



# The Longvernal Letter

"part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership"



Newsletter  
2024/2025

Term 2

## News from Mrs Courtier-Hird...

Dear Parent and Carers,

Life at Longvernal continues on its busy way.

### *Trips*

This term has seen lots of exciting activities. Some classes have ventured out on day trips, Chestnut Class to Chew Valley Animal Park and Cherry Class enjoyed a History trip to the Roman Baths. Our weekly trips to Midsomer Norton Library are also much valued by each class in turn. At the point of writing, Willow and Sycamore classes are excited about their upcoming ice-skating trip, set to take place at Planet Volt.



### *Broader school life*

Term 2 brings with it a varied calendar of events that are enrichment activities. The children were thoroughly enthused in wrapping and kitting out the boxes for the Christmas Box Appeal - a huge thank you to you all for your support with these. Thank you also for supporting your child with Black History Month projects over half term. This term has also seen time dedicated to exploring Anti-Bullying Week, Remembrance and Children in Need - all important aspects of a holistic education.



### *Learning*

The Phonics Breakfast event for parents of our younger children was well-attended and I hope that this proved helpful in gaining a fuller picture of how we approach phonics and the skills for early reading. Similarly, the recent parents evenings, held both in person and online were well-supported and I hope informative. Longvernal is blessed with a strong teaching team and we are proud to work together with other schools in the MNSP Trust to strive for ever-stronger standards. Recent examples of effective liaison include Mr Dobson working with MNSP Primary Maths Leads to share good practice; Reception and Key Stage 1 teachers together with Miss James working with another primary on a shared writing journey and Miss. James sharing her Oracy project expertise with local schools.

### *Health and Fitness*

Thank you to Miss. Collins for organising yet another action-packed Health and Fitness week that gave children from Nursery to year 6 the opportunity to

experience a range of sports and health or well-being activities from experts. This included: orienteering, football, hockey, gymnastics, dance, mindfulness and music therapy. Talking of fitness, we are taking part in an exciting fitness project called Modeshift Stars for which we are aiming to gain an award. One aspect of this involves encouraging children to incorporate regular exercise into their everyday life. Please see below a 'walking bubble'. May we suggest that if you live in (or near) this bubble, you consider walking to and from school whenever possible.



### **Play Provision**

The children are delighted with the new play equipment in both the Holly Class outside space and adjacent to the playground. It is being well-used! Thank you to the PTFA for sourcing chess pieces and counters for the giant games painted on the playground. The L Shed is also proving wonderful as a space to provide options for children at lunchtimes: drawing; small world; construction etc. A gentle reminder that the Play Park should not be used by children before or after school as staff are not available to supervise the children at this time.

### **PTFA**

A massive thank you to all the PTFA members for their ongoing hard work. It is lovely to see such a wide range of activities and a huge amount of support. The wreaths looked amazing (as did the cakes that Chestnut parents provided for the first cake sale of the year!). Thank you to them also for inviting the important jolly big man in red. Please support the Christmas Fayre on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Christmas**

If you are able to join us for your child's Christmas Craft event, it would be lovely to see you. Also, we welcome you all to the Carol Service on 17<sup>th</sup> December. I am writing this whilst listening to beautiful singing resonating from the Hall as our younger children from nursery and Key Stage 1 rehearse for their nativities, which I am sure will be wonderful and enjoyed by all who come along.

### **Nativity**

A huge well done to all the children in our Acorns Nursery who performed a wonderful rendition of Stick Man, it was thoroughly enjoyed by all that watched! Furthermore, the children in Holly, Oak and Chestnut should be extremely proud of all their excellent Nativity performances, all of which were amazing! It is great to see so many of our children performing to an audience and having fun whilst doing so!

### **Nursery**

Acorns children have been busy; November saw exploratory activities about Diwali and Bonfire Night. They have also enjoyed some snowy fun whilst learning about the season of Winter and weather changes. It was great to see them participate in Health and Fitness Week, too. Lastly, they wowed us with their dramatic portrayal of Stick Man, followed by their craft morning with parents.

Wishing you all the best in the run-up to the festive season. May you enjoy good health and happiness.

Mrs Courtier - Hird

### Dates for your Diary:

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 - End of Term 2  
Monday 06<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - INSET Day  
Tuesday 07<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - Start of Term 3  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January - STEM Week  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - Closing day for Primary Admissions for Sep 25  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 - Y5 We The Curious Trip  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 - End of Term 3  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 - Start of Term 4  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025 - Y6 Lifeskills Trip  
Tuesday 04<sup>th</sup> March 2025 - Midsomerset Festival  
Thursday 06<sup>th</sup> March 2025 - World Book Day  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 - Dance Umbrella  
Wednesday 02<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 - Easter Service - 10am  
Thursday 03<sup>rd</sup> - Friday 04<sup>th</sup> April - Y4 Camp  
Friday 04<sup>th</sup> April - End of Term 4  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April - Bank Holiday  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 - Start of Term 5

### PE Days for next term

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

### Forest Days for next term

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

**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:**

#### 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

It is wonderful that lots of children are continuing to choose to walk, scoot or cycle to school even now that vehicle drop off is possible. Please note that next term, we would prefer for all children to be collected after clubs finish at 4.15p.m. as it will, still 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**

