



Longford Primary Academy Newsletter



Acting Principal: Mrs Louise Lawrence

01543 227410

www.longford.staffs.sch.uk

Newsletter Date:
17/12/2020

Principal's Messages

Dates and Reminders:

Thurs 17th December
Break up for Christmas
Holiday

Fri 18th December
INSET 3 - School closed
to pupils

2021

Mon 4th January
INSET 4 - School closed
to pupils (**Staff training
has already been booked
for this date**)

Tues 5th January
School open

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

The children have had a wonderful time this week and it makes us so happy to see the smiles on their faces because of the magic that Christmas brings. We have been able to organise a traditional pantomime, give our children a sit down Christmas dinner with music and decorations, and even a visit from Santa himself (after permission was given to travel by the Prime Minister!)



While we made it through the first half term relatively unscathed, as you are all aware, we have experienced a challenging few weeks in the lead up to Christmas. I would once again like to take the opportunity to thank you for the overwhelming confidence and support we have received from yourselves. Those of you who have sent messages of support have given myself and the rest of the staff a well needed boost of energy during these difficult times. I am grateful to have a school community that is supportive, understanding and encouraging of one another and thankful to staff who have continued to work tirelessly from home and school with new technologies to maintain high quality curriculum provision and engage with their pupils.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a healthy and happy new year. Stay safe, look after each other and we look forward to seeing you all in January for what we all hope is a better 2021!

Digital Learners

Since our full return in September, the senior leadership have worked on developing our remote learning policy further. Although we would have preferred not to, we have had the opportunity to put this to the test over the past few weeks. Staff worked hard to get to grips with zoom, sway and MS Teams and offered support to both children and their parents to ensure they could get online and access the curriculum they are entitled to. I wish to congratulate those parents who stuck with us and joined us on our remote learning journey.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of our staff, who have successfully taken on the challenge of working and teaching in new ways, making sure the children at Longford have not only been able to continue to learn but also giving them something to look forward to each day. Some children enjoyed being online so much they set up their own 'meetings' - we have definitely created a generation of digital whizz kids!

Spring term events:

10th & 11th Feb
Y6 Bikeability

11th Feb
Non-uniform £1

w/b 1st Mar
EYFS & KS1 virtual
parent consultations

4th Mar
World Book Day

w/b 8th Mar
KS2 virtual parent
consultations

1st Apr
Break up for Easter

'I would like you to know how grateful I am for how hard my child's teacher has worked through isolation. I think she has worked 24/7. I know this level of work goes on in the background for all teachers, but these past two weeks we have seen it. Longford has overcome adversity once again!'



'My daughter has really enjoyed and been engaged with her online lessons. Microsoft Teams has been a game changer for us. It's brought structure and a sense of relief to us. I was so nervous when I knew we had to use a programme I had never heard of before, but with the teacher's reassurance that we were in it all together the whole experience was far more pleasant. Thank you to Longford for making a difficult situation much easier for the children and parents'



'I love the Microsoft Teams and Zoom. This is even better than lockdown and my daughter is really engaged. She massively struggled last time but mixing it up with Zoom and online resources keeps them focused. The teacher is amazing. She is constantly in touch, gets back to you really quickly and gives the kids real praise.'

A message from our Chair of Governors

Who would have thought this time last year what would be in store for us in 2020. During the year, Longford's Local Governing Committee has been conducting their regular meetings via zoom with the link governors monitoring progress in the same way, so in reality nothing has changed except for the way we do it.

We believe that a vote of thanks is due all round in the way we have coped with life over the year. Our teachers and pupils have done really well, adapting to sessions of home learning during lockdown and very different ways of working on our return to school. We know that it hasn't been easy and our thanks to all concerned. Thanks also to all of our parents who have responded well to our requests for new pick up and drop off times, managing home learning in the best way possible and participating in our virtual parents evenings.

As well as the COVID issues we have also seen a change in the leadership team with Mrs Lawrence taking over as Acting Principal, who has made a really positive impact since April putting in place a new and strong senior leadership team. She has created a level of enthusiasm amongst the staff who are all totally committed to the school vision and achieving the success we deserve next year. This will be helped by the return of Mrs Roberts and Mrs Lucas after their maternity leave. Our situation is also stronger with the support we receive on an ongoing basis from St Bart's MAT, without that input we could not have made the progress we have.

Your feedback is welcomed and if you need to contact a governor please contact the office who will arrange that for you.

2021 will again be a challenging year but hopefully with more positive days ahead. We are confident of our future and know that we will succeed. We hope that you have a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

With all best wishes

Martin Officer (Chair LGC)

Reporting Student Absence

If your child is unable to attend school please contact the office on 01543 227410 or email the office on office2@longford.staffs.sch.uk prior to 09:20

COVID reporting

For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school has been asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. School staff will not be on call, however an inbox will be monitored once a day until Wednesday 23rd December. Please report positive tests or symptoms that have developed within 48 hours (**ie up to and including Saturday 19th December**) using the 'Contact Us' page on the website <https://www.longford.staffs.sch.uk/contact-us> and provide the following information in the message box:

- Full pupil name
- Year group & class
- Date of symptoms (if any)
- Date of test

We will use this information to identify anyone that has been in close contact with your child while in school.

Where a pupil tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms **more than 48 hours** since being in school, the school **should not** be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.



A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Raffle – it has been a huge success and ensured that the Friends of Longford have been able to continue to raise funds for the school in the absence of the Christmas Fair. We have our fingers crossed that we will be able to hold the annual Summer Fair at the end of the school year.

A visit from Santa

Santa took the time to visit each class this week (socially distanced) to deliver a gift and read a Christmas story. We are very grateful to him for stopping off at Longford as we know he is very busy this time of year!



KS2 drop off changes

In January we have decided to create 5 minute 'drop off windows' for children in years 3-6. This gives a wider time slot for children to be dropped off and should prevent the need for children to wait in lines on the playground. School and classroom doors will be opened 5 minutes earlier than their current designated drop off times. It is expected that children are dropped off within these time slots. Please **DO NOT** drop children earlier as this means that children have to wait around on the playground (siblings may be dropped at earliest timeslot).

3/4FM	8.40am – 8.45am
3/4SB & 3/4BB	8.45am – 8.50am
5JA & 5SR	8.50am – 8.55am
6HC (KS1 gate)	8.50am – 8.55am

A Covid Christmas Prayer

*An ill wind blew far from the East,
A tiny virus, a mighty beast,
Spread by air and touch of hand,
To every corner of every land.*

*It changed the way we live today,
How we act - the things we say,
Positive, negative we live in fear,
Keeping our distance, don't get too near.*

*Wear a mask and stay at home,
Track and trace on our mobile phone,
Hands and face and don't forget space,
Government guidance - a total disgrace!*

*Lockdown comes and lockdown goes,
When it all ends nobody knows,
We end up in tiers, not just 1, 2 and 3
We are sick of restrictions we want to be free.
12 months of sadness oh how did we cope?
Now there's a vaccine, at last we have hope,
A sigh of relief that the end is near,
Mankind rejoices a collective cheer.*

*As Christmas approaches with the coming New Year,
We look back at the past with a smile and a tear,
We will raise a glass and sing Auld Lang Syne,
And we will never forget this awful time*

*For now is the season to let in the light,
As we banish the darkness of the longest night,
And so I say to you and your kin,
Raise up your glass and let happiness in,*

*For the ones we love we hold them tight,
We will never give in we will stay the fight,
For the fallen we lost we will stand up tall,
For our friends, our family, for one and all.*

Written by a staff member at
Longford Primary Academy