



# The Longvernal Letter

*"part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership"*

**Term 1**

**Newsletter No. 1**

**2020/21**

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

## **Dates for your Diary:**

**Mon 19<sup>th</sup> October - Flu Vaccinations pm (YR-6)**

**Wed 21<sup>st</sup> October - End Of Term 1**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October - Closing date for applications for Secondary schools.**

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Inset Day**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November - Start of Term 2**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November - School Photographer pm**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January - Closing date for applications for Reception place 2021.**

## **INSETS FOR THIS YEAR**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Dear Parents/Carers**

First of all, a huge 'Thank you' for your patience and helpfulness with the safe return to school this term. It has certainly presented some challenges and no doubt more to come so your support is much appreciated. I seem to keep saying it but it truly has been a joy to see the children enjoying being back playing with their friends and settling down to learning really effectively. Behaviour has generally been exceptional, especially learning behaviours in class. I would like to thank you for the fact that children have returned to school in correct uniform and are bringing in school P.E. kit and Forest gear as required. Please remember to name all uniform and kit to help us return it to the correct owner. From Term 2 the weather will no doubt turn colder so please provide your child with gloves, warm socks, warm clothing and waterproofs as feeling cold can spoil a Forest School session for a child. Please note: on wet days when children need to go straight in to class, they still enter through the same gates as usual according to their 'bubble.'

We may not have an adult on every entrance to greet children as we do on a dry day simply because adults need to be in classrooms to receive children and cannot be in two places at once; thank you for your understanding. Talking of the weather, if your child is cold in class as classrooms are trying to be as 'airy' as possible, they may wear base layers. If you have any concerns around such issues, I ask you to speak direct to the school by phone or email rather than discuss on social media, as outlined in the home-school agreement.

I hope you have had a chance to view the regularly updated news on the class pages on the website and that the virtual 'Welcome' meetings gave you an insight into your child's learning this year and expectations around this and how best to support your child at home. Likewise, I hope you and your child have been able to embrace the different approach to homework under Covid with more focus on online tasks. If you have difficulty accessing electronic homework please let us know so that we can find a way to help. If you have any questions which were left unanswered at the 'Welcome' meeting, please email these to me [kbazeley@longvernalschool.com](mailto:kbazeley@longvernalschool.com) and we shall try and compile a FAQs link on the website. I understand that it is harder to touch base with your child's teacher currently but please remember that if you contact them by email they will respond although it will probably be after the working day. Our new 'Values' sign is now up and we are embedding these with the weekly awards. Celebration Assemblies are now within classes but children still have the opportunity to be 'Reader of the Week' and climb the Golden Ladder to borrow a book. Student Council and Equalities (E Team) reps have been elected and now that we have settled back into routines these will begin to meet within 'bubbles.'

You will have received an appointment slot for an online or phone parent meeting. Please be aware that teachers will have to stick to time in the way they would have on a regular parents' evening. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Currently we are not able to take the children out on trips. As you know, Longvernal usually strives to carry out several trips per year to broaden the children's horizons, building 'cultural capital.' We are seeking to ensure the children 'catch up' academically from learning missed last academic year and teachers are seeking to use learning time effectively such that whilst prioritising the basics of Phonics, Reading, Writing and Maths children don't miss out on the wider curriculum. With this in mind, we are investigating ways of bringing experiences to the children if they can't go to the experiences on a trip. This could be with visiting workshops (socially distanced in bubbles in a large space) linked to Humanities, Science, the Arts or R.E. Letters related to these will come out in due course. I hope that you will agree that such experiences are of value in the way that trips would usually be and be prepared to contribute to any costs involved to make these possible.

I am delighted that the after school sports clubs run by Sporting Family Change are being enjoyed by all although I am sorry that we were unable to offer this to more children and I realise that some children will have been disappointed. We are hoping to offer a football club in the coming weeks and are still seeking to source other means of providing after school clubs safely whilst teachers are unfortunately unable to offer these.

The PTA has been re-named PTFA (Parents Teachers Friends Association). The PTFA has been thinking creatively to find ways in which they can continue to raise funds and provide exciting events for the children amid the current restrictions. They regularly update their Facebook page and additionally are posting information on their page on the website. Their information is to be found under the tab 'News and Events.' The PTFA is keen to recruit new members so please contact them if you wish to get involved.

Lastly, prior to school closure in March, many teachers provided children with reading books including some brand new ones from our Read, Write, Inc scheme. Several of you have returned these- thank you. If you have any books belonging to school at home, can I ask that you kindly return these? Thank you for your help with this.

I hope the rest of Term 1 continues as positively as it has begun and I wish you a restful half term.

Stay safe

Karen Bazeley

**Please note: The top gates will be shut to drivers at 8.35am. They will only be opened where safety is compromised.**

**Thank you.**

#### REMINDER

Please can we remind you that all dinner money, breakfast club and after school club fees should be paid for

#### IN ADVANCE

on Parentpay. Failure to do so will result in us having to withdraw these services.

Please also remember we are a cashless school, we do not keep change in the office, please make all payments via ParentPay.

#### Key Dates for School Admissions

To apply for a Reception place -  
15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

To apply for a Secondary School -  
31 October 2020

Please apply through the BANES  
website.

#### SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

Please be aware that the  
photographer will only be able to do  
individual student photos this year  
due to Covid restrictions (no sibling  
or family photos).

## Holly Class

In Holly Class, we have had a great start to the school year and everyone has settled in very well. We have enjoyed investigating our indoor and outdoor environment and exploring our 'Marvellous Me!' topic. For more news, please look at our class page on the school website or follow our class Twitter page (@HollyLongvernal).





## OAK CLASS

Oak Class have had a super start to the year. The Oak Class teachers are very proud of how far each and every one of us has come since starting back to school. We have been very busy though...

We've been fossil hunters investigating different dinosaurs and creatures, even looking at how fossils are formed; scientists exploring the different signs of autumn as they appeared around the school; and even chefs as we roasted our own marshmallows on an open fire in a recent Forest School session. On top of this, we've been counting to 10 and writing stories of dinosaurs. Wow - what a start Year 1!



## CHESTNUT CLASS

Hello Chestnut Grown-Ups, we have had a couple of weeks to settle into being in Year 2 and so far we are really enjoying it. Please have a look at the website and Twitter for more updates and pictures of our learning.





## WILLOW CLASS

We have had a brilliant couple of weeks in Willow Class! In Maths, we have enjoyed using our Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract approach to learning when considering rounding and Times Table Club is quickly becoming a class favourite. In Guided Reading, we continue to enjoy our class novel, Cosmic and in Writing we are creating our own space adventure! Please find the time to look at our Class Page on the website!



## SYCAMORE CLASS

Sycamore Class have worked really hard during the last couple of weeks. We have been learning about the reign of King George I in History and in Science we know all about the journey of blood around our body! In Writing this week we have been creating our own personification poems (using fruit and veg!) Our outdoor learning time has been great fun, getting to grips with using a compass! In P.E, We have been fortunate to have a football coach coming in each Friday to help us develop our football skills. We were really pleased that everyone in our class read at least three times at home last week and we are going to do our best to keep this up!

For more photos, please visit the website.



# MAPLE CLASS

We have all enjoyed getting back into the rhythm of learning at school in the couple of weeks. We have enjoyed the Autumn sunshine during our multi-sports PE lessons with Miss Leyman and we have made the most of the idyllic Forest School conditions. The children have enjoyed tasting and cooking different types of breads from around the world. The naan bread proved very popular, alongside the classic brioche bun! We also enjoyed the seasonal joy of finding, making and playing with conkers.

In the classroom the children have produced some fantastic writing, based on the story of Egyptian Cinderella. We have enjoyed learning about the importance of the River Nile and the God-like status of the Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt. During Science lessons, we have focussed on nutrition and healthy eating; so we will be launching into making healthy sandwiches in the near future. The class are continuing to show excellent learning behaviours and attitudes to learning. It has been a pleasure getting to know them and see green shoots of progress over the first month back at school.





### Tesco Competition

Tesco are running a Halloween competition which could win the school a £50 Tesco voucher.

They would like the children to design a Halloween poster, to be displayed in store from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

Posters should be handed into Customer Services no later than Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October

This term Longvernal PTA, have joined Parent Kind. With over 13,500 members we have now rebranded as PTFA – Parent, Teach & Friend Association and have become part of the largest community of parent associations in the UK.

Being a member provides us with advice and support, ensuring:

- we run our PTA well according to good practice
- our events are properly insured, legal and safe

All parents and carers at Longvernal school are automatically a member now that your child has enrolled in the school. It's your association and we welcome you to be part of the PTFA.

The PTFA is an open community of parent volunteers working alongside the school/teachers/and other “friends” to benefit the school and ensure the best educational experience for all its pupils.

The PTFA is a small charity that is independent from the school.

If you would like to learn more about Parent Kind

- Visit [parentkind.org.uk](http://parentkind.org.uk) and subscribe for all the latest updates.
- Check out the Facebook page for interesting chats and info: [facebook.com/Parentkind.org.uk/](https://facebook.com/Parentkind.org.uk/)

If you would like to learn more about how to become involved in Longvernal's PTFA, please email [office@longvernalschool.com](mailto:office@longvernalschool.com)



