



The Longvernal Letter

"part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership"

Term 2

Newsletter No. 2

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:

Wednesday 6th Jan - Start of Term 3

Friday 15th January - Closing date for applications for Reception place 2021.

Monday 22nd Feb - Start of Term 4

INSETS FOR THIS YEAR

Monday 4th January 2021

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

The days are short and dark and times are tougher than usual as we approach the end of Term 2. 2020 has been a challenging year for everyone and there won't be many people who aren't looking ahead to 2021 hoping beyond hope that next year will bring some progress towards a possible return to 'normal.' I would like to thank you sincerely for your understanding, flexibility, patience and tolerance since the Covid crisis first impacted school life back in March. Our priority throughout has been safety of all and with your understanding this has been possible, allowing us to stay open to a large extent. Your continuing support is appreciated as we return with the same measures in place in January.

Despite everything, it has been an exciting term with all classes fully engaged in their learning including outside in Forest School despite the season. May I remind you that it is our aim to

have Forest School outside throughout the year except in absolutely dire weather so please provide your child with plenty of warm layers and gloves, hat and scarf. Covid means many children have not had the usual opportunities they might enjoy outside of school to stay active so it is our aim to ensure that physical learning such as Forest School, P.E., yoga and Jump Start Jonny/Joe Wicks are incorporated daily. This is also important for mental health. Please check that your child has P.E. kit in school and again, in winter, if P.E. is outside, black joggers and perhaps an extra sweatshirt is a good idea.

I invite you to take a look at the school website, especially the class pages and Twitter where you will find updates about your child's learning this term. The children's learning behaviours throughout Terms 1 and 2 have been exemplary, making teaching them an absolute delight. Thank you for encouraging your child's positive attitudes towards school and learning - it really makes a difference to all. Our revamped school values- Family, Originality, Respect, Excellence, Self-belief and Teamwork are now firmly embedded and underpin the ethos of all learning.

Father Christmas is scheduled to visit virtually during the school day in the final week of term and we are hoping that he will also be paying a nocturnal visit to classrooms to deliver stockings to all the children before we break up for Christmas - they are very much deserving for their resilience this year. It saddens me that we were unable to invite you in to share Christmas Dinner with your child this year (a Longvernal tradition) or indeed to enjoy festivities such as nativity plays and carol services. Again, I invite you to explore the virtual Christmas wishes from the children via the website.

Teachers are not planning on setting formal homework over the Christmas break although continuing to share books is always special and valuable. Christmas is always a family time and never more importantly so than this year.

I wish you all a happy, restful and restorative Christmas and look forward to welcoming everyone back safely in what we all hope to be a more positive 2021!

Stay safe

Karen Bazeley

WANTED!

If you are having a clear out over Christmas, we would be very grateful for any unwanted or used scooters for our Playpod. Thank you!



Christmas issue of Family Matters magazine - digital issue

Please see below for a link to the magazine.

https://issuu.com/ignyte/docs/fm_sw_digital_issue_81_final?fr=sMTk1Nzl0MDMxMjc

Children in Need

We raised £154 in school that we have sent off to children in need. Many thanks for the donations.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS VOUCHERS

If you are entitled to benefit related Free School Meals, the local authority are providing a £40 voucher per family to cover the Christmas holidays. You should have received a letter and an email explaining how to claim this voucher.

REMINDER

Please can we remind you that, 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.

Please note:

From January 2020 all school meals will have to be **booked** (and paid for if applicable) in advance.

For example if you want a school meal for your child on the Monday, it will have to be booked on Parentpay by the previous Thursday.

This is how the majority of schools within the MNSP book and pay for meals.

You will receive separate letter with more details in due course.

Key Dates for School Admissions

To apply for a Reception place - 15th January 2021

Please apply through the BANES website.

Longvernal Primary School

Recognised for good Forest School practice



Longvernal Primary School is celebrating its success at becoming one of only about 20 schools across the country to be named a 'Recognised Forest School Provider' by offering children an opportunity to experience 'good practice' Forest School. It is the only primary school within 40 miles to receive this sought after and highly acclaimed accolade.

"As soon as we saw the Forest School Association's (FSA) Recognised Forest School Provider scheme we knew this was one for us. Longvernal is firmly committed to the learning and holistic opportunities offered through quality Forest School provision. A significant number of Longvernal teachers (7) are Level 3 trained. Our children love their weekly sessions in our 2 dedicated forest areas which complement our broad curriculum offer. In the outdoors, our children keep active, learn through exploration and enhance learning in Design Technology, Maths, Humanities and the Arts beyond the classroom. Our whole team of staff are fully engaged and committed to this approach and many parents choose us as their child's school because we offer this. We know that having this recognition will give us something that other schools do not." **Karen Bazeley, Headteacher, Longvernal Primary School**

Forest School is a specialised learning approach based in a woodland or natural environment with trees. It offers all participants regular opportunities to develop self-confidence and esteem through hands-on learning experiences. Its roots reach back to early years pioneers in outdoor learning in Scandinavia.

In October 2017, the Forest School Association (FSA) - the UK's professional body and voice for all things Forest School - launched a new scheme to recognise Forest School

Providers who demonstrated that they are following good Forest School practice - the **FSA Recognised Forest School Provider scheme**. Successful applicants such as Longvernal Primary School are added to a publicly accessible map on the FSA's website www.forestschoollassociation.org/find-a-forest-school-provider/

For parents wondering where to send their children, or even for decision makers such as Local Authorities and Academies, it is important to know that a provider is operating professionally. Are they working in accordance with good Forest School practice? Are the sessions conducted so that the children's self-confidence, communication skills, use of tools (among other skills), is progressing week on week? Do they have the appropriate qualifications, First Aid Certificate and risk assessment processes in place? Are the woodland sites well managed? The FSA Recognised Forest School Provider Scheme offers that reassurance!

Gareth Wyn Davies (CEO of the Forest School Association) says,

"Good Forest School practice is being followed by dedicated Forest School professionals all over the UK. We believe that the FSA Recognised Forest School Provider scheme will provide these schools and organisations with the means of demonstrating the quality of their work to parents and those who fund their work. It will also help promote their work as they will be found on the FSA publicly searchable map. Forest School is a distinct learning approach based on a set of 6 principles. Our scheme helps people identify those providers who are following good Forest School practice and distinguishes them from other outdoor education that is not Forest School.

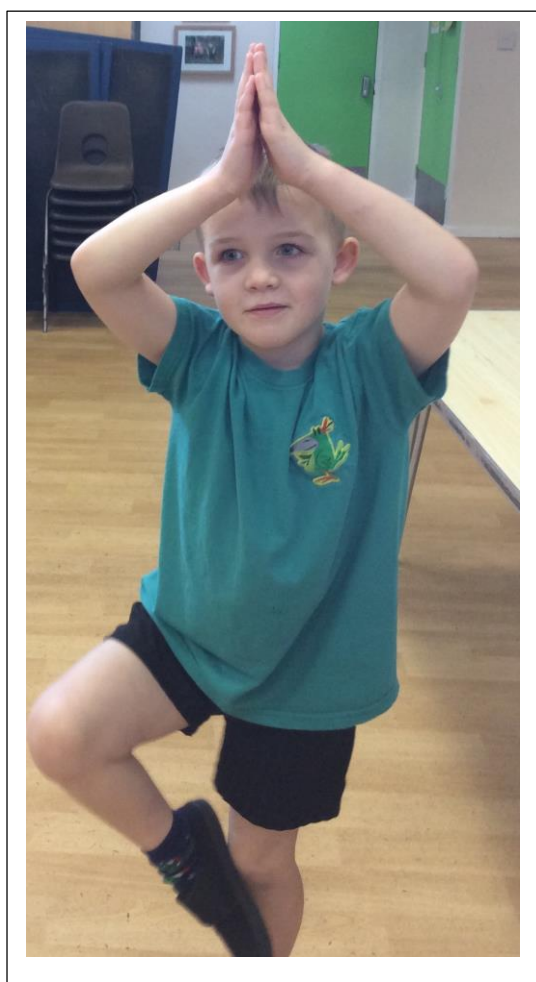
*We therefore congratulate **Longvernal Primary School** on their success at becoming an approved 'good practice' provider."*

The **Forest School Association** is the professional body and UK wide voice for Forest School, promoting best practice, cohesion and 'quality Forest School for all'. Its charitable purpose is "the advancement of education for public benefit through promotion and support of quality Forest School in the United Kingdom using any means to enable all children, young people and adults to benefit from increased opportunities for high quality and varied educational experiences in the natural world."



Diwali Dancing Workshop

All the children attended the Diwali Dancing workshop and learnt all about Hinduism and, in particular, some of the key festivals that are especially significant to Hindus, including Diwali. As a way of celebrating and learning more about it, the London West End Diwali Dance Workshop visited and worked with each class in turn to re-enact different aspects of Diwali through drama and dance. It was a huge hit with all the children and the workshop leader commented on how well behaved and lovely the children of Longvernal were. As going on trips is not currently possible due to the Covid situation, this was a wonderful opportunity to offer variety to our pupils. Please see the school website for more details.



We would also like to say a big **thank you** to the Longvernal PTFA who despite all the current restrictions have still managed to find a way to continue fundraising and organise events and raffles. The children loved the pumpkin carving competition! (Please see the school website for photos).

We hope you enjoyed all the Christmas videos and messages from your children. It's been a busy term and they have worked incredibly hard. Please make sure you check out the school website and Twitter feed for more information and pictures.

