



The Longvernal Letter

"part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership"



Newsletter
2023/24

Term 6

News from Mrs Bazeley...

Dear Parents /Carers,

Wow – what a whirlwind summer term!

I have really enjoyed being fully back in school to experience all the exciting events packed into recent busy weeks. Term started with Olympic Week with a focus on different aspects of various countries and culminated in our Sports Day, which was brilliantly supported by possibly the biggest crowd yet of parents, families and friends. Thank you to the PTFA also for their activities following Sports Day. Oak Class enjoyed their trip to Earthwise Community Farm as well as their D.T. Teddy Bear's Picnic (despite the rain). Willow and Sycamore challenged themselves to various daring activities on the Isle of Wight. Holly Class also had adventures at Chew Valley Animal Park. Also, many classes have enjoyed specialist coaching in tennis this term with a coach from Writhlington Tennis Centre.

Y5 & Y6 Robin Hood Performance

We also benefited from Writhlington when performing the Willow and Sycamore production of Robin Hood in the theatre there. The show was truly impressive with all children playing their parts with gusto, whether that was on stage or stage crew and much talent was evident.

Midsomer Norton Town Fayre

On Saturday July 13th, many children from across Years 2-6 represented the school in maypole dancing at the Midsomer Norton Town Fayre. There was a great deal of support from the Longvernal Family and friends and we won not only the Barber's Pole but were also 'Grand Champions' overall. Well done to everyone involved. At the point of writing, two children in Year 3 are about to represent Longvernal in the Trust Poetry Slam, where I am sure they will do us proud.

It just leaves me to wish you a lovely summer and I hope the weather improves for us all.

Best Wishes,
Karen Bazeley

Attendance

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported us this year with making sure their child is at school on time each day. Every child has a right to education and to have the best possible life chances. By attending school daily and on time they learn the importance of commitment and being punctual, a life skill which will serve them well as they progress with their school career.

- Many people think that the odd day off here and there does not matter, but even these odd days can have an impact on a child's learning.
- Learning about any topic doesn't happen all in one day, therefore when a child returns to school the class may be continuing their learning from the day before which will put the absent child at an immediate disadvantage.
- At the time of school assessment it will be hard for children to achieve their best results if there are gaps in their learning.
- Not being at school regularly also has a negative effect on the social aspects of school. It is hard for children to build and maintain good friendships if they are not in school regularly. Going to school every day will help your child to make friends, have lots of fun, and take part in exciting activities.

Thank you for your support in helping to raise our school attendance. If you would like any support or advice on attendance or punctuality, please speak to your **child's class teacher** or **Carole Macdonald – Parent Support Adviser**.

Headteachers can no longer authorise any holidays or extended leave - please note that from September, NO holidays will be authorised and fines will be imposed, in line with government and Trust guidelines. The School can no longer take into account previous good attendance, but will be forced to consider a Penalty Notice if holidays are taken in term-time. If parents decide to take their children on holiday during term-time the school will refer this unauthorised absence to the local authority and a Penalty Notice may be issued. Please note that such a penalty is issued by the local authority to **each parent for each child** taken out of school.

Illness:

In most cases, absences for illness will be authorised unless there is a genuine reason to believe that the illness is not genuine. The school reserves the right to request supporting medical evidence for any period of illness. This can be in the form of a medical appointment card /

letter or a prescription issued on the day of absence. In some cases school may request a letter from a GP. Absences due to illness, which have not been reported, to the school by the Parent/Carer on the first day of absence will not be authorised and will be recorded as unauthorised. The reporting of any absence remains the responsibility of the Parent/Carer. Where a child is absent due to vomiting or diarrhoea and it is believed this is due to a virus/bug the child must not return to school until 48 hours after the last episode of illness, this is to reduce the risk of infection to other children and adults at the school.

Medical/Dental Appointments:

Missing registration due to a medical or dental appointment is recorded as an authorised absence. However, where possible we ask parents/carers to make appointments outside of school hours. Where appointments during school time are unavoidable, the child should be absent for as short a period of time as possible. All absences for medical or dental appointments **must** be supported by providing the school office with sight of or a copy of the appointment card or letter – only then will the absence be authorised.

Being on Time

- Shows a child is ready and willing to work, we have so much learning to pack into a day.
- Helps to develop a sense of responsibility.
- Forms good habit, crucial for future working life.
- Going to school every day will help your child to make friends, have lots of fun, and take part in exciting activities.

Our top tips

- Consider how long it takes to get to school if the weather is poor or if there are road works. Leave plenty of time to get to school children are allowed on the playground from 8.30am and should definitely be in school by 8.45am.
- Have a regular routine for the start of the day.
- Help your child to get their clothes ready before. This includes any extra equipment needed for the day ahead e.g Forest School clothing / packed lunch etc.
- Set a reasonable bedtime to make sure that they get enough sleep, primary school aged children on average need about 10-12 hours sleep.
- Give your child a healthy breakfast e.g. toast, fruit or cereal.
- Get your child to school on time and give them a good start to the day.

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 2nd September - Inset Day
Tuesday 3rd September - Term 1 starts
Monday 9th September - Yr 1 Coffee Morning
Tuesday 10th September - Yr R Coffee Morning
Wednesday 11th September - Yr 2 Coffee Morning
Thursday 12th September - Yr 3 Coffee Morning
Friday 13th September - Yr 4 Coffee Morning
Monday 16th September - Yr 5 Coffee Morning
Tuesday 17th September - Yr 6 Coffee Morning
Wednesday 18th September - Nursery Coffee Morning
Thursday 10th October - Harvest Festival
Thursday 24th October - End of Term 1
Friday 25th October - Inset Day

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

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!



REMINDERS:

It is wonderful that lots of children are continuing to choose to walk, scoot or cycle to school. Please note that next term, we would prefer for **all** children to be collected after clubs finish at 4.15p.m. as it will, by then, be beginning to get dark.

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.

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