

Building Community, Enriching Lives

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Happy Christmas!



It has been so lovely to share all of the Christmas events with you all over the past few weeks. The Friends of Longney School Christmas Fayre set us off in the Christmas spirit and was a real success. Thank you so much to everyone who has helped out at all of the FOLS events this term, it takes so much hard work and makes a huge difference to the school, both through the fundraising but also as a chance for the school community to come together throughout the year. This was of course followed by the Swallows and Skylarks class nativity which they performed so well. It was a pleasure to see them so confident up on stage. Photographs of the nativity can be found on the school website [here](#). We had a lovely trip to the pantomime as well (oh no we didn't!!). We had of course planned Christmas lunch and worship which were not able to take place sadly. The children of Goldfinch and Swift class were also going to be making cards and a homemade gift for the people who live in the houses around the school this year. The newly elected school council members were going to deliver them on Friday in order to share the Christmas spirit around our school community in line with our school vision. This will take place in the new year instead now.



Change of Staff

Miss Mustoe, who has been supporting Mr LeTemplier in Goldfinch class in the afternoon has come to the end of her temporary contract with us and will be moving on after Christmas. I'm pleased to share that we have Mrs Arnold, who has worked in the school throughout the term as a supply teacher joining us on the team to work with Goldfinch class each afternoon when Mr Le Templier has his leadership time. She is an experienced teacher and we are looking forward to having her as part of our school.

I'm sure you will want to join me in thanking Mrs Mustoe who has worked so hard for all the children in Goldfinch and beyond this term, being flexible and working across all of the classes when we have needed it. She is right at the start of her career as a teacher and we know that she is going to go on to support and inspire many young people going forwards.

Forest School

Forest school will continue in the new year as follows each Tuesday morning – please make sure that the children are dressed warmly. They need waterproof clothing and do get muddy and cold at this time of year. Lots of layers and waterproof outerwear is perfect. Please make sure they have a pair of labelled wellies in school too.

Tuesday 9th January – Skylarks
Tuesday 16th January – Swifts
Tuesday 23rd January – Swallows
Tuesday 30th January – Skylarks
Tuesday 6th February – Goldfinch

We will add these dates to the new SchoolPing calendar in the new year so you can keep track.

Parent Governors

Two of our current parent governors, Kerryanne Hollis and Clair Hogg will come to the end of their term as governors in the new year. I'm sure you would like to join me in thanking for them for their dedication and hard work over their time as governors, we appreciate all that they have done for the school. The role of local governor is a really important one and in the new year we will be looking for two parents to join the governing board. Please look out for more information about what this role entails and how you could support the school by becoming a governor, as well as an application form, in January.

Friends of Longney School Update

Since September, FOLS have been super busy with a bingo night at Elmore village hall raising £166. The superhero disco at Halloween with a profit of £156 and an after school ice cream sale making £62. We finished the term with an array of Christmas events, for the first time ever a Christmas market at the Wool Barn in Frampton, the fantastic Christmas fayre at school and the busy Christmas raffle. We are still awaiting a final figure but the Christmas events have raised well over £1000. A huge thank you to all that volunteered and attended, your continued support is so important.

We are now thinking of the next term and the first event will be Friday 19th January, an after school toy swap, poster to follow. There will then be the famous quiz night! Looking forward to seeing you all there.

SchoolPing

Just a reminder that from January 8th, when the children return to school, we will be using SchoolPing for all communication from school. Please see previous emails about this. It will be much more successful if you download the SchoolPing app as it is designed to work in this way so please do so if you are able. All your information about school will then be in one place, including permissions and calendar. Please make sure you turn on notifications so you know when you have got a new message. Thanks very much.

Curriculum News!

This term the children have had some fantastic curriculum experiences. We have updated the Longney curriculum in line with three key curriculum drivers which have helped us to frame what we want for the children of Longney in line with our vision for the school – Building community, enriching lives. Mr LeTemplier is in the process of updating the school website with all the new information and we will let you know in the new year when this has been completed so you can take a more detailed look. Our main focuses for this term have been history, art and science with other lessons happening weekly. Next term we will focus on geography and D&T with some exciting projects ahead including map work in the local community.

History

In our History learning this term, the children have been learning about a range of periods through history ranging from changes within our living memory to prehistory. In Skylarks, children have been developing a sense of chronology and thinking about how things have changed in our lifetimes. They have looked at different sources of information to make comparisons between then and now. Goldfinch class have been going much further back in their History lessons, as they have been learning about prehistory - focussing on the stone age, iron age and bronze age. The children have been investigating a range of historical sources, including a 3D tour of Skara Brae, to make connections between the different periods. Meanwhile, in Swift class, the children have been learning about World War 2 and the impact this had on Britain. This included looking at the impact the war had on different people as well as our local area.

Art

In Art, all of the children have been learning and refining a range of drawing and sketching skills, appropriate to their age and ability. In Skylark class, the children used a range of materials to practise different drawing techniques. Towards the end of term, they were challenged to use their observation skills to draw a self-portrait. In Goldfinch class, the children built upon their existing knowledge to create observational pieces in the style of Paul Cezanne. The children learnt how to create light and dark through shading and used this to create some excellent drawings. In Swift class, they were learning how to consider tone and shadow when drawing in 3D. The children also learnt how to use perspective to show foreground, middle ground and background in their final pieces of work.

Science

At the start of term, we all enjoyed conducting a range of experiments as part of our science weeks. In Skylark, the children met Miss Hoskin's 'pet rock' as part of their learning about living things. Throughout the week, the children considered what characteristics made something 'alive', such as movement, growth and reproduction. In Goldfinch, the children looked at what happens to our food and took a journey through the digestive system. The children learned about the function of the teeth as well as getting messy when recreating their own digestive system using tights! In Swift class, the children took an in-depth look at light and how it travels. The children had a great time learning about how light travels in lines and can be reflected to solve problems, such as when using periscopes.

Science weeks will take place at the start of each half term throughout the year with the children answering a scientific question to engage their curiosity each time.

Sporting Events

This term the children have represented the school in a range of sporting activities as follows:

Y5/6 girls' football - A team of 10 girls went to Oldends Lane to take part in a girls' football festival. Our Longney girls were part of a group of over 200 children, who came together to celebrate girls' sport. They spent some time practising football skills before playing matches against local schools.



KS2 football tournament - We took a Y3/4 team and a Y5/6 team to Oldends Lane to take part in the small schools' football tournament. Both teams played in 6 matches across the morning, showing true perseverance and courage.

Y5/6 netball - A team of 7 Y5/6 children went to Stratford Park to take part in a Y5/6 netball tournament. The children played against 5 other teams from local schools and they all played in each position from C to GS or GK to GA.



School Council

Last week we held an election for our new school council for this academic year. The children were asked to prepare a short mandate speech at home to present to their classmates with a vote being held shortly after. All of the children who put themselves forward presented wonderfully and came up with some excellent ideas as to how the school can be improved. The voting was very close in all classes and we are proud to introduce our new school council:

Skylark class - Arthur, Matthew and Oscar

Goldfinch class - Carly, Avalyn and Jessica

Swift class - Zoe, Theo and Emily

Congratulations to all.

Values Day

We have been working hard this term on shaping the school in line with our vision and values. The vision of the school is 'Building community, enriching lives' which really sums up and weaves through everything that we do at Longney. The four values which support this vision are respect, courage, perseverance and friendship. We wanted to remind the children of the values and help them to understand each one so that they can use them in their daily life at school. We celebrate the values of course each week in our celebration worship where children receive certificates for demonstrating them throughout the week.

As part of this work, we held a values day recently where the children spent the day mixed up in their houses and working together across the school. They carried out activities to demonstrate what each value means and then created pieces of art together which will form a new display in the hall reminding the children of our shared values each day. Photos of our values day can be found on the school website [here](#).



Thank you!

I must of course finish by saying thank you. I have truly had a wonderful first term as Headteacher of this fantastic school. Your children are brilliant – they have worked so hard and we have seen so much brilliant progress that we are really proud of. We have all, as new members of staff, felt so welcomed by the school community and we really appreciate all of your patience, kind words and encouragement over the term – it means the world to us and keeps us going! We have already formed strong bonds as a team here and that is very much down to the wonderful staff that we have in school. They work very hard for your children every day and I cannot thank them enough for all that they do every-day. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and look forward to the spring term ahead.