



The Longvernal Letter

Term 5-2025/2026

Welcome to the Term 5 Newsletter. The last two terms of the year are always my favourite as the sun comes out and we can fully enjoy our wonderful outdoor spaces.

Communication about learning

Please remember to look at the class pages for news about learning in class and information about what is coming up next term. I would like to thank all parents for their ongoing support with home learning and reading. Doodle Maths uptake is steadily improving but could still do with a little more commitment from pupils in some year groups.

National Assessments

Year 4 have been continuing their preparation for the multiplication checks. It is difficult to overstate the importance for children of learning their times tables- it makes Maths in Years 5 and beyond so much easier for them and impacts future success and confidence in the subject. Miss. Black is trying her utmost to support in school but the strongest success comes when children are practising both at school and home.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our Year 6 pupils on their hard work, resilience and determination through the run-up to SATS and the week itself. They enjoyed their SATs breakfasts and worked determinedly throughout. Thank you to parents for their support at home and in getting them in early last week. A huge thanks also to Miss. James for her dedication.

Character and Citizenship Awards

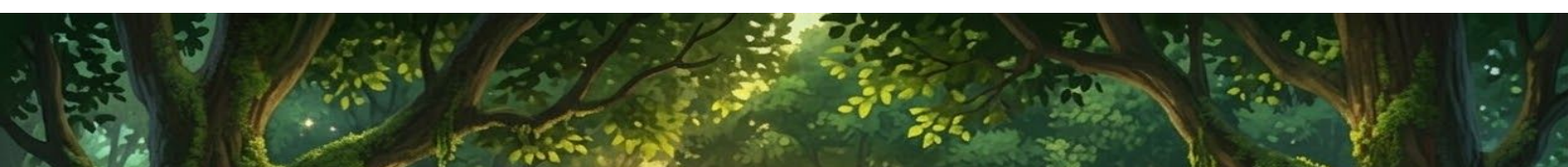
Thank you to the children who have brought in their progress to date and shared this to inspire others to join in. There is still time to engage with this before awards are given at the end of the academic year. Please look at Home Learning slides for more details.

EYFS

Acorns Nursery children have had a wonderful half-term exploring their 'Garden Detectives!' topic. The children have loved learning about pets, animals and minibeasts through water play, outdoor exploration, Forest School activities and PE games. Additionally, Holly Class children have enjoyed their 'Ready Steady Sow' topic this half-term, developing their independent writing and learning numbers to 20 in Maths. The children have loved watching the tadpoles in the garden, are eagerly awaiting our class butterflies and have welcomed some adorable chicks into the classroom. Both Acorns and Holly Class have also been enjoying spending time in the gardens whenever the warm weather has allowed! We are very proud of how busy and enthusiastic the children have been and are looking forward to an exciting final term, including Sports Day and preparing our Butterflies for graduation. A big thank you to our wonderful EYFS team for all they do to support and inspire the children each day.

Blaenavon Ironworks and Village and Big Pit

On Thursday 21st May Year 6 travelled to South Wales. In the morning, they visited Blaenavon Ironworks and village, a fascinating site providing both industrial and social history. This was followed by a visit to the ex-working coal mine, Big Pit on the South Wales coalfield. This covers aspects of social history, industrial history and physical and environmental geography. They experienced a simulator, a trip down the mineshaft and into the mine itself in addition to a museum depicting the life of coal miners.



Sports Fixtures

It has been another busy term for sport, including football matches against Farmborough and Welton and a netball match against St Benedicts. Year 4 also attended a Games Festival at MSN Cricket Ground, where they enjoyed trying a variety of different sporting activities. It has been great to see continued effort and commitment from all football teams in training. A big thank you to Dan for giving up his spare time to coach both teams. Please be reminded that all football kits need to be returned to Miss Collins as soon as possible so we are prepared for upcoming fixtures.

Induction evening and moving forwards

On Monday 18th May we welcomed the new intake parents for September 2026. It was great to have representation at this event from a governor and the PTFA. Longvernal was oversubscribed this year with a waiting list for places both for Reception and Nursery, which is a testament to the behaviour and learning behaviours of the children. When prospective parents are looking around the school, the children are able to explain what they are learning and how they learn really clearly, utilising their Oracy skills brilliantly. A combination of : the wonderful examples of learning from the children, having a dedicated team who always 'go above and beyond' and a supportive parent body who I know say kind things about Longvernal in the community and the behaviour of our children when out on trips that has led to the growth of the school. We frequently receive comments or emails from members of the public or staff at education sites we visit praising our children's conduct. Thank you to everyone.

PTFA

I would like to thank the PTFA for all their tremendous enrichment, community and fund-raising activities. The children were extremely excited about the recent disco and it was lovely to see so many families at the Stay and Play, despite the sun not fully shining on us all. The Y6 pupils were thrilled too with the kind gift of ice-creams after their SATs.



Uniform: reminder

Children can wear black school trousers, tailored shorts, skirts or pinafore dresses. In the warmer months green gingham dresses or skirts with the school polo shirt are also fine. No gingham shorts jumpsuits please. Leggings and joggers are NOT to be worn except for PE (unless by prior arrangement) and children should be wearing black shoes, not trainers.

Any pupil with hair that is long enough to tie up should be wearing it tied up. Earrings should be studs or tiny, easy-release 'sleeper' hoops for safety reasons. Make-up is not permitted. Please name everything!

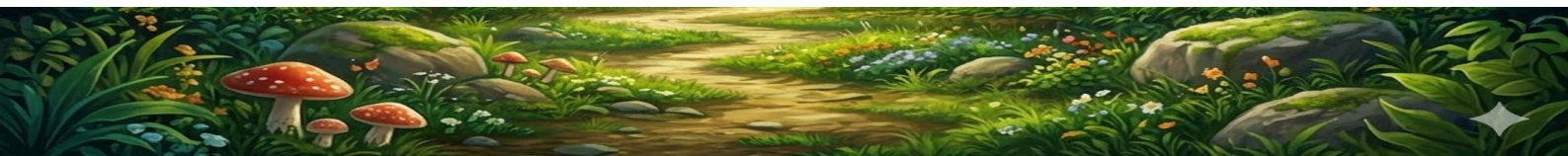
Thank you for your support with this- there has been a noticeable improvement in Term 4.

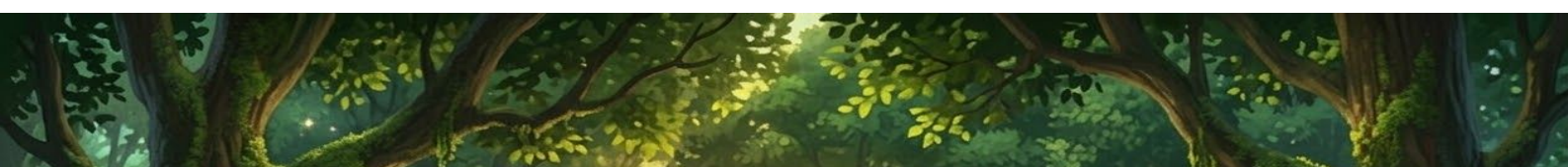
Snacks:

Morning snack should be an item of fresh fruit; think of it as a 'fruit boost' please. Crackers, cereal bars and pepperami do not qualify.

Safety:

Please ensure that your children are securely fastened into your car with seatbelts fastened and appropriate car seats as per the law. This is a safeguarding concern.





Attendance

Whole School Attendance this term - 96.4%

Attendance Matters: Every Day Counts!

We know it can be difficult to decide if your child is "sick enough" to stay home. Our goal is to support you in getting your child into school whenever they are well enough to learn.

The "Stay or Go?" Guide

- 🏠 **Stay Home:** If your child has a high temperature, is vomiting, or has diarrhoea. (Please remember the 48-hour rule for sickness bugs!)
- 🎒 **Come to School:** If they have a mild cold, a runny nose, a slight cough, or are just feeling a little tired.

Why it's worth the effort:

Often, the best "medicine" for feeling a little under the weather is the distraction of friends and a normal routine! Being in school every day helps children feel more confident, connected and keeps their learning on track.

Need a hand? If you're struggling with the morning routine or your child is feeling anxious, please reach out to us. We're here to help!

Learning next term

Please be sure to check the [website](#) to see what your child is learning next term. Navigate to 'Our Classes' and select your child's class to find out more!

Online Safety- Fortnite

Fortnite is a popular online video game where players compete in challenges and games, often working as teams or against other players online. It is especially well known for its 'Battle Royale' mode.

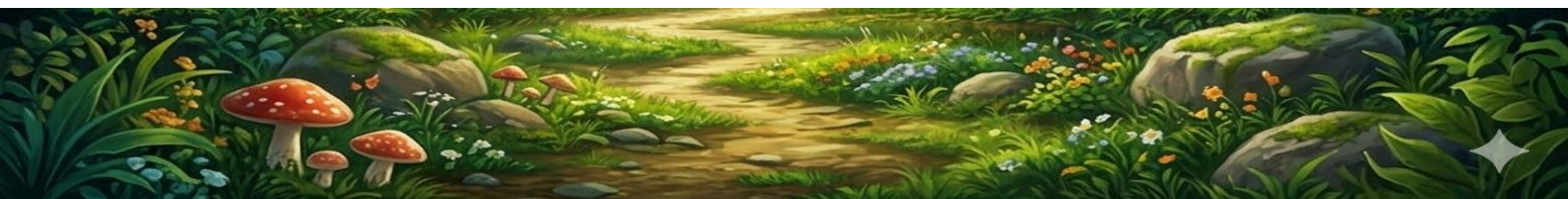
Fortnite is rated PEGI 12, meaning it is considered suitable for children aged 12 and over due to violence and online interaction.

What should you be aware of?

- Players can communicate with others using voice and text chat.
- Some game models involve cartoon-style combat and violence.
- There are in-game purchases for outfits, accessories and upgrades.
- The fast-paced nature of the game can make it highly engaging and difficult for some children to stop playing.

How can you support safe use?

- Be mindful of the PEGI age rating of Fortnite. PEGI ratings are the law.
- Use parental controls to manage chat, spending and playtime.
- Encourage children to only play online with people they know in real life.
- Keep conversations open about online behaviour and digital safety.
- Set healthy limits around screen time.



Dates for your Diary

Friday 22nd May 2026 - End of Term 5
Monday 01st June 2026 - Start of Term 6

Tuesday 09th June 2026 - YR - Chew Valley Farm Trip

Thursday 11th June 2026 - Y6 - Mad Swans Activity

Monday 15th - Wednesday 17th June 2026 - Y5/6 Camp

Monday 22nd June 2026 - Health & Fitness Week

Tuesday 23rd June 2026 - Sports Day

Wednesday 24th June 2026 - Nursery Sports Day

Friday 03rd July 2026 - PTFA Summer Fete

06th, 07th, 08th July 2026 - KS2

Performance (Times TBC)

Thursday 09th July 2026 - YR & Y6 - Palette & Pasture Trip

Thursday 09th July 2026 - Y3 - Trip to Stonehenge

Wednesday 15th July 2026 - Y4 - Bristol Zoo Trip

Friday 17th July 2026 - Leavers Assembly

and End of Term 6

P.E. Next Term:

Holly- Monday

Oak- Monday

Chestnut- Monday

Maple- Monday

Cherry- Monday

Willow- Friday (Swimming)

Sycamore- Monday

Forest Next Term:

Holly- Tuesday

Oak- Wednesday

Chestnut- Wednesday

Maple- Tuesday

Cherry- Tuesday

Willow- Monday

Sycamore- Monday

Reminders

- We are getting a large amount of lost property which we are unable to return to your child due to it not being named.

Please make sure that **all school uniforms, coats and bottles are named** before sending your child into school with them.

- Breakfast Club and After School Club should be booked and paid for **in advance** on Arbor.
- Please also remember that school dinners need to be ordered on School Grid **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.

Health Reminders

Head Lice

Please check your child's hair regularly and use a fine-toothed comb to detect any lice. If needed, treat promptly and ensure bedding is washed thoroughly.

Threadworm

Symptoms can include itching around the anal area (particularly at night), bed wetting and loss of weight. To help prevent spread, please keep your child's nails short, encourage regular handwashing, disinfect commonly touched surfaces and wash bedding frequently. Treatment can be sought from a pharmacy.

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



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite: It can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often 'gone when they're gone'.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College