

The Longvernal Letter



Term 6-2025/2026

Longvernal End of Year Newsletter: A Message from Mrs. Courtier-Hird

Dear Parents and Carers,
As we reach the final days of the academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredibly busy, vibrant and rewarding term. Time has flown by, and our school has been buzzing with energy, learning and celebration from the first day to the last. I am so very proud of the resilience and adaptability of the children over the recent weeks of heat and humidity.

An academic year is never truly successful without a strong partnership between home and school, and I am profoundly grateful for your continuing support over the academic year. This term has seen some of our favourite annual traditions, and your presence and encouragement made all the difference.

Spectacular Sports Day: Thank you to everyone who came along to cheer and support the children. The sportsmanship, determination and joy displayed by the children were wonderful to see—and your enthusiastic applause and shouts from the sidelines truly energized them. Equally impressive was the teamwork displayed in the morning when children experienced a range of sporting activities in the House Groups, with older children helping younger pupils with compassion and diligence.

Stunning School Production: From the dazzling costumes to the brave performances on stage, our recent production of Alice in Wonderland showcased the immense talent and creativity of our pupils. Thank you for helping them learn lines, sourcing costumes and filling the hall to support their hard work. It was a true team effort and those children working on the technical aspects of a production also deserve a mention.



Poetry Slam! This year two teams took part, both Year 3 and Year 4. They represented Longvernal brilliantly with energetic and expressive performances at Writhlington's Dragonfly Theatre. Many members of the teams were pushing themselves out of their comfort zone to perform in front of a packed audience so should feel very proud of their achievement.

Longvernal Community Events: This term has whizzed past in a whirl of activity. Whether you volunteered to chaperone a school trip, supported our PTFA Summer Fayre and Stay and Plays, made costumes, cheered encouragement at a match or came along to celebrate the maypole dancers at the Midsomer Norton Town Fayre, we are grateful. Also, thank you too simply for helping your child prepare for their daily challenges. Your contribution has been invaluable.



Trips:

Willow and Sycamore Classes enjoyed some exhilarating and challenging adventure tasks on their residential trip to Osmington Bay. Thank you to the staff who gave their time generously to enable this to happen.



Holly Class loved getting up close to a variety of animals at Chew Valley Farm, even cuddling rats and pigs and goats.



Holly and Sycamore Classes visited Palette and Pasture in Frome where Sycamore Class enjoyed accompanying their 'Buddies' on a tractor and trailer ride before making ice-cream in the parlour. Apparently ice-cream tastes even better if you have made it yourself!



Maple Class ventured to Stonehenge to enhance their History learning about the Stone Age and Bronze Age.



Cherry Class visited Bristol Zoo and attended workshops which enhanced their curriculum learning in both Geography and Science this year.



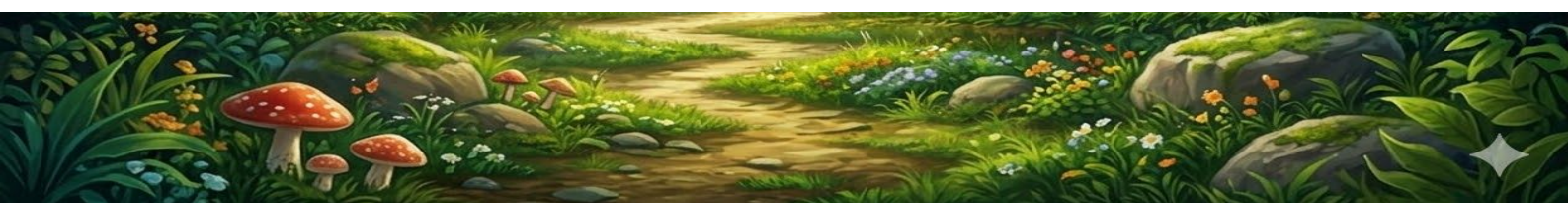
Wishing You a Wonderful Summer

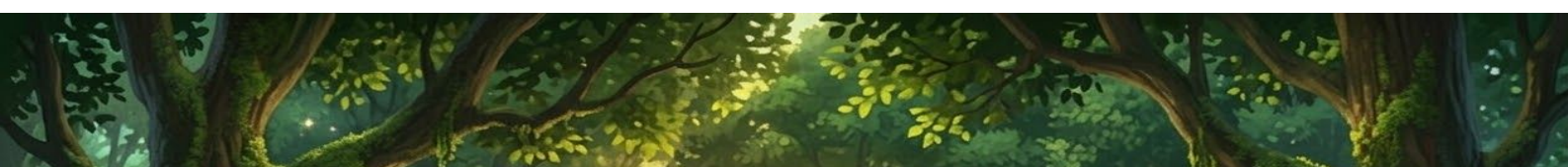
After such a packed and fast-paced term, our children (and staff!) have certainly earned a well-deserved break.

I hope the summer weeks bring you and your families plenty of sunshine, relaxation and precious time spent together. Whether you are travelling away or enjoying a quiet staycation at home, I wish you all a safe, happy and restful holiday.

Thank you for all the kind messages wishing me well with my next career chapter. I shall miss Longvernal terribly. I know I've said it many, many times but it is a truth to say that Longvernal is an exceptionally special place where all adults and children thrive together in an atmosphere of shared respect and a team approach. I have been working in education since 1992 across various roles and school types in a total of four countries. I can honestly say that none of those schools or communities have come close to the unique community that is Longvernal. I would like to wish Miss James, Faye and Veronique all the best for their next chapters; their new settings are lucky to have them. I leave Longvernal in safe hands.

Warmest regards,
Karen Courtier-Hird
Headteacher





Attendance

Whole School Attendance - 96.2%

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- Italian Brain Rot

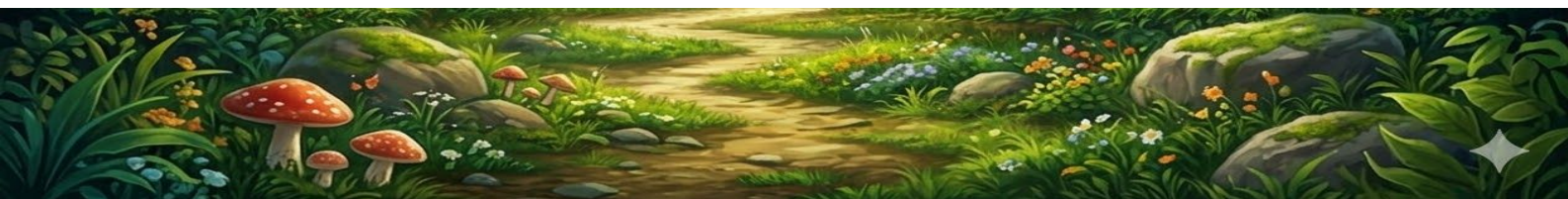
Italian Brain Rot is a viral internet trend featuring surreal, AI-generated characters with fictional Italian-sounding names and nonsensical storylines.

What should you be aware of?

- Short, fast-paced AI-generated videos can be highly engaging and difficult to stop watching.
- Some content is intentionally nonsensical and maybe confusing to younger children.
- Some videos may include inappropriate language, humour, or themes that are not suitable for all ages.
- Children, may find it difficult to distinguish AI from reality.
- Some videos use exaggerated accents or cultural stereotypes for humour. While the trend is not inherently racist, it provides a useful opportunity to discuss representation and online content critically.
- Trends spread quickly across platforms such as TikTok, Youtube and Instagram Reels.

How can you support safe use?

- Talk to your child about the content they are watching.
- Encourage critical thinking and explain how AI content is created.
- Discuss respectful online behaviour and cultural stereotypes.
- Set healthy screen time limits.
- Use parental controls and age-appropriate settings.
- Encourage children to speak to a trusted adult if something online worries or confuses them.



Dates for your Diary

Thursday 3rd September 2026 – Inset Day
Friday 4th September 2026 – Inset Day
Monday 7th September 2026 – Term 1 Starts

Parent Expectation Meetings:

Acorn: Tuesday 22nd September 2026
Holly: Thursday 17th September 2026
Oak: Monday 14th September 2026
Chestnut: Friday 11th September 2026
Maple: Friday 18th September 2026
Cherry: Thursday 10th September 2026
Willow: Tuesday 15th September 2026
Sycamore: Wednesday 16th September 2026
Thursday 15th October 2026 – Harvest Festival
Wednesday 21st October 2026 - End of Term 1
Thursday 22nd October 2026 – Inset Day
Friday 23rd October 2026 - Inset Day

Reminders

- Bikes and Scooters are not to be used on school site before or after school.
- 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.
- 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

P.E. Next Term:

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

Forest Next Term:

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

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.

Sickness and Diarrhoea

If your child has experienced sickness or diarrhoea, they must remain at home until at least 48 hours have **passed since their last episode of illness** before returning to school.

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



ITALIAN BRAIN ROT

WHAT PARENTS & EDUCATORS NEED TO KNOW

Italian Brain Rot is a trend that involves short, fast-paced, AI-generated videos featuring bizarre characters, strange dialogue and Italian-sounding voiceovers.

It is popular on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube Shorts and Instagram Reels.

EXAMPLES OF ITALIAN BRAIN ROT



TUNG TUNG
TUNG SAHUR



BOMBARDINO
CROCODILO



BALLERINA
CAPPUCCINA



WHAT IS IT?

- AI-generated videos with surreal or nonsensical characters and Italian-sounding voiceovers.
- Content is fast-paced, chaotic and designed to grab attention.
- Often includes meme-style humour that can be random or absurd.
- Part of a wider "brain rot" trend – content that some say can negatively impact focus and concentration.



WHY IS IT SO POPULAR?

- ★ Short, funny and surprising – easy to watch quickly
- ▶ Algorithms promote this type of content
- 🌐 Part of internet culture and shared widely among peers
- 🎮 Spins off into games, toys and memes



POTENTIAL RISKS



IMPACT ON FOCUS

The fast pace and constant stimulation may make it harder for children to concentrate on other tasks.



CONFUSING OR NONSENSICAL CONTENT

The random nature of the videos may be confusing, especially for younger children.



EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

It can be highly engaging, leading to longer periods of screen time.



INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

As with many online trends, there is a risk of inappropriate or unsuitable content appearing alongside.



IN-GAME & IN-APP PURCHASES

Some related content or games may encourage spending.

HOW PARENTS & EDUCATORS CAN HELP



TALK ABOUT IT

Ask children if they've seen these videos and what they think about them. Open conversations help build understanding.



CHECK & GUIDE

Take an interest in the content they enjoy. Watch together and explain what is real, what is not, and why it is made.



SET BOUNDARIES

Agree on screen time limits and encourage regular breaks. Balance online time with offline activities.



USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Use tools and settings to restrict inappropriate content and manage screen time.



ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Help children think critically about what they see online and how content is created.



WORKING TOGETHER

By staying informed and working together, we can help children enjoy the benefits of the internet while staying safe and developing healthy habits.

STAY INFORMED.
STAY INVOLVED.
SUPPORT SAFE
DIGITAL LEARNING.

Summer Support

Our helpline runs throughout the school holidays.



**SASS Helpline open
every Wednesday morning
9am–12pm throughout the year**

01761 412 198

or email us to ask for a call:
sass@fossewayschool.com



**Specialist
Autism
Support
Service**

Member of the team always available ● Advice and Support ● For Professionals
For Families ● Child or Young Person must be living in B&NES, with a confirmed
diagnosis of Autism, between the ages of 0–18, or 0–25 for those with an Education,
Health and Care Plan (EHCP) ● If you're not sure whether we can help, please call us!

From September 2026, our helpline moves to **THURSDAY** mornings.
New number to follow! Please check the Padlets for updates.



Lifeboats

Struggling in the water?



FLOAT TO LIVE

Photo: RNLI

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a charity registered in England and Wales (209603), Scotland (SC037736), the Republic of Ireland (CHI 2678 and 20003326), the Bailiwick of Jersey (14), the Isle of Man (1308 and 006329F), the Bailiwick of Guernsey and Alderney, of West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ


#RESPECT THE WATER

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