



# Longford Primary Academy Newsletter



Acting Principal: Mrs Louise Lawrence

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[www.longford.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.longford.staffs.sch.uk)

Newsletter Date:  
21/10/2021

## Principal's Messages

### Headlines

*Happy Holidays*

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*Halloween  
competitions*

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*Bonkers for  
conkers*

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*New team  
members*

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*Harvest thank  
you*

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*Rudolph  
fundraising*

~

*Christmas Panto*

~

*Harvest Poems*

~

*School  
Development*



We have made it to the end of our first relatively 'new normal' half term since the pandemic began. Whilst we were hit with a wave of positive cases at the beginning of the term this has slowed considerably and hopefully will remain that way.

Next half term we will continue to follow the guidelines set within our risk assessment to keep both children and staff safe.

Thank you for your continual support of our school and I hope you have a wonderful week off!



### **Colouring Competition**

Colouring competition, 50p per child to enter.

Templates of spooky themed pictures are in the office foyer or children can draw their own.

Prizes to be won for the most original/creative/inspiring.

There are 4 categories;

- Nursery and Reception
- KS1 Year 1 and 2
- Lower KS2 Years 3 and 4
- Upper KS2 Years 5 and 6

To enter please return the completed picture with your child's full name and class written on the back, together with the 50p entrance fee.

Entries need to be returned back by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

### **Jack-O-Lantern Competition**

50p to enter

Carve your own pumpkin and bring to school to be judged!

Entries need to be returned back on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Dates and

Reminders:

22<sup>nd</sup> October

INSET Day

1<sup>st</sup> November

School open

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> November

Y6 Bikeability

10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> November

EYFS Open

Afternoon/Evening

for new applicants 2022

12<sup>th</sup> November

Children in Need

7<sup>th</sup> December

Flu Vac Rec-Y6

Xmas Panto Y1-Y6

8<sup>th</sup> December

Nur-Y2 Xmas lunch &

jumper day

9<sup>th</sup> December

Y3-Y6 Xmas lunch &

jumper day

10<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Fair

(Covid dependent)

13<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas productions

(Covid dependent)

14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Parties

16<sup>th</sup> December

Pupils break up

17<sup>th</sup> December

INSET Day

## Bonkers for Conkers

Last week we had our first conker tournament organised by our super star Midday Activity Assistant Mrs Tunnicliffe!

The children had a fabulous time competing in the challenge and it was great to see an playground game return to our school.

Thank you Mrs Tunnicliffe!



### Welcome to the team!

I am pleased to announce that we have we have successfully appointed a new staff member, Mrs Goodwin, to support a child on a one to one basis. She has already demonstrated her dedication to Longford and will make an excellent addition to the teaching team.

We have also filled our Governor vacancy, welcoming Lydia Bartlett to our Local Governing Committee. Lydia is already well known to the school though her work with the Salvation Army and is excited to support the school as we continue to raise standards and the aspirations of our children.

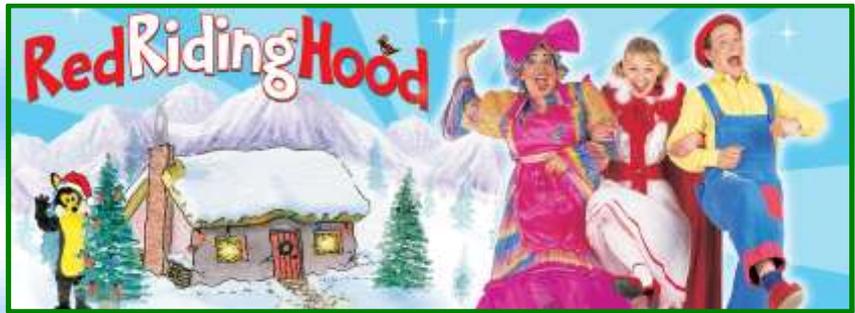


All children should have now come home with a drawing sheet for our Christmas fundraising scheme. For more information please read the letter on our school website:

<https://www.longford.staffs.sch.uk/letters/1633696818.pdf>



As always you were all wonderful with your generosity for Harvest! The Salvation Army collected all the donations of food and were overwhelmed by the amount we received. Thank You.



**Panto is coming to Longford...**

**Oh no its not! Oh yes it.....**

On 7<sup>th</sup> December the children in years 1-6 will be transported to the Magic Wood where they will meet Little Red Riding Hood and all her friends. Packed solid with comedy, songs, adventure and audience participation, they will roar with laughter at the comedy antics of their hero, Posh Bert, and the comic dame, Mrs Hood, and they will shout as they have never shouted before when they warn Red Riding Hood not to enter the woods alone.

We request a contribution of £3 per child to cover the costs of the pantomime. We will also provide children with popcorn for a real panto experience

As you know we celebrated harvest festival yesterday. A couple of our Y5 pupils took it upon themselves to write their own Harvest poem. I was so impressed that I wanted to share the poems with you on the newsletter. Well done Chloe in 5SR and Charlie in 5FM.

**"Harvest Time"**

*Harvest time is here again  
Cut the corn and sift the grain  
Pick the apples off the trees  
In the chilly autumn breeze  
Dig the carrots and parsnips  
too  
Lots to eat for me and you.*

**"Harvest Moon"**

*It's that time of year again,  
when the harvest moon shines  
bright.*

*So let us gather round  
and celebrate it here tonight.*

*All the fields are empty.  
There's not a crop in sight.  
The food now lays upon the table,  
So let's take our first bite.*

*Once our belly's bulge,  
and we're filled harvest cheer.  
It's time to spread the joy of  
harvest  
to people far and near.*

*So grab your Harvest box,  
you know just what to do:  
fill it full of festive food  
for the less fortunate than you.*

*Now the Harvest Moon is gone,  
and the night sky looks so clear.  
It's time to tend the fields again  
for another year.*

# School Development

Despite the disruption the pandemic has caused, I am pleased to share that the school has continued to move forward to ensure that areas for development are met and that our school gives our children the best possible start to their education. This view is supported by the trust as visits have recognised that children enjoy their learning and demonstrate good learning behaviours. I am proud to lead an effective team who are committed to ensuring that children achieve well. To develop our school further, our priorities this year are:

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Quality of Education</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Pupils develop detailed knowledge and skills across the curriculum and, as a result, achieve well</li><li>➤ Implement evidence-based approaches to secure high quality teaching for all</li></ul> |
| <b>Behaviour &amp; Attitudes</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Work with families to improve attendance and reduce persistent absenteeism.</li><li>➤ Foster a culture of self-regulation, resilience and positive attitudes to learning</li></ul>                |
| <b>Personal Development</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Pupils understand how to be responsible, respectful, active citizens who contribute positively to society</li></ul>   |
| <b>Leadership &amp; Management</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Further strengthen the capacity of leadership across the school through the development of middle leaders</li></ul>   |
| <b>Early Years Foundation Stage</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ All pupils achieve a good level of development</li></ul>  |

## What have we achieved so far?

It may have only been seven weeks, but we have hit the ground running this term. Leaders have already begun to strategically deliver school improvement by:

- Adopting and implementing a new phonics scheme to ensure high quality and a consistent approach across the school. While phonics would usually be a focus in EYFS and KS1, we have trained all teachers and support staff to deliver phonics across the school to 'crack the reading code' for children who did not previously pass the phonics check and to recover opportunities lost throughout lockdown.

NB. We are still awaiting a delivery of full decodable books for home readers, however children are being listened to at least three times per week and you can support this by reading to your child at home. Mrs Wareham will be running a parent phonics work shop soon. In the meantime you can find videos and resources to help support your child at home [here](#).

- Development of spoken language curriculum to widen our children's vocabulary and enable children to talk with confidence

- Review & implementation of [homework policy](#) and teaching methods to adopt evidence based-approaches that are proven to support retention of knowledge and high quality learning experiences for all e.g. metacognition & self-regulation, effective feedback for progress and mastery.
- Widened the use of technology to develop pupils skills and to support delivery of the curriculum
- Review of the curriculum to ensure topics are engaging and learning is progressive. The INSET Day for staff tomorrow is with Jonathan Lear who offers a refreshing perspective on curriculum design.
- Support for leaders at all levels to further develop and maintain the high quality curriculum offer we have in place.
- Review of [behaviour policy](#) to re-affirm high expectations and develop resilient children with a positive mind-set.

Continued school development is also supported and challenged by the St Bart's Academy Trust (SBMAT) alongside a core offer of high quality professional development package from BTSA (Bart's Training & Support Alliance).

#### What can parents do to support school development?

- ***Read, read, read!*** This is not just you listening to your child read, but also you reading stories and books to your children is of equally high value as it exposes children to language that they cannot yet read for themselves.
- ***Talk to your children.*** All the time - at the dinner table, on your journey to and from school. One of our main focuses at school is the development of communication and language. Children thrive on opportunities to engage in conversation modelled by adults. We know that sometimes children do not always readily share what they have done at school, however if you try to start the conversation by telling them something about your day, they may reciprocate more readily. Conversations do not have to be about learning, go with their interests.
- ***Practice simple number facts and multiplication facts.*** Quick recall of these facts will make maths lessons so much easier for children to access. Multiplication underpins so many other areas of maths - if they can crack these they will be less likely to give up when their application is required in more complex mathematical problems.
- ***Commit to bringing your child to school on time every day.*** Attendance across the school currently stands at 89.2% with persistent absence at 45%. We understand that there have been a large number of absences due to Covid, however even with these absences taken out, our attendance is still only 93.9% and persistent absence is 23.9% (71 children). While you may think that an attendance figure over 90% is good, it is not. Children who are persistently absent have already missed a significant number of school days since September.

If children aren't here, we can't teach them, no matter how good the quality of teaching is. **Our attendance target is 96% and we aim to reduce persistent absence to at least 8%, which is in line with national averages.**

#### Reporting Student Absence

If your child is unable to attend school please contact the office on 01543 227410 or email the office on [longfordoffice2@sbmat.org](mailto:longfordoffice2@sbmat.org)