



# The Longvernal Letter

"part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership"



Newsletter  
2024/2025

Term 4

## News from Mrs Courtier-Hird...

*Dear Parents/Carers*

### ***Playtimes***

*It is now officially British Springtime and finally the school field is drying out and children are beginning to enjoy the full use of our sandpits, outdoor spaces and new play equipment - this is lovely to see. Many of you will be aware that we recently altered our lunchtime arrangements. After a few initial teething problems, things are settling down and playtimes are safer with fewer low level accidents, such as collisions between children.*

### ***Reading***

*A huge thank you to Jim, father of Freya and Rory, for the wonderful Golden Bookcase which looks superb. We hope it will encourage children to want to read at home. As always, we urge all parents to listen to their children to read and/or practise their sounds at home. The link between support at home, reading progress and future success is well-documented.*

### ***Book Week***

*A huge thank you to Miss. James for yet another tremendous Book Week. Extreme Reading, fantastic costumes, visiting author Joffre White, Natural Theatre Company workshops, book review competitions, book buddies across Nursery to Year 6 and creating story boxes all*

*contributed to a truly enriching experience for all pupils.*

### ***Fund Raising***

*Thank you to all of you who regularly support PTFA events. The dedicated PTFA are working valiantly to raise funds towards enhancements for all children. The Movie Nights are always hugely popular and a great fund-raiser too. You will no doubt be aware from media coverage that schools' budgets are quite stretched so any fundraising is gratefully received.*

*Thank you also to Somer Valley Rotary who have helped us out twice this year, funding trikes for Acorns Nursery and BeeBots for Key Stage 1 Computing.*

### ***Sporting Events***

*Well done to our footballers for all their recent matches - Coach Dan was very proud of you all. Thank you to Dan Brayton for kindly taking over the coaching. The recent girls' football day run by Miss. Black was very successful. Also, excitingly, Miss. Black is currently arranging a Key Stage 1 match against another school. Well done to the Year 6 Cross-Country Team - every runner completed in the top half and Jaiden came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall- excellent work!*

### **Performances**

Woody in Wonderland, which was penned, directed and choreographed by Miss Collins and Miss Cleaves, was a huge success. We were treated to lots of acting, singing and dancing talent. Well done and thank you to all involved on stage, doing tech, props and costumes. On March 31<sup>st</sup> Years 2, 4 and 5 are performing at the Forum in Bath in Dance Umbrella- rehearsals are happening in earnest. Well done to the children across Years 2-6 who bravely competed in the MidSomerset Festival in Bath in Verse Speaking and Reading Aloud. The standard is very high and competition is tough but Longvernal children did us proud, performing with confidence and much expression. Particular congratulations are due to Radella and Daisy who came 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively in Reading Aloud.

### **Accreditations**

We have successfully been reaccredited with the Forest School Association - no mean feat and an achievement that is a USP for Longvernal primary. Additionally, we have the Music Mark award for commitment to delivery of the Music curriculum and Music opportunities and we are also a Jigsaw Flagship school for our Personal Development and PSHE offer. Excitingly, we are also on course to be awarded Centre of Excellence status for Oracy. This requires Oracy to be firmly embedded including in unstructured times and assemblies; our child-led Oracy assemblies have proven very popular with the children.

### **Your Child's Progress**

I hope that you all found the recent parents' evenings helpful. This year we also introduced the Interim Report to focus discussions and also in response to feedback from the parent survey where some parents felt they would like to be better informed about their child's progress.

### **Trips**

Sycamore Class enjoyed visiting Life Skills where they were put into 'real life' situations and taught how best to respond for better outcomes. Chestnut Class enjoyed dressing up as Victorian school children on their recent visit to Radstock

Museum and at the point of writing, Maple Class is looking forward to a trip to Wookey Hole. Cherry Class, meanwhile, will be finishing Term 4 in style with their residential trip to Charterhouse, where they will try their hand at climbing and caving.

### **Attendance**

A big thank you for your support in ensuring that your child attends school as frequently as possible; it really does impact long term success in exams at secondary level. I am delighted that our attendance is currently 96.2% and has been strong for the majority of this academic year.

### **Lost property**

There is now a Lost Property crate in the main school entrance. We check this daily and any NAMED items are returned to the rightful owner. We therefore ask that you name all items of school uniform and equipment.

### **Play Equipment after school**

In order that After School Club children and clubs can safely use the school site in the knowledge of exactly who is on the school site, we ask that parents leave the premises and grounds by 3.30pm each day, at which point the Alley and Woodpecker Gates will be locked. If your child goes on the play equipment briefly after school before 3.30p.m it is essential that you supervise them and that you are aware that they are your responsibility at that time. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Farewell and Best Wishes**

I would like to inform you that it is with great sadness that we say 'Goodbye' to Mrs Young who has worked at Longvernal for an incredible 22 years. She has worked tirelessly and with much dedication and she will be greatly missed by the Longvernal Family. We would like to wish her a safe journey to Australia on her travels and happy retirement, enjoying her grandchildren and family.

Wishing you a restful half term break.  
Karen Courtier-Hird

### Dates for your Diary:

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 - Dance Umbrella  
Wednesday 02<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 - Easter Service - 10am  
Thursday 03<sup>rd</sup> - Friday 04<sup>th</sup> April - Y4 Camp  
Friday 04<sup>th</sup> April - End of Term 4  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April - Bank Holiday  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 - Start of Term 5  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - Y3&4 Field to Food  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April - Y5 M Shed  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May - Bank Holiday  
12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> May - Y6 SATS week  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May - Y6 Big Pit  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Y3 sleepover  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May - End of Term 5  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June - Start of Term 6  
2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> June - Y5/6 Camp

### PE Days for next term

Holly - Thursday  
Oak - Friday  
Chestnut - Thursday  
Maple - Monday  
Cherry - Friday  
Willow - Friday (Swimming)  
Sycamore - Friday

### Forest Days for next term

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

### 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 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. Please also remember not to park on the double yellow lines on Paulton Road.

### 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

**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!



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