



Dear Parents/Carers

Wow – what a fantastic week! The return of the children has been an absolute delight. Last weekend, I was genuinely excited as if Christmas was coming and I know that all the staff felt the same as everyone was really upbeat last day as we made final preparations for the safe return of all children.

The vast majority of children have returned to school smoothly, ready to learn and it was heart-warming to see their joy on seeing their friends. We made the decision to return to as close to 'normal' as possible within Covid- safety guidelines. We felt that children need to feel secure and so regular, familiar routines have been followed from the outset. This is also why we are insisting on normal school uniform and homework recommencing. Thank you for your ongoing support with this. Teachers are helping children to re-establish social interactions and we will be seeking to establish where each individual child is in their learning, following Covid disruption in order to plan how best to meet their needs. Given the tremendous efforts of the children, parents during remote learning, I am feeling confident that we do not need to fear that Longvernal children will be a 'lost generation.' There will be a letter coming out soon about Parents Evenings now to be scheduled (virtual) week commencing March 29th. This will be an opportunity to talk about your child's progress, next steps and how they have settled back into school life.

During remote schooling, Key Stage 2 children enjoyed virtual coaching from Somerset Cricket and Bath Rugby. Bath Rugby are now running sessions in school on healthy eating and lifestyle with Willow and Sycamore classes. Additionally football coaching will recommence within lesson time for Oak and Maple classes until Easter. We are actively seeking to promote fitness opportunities and every class will be learning outside regularly and participating in daily exercise sessions, whether or not it is their designated day for P.E. We have ordered some exciting new equipment for all of our Early Years areas and are busy establishing gardening and growing zones.

We have decided that for the rest of this academic year, we shall use the new larger wooden lodge as a calm, welcoming, relaxing environment for children to support well-being and mental health. Classes will be able to use this space for mindfulness activities, yoga, listening to music...in fact, anything to promote well-being in these trying times. The recently-donated cushions organised through the PTFA in addition to newly-purchased fairy lights which they are kindly funding from the proceeds of the Mother's Day daffodil sales have enhanced the space.

Thank you to you all for your understanding and patience around following the timings and arrangements for drop off and pick up to keep everyone safe. This is going fairly well; thank you for parking and walking at the end of the day or for waiting until everyone has left Mandy Meadows before trying to drive off. We remind you to remember to socially distance and to avoid gathering to chat in groups after school to avoid a rise in cases. Also, please do not drop children at school before 8.30 a.m. when staff are ready to receive them. Thank you.

Although it is not yet possible for parents to come on to site, your child's teacher remains accessible by email or telephone; if you contact them, they will respond at the earliest opportunity after the teaching day within working hours. Occasionally they may have meetings or unexpected situations meaning that they do not respond until the following day but this is rare. Also, I am always contactable and will get back to you. May I take this opportunity to remind you that Carole Macdonald, our Parent Support Advisor, is available to offer advice or a listening ear on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8.30a.m.- 4.30p.m. Her number is 07780330718. She will also be at the school gates on these days.

Upcoming events:

PTFA Easter competitions – look out for the letter, coming out soon.

On Friday, March 19th it is Comic Relief. This year, we are holding a 'Superhero' day where children invent their own superhero (as hilarious as they like!) and come to school dressed in a suitable outfit (simple cape and mask etc).

Please find attached a mask template available to use if desired. Please make any donations online donation.comicrelief.com

Virtual Parents Evenings week commencing March 29th- more information to follow.

April 2nd 2021 it is World Autism Awareness day. Since April 1st is our last day of term, we will mark it a day early. We invite children to 'Light It Up Blue' in recognition of people with autism and those who love and support them by wearing the colour blue on that day. Teachers will be promoting understanding around autism in an age-appropriate way during class PSHE time that week.

Here's to the next few weeks of in-school learning!

Please see below some snapshots of the children back in school this week.

Stay safe

Karen

Holly Class



Holly Class have been busy gardening this week. They are beginning to prepare their flower beds and vegetable garden ready for planting.



Oak Class



Superstar mathematicians have returned to school! Oak class have been busy this week; from welly walks to getting creative making special gifts!



Chestnut Class



Chestnut Class have loved being reunited with friends. They have enjoyed PE and getting back into a routine.

Maple Class



This week, Maple have enjoyed a slightly delayed Pancake Day at Forest School. They have also had fun, creating top trump cards for different European Countries!

Willow Class

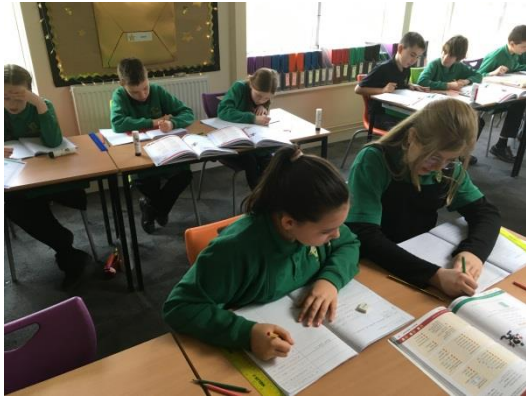


What beautiful day for Willow Class' rugby session with Bath Rugby Academy!

Willow Class had a super time, on their first day back, learning about reversible and irreversible changes in Science.



Sycamore Class



A few pictures of Sycamore Class getting stuck into their Maths, this week! The children have come back to school resilient and ready to learn!

Acorn Class



After celebrating World Book Week, Acorn Class have been having fun exploring their new construction area and making rainbow clouds.