



# Longford primary Academy Newsletter

*Edition 11*



*1 - Critical Thinkers, Enthusiastic Learners, Responsible Citizens*

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Dates for your diary:

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- *Thu 28th Oct - EYFS photos & whole school sibling photos*
  - *Mon 3rd Oct - Y6 Residential Trip to Standon Bowers*
    - *Thu 20th Oct - Y3/4 Twycross Zoo Trip*
      - *Mon 24th Oct - Half Term*
    - *Mon 31st Oct - Y5 Tamworth Castle Trip*
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## In This Issue - 16th September 2022



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- *Welcome back*

- *Commemoration of Queen Elizabeth II*
    - *Head Boy & Head Girl*
      - *Harvest Festival*
        - *Attendance*
          - *Uniform*
      - *Phonics Workshop*
      - *Friends of Longford*
  - *Free School Meals/ Pupil Premium Funding*
    - *Snacks*
  - *Latest attendance figures*
    - *AOB*
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## *Welcome Back*



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*I would like to welcome everyone back to school, and extend a special welcome to all of our new students and their families. Our new children in Nursery and Reception have made a fantastic start and settled in wonderfully, we have also welcomed quite a number of new children in year groups across the school.*

*The staff and I are looking forward to another exciting year of learning and opportunity at Longford Primary Academy.*

*We hope you have had a fun-filled summer with your family and are as ready to embrace the new school year as much as we are. The children settled back into school really well, with many children coming to share some of their learning and hard work.*

*Staff will holding will be holding year group welcome meetings for parents to attend. In individual year groups will let their families know the date of their meeting*

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*Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II*



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*We feel a real and deep sense of loss and sadness at the passing of Her Majesty, as well as huge respect for the grace with which His Majesty King Charles III and the wider Royal Family have led the nation in our mourning.*

*The Queen ruled for longer than any other Monarch in British history, becoming a much loved and respected figure across the globe. For over 70 years, Her Majesty dedicated her life to public service.*

*There will be a **National Moment of Reflection at 8pm on Sunday 18 September**, the night before the State Funeral, and be marked by a one-minute silence.*

*An online condolence book is available to sign on the [official web site of the British Monarchy](#). Please note this website is experiencing a high volume of traffic and you may not currently be able to access it.*

*Our thoughts are very much with the Royal Family at this time and we join the nation in thanking Her Majesty for her extraordinary lifetime of service.*

*School will be closed as a mark of respect for the State Funeral on Monday 19th September.*

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## ***Please help us get extra funding from the council***



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*Parents claiming some benefits can claim free school meals for any of their children who are registered at a Staffordshire school and who would normally be at school at lunch time. School meals are a good way to ensure that your child eats well at lunchtime and you can save yourself time and money.*

*Even if you don't want your children to have the meals, claiming them helps our school. The more eligible parents who claim meals, the more funding the school receives.*

*You also get other benefits if you qualify for FSM such as free holiday clubs, activity buckets and other items.*

*If you would to help your school receive more money from the local authority please follow this link:*  
<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>

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## *Uniform & PE Kit*



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*It has been lovely to see the majority of the children looking super smart and proud in their uniforms and house colour t-shirts for PE. Unfortunately there are a handful of children who stand out as they are not quite wearing full uniform or the correct PE kit. This is an area where we need **your** support, as it is important to get the small things right before we can fix the bigger things.*

*It is not only important to us as a school but important for the children to feel part of a community. A consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.*

*We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.*

*Wearing the correct school uniform is a **shared responsibility**.*

### **School Uniform**

#### *EYFS & KS1*

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- *White polo t-shirt (or shirt)*
  - *Royal blue jumper or cardigan*
  - *Grey trousers or shorts*
  - *Grey skirt or pinafore*
  - *Blue summer dresses*
  - *White or grey socks*
  - *Black school shoes (Please ensure footwear is appropriate for all weather - ballet shoes are not appropriate. No heels or trainers)*
  - *\*Blue and silver tie is optional*
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#### *KS2*

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- *White shirt (NOT polo shirt)*
    - *Blue & silver tie*
  - *Royal blue jumper or cardigan*
    - *Grey trousers or shorts*
    - *Grey skirt or pinafore*
    - *Blue summer dresses*
    - *White or grey socks*
  - *Black school shoes (Please ensure footwear is appropriate for all weather - ballet shoes are not appropriate. No heels or trainers)*
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*NB School uniform with the logo is available from Crested Schoolwear, Cannock.*

*On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule are small plain gold or silver studs in pierced ears and small discreet watches.*

*The school does not permit children to have 'extreme' haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children.*

*Make-up and nail varnish is not permitted.*

*The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities, please discuss objects and clothing of religious significance with your child's class teacher.*

### **PE kit**

*Correct PE kit should be worn for lessons and after school clubs. Long hair (past the ears) MUST be tied back for safety - both girls and boys!*

*To keep your child safe, please ensure earrings are completely REMOVED on PE days. Plasters are not a suitable solution for covering earrings - accidents can still happen.*

**Indoor kit:**

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- **Plain** house colour t-shirt (blue, green, red or yellow)
    - Navy blue or black shorts
  - (No pumps - pupils do dance and gymnastics etc barefoot)
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**Outdoor kit:**

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- **Plain** house colour t-shirt (blue, green, red or yellow)
    - Blue or black shorts (tracksuit for winter)
    - Suitable trainers (not pumps)
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**Swimming kit:**

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- One piece bathing suit
  - Swimming cap for pupils with long hair
    - Goggles (optional)
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## Phonics Workshop



# Phonics workshop

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*Tuesday 4th October 2022 - 9:15am*

*We warmly invite you to attend a workshop on phonics. This workshop is being held in order to provide you with useful information regarding phonics, which is a method of teaching children how to read and write by connecting the sounds of spoken English with letters or groups of letters. During the workshop we will explain how we teach phonics in school and also ways you can support your child at home. This workshop is for parents/carers only and will be held in the Key Stage One hall.*

*The session is planned to start at 9:15am. and will finish around 10:15am. On the morning, please drop your children off at their classroom as usual and then make your way round to the office, where you'll be met and directed to the hall.*

*Please complete the Form below to let us know if you will be able to attend the session. It is very important that a parent attends as we will be providing key information that will help you support your child's learning.*

*We look forward to seeing you on the 4th October.*

*Yours Sincerely*

*Mrs Wareham*

*Vice Principal, EYFS and Phonics Lead*

[Click here to complete the form](#)

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## ***Packed lunches & breaktime snacks***



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*Reminder: Children are not allowed to bring in: chocolate, crisps, cake, sweets or anything of this description for their snack at **breaktime**.*

*Children in EY & KS1 are given fruit and children in KS2 are able to purchase items such as toast and bagels from the kitchen. If you do choose to send your child in with an alternative snack then please ensure it is a healthy option. If they bring in items such as chocolate, cake, sweets and crisps they will be asked to eat these with their lunches.*

### **What should be in a healthier lunch box?**

*A healthier lunch box should be based on the eatwell plate food groups (see [www.eatwell.gov.uk](http://www.eatwell.gov.uk)), which promote balance and variety in the diet. Parents and pupils should try to include something from each of the eatwell food groups in the lunch box and ensure that this includes a drink. Bright and colourful foods with different tastes and textures should be encouraged. Fruit and vegetables do this naturally. If the food looks good then the chances are that children will want to try it. There are many ways to keep the lunch box exciting, for example adopt a colour theme for each day, take inspiration from holidays or different countries and foods that are in season or grown in the school or home garden.*

### **Foods that a healthy lunch box should include**

- *A good portion of starchy food, for example wholemeal roll or bread, wraps, pitta pocket, pasta or rice salad.*
- *Plenty of fruit and vegetables, for example an apple, satsuma, handful of cherry tomatoes or carrot sticks, mini-can of fruit chunks in natural juice or a small box of raisins.*
- *A drink of semi-skimmed milk or a portion of dairy food, for example individual cheese portion or pot of yogurt.*
- *A portion of lean meat, fish, eggs or beans, for example ham, chicken, beef, tuna, egg or hummus.*
  - *A drink, for example unsweetened fruit juice, semi-skimmed milk or water.*

### **Foods that should be limited**

*Remember, foods high in fat and sugar should be restricted. Nutritional standards for schools lunches do not allow sweets, chocolate or savoury snacks such as crisps, fizzy drinks and other high sugar drinks to be served at lunch times. Treats can be included at lunch time; however, plain or lower sugar varieties should be encouraged.*

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## *Friends of Longford*



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### *Who are we?*

*Friends of Longford are a committee of parents and carers who, with the support of the Staff, raise money to benefit the children of Longford Primary Academy.*

### *What do we do?*

*We hold various events throughout the year to raise money and have some fun at the same time; school discos, raffles, Christmas and Summer Fairs, coffee mornings...*

### *How do you get involved?*

*Anyone is welcome to join us. It is a great way to meet other parents, support our children and have some fun! We meet once per half term, usually at the end of the school day in Mrs Gittus's classroom.*

*If you cannot commit to regular meetings but would still like to help, we are happy for you to still be involved! Cake bakers and gardeners are always welcome. You can also help by manning a stall at one of our fairs or helping at the school disco selling drinks and snacks.*

*We welcome any help at all!*

*If you have any new ideas to help us raise money please get in touch with us through the school office.*

### *Meeting & events*

*Our first meeting will be arranged soon to discuss our first event, Halloween discos!*

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## ***Lets keep pushing: Attendance & Punctuality***

100% attendance	A fantastic attendance level – you are giving your child the best chance of success & getting them off to a flying start
96% and above:	Attendance is good – you are getting your child off to a great start and giving them a good chance of success. Up to 3 days of learning have been lost.
Below 96%	Requires Improvement – attendance is worrying, your child has less chance to succeed and it is harder for them to make progress in their learning. Up to 19 days of learning have been lost.
90% or less	Serious concern – This level of attendance is not fair on your child. Persistent Absence – (as defined by the Department of Education). This is the equivalent of up to 4 weeks off school or more/a day off school per fortnight. Your child's attendance will be closely monitored and considered for further action. Penalty Notices can be issued for persistent absence.

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*Our whole school attendance target for this academic year is 96%. We are currently at 96.9%. **This is a fantastic start to the year, thank you!***

*Attendance and punctuality is an area that we depend on your support for as if you choose to take holidays during term time or your child is frequently absent our whole school attendance is affected and unfortunately a statistic that OFSTED would penalise us for. Where pupils have high levels of absence and lateness we will continue to challenge families as these factors reflect poor attitudes to learning which not only negatively impacts on children's learning but also their self-esteem. For those reasons, holidays will not be authorised during terms time except in very exceptional circumstances.*

*School doors open at 8:45am and the register is taken promptly at 8:50am, anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late within the register. The gates are closed at 8:55am to allow parents to exit the school grounds, if the gates are closed children must enter through the office and sign in. This will be recorded as a late mark (L) up until 9.20, at which point the lateness is recorded as a U code which correlates to an unauthorised absence.*

*Please aim to have your child on school premises by 8.45am at the latest to ensure your child is able to settle into their school day calmly and not marked as late in the register.*

*PLEASE help us to maintain the great start we have made and ensure your children receive the education they are entitled to.*

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## *Head Boy & Head Girl*



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*Congratulations to our Head boy and girl and their deputies who were announced today, voted for by Y6 pupils.*

*Head Boy - Zac*

*Deputy Head Boy - Charlie*

*Head Girl - Grace*

*Deputy Head Girl - Grace*

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2 - Head Boy - Zac



3 - Head Girl - Grace



4 - Deputy Head Boy - Charlie



*5 - Deputy Head Girl - Eryn*

*Any other bits and bobs...*





# LONGFORD

Baby and Toddler  
playgroup

£4 PER CHILD  
£1.50 ANY ADDITIONAL  
CHILDREN

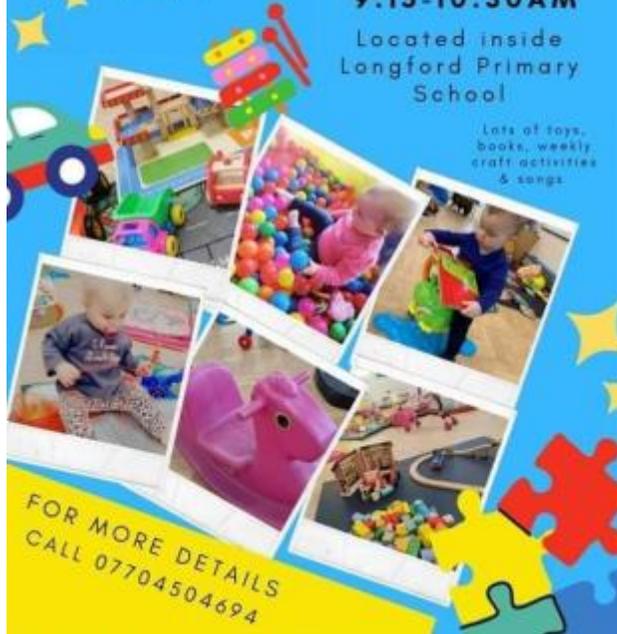
Price includes drink  
and snacks

**MONDAYS**  
(Term time only)

**9:15-10:30AM**

Located inside  
Longford Primary  
School

Lots of toys,  
books, weekly  
craft activities  
& songs



FOR MORE DETAILS  
CALL 07704504694



*6 - YOUNG VOICES - RESORTS WORLD ARENA BIRMINGHAM - WEDNESDAY 25TH JANUARY 2023*

## Contact Us



Principal: Mrs Louise Lawrence

## **Longford Primary Academy**

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Cannock

Staffordshire

WS11 1PD

Email: [longfordoffice@sbmat.org](mailto:longfordoffice@sbmat.org)

Tel: 01543 227410

Visit us on the web at [www.longford.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.longford.staffs.sch.uk)

### **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)



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...wishing you all a wonderful weekend, see you on Monday...

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<https://sbmat.org/vacancies/>

## *Online Safety Tips*

# Tips for Supporting Children in DEALING WITH GRIEF

It's important that trusted adults feel able to help children and young people cope with grief – particularly at the moment, when we are a nation mourning the loss of a public figure who was treasured by so many. Children are seeing bereavement and sadness being featured heavily in the national news and in their favourite online spaces, and hearing it being talked about extensively among families and in the community. How can we help them in processing this healthily?

## 1 UNDERSTAND WHAT GRIEF IS

Grief is emotional distress which is a normal response to the death of someone close, well known or admired. It may feel overwhelming – especially for young people – and is often accompanied by feelings of shock, disbelief, anger or fear. These emotions may also mean that sleep, eating and our relationships with others could be affected.

## 2 MEET THE CHILD WHERE THEY ARE

This could be a child's first experience of grief and loss – or conversely, they may have already encountered it several times. Make sure that any conversations you have with them, and the support that you give, are led by their experiences and their understanding of death – and in the context of their religious or community beliefs.

## 3 EXPLAIN CLEARLY WHAT DEATH IS

It may often feel uncomfortable, but it's healthier to actually use the words "dead", "death" or "died". Abstract explanations of death can frequently create even more confusion – particularly for younger children, who are still trying to grasp this complex (and possibly unfamiliar) concept.

## 4 BE PREPARED FOR QUESTIONS

On subjects such as this – especially when it involves a person who's well known to them – children and young people often have lots of questions, all at once. Sometimes, new queries about the issue will occur to them weeks after the event. Be ready to answer their questions as honestly as you can, using language that's appropriate for their age.

## 5 FIND WAYS TO REMEMBER THEM

It can help to talk to about the person who's died, even if that individual wasn't personally involved in the child's own life – such as a significant public figure, for instance. You and your child can discuss what that person meant to you, celebrate the things they achieved or go to a place where they can be remembered.

## 6 ENCOURAGE COPING STRATEGIES

You can help a child or young person to identify what their usual positive ways of coping are when they have overwhelming feelings. For example, do they find that talking with someone, drawing, going for a walk or listening to music help when they're feeling upset? These same activities could form an important part of the grieving process.

## 7 REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT

If a child or young person is struggling with grief to the extent that it's impacting on their everyday life, there are lots of expert organisations that you could reach out to for further help. Samaritans provides a listening ear for anyone in emotional distress; The Mix offers specialist support to people under 25; and Winston's Wish deals specifically with helping young people who are grieving.

SAMARITANS:  
116 123

[WWW.THEMIX.ORG.UK/GET-SUPPORT](http://WWW.THEMIX.ORG.UK/GET-SUPPORT)  
0808 808 4994

WINSTON'S WISH:  
08088 020 021

## Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



The National College®