



The Longvernal Letter

"part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership"



Newsletter
2023/24

Term 5

News from Mrs Bazeley...

Dear Parents /Carers

What a busy term!

Finally the sun has made some appearances and it has been wonderful to see the children able to enjoy our tremendous outdoor spaces to their full advantage, including pond dipping for tadpoles in The Orchard, caterpillars metamorphosing into butterflies, chicks hatching from eggs, visiting ducks, cultivating plants - what an uplifting term it has been!

Responding to feedback to children in a recent Governor Learning Walk, we are currently researching options with the intention of replacing the now tired-looking outdoor play equipment over the summer holidays, in addition to getting the playground markings replaced. Miss Collins has been gathering children's ideas. The children have also suggested improving their outside space by putting a weather covering over the bay areas - again, we are hoping to achieve this. All things being well, the children will return in September to a re-freshened play experience - exciting!

Today, as I write, Year 6 are enjoying a well-deserved History and Geography-linked trip to Blaenavon Ironworks and an intrepid trip down the coal mine at Big Pit. Other curriculum enhancements this term included Field to Fork for Years 3 and 5, pets visiting Nursery, firefighters explaining their role, library visits and a Teacher of the Deaf workshop.

Feeling Proud

We are very proud of our Year 6 pupils who approached their recent SATs with determination and stamina.

We are proud of Miss Richards who was recently awarded Kip McGrath Teacher of the year.

We are proud of all the children for their enthusiastic attitude towards our Oracy project. We were visited recently for an audit and are being fast-tracked and are on course to be the first Oracy school of Excellence in BANES. Thank you to Mrs. James Moore for her hard work driving this.

We are proud of the children who have represented the school in Cross-Country, Netball and Football this term.

Attendance

We are receiving an increasing number of requests for holidays or days off during term time. Please be aware of the impact that this can have on your child's progress. Lessons are carefully planned as part of a sequence that builds daily on prior learning. As a result, gaps in learning, once they have occurred, can be difficult to effectively address. I ask that we work together to maximise your child's potential by avoiding term-time absences.

PSHE

In Term 6 we will be teaching the 'Changing Me' puzzle in our PSHE lessons across the school. This helps children learn to cope positively with all sorts of change. In Key Stage 2 they will learn about puberty. In Key Stage 1 we introduce scientific terminology for body parts, including genitalia, partly for safeguarding reasons and partly to lay the foundations for learning about puberty later. The government statutory guidance gives parents the right to request to withdraw their child from Sex Education.

Finally, I wish you a fun-filled and sunny half term break.

Best Wishes
Karen Bazeley

Forest Days for next term

Holly - Friday
Oak - Monday
Chestnut - Tuesday
Maple - Tuesday
Cherry - Monday
Willow - Tuesday
Sycamore - Tuesday

PE Days for next term

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

Please remember Headlice don't go on holiday!

We have had a number of cases in school recently so please keep checking (and treating if necessary) your child/children's hair over the holiday.

Thank you!



Dates for your Diary:

Friday 24th May - End of term 5
Monday 3rd June - Start of Term 6
Monday 3rd June - Y1 Earthwise Trip
Thursday 6th June - Sports Day & PTFA Summer Fete
Monday 17th - Wednesday 19th June - Y5/6 Isle of Wight
Thursday 20th June - YR Chew Valley Farm Trip
Tuesday 9th July - KS2 Performance
Friday 19th July - Leavers Assembly and End of Term 6

REMINDERS:

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 hill for the safety of all as most people are walking.

Parent Pay

Breakfast Club and After School club should be booked and paid for **in advance** on Parentpay. Please also remember that school dinners need to be ordered **in advance by the Thursday of the preceding week**. Thank you.

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