



Longstone CE (VA) School

The Cross

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

## Newsletter – September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

### Welcome

On behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to welcome you all back to a new school year at Longstone Primary School. Although it now seems an age ago, we hope you had a fantastic summer break and we all look forward to sharing in an exciting new term, and school year, with you all.



I know you will all join me in an extending an especially warm welcome to our new children and new families who are joining the Longstone Community. A child starting at school is an exciting time and I know they have had a wonderful first few days. As a parent of three young children myself, I realise the rewards and stresses that parenting can bring. It is my hope that through a collaborative school and home partnership, we can continue to ensure the success of your child's learning journey at Longstone.

### Staffing update



We welcome Mrs Adriana Buttle to the team. She will be teaching Donaldson class for two days a week (Thursday and Friday) allowing Mrs Rawding to have her management and SEND time. We also welcome Mrs Anne Bennett who will be leading the Hive after school club. We are very excited to have them both on board.

### Well done!



We have only been back one week but the children have been amazing. Every child I have spoken with has been polite, friendly and excited to be back. The children are settled in their classes and are working hard and really enjoying being back with their peers and teachers.

### School meal prices

From 1st September 2023 the cost of a paid school meal went up from £2.30 to £3.25. This will be updated automatically on ParentPay accounts. Please note that this price increase is not a school decision. School dinners are free to those children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (Universal Free School Meals) and to those in receipt of free school meals (due to family income or benefit levels – see below) in Key Stage 2.

### Income Based Free School Meals

For every child who qualifies for free meals due to family income or benefit levels, our school receives the maximum funding to support your child through something called the Pupil Premium. It is only available to schools **if you apply and are eligible** for income based free school meals. With Pupil Premium funding, schools can organise extra help and support for children. Applying for free meals is very quick and easy so if you think you may qualify for free school meals, please still take the time to apply. Even though your child might be able to have a free meal anyway, **our school needs the funding that comes from Income Based Free School Meals.** To find out if you are eligible, please go to the Council's website at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk) and search for 'free school meals'.



### The FOLS September Sizzle

Due to poor weather, FOLS had to postpone the end of year sizzle. Keep your eyes out for new date in the autumn term. A big thanks to all those FOLS volunteers who have helped organise recent events which raises valuable funds which can be put back into the school for the benefit of our children.



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### Job Squad

We are always looking to involve the community in school life (and save money!). So, if you're handy with a power tool or skilled with a screw driver, please contact the office and we can add you to our 'job squad'. It means we might just give you a buzz if we require a bit of DIY!

### Celebration Assembly

Weekly celebration assembly is always a favourite part of the week and we are pleased to announce its return on **Friday 15 September at 9:10am**. If your child is in receipt of an award, we will notify you by text in advance so you have notice to be able to attend. This ensures that throughout the year parents have opportunities to share the joy of their child winning an award. The teachers will not tell the class who has won each week so it is a surprise during assembly – you may wish to do the same!



### What are the awards?

Children from each class will receive a 'Learner Award' from their teacher for demonstrating spectacular learning and effort throughout the week. Secondly, children from each class will receive a 'Citizenship Award' for being a wonderful member of the school community based on the school citizenship theme that week. Sport awards will also be presented and other successes will be celebrated, including SMILERS well-being awards. The children will receive Learner, Citizenship and SMILERS certificates to keep on receipt of the award.

### Attendance and Punctuality

To remind you, children can come into school from 8.50am to be ready for learning in the classroom by 9:00am. Children who are in school are able to learn and achieve more both academically and socially. We understand that children become unwell and cannot always attend school. However, if your child is well enough, they should be at school. The school will send out termly attendance letters to inform you of your child's attendance. If we have concerns about your child's attendance we will contact you to see if we can offer any support.



### Requests for leave of absences during term time

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 as soon as possible.

### PE Days

We are an active bunch at Longstone and we know that PE is not only good for our health but is also good for our well-being and mental health. We are asking children to come to school in PE kits on the days that they have PE.

\*Swimming for Rowling class is starting on Wednesday 20 September.

<b>Donaldson</b>	<b>Tuesday and Wednesday</b>
<b>Dahl</b>	<b>Tuesday &amp; Friday</b>
<b>Morpurgo</b>	<b>Tuesday &amp; Thursday</b>
<b>Rowling</b>	<b>*Wednesday and Thursday</b>



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

We are very fortunate to have so many talented staff and who are so willing to give up their time to provide our children with a range of extra-curricular activities. You will shortly receive a letter about our clubs offer for this half term. These will begin the week beginning Monday 18 September.

### **Open Evening – Prospective Reception Intake September 2023**

We are holding an Open Afternoon and Evening on Thursday 19 October from 2 – 3pm and 4 – 6pm. This drop-in event – no booking required – **is for the parents of children due to start Reception in September 2024**. It is an opportunity to meet with staff and see what the school has to offer! Please share with anyone who might be interested.



### **School Photographer**

Our school photographer from Tempest Photography will visit on **Friday 13 October** to take individual photographs of the children.

### **Class Information Evenings**

We will also be holding class information evenings (please see diary dates below) where your child's class teacher will spend some time-sharing key information about the year ahead and will be able to answer any of your questions. You are welcome to join the meeting. The presentations will be sent out to those parents unable to attend.

### **The importance of reading**

Research shows that learning to read is directly linked to children's success at school and beyond. It also shows that those who read regularly and for longer dramatically increase the number of words they are introduced to. This in turn impacts on their success across the whole curriculum as they know and understand more. Longstone is a 'reading' school and we are always keen to share our love of books and reading.

We are holding a **phonics and reading meeting for parents of children in all year groups on Monday 2 October 2023 at 3.45pm** to give you further information about how we teach phonics, tell you about our approach to reading as the children get older and how you can continue to best support at home. In the meantime, please look at our pages on the curriculum tab on the website.



### **Read together sessions for parents**

We hold monthly read together session where parents are invited to come to their child's classroom and read with their child. That's it! Just turn up on the right day and the right class and enjoy the sharing of a good book! There's nothing better. Please see the diary dates below.

### **New website**

We have an amazing new school website which is now up and running. It has been a labour of love to complete it but it is now out there for the world to see. Please find at <https://www.longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk/>



### **School Uniform**

School uniforms should be affordable to all pupils and families. Whilst we have our own uniform provider ([www.logoleisurewear.com](http://www.logoleisurewear.com)), you are not obliged to make all of your purchases from here. Please also feel free to donate good quality, preloved uniform to school and we aim to hold 'Uniform Sales' at some points throughout the year.



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### **Rec to Y6 - Flu Immunisations**

The School Health Team are due to visit us on Thursday 12 October to vaccinate children from Reception – Year 6. Only children whose parents have given consent will receive the flu vaccine. You will receive an email with further details and how to give consent online.

### **Healthy Snacks**

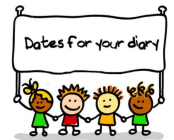
Have a break... have a piece of fruit! We want our children to live active and healthy lifestyles whenever we can. Children in Reception and key stage 1 will all receive fruit each day morning and don't need to bring one from home. However, for all those other children who would like a snack from home, we ask that it is a healthy option.

### **Nut free school**

We ask that children only bring food items that are 'nut free' into school. We have pupils with allergies to nuts.

### **Diary Dates**

Please find diary dates for the autumn term attached. Please note that arrangements and dates might change at short notice.



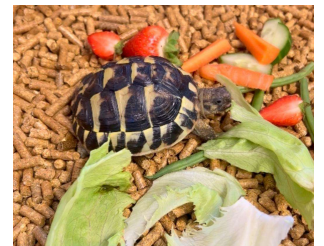
### **Getting in touch...**



If you need to get in touch then please either ring (01629 640377) or email the school at [enquiries@longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk). If your call isn't answered then leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. If you would like to speak with a teacher, then also ring the office to make an appointment.

### **Newsflash!**

We welcome a new addition to Longstone Primary School. We have very kindly been given a pet tortoise! After much deliberation and voting, he has been named Turbo by the children. Turbo likes sprouts and dandelion leaves and hurtling around his box at great speed. And then a good rest. He is currently in the library, so feel free to come and say hello.



Kind regards

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Executive Headteacher



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## Longstone Primary School Diary Dates Autumn Term 2023

### Half Term 1

#### Diversity Theme - People of Cultures

##### 4.9.22 Citizenship Theme for next two weeks: Caring

Monday 4 September 2023	Whole School Training Day – School Closed to pupils
Tuesday 5 September 2023	Start of Autumn Term 1 – School Open to pupils at 8:50am
Monday 11 September 2023	Pupil Parliament elections to take place this week
Friday 15 September 2023	Celebration Assembly for invited adults (weekly at 9:10am) Wider Opportunities – Morpurgo - weekly class ensemble teaching of brass - TBC

##### 18.9.23 Citizenship Theme for next week: Helpfulness

Monday 18 September 2023	Lunchtime and after school clubs begin
Tuesday 19 September 2023	Read Together Session for parents – 8.50 - 9.10am Morpurgo and Rowling Class information meeting for parents – 3:45pm
Wednesday 20 September 2023	Swimming Starts for Rowling – every Wednesday – 2.00 – 3.30pm Dahl and Donaldson Class information meeting for parents -3:45pm
Thursday 21 September 2023	Cluster Football Event for Y5/6 at Tideswell School – 12.30 – 3.30pm

##### 25.9.23 Citizenship Theme for next week: Harvest

Wednesday 27 September 2023	Full Governing Body meeting – 6pm
Thursday 28 September 2023	Cluster Cross Country Event and Fun Festival Years 1 – 6 – Bakewell Junior School -12.30 – 3.30pm

##### 2.10.22 Citizenship Theme for next two weeks: Helpfulness

Monday 2 October 2023	Black History Month Phonics and reading meeting for all parents – 3.45pm
Thursday 5 October 2023	KS2 RDSSP 'This girl can' event - Bamford - 12 – 3pm – details TBC
Friday 6 October 2023	Harvest Service in church at 2pm – All Welcome
Thursday 12 October 2023	Flu Immunisations Rec- Y6 – details to follow Cluster Football Event for Y1/2 at Tideswell School – 12.30 – 3.30pm
Friday 13 October 2023	Tempest Individual Photos - am

##### 16.10.22 Citizenship Theme for next week: Service

Wednesday 18 October 2023	Curriculum and Standards governor meeting – 6pm
Thursday 19 October 2023	Cluster Tag Rugby Event for Y5/6 at Bakewell Jnr School – 1230 – 3.30pm Reception Open Day 2 - 3 and 4 – 6pm
Friday 20 October 2022	Read Together Session for parents – 3 – 3.30pm
Monday 23 October 2023	RE week
Wednesday 25 October 2023	LMS Y3/4 football event – details TBC



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Thursday 26 October 2023	Celebration Assembly School closes for half term break
Friday 27 October 2023	Whole School Training Day – School Closed to pupils
<b>Half Term Holiday – Friday 27 October 2023 – Friday 3 November 2023</b>	
<b>Half Term 2</b>	
<b>Diversity Theme – Human Rights, Migrants and Travellers</b>	
6.11.22 Citizenship Theme for next two weeks:	
Monday 6 November 2023	Start of Autumn Term 2 – School Open to pupils at 8:50am Enterprise Week UK Parliament Week Lunchtime and After School Clubs begin
Wednesday 8 November 2023	Weekly swimming resumes
Thursday 9 November 2023	Cluster Dodgeball Event for Y2/3/4 at Bakewell Juniors– 12.20 – 3.30pm
Friday 10 November 2023	‘Remembrance’ in school Enterprise Week Farmers Market – 2:30pm
Monday 13 November 2023	Anti-Bullying Week – ‘Reach out’ – children to wear odd socks Y6 Bikeability – details TBC
Tuesday 14 November 2023	Parent Consultation Meetings 3.40 – 6.00pm
Wednesday 15 November 2023	Parent Consultation Meetings 3.40 – 6.00pm
Thursday 16 November 2023	Resources governor meeting – 6pm
Friday 17 November 2023	Celebration Assembly for invited adults (weekly at 9:10am) Children in Need day
20.11.22 Citizenship Theme for next two weeks: TBC	
Monday 20 November 2022	ROAD SAFETY WEEK – ‘Let’s talk about speed’
Tuesday 21 November 2023	Read Together Session for parents – 8.50 -9.10am
Monday 27 November 2023	Final Lunchtime and After School Clubs this week Full Governing Body meeting – 6pm
Friday 1 December 2023	Decoration Day
4.12.22 Citizenship Theme for next two weeks: TBC	
Tuesday 5 December 2023	Y3/4 RDSSP Dodgeball festival – 3.30pm – details TBC
Thursday 7 December 2023	Whole school visit to the Pantomime ‘Aladdin’ in Chesterfield
Friday 8 December 2023	Longstone ‘Save the Children’ Christmas Jumper Day FOLS Christmas Bazaar – 3pm
Monday 11 December 2023	RE week
Wednesday 13 December 2023	Nativity (Donaldson/Dahl classes)– 2pm and 6pm – school
Thursday 14 December 2023	RDSSP KS1 Christmas Festival – am at the Arc – details TBC Read Together Session for parents – 3 – 3.30pm
Friday 15 December 2023	Citizenship of the Term Assembly – 9:10am Christmas Dinner for children and staff



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	Christmas Service – 2pm – All Welcome – Church FOLS Christmas Film Night - 5pm
Tuesday 19 December 2023	Sparkle & Shine Performance – All Welcome - 2:00pm
Thursday 21 December 2023	Party Day! End of Autumn Term – School closes for Christmas holiday
Friday 22 December 2023	Whole School Training Day – School Closed to pupils
<b>Christmas Holidays – Friday 22 December 2023 – Friday 5 January 2024</b>	
Monday 8 January 2024	Start of Spring Term – School Open to pupils at 8:50am



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## Longstone Primary School Terms and Holidays 2023/24

### Half Term 1 (39 days)

Monday 4 September 2023	Whole School Training Day – School Closed to pupils
Tuesday 5 September 2023	Start of Autumn Term 1 – School Open to pupils
Thursday 26 October 2023	End of half term
Friday 27 October 2023	Whole School Training Day – School Closed to pupils

Half Term Holiday – Friday 27 October 2023 – Friday 3 November 2023

### Half Term 2 (34 days)

Monday 6 November 2023	Start of Autumn Term 2 – School Open to pupils
Thursday 21 December 2023	End of term
Friday 22 December 2023	Whole School Training Day – School Closed to pupils

Christmas Holiday – Friday 22 December 2023 – Friday 5 January 2024

### Half Term 3 (30 days)

Monday 8 January 2024	Start of Spring Term 1 – School Open to pupils
Friday 16 February 2024	End of half term

Half Term Holiday – Monday 19 February 2024 – Monday 26 February 2024

### Half Term 4 (23 days)

Monday 26 February 2024	Whole School Training Day – School Closed to pupils
Tuesday 27 February 2024	Start of Spring Term 2 – School Open to pupils
Thursday 28 March 2024	End of term

Easter Holiday – Friday 28 March 2024 - Friday 12 April 2024

### Half Term 5 (29 days)

Monday 15 April 2024	Start of Summer Term 1 – School Open to pupils
Monday 6 May 2024	School Closed (May Day Bank Holiday)
Friday 24 May 2024	End of half term

Half Term Holiday – Monday 27 May 2024 – Monday 3 June 2024

### Half Term 6 (36 days)

Monday 3 June 2024	Whole School Training Day – School Closed to pupils
Tuesday 4 June 2024	Start of Summer Term 2 – School Open to pupils
Tuesday 23 July 2024	End of term