



# The Longvernal Letter

"part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership"



Newsletter  
2024/2025  
Term 6

## News from Mrs Courtier-Hird...

Dear Parents/Carers,  
This term has been brim-ful of activity - looking back, it is amazing that we have fitted so much in! I promised that we would share our behaviour policy with you. Please see attached.

### Trips

The term started with Sycamore and Willow classes visiting Mill on the Brue where they experienced climbing, adventure trials, zip wire, raft building and team building exercises whilst camping in teepees.



Cherry Class visited Bristol Zoo where they enjoyed an informative Geography-based workshop about Madagascar and loved walking among lemurs then trying to find elusive bears and wolves in the forest.



Oak class enjoyed their visit to Earthwise (The Community Farm). They first walked around to see the vegetables and plants growing on the farm, before picking cucumber, courgette, mint, lettuce and tomatoes which they washed and chopped to make a spring roll made from rice paper. After lunch, Oak guessed the items in the bags which link to what plants need to grow and finished the day by taking home a pot with their potted seed.



Holly Class had a fantastic day out at Chew Valley Animal Farm! Our curious learners absolutely loved meeting all the animals. From fluffy bunnies to friendly goats and showed such care and excitement while petting and feeding them. They also impressed the keepers by asking thoughtful, well-informed questions to learn more about how the animals are looked after.





## Performance

Willow and Sycamore worked extremely hard on their production of Peter Pan, resulting in a show that was truly spectacular, showcasing multiple talents including acting, singing and dancing. The show also provided opportunities backstage for children as sound technicians, scenery and props assistants and prompt. The quality of the performance was truly impressive. Congratulations and thanks to all staff involved; especially Miss James, Mr Dobson, Mr French (Musical Director) and Mrs Isom who spent many an evening making incredible props.

## Achievements

Longvernal has been re-accredited the **Silver Sports Mark 2024-2025** for commitment to providing quality sporting opportunities.

We are thrilled to announce that Longvernal has been awarded the accolade of **Voice 21 Oracy Centre of Excellence**. This means that we have been recognised as leaders in this field and will benefit from ongoing support to continue driving this whilst also supporting other schools on this journey. Longvernal is now the only school in Somerset and the Bath area to achieve this prestigious national award and one of just a handful across the entire country! Voice 21 praised the way oracy “resonates through every corner of school life” at Longvernal, helping pupils develop confidence, responsibility and a strong sense of belonging. Miss James has driven this project from its infancy nearly 3 years ago, supported by Mr Dobson and it is a tremendous achievement.



## Events

A team of year 3 and 4 pupils represented Longvernal at the MNSP Poetry Slam where we enjoyed a lively evening of performance poetry written by the pupils and performed with confidence.



A team of children from Willow and Sycamore represented Longvernal at the MNSP Upper Key Stage 2 Science Day held at Writhlington School in the Science labs.



Sports Day lived up to expectations- the rain held off and the crowd of supporters was fantastic- thank you to all who came along to cheer. The PTFA Stay and Play afterwards was likewise well-supported.



Summer Fayre proved very popular - the food stalls did a thriving business and the children enjoyed the bouncy castles and activities. Thank you as always to our PTFA who work tirelessly to raise funds and create experiences for our children.



Year 6 will enjoy a Leavers' BBQ on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July before their Leavers' Assembly on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July. Sycamore has been a special class with many talented and empathetic youngsters. I wish them the very best as they proceed to their destination schools.

### Citizenship Award Update

We're pleased to share that submissions for the Citizenship Award have been extended until early September. This gives pupils the chance to continue to work on potential tasks over the summer holidays and make the most of the extra time to showcase their commitment to community and character development. We will be holding a special award ceremony and relaunch of the Citizenship Award at the start of the new school year - a great way to celebrate achievements and inspire further participation.

### Wraparound Care

A reminder that our Breakfast Club runs from 7.30am-8.30am each morning, offering pupils a healthy breakfast and a chance to socialise before school. Our Afterschool Club runs Monday-Thursday until 6.00pm and Fridays until 5pm, with healthy snacks and a variety of fun activities provided. Please remember to book in advance where possible and collect your child within the designated times to avoid additional fees.



### Attendance

As we come to the end of the school year we would like to say thank you to all our families for supporting regular attendance at Longvernal School. Being in school everyday does make a difference by helping children to build their confidence, make good progress and enjoy time

with their friends.

We know mornings can be busy and life doesn't always go to plan so we truly appreciate the effort you have made this year to get your children ready to learn.

Children who attend regularly:

- Are more settled and confident in class
- Make better progress in Reading, Writing and Maths
- Enjoy being part of the school community

As we look forward to September let's build on these good habits by:

- Aiming for 96% attendance, we understand that children can get unwell but if they have just a cold and cough send them in, we can always contact you if your child is too unwell to be in school.
- Try to make medical appointments where possible and book holidays outside of the school time.

Please contact Carole Macdonald - Parent Support Adviser who oversees the attendance with any questions regarding Attendance.

### Congratulations

Well done to Kiri Parfitt who has successfully completed her Level 3 qualification, having carried out her apprenticeship in Nursery. She has now joined Nursery as a full-time member of the team.

### Congratulations

Exciting news: Miss. Richards is getting married in August and will return to school as Mrs. Brain. She is hoping this new title will impact academic performance!

### Goodbye

It is with sadness that we bid farewell to Mr Dobson, Nettie Williams and Miss King. I would like to thank them all for their tremendous hard work and impact on the young people they have supported and wish them all the very best for their futures.

All that remains is for me to thank you for all your ongoing support. I wish everybody a wonderful, sunny, restful and fun-filled summer holiday.

Best Wishes, Karen Courtier-Hird

### Dates for your Diary:

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September - Inset Day  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - Inset Day  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - Term 1 Starts

### **Coffee Mornings 09:00am - 9:30am**

Holly: Tuesday 16th September  
Oak: Monday 15th September  
Chestnut: Monday 8th September  
Maple: Wednesday 10th September  
Cherry: Tuesday 9th September  
Willow: Thursday 11th September  
Sycamore: Friday 5th September

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October - Harvest Festival  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October - End of Term 1  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October - Inset Day

### PE Days for next term

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

### Forest Days for next term

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

### REMINDERS:

- Please BOOK for Breakfast Club and After School Club to help us ensure safe ratios and sufficient supplies
- Please do not park on the drop-off zone. This is to ensure the safety of pedestrians and allow speedy drop-off.
- 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.

### Uniform:

Please ensure that your child is dressed in correct school uniform. Please contact PTFA for quality pre-loved uniform

### 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!



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