



Longvernal Primary School

Outdoor Learning Leaders

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"part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership"

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Dear Parents/Carers

First of all, thank you for your continued perseverance during these difficult times. It has been lovely to have a week with the whole school present. I look forward to more settled times when the children can all, we hope, once again play together across age groups. In the meantime, thank you for continuing to adhere to the necessary staggered timing at the start and end of the day and for wearing face coverings to keep everyone as safe as possible as we get into Winter and the festive season.

Please can I take this opportunity to remind you that now that the whole school is back, it will not be possible to drive up the road at the end of the day until all the children have gone to avoid an accident. If you choose to park on Mandy Meadows, you must be prepared to wait until after all pedestrians have gone after the last pick up time. Please can I ask that if your child/children are picked up by family members who do not receive this letter that you communicate this to them. From the beginning of September we were putting cones on the junction corners at the start and end of the day in addition to manning the top of the road from 2.45-3.25 daily. Unfortunately we simply cannot justify the man hours basically acting as traffic wardens when we should be prioritising learning. We therefore ask for your cooperation in adhering to the rules we've communicated. If any parents are able to support by placing cones and marshalling the junction, we can provide a Hi-Viz!

The School Council and Equalities Teams have been very active in gaining suggestions from the classes they represent and their ideas are being taken into account. Examples include suggestions for new equipment for playtimes, rotas for the play equipment whilst still adhering to Covid guidelines, filming of assembly awards so they can see who has won awards from other classes whilst we cannot assemble as a whole school, ideas for Christmas activities and class fundraising suggestions. The children are enjoying this democracy and are proving to be very mature and creative. Mrs. Williams is about to launch an Eco team to raise the profile of caring for our environment.

We are, as you know, unable to go on trips currently but we are seeking to source external sports expertise to a greater extent this year as well as visiting specialists across the curriculum to continue to provide culturally enriching experiences, starting with the Diwali workshop re-scheduled to December 1st.

Remote Learning Survey

Thank you to parents of children in Key Stage 2 who responded to the survey about remote learning. We received 39 replies and some really helpful feedback with the vast majority being positive.

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It was a steep learning curve for everyone involved – home and school- and we will continue to strive to improve this provision. You will appreciate that every family situation is different in terms of spaces to work, available technology, whether parents are trying to home-school multiple children or just one, whether there are younger/older siblings also at home/whether parents are trying to simultaneously work. Clearly there cannot be 'one size fits all.' Similarly, with the best will and effort in the world, a remote learning experience will never 100% reciprocate the school classroom experience. The relationship between parents and their children and teachers and children differs making home-schooling challenging at times.

The positives cited by parents were as follows:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 79.5% of parents felt supported by the Longvernal staff during this period of closure. • The online meetings and timetables helped with organisation for parents • The online meetings and staff interaction felt supportive • Parents could clearly see outstanding work that needed to be completed daily • Work could be regularly saved • Work was marked • The private comment section enabled children to ask questions and for teachers to comment on completed tasks • Children enjoyed voting for their daily story and the story itself • The variety of tasks stopped it from getting boring • Children enjoyed seeing their tasks and submitting them once completed • Teachers were engaging and accommodating 	
Suggestions or feedback that would be difficult to address:	Difficulty from a school perspective
It would be helpful for parents to see the lessons in advance	We try to ensure that the learning is completed on the correct day. Also, we will usually have little advance warning of school bubble closure so would not know the point in the curriculum at which children would be at any time. Teachers have a long term plan and a weekly plan however these are flexible and daily planning in addition depends on outcomes at the end of any one day. Teachers using remote learning, during the school day are responding to the comment section, answering parental emails/phone calls and marking work. They therefore do not get on to planning until the evening. Lessons are shared as soon as viable.
Some of my questions were not responded to.	For the first 2-3 days, teachers were working 15 hour days until everyone- staff, parents and children got familiar with the software and system. The average total of private messages on Google Classroom plus emails was 200 per day. Teachers cannot be marking, meeting and responding simultaneously. It was made clear to teachers that for their well-being they should ensure that they did not respond to emails sent outside of working hours.

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The White Rose software was not very user-friendly with the text boxes etc.	This is the curriculum we follow and unfortunately we cannot change the software as this is a commercial package.
The Meets were always the same children.	The school cannot control which children choose to join from home but encourage all to do so.
One to one chats for every child with the teacher would be good.	Totally agree but for the reasons already cited, clearly an impossibility.
Every teacher's provision to be the same.	Owing to Covid, some teachers were working from school whilst others had to isolate at home. Those working from home do not have access to an interactive whiteboard or direct colleague support. They also are only able to use their personal mobiles, which means blocking their number which in turn means some parents do not answer an unknown number. It is not feasible for a teacher working under these conditions to provide the same provision as a teacher in school, with a teaching assistant and every resource available.
Some parents requested additional Meets, others cited that they felt these, though useful, were restrictive timewise and prevented them being able e.g. to get out for a walk after finishing school work.	Every family situation is unique. School requests that parents check children do not use the Google Meet forum at other points in the day from a safeguarding point of view.
Use Google Classrooms to communicate log in details for Nessy (where used) and Times Tables Rock Stars	Under GDPR we cannot use a shared platform to share passwords hence these being provided individually previously.

Feedback we aim to address if Remote Learning occurs again .We are currently working on the below but it depends when/if a bubble next closes whether we will have addressed them all in time. Thank you for your understanding.
The videos had mixed feedback. We are currently researching an alternative remote learning resource which looks promising, particularly for the teaching of Writing.
Less reliance on being in front of a computer screen – variety of tasks.
Endeavour to make google slides more user- friendly.
Ensure that the links for the Meets are in the same place for each class.
Provide hard copy Maths guides detailing methods to support parents in addition to the daily videos we used.
If possible, increase number of live lessons – easier if teacher based at school. N.B. This would mean less responses to completed work which could impact motivation.

Our **Virtual tour** is now available to view on our website via a link. It will be properly embedded on to the website from Monday November 30th. Please signpost any parents looking for a Nursery or Reception place to this. Thank you.

Have a restful weekend and stay safe.

Karen Bazeley

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