **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.



### **Diary dates attached**

Diary dates for the summer term will be sent out after the Easter Break.

Kind regards

Mr Simon Beahan

Executive Headteacher