



The Longvernal Letter

"part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership"



Newsletter
2023/2024

Term 2

News from Mrs Bazeley...

Dear Parents /Carers

It has been tremendously busy this term that said, what fun has been had by all!

Many children have been out and about, despite the wintry weather with welly walks, Forest and various trips out including our regular visits to Midsomer Norton Library. Reggie the Reading Dog has settled in well with many children looking forward to sharing their current reading book with him.

Trips & Tournaments

Term 2 started with Chestnut Class visiting Chew Valley Animal Park. Lots of children seemed to love the opportunity to have a rat on their heads! Pupils in Years 5 and 6 competed in the Midsomer Norton football tournament where they came third after a nail-biting penalty shoot out. Our Y3 and 4 footballers also played their first match- a friendly against St. Mary's Primary, Timsbury. A huge thank you to our tremendous coach, Michael, who gives much time and effort to the teams.

Sport

Sport has played a significant role this term with Years 5 and 6 competing in a swimming gala and all children from Nursery to Year 6 enjoying an action-packed Health and Fitness week, encompassing Dance from Make a Move,

multi-skills, gymnastics, cricket and football.

It is great when children bring in their sporting achievements from outside school for Celebration Assembly - we see swimming, gymnastics, taekwondo and climbing to name a few and it is wonderful to celebrate these achievements together.

Volunteers

I would like to thank all the volunteers who regularly come into school to hear readers and offer a helping hand. This really does contribute to children's progress.

Personal Development

The personal development aspects of school have been a-plenty, keeping Community Leaders busy and PSHE lessons lively. This term we have learnt about or experienced activities around Remembrance, Anti-Bullying Week, Children in Need and Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. Year 5 pupils have continued to visit Combe Lea fortnightly to carry out activities with the residents.

PTFA

A big thank you to the growing PTFA who did a wonderful job with the highly successful Christmas Fayre, raising money to the benefit of all children in school.

Mrs Millett

Congratulations to Mrs Millett, who is now the proud mum of a lovely little boy. A big thank you to Miss Richards who is doing a magnificent job in the role of Deputy Head in a term where I have unavoidably not been as available as usual.

Christmas Carol Service

Parents and carers are very welcome at the Carol Service to be held at 10am on Monday 18th December at Midsomer Norton Methodist Church in the High Street - if anyone can help walking down, this would be appreciated.

Website

Please look on the website for class updates about what your child has been learning in class and keep an eye on Facebook for a real feel of daily life at Longvernal.

Merry Christmas

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a fabulous Christmas and every best wish for the year to come.

Best Wishes

Karen Bazeley

Please remember Headlice don't go on holiday!

We have had a number of cases in school recently so please keep checking (and treating if necessary) your child/children's hair over the holiday.

Thank you!



Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday 2nd Janaury- Inset Day
Wednesday 3rd Janaury - Inset Day
Thursday 4th Janaury - Term 3 starts
Thursday 11th January - Y4 Cherry Class Roman Baths Trip
Friday 9th February - End of Term 3
Monday 19th February - Term 4 starts
Wednesday 21st February - Y6 Sycamore Class - Lifeskills trip
Week commencing 04th March - Book Week
Tuesday 05th March - Midsomerset Festival
Thursday 28th March - End of Term 4
Monday 15th April - Start of Term 5

PE Days for next term

Holly - Wednesday
Oak - Friday
Chestnut - Thursday
Maple - Thursday
Cherry - Friday (swimming)
Willow - Tuesday
Sycamore - Friday

Forest Days for next term - Forest will commence the week beginning 8th January

Holly - Friday
Oak - Wednesday
Chestnut - Wednesday
Maple - Wednesday
Cherry - Tuesday
Willow - Thursday
Sycamore - Monday

Childcare Choices: Get the help that fits your family, so you can juggle work and life

Thousands of families could be saving money on their childcare costs. But some simply don't know what support they might be eligible for.

The Childcare Choices website brings together all the existing childcare offers in one place, so parents can get the help that fits their family. This could be through Tax-Free Childcare, 30 Hours Childcare, or Universal Credit Childcare. Some families might be eligible to use more than one childcare schemes together and get the most out of it.

And from next year even more help is on the way:

- From April 2024, eligible working parents in England with children aged 2 will have access to 15 hours childcare.
- From September 2024, the 15 hours childcare offer will be expanded to eligible working parents in England with children between 9 and 23 months old.
- From September 2025, eligible working parents in England with children between 9 months up to school age will have access to 30 hours childcare.

Support is also expanding for primary-school aged children - from September 2024, parents are expected to see an expansion in the availability of childcare in their local area before and after school, between 8am and 6pm, also known as 'wraparound care'.

Don't miss out on getting the support you are entitled to. Visit the Childcare Choices website <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> to check what offer you might be eligible for and sign up to our newsletter to get the latest updates about the childcare support expansion.

REMINDERS:

It is wonderful that lots of children are continuing to choose to walk, scoot or cycle to school even now that vehicle drop off is possible. Please note that next term, we would prefer for **all** children to be collected after clubs finish at 4.15p.m. as it will, by then, be beginning to get dark.

Please do not park in the school car park at drop off or pick up times. There are limited spaces and these are for staff and visiting external staff only. The exception is if you have a blue disability badge which is genuinely needed by the driver or child being collected. We need to restrict cars pulling out of school and driving up the hill for the safety of all as most people are walking.

Parent Pay

Breakfast Club and After School club should be booked and paid for **in advance** on Parentpay.

Please also remember that school dinners need to be ordered **in advance by the Thursday of the preceding week**. Thank you

Children learn with mud on their hands and smiles on their faces