



Longfields' Latest

9th Dec 2021

Merry Christmas Everyone!

Dear All,

Thank you for your continued support this term. It has certainly been an interesting one. I would like to thank everyone for their understanding since we have been back in school since the summer break. This term we have had to deal with a large number of COVID cases and the response we have had from staff and parents has been commendable. I am extremely proud of our staff and our school community as we continue to give our children the best learning opportunities (including a brief stint of joint online and in-class teaching for a couple of our classes).

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope that your planned gatherings are not hindered in any way. Myself, I am looking forward to an open fire and a glass of lemonade!!

Thank you again for your continued positive comments and messages of support and we look forward to seeing you at our outside events next week and then in the new year.

Gaydon Motor Museum

The year 3 and 4 children had an amazing time at Gaydon Motor Museum. They were taught all about early transport and saw some of the amazing collection of cars. The children were even allowed to board a 98-year-old bus and sit inside a selection of other amazing cars. After the trip, the museum contacted us to let us know how impressed they were with the children's enthusiasm, behaviour, and quality of questions!



COVID UPDATES

In light of yesterday's announcement by the government we have decided to ask for face coverings to be worn on site as from tomorrow (Friday 10th December). This will be until further notice. At this point we will not be reinstating the One-way system but will keep this under review for January, should the situation worsen over the Christmas break. We hope that this change will help in some way towards safeguarding our planned gatherings over the Christmas period.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Christmas Jumper Day

We would like to let you know that **Friday 10th December** is official Christmas jumper day, to celebrate this we are inviting everyone to wear a Christmas jumper or Christmas themed clothes to school on this day. We will also be doing the same for the last day of term, **Friday December 17th**, to get in the Christmas spirit.



Christmas Cracker Event



Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas Cracker event. We managed to raise just over £2000 for the school.

A huge thank you to the PTA for all their hard work.

After School Clubs

It has been great to have children back in clubs this term and see them enjoying extra curricular activities. For your information, this week was the last week of clubs. There will be no clubs next week or in term 3 when we return after Christmas. Thank you again for all those who volunteered to run them.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Friday 10th December
Christmas Jumper Day

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Monday 13th December 2:45p.m.
Nursery and Reception singing on the KS1 playground

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Tuesday 14th December – Children's Christmas Dinner Day

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Tuesday 14th December 2:45p.m.
Year 1 and 2 singing on the KS1 playground

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Thursday 16th December 2:45p.m.
Years 3-6 singing on the KS2 playground

Once our Christmas productions have been recorded, we will let you know how to access these.

SWIMMING

Forward notice that Year 5 will be swimming in the new year. The first visit to the pool will be January 12th 2022.

RECEPTION ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2022

Do you have a child who is 3 or 4 years old? Are they due to be starting school next September?

If so, then the closing date for Reception applications is Saturday 15th January 2022

Please go to the Oxfordshire County Council website to make your application.

PLEASE WEAR CORRECT PE KIT

We have taken the decision to continue to let children come to school in their PE kits on their PE days, but there are many children just turning up to school in sports kit that is not part of our uniform. Please can you ensure that your child has the correct PE kit when turning up to school. I understand that as the weather gets colder then your child may need a sweatshirt or top in addition to the t-shirt, but could we please ensure the correct t-shirt is worn (not a football top that is the same colour).

Thank you.

THANK YOU to all who have contributed so far. If you haven't yet shared your values then please do over the next week or so.

As a school leadership we are looking at re-establishing our core values to form part of our school vision moving forwards.



We have been looking at a range of values over the past years but feel that we want to narrow our focus and make our values more meaningful.

It would be great if you can follow the link below and put

your top 5 - these suggestions are really to help us to shape our vision for the school moving forwards.

You can contribute up to 5 ideas for the school values by following this link.

<https://www.menti.com/8bbpw44kjj>

The website we are using to host the question will give you the chance to enter your email address to get a copy of the results, but we will also be sharing the finished word cloud when the survey is complete.

Thanks in anticipation for your contribution.

CONGRATULATIONS



I have the wonderful pleasure of letting you know that our curriculum development schedule continues to have an impact on the learning experiences our children have on a day-to-day basis. This is further added to by the school being awarded the 'Primary Science Quality Mark'.

Led by Mr Davies and Miss Kardos, we have worked hard over the past year to meet the exacting standards to wear this Quality Mark. Thank you to all those involved and we look forward to this ensuring a quality science curriculum for all our children. Thanks again, especially to Miss Kardos and Mr Davies.

New Parking Enforcement

You may have noticed that parking enforcement officers have been outside school on a regular basis. Please do not risk a fine by parking illegally. Please have a look at the news section of the website as this contains a pocket guide to the new parking enforcement in and around Bicester.

This 'Glovebox Guide' helps to explain all the enforcement procedures.

Bike Library

The bikes are here!



Our bikes have now been delivered and we are nearly ready to loan out bikes to children and families who wish to cycle to school and/or use them for recreation.

Please do contact Mr Tucker if you are interested in being considered for a bike loan. It would be great to use them as soon as possible so please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Bikes will also be supplied with helmets and locks.

SWIMMING

Did you know that only 55% of children can swim in Oxfordshire!!

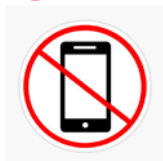
As part of the national curriculum, it is our aim that all children are able to swim **25 metres by the end of Year 6**. Our current system for swimming means that children swim for around 6 weeks in the year and then wait for a year before they swim again. This period of time in the pool does not really give non-swimmers enough time to learn or for those weaker swimmers to properly improve. From January 2022, we will be changing the way swimming is taught at Longfields. Our Year 5s will swim until Easter and then our Year 4s will swim from Easter until the summer break. On our return in September 2022 the Year 5s will swim for the first half of the Year and then it will go back to the Year 4s for the other half.

The way this rotation works, means that children will swim for almost an entire year (split by the summer holiday). There will also be catch up sessions available to our Year 6 non-swimmers in the summer term. Although this means children will not swim at school until Year 4, it will hopefully mean that more of our pupils become competent swimmers and able to keep themselves safe in water.

School Life App

Some parents are not receiving updates from school via the School Life App because they are only seeing the public site. For safety, school messages are only available to those who have logged in. Parents should log into the app :- just open the app, click the two houses at the top, select log in and enter your user name and password. If you don't have your username or password, just email- office@longfields-primary.org
We can re-set this for you.
Thank you

Safeguarding



Please can I remind all adults that the use of mobile phones on site is prohibited. This is standard school safeguarding protocol. Please keep your phones in your pockets until leaving the school premises.
Thank you

Dates for your diary:

Please see School Life calendar for full dates

10 Dec Christmas Jumper Day
14 Dec – Christmas lunch
17 Dec - Last day before Christmas Break (Christmas Jumpers/Non-school uniform)
5 Jan - First day back at school (Wednesday)

HIGH TEMPERATURES

As a school, one of the only guards we have against the spread of COVID is testing temperatures. If a child is feeling unwell at school then this is something we do as routine. The result of our temperature test, regardless of any test done at home, has consequences, in that we will ask for the child to have a PCR test (a LFT is not sufficient). In addition to this, the latest guidance asks that even if the PCR test comes back as negative, if the child retains the high temperature, then they should be kept off school until 24 hours after their temperature has returned to normal.

CAR PARK

A reminder that the school car park is for staff only. Please do not use it to drop children off or wait for them at the end of the day. If you are spotted using the car park without permission, please do not be offended when you are asked to leave. This is for the safety of staff and children attending school. Thank you.