

Dear Parents/Carers,  
*September 2024*

It has been fantastic getting to know your children even more during the first week, and I am looking forward to what I'm sure will be a hugely successful and enjoyable year. We are the first to be in our school's beautiful new classroom, and we are in the process of making it our own. The children have already started with their work. We have been learning about place value in maths and have begun reading our class text, *Kensuke's Kingdom*. We have also created unique art using drawing and collage to make portraits inspired by Giuseppe Arcimboldo.

The start of a new school year is always busy, so please be aware of the following:

- We will encourage the children to be as independent as possible this year, especially when it comes to revision for the SATs later in the year. However, some help from home (and school) may be required.
- Children will be expected to complete the following homework:
  - Doodle Maths or Doodle Times Tables: Children should complete 20 minutes per week. I will check their progress on Friday mornings.
  - Personal spellings: The children will bring home 6–10 words on Fridays. These will be words they have spelt incorrectly in their work. They will be tested on them the following Friday.
  - Reading: Children must read at least 3 times per week. Throughout the week, they will participate in Book-Talk, where they will share their reading with the class—often inspiring others with what they read. Additionally, your child should complete one Reading Journal entry at home every week. This should be a high-quality, scrapbook-style, creative entry. Children should bring their books and journals to school daily. The journals will be collected on Friday morning, ready for the celebration assembly.
- P.E. is on Friday afternoon this year. We will be swimming for P.E. from now until Christmas, so swimming costumes should be brought during this time.
- Forest School is on Monday afternoon. Lessons will take place regardless of the weather (unless extreme), so please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing: long-sleeve tops and trousers. Could children please bring their wellies and waterproofs in a separate bag to change into and out of during the day. Please note that it is very difficult to provide spare kits for individual children.

Finally, I'm sure there will be many questions regarding SATs and transition to secondary school; however, we will discuss these in more depth later in the year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me either via email or speak to me before or after school. I will generally check my email between 8 am and 4 pm each day and will get back to you as soon as I can. In case of emergency, please contact the office. I'm really looking forward to working with you and your children during this, their final year at Longvernal!

Kind regards,  
Tim Dobson