



# The Longvernal Letter

"part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership"

## Term 2 Newsletter 2025/26

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this Winter newsletter finds you well. This term really has flown by in a whirlwind of activity. At the start of term, in recognition of Diwali, every child from Holly Class upwards participated in an Indian Dance Workshop.



Holly Class thoroughly enjoyed their Fire Firefighter Workshop with Firefighter Pete.



Thank you to those of you who attended our Phonics breakfast. We hope this was useful at helping you to support your child at home.

I hope that those of you who were able to attend the Christmas craft sessions enjoyed the time you spent with your child in school.



This newsletter really reflects the vast range of opportunities that Longvernal tries to offer the children. This does, by necessity, come alongside communications. We genuinely try our best to communicate as clearly and promptly as we can via email and phone calls together with Facebook. I have received communications suggesting we do not communicate enough and others saying we overload parents with communications. My only response is that we try our best always.

### Homework

Reading forms the basis of future success in school so I would like to thank you for supporting your children at home with this- it makes such a difference to the progress children make, so please maintain this. Please encourage your child to engage with their Doodle Maths-this is set to match your child's needs and is currently underused; it is an expensive resource which we wish to maximise to help each child reach their potential.

### Attendance

Our average daily attendance at the point of writing this newsletter is 96.4%, which represents a drop from 97.5% at the end of Term 1. However this remains above National attendance data and I would like to thank you for your efforts in getting your children into school as frequently as you can; it really impacts their future success, not just in terms of exam results but developing resilience and stamina. Lessons are carefully sequenced and medium and long term plans recall prior learning. Therefore, if a child has poor attendance they can have gaps in their understanding. An effective approach is 'keep up' rather than 'catch up' which works best with full attendance. Please support us in helping your child to achieve their very best by ensuring maximum attendance. Thank you.

### Community/Charity Events

This term, Longvernal has participated in the following, building awareness of community and others beyond themselves: wearing odd socks for Mental Health Day, wearing spots for Children In Need, Poppy Appeal and the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Thank you for your support with such events.

CHILDREN IN NEED



FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2025  
BE SPOTACULAR  
WEAR SPOTS ONLY  
All cash donations collected on the day



### Christmas Carol Service

It was unfortunate that we had to make the decision to move the Christmas Carol Service to the school hall instead of Midsomer Norton Methodist Church owing to the weather. I was unexpectedly dealing with an urgent matter so missed the service, sadly. However, I understand that Year 5 and 6 did themselves proud with their performances and that all children sang with gusto.



### Lights, Camel, Action!

Holly, Oak and Chestnut classes entertained us all with their singing, dancing and acting. Thank you to everyone involved at school at putting on such a coordinated performance and to parents for providing such splendid costumes.



### Sport and Fitness

Many of our children have participated in sporting events once again this term. These have included: swimming gala, hockey festival, Cross-country, girls' multi-skills, Midsomer Norton Football Tournament and Bikeability. Thank you to Dan Brayton for kindly giving up his time every week to run our Key Stage 2 football clubs.



### Trips

We continue our weekly visits to Midsomer Norton Library. This term Oak enjoyed their first library trip. Holly Class walked to the post box to post their letters to Santa. Oak and Chestnut are looking forward to going to the theatre to see Peter Pan and Willow and Sycamore are due to enjoy ice-skating at Planet Volt.



### PTFA

Thank you to the PTFA Team - you are great! The PTFA kindly offered to fund £5 off a school trip for every child in the school this academic year. This has been deducted already from the cost to parents of the Peter Pan and Planet Volt trips. They also very kindly heavily subsidised the Indian Dance Workshop. Thank you also for the magical visit of Father Christmas at the grotto in school. The Winter Fayre was a huge success and it was lovely to see so many parents involved in helping with this event.



### Reminders

Please do not drop children off at school in the morning before 8.30am unless they are booked into Breakfast Club. We do not have a staff member on duty until 8.30am outside. If a child arrives late, they MUST enter the building through the office. They must not go direct to their outside classroom doors. The play equipment in the playground is out of bounds before school as no member of staff is supervising this area at this time. No child will be allowed to walk home alone after a club finishing at 4.15pm until the clocks change.

### Acorns Nursery

The children at Acorns Nursery have had a busy and exciting time learning through play. They have loved exploring both indoors and outdoors, including our weekly forest visits where they discovered nature and enjoyed new adventures in the Orchard. There have been lots of learning opportunities around special celebrations at this time of year, such as Christmas, Hanukkah and Diwali, helping the children explore different traditions. The children also enjoyed spotting patterns and practising subitising numbers 1-3 through fun activities. Cooking was a big hit, with gingerbread baking and creating colourful stained-glass window biscuits. We finished with festive crafts and lots of Christmas singing. Parents were welcome to join us - thank you to everyone who came along and shared the fun!



We are delighted to share that we will be celebrating our annual STEM Week from Monday 19th to Friday 23rd January. As part of our ongoing work to inspire curiosity and creativity in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics we would like to invite volunteers from our families and friends who work in any of these fields to come and share their expertise with our pupils.

You might be an engineer, a doctor, a coder, a builder, a lab technician, an architect, a scientist, or even someone who uses problem-solving and technology in unexpected ways! We would be so grateful if you could spare a little time to:

- Give a short talk about your role.
- Lead a simple, practical demonstration or hands-on activity
- Explain how your job connects to STEM in the real world

Hearing from people who use STEM every day helps our children see how the skills they are learning in school can shape exciting futures. Your visit could be the spark that inspires the next generation of inventors, innovators, and problem-solvers!

If you (or someone you know) would be interested in getting involved, please get in touch with Mrs Brain or Miss Black.

### Holly Class

Holly Class will line up on the playground from January rather than coming straight into class.



## Dates for your Diary:

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – End of Term 2  
Monday 05<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – INSET Day  
Tuesday 06<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Start of Term 3  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Y5 We The Curious Trip  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Closing day for Primary Admissions for Sep 26  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – STEM Week  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Y4 Roman Baths Trip  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – End of Term 3  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 – Start of Term 4  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Y6 Lifeskills Trip  
Thursday 05<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – World Book Day  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Midsomerset Festival  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 – Y4 Camp  
Wednesday 01<sup>st</sup> April 2026 – Dance Umbrella  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 – Easter Service  
Thursday 02<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 – End of Term 4  
Friday 03<sup>rd</sup> April – Bank Holiday  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Start of Term 5

## PE Days for next term

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

## Forest Days for next term

Acorns- Tuesdays  
Holly - Tuesdays  
Oak - Fridays  
Chestnut - Fridays  
Maple - Tuesday  
Cherry - Tuesday  
Willow - Mondays  
Sycamore - Mondays

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!



## REMINDERS:

- 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.
- A reminder that there should be no smoking within the school ground. This includes vaping.
- Children should arrive no earlier than 8:30am and must be supervised until this time to ensure their safety, as we do not have a teacher on duty until this time.
- It is wonderful that lots of children are continuing to choose to walk, scoot or cycle to school. Please note that next term, we would prefer for **all** children to be collected after clubs finish at 4.15p.m.

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.