



Longvernal Primary School

Outdoor Learning Leaders

Clapton Road
Midsomer Norton
Radstock BA3 2LP
Telephone: 01761 412777
Fax: 01761 419883
Email: office@longvernalschool.com
Website: www.longvernal.com

"part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership"

Headteacher: Karen Bazeley

29th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your families are managing to stay upbeat during this extremely difficult time. I really wish that things were less uncertain and we were in a position to predict exactly when schools could fully re-open to all pupils. The priority for all must, in the meantime, be for everyone to stay safe. The ongoing situation is taking its toll on the wellbeing of pupils, parents and staff.

We shall continue to try and offer as much support as we can and continue to touch base with everyone approximately fortnightly. Please also see below some ideas for fun activities during lockdown from Carole Macdonald, our Parent Support Advisor, who is available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays on 07780 330 718.

As the situation continues, I am becoming increasingly concerned: on the one hand, some families are feeling in despair wrestling with home schooling on a daily basis. On the other hand, the number of eligible pupils attending school seems to be creeping up and I am alert to the possibility of other parents who have elected to keep their children at home currently - but who are eligible for spaces - may find, moving forwards, that they need to send their children to school. The more pupils on site, the more families are mixing, the greater the risk to everyone. I cannot increase the size of the classrooms or the number of staff I have available. Some classes are at full capacity, allowing for spacing. I would just like to make all parents aware that if safety is compromised, I will have no alternative but to look at other options such as:

- reducing the days a child is in
- alternate weeks for children in school
- having to be stricter around the criteria for eligibility with CRITICAL NHS frontline workers taking priority. This is in line with the Trust communication sent out at the start of term.

The problem with alternate weeks and fewer days is that the number of families attending school is not decreased which does not lessen the overall danger, especially to staff.

Events to look forward to:

- **PTFA Winter Wanderland** Collect your packs on Friday January 29th for some creative fun.

We are building a community where learners have no ceilings to their aspirations and successes. Everyone is respected and loved in their own right.



- **Children's Mental Health Week** nationally is next week. However, we have decided to hold this in the final week before February half term so that the week is less pressurised when everyone will no doubt be feeling tired plus it will ease children and parents into a well-deserved break from home schooling in the half term when we will not be setting any work at all. Lots of more creative, arts-based activities are being planned.
- **Book Week** Given the Prime Minister's announcement that schools will not re-open for all pupils before March 8th at the earliest, we are making plans to ensure that our annual Longvernal Book Week, which incorporates World Book Day, is still as action-packed and interactive as ever. Watch out for more news before half term.
- **Red Nose Day** This is scheduled for Friday 19th March. Whether we are in school or still learning remotely, we intend to embrace this fully. More information to follow nearer the time. In the meantime, follow this link to purchase a red nose
2021 <https://shop.comicrelief.com/collections/noses-rednoseday-2021/products/plastic-free-red-nose-2021>

I would just like to say a heartfelt thank you for your continued support at this very difficult time and we look forward to welcoming all children back to school as soon as the government considers it safe to do so.

Karen Bazeley

Headteacher

We are building a community where learners have no ceilings to their aspirations and successes. Everyone is respected and loved in their own right.

