



School News

1/11/23

Building Community, Enriching Lives

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Welcome Event

Friday 10th November – 2.15pm onwards

We would like to invite you to a welcome event for all parents and carers on Friday 10th November where you can join the children and teachers in the classroom for an informal opportunity to see what they have been up to this term and peek inside their new classrooms. You will be able to see their work in books and get a glimpse in to the curriculum they have been studying.

Parents and carers are welcome to join us from 2.15pm until 2.40pm. At 2.40pm, we then ask you to come to the school hall whilst the children get ready for the end of the school day with their teachers, where the senior leadership team will lead a talk about our new approach to the teaching of reading and the new individual reading books which many of your children will be bringing home from that Friday onwards.

This is an opportunity to find out more about how best to support your children with reading at home to ensure they make the best progress they can across the year and become readers as they grow!

Sporting Events

It has been lovely to see the older children taking part in sporting events already this term, both girls' football and tag rugby so far. As you can see, they have had a brilliant time and represented the school so well. We are looking to find opportunities for the children to continue playing these games both in school and in the local community so that they can continue to get active as much as possible going forwards! There will be lots more chances for all the children in Key Stage 2 to take part in sporting events, as well as some for the younger children too across the year.



Harvest Festival

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the Harvest Festival on Friday. I'm pleased to say that we have managed to gather together as a school a large donation for Gloucester Foodbank thanks to your generosity, of which I'm sure they will be grateful. Thank you to Reverend Richard and the children of Swifts Class who together presented the Harvest Festival this year.

New Start to the Day

Don't forget, after half term there will be a change to the start of the school day as shared in the last newsletter.

The official start time of the day will continue to be 08.45am but we will no longer open the gate for children to come in from 08.30 onwards. Instead, the gate will open at 08.40 and you can come on to the playground with your children. You will be responsible for them until 08.45am when the bell will be rung. The children will line up and the teachers will take over, leading them in to school as a class. This will mean that they start the day together and in a calm manner which leads to a positive learning mindset as they enter the classroom. It will also mean that the teachers get time with their Teaching Assistants together in the morning which will be invaluable.

We appreciate that many of you may have designed your childcare around the 08.30am drop-off so in order to help you out with this, we will be offering an 08.30 – 08.45 childcare at breakfast club for just £1 per day, without breakfast. This will then rise to £2 after Christmas, to give you time to put an alternative in place if you are able. You can find out more information about this 'Early Drop Off' club and a booking form [here](#).

PE Kit Addition

We have decided to add in to the school PE kit a black hoodie and black tracksuit bottoms. This will allow the children to stay warm throughout the winter. It will also mean that on forest school days, they can wear their PE kit in to school along with their coat, wellies etc. The black hoodie and bottoms do not need to have a school logo on and can be of any make or from any shop. Just please ensure they are black and as plain as possible.

INSET Day

Please be aware that there is an INSET day on Monday 6th November. You can find the term dates for this year on our school website [here](#).

Thank you!

Thank you so much to everyone involved in the fantastic Friends of Longney disco on Friday night and the bingo evening which was a brilliant success in October. Both evenings were a real joy and it is lovely to see the whole school community enjoying time together. It takes a lot of effort to put together an event like this for the children and it is very much appreciated by us all at school – thank you to everyone who helped out and put in all the hard work to prepare for both events.

Online Safety

Keeping your children safe online is ever-changing and complex. These resources will support you to talk to your child about a range of online safety issues, set up home filtering in a child-friendly way and set up age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices:

- [Thinkuknow](#) by the National Crime Agency - Child Exploitation and Online Protection command (NCA-CEOP) - resources for parents and carers and children of all ages to help keep children safe online
- [Childnet](#) has developed [guidance for parents and carers](#) to begin a conversation about online safety, as well as [guidance on keeping under-fives safe online](#)
- [Parent Info](#) is a collaboration between Parent Zone and NCA-CEOP - support and guidance for parents and carers related to the digital world from leading experts and organisations
- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) - [guidance for parents and carers](#) to help keep children safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - tips and advice for parents and carers to keep children safe online - you can also [report any harmful content found online through the UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Inclusive Digital Safety Hub](#) and [Online Safety Hub](#), created by South West Grid for Learning in partnership with Internet Matters - support and tailored advice for young people with additional learning needs and their parents or carers
- [Parents' Guide to Age Ratings](#) explains how the British Board of Film Classification rates content, and gives parents advice on choosing online content well.

I have also attached with the newsletter this week some parent advice sheets for popular online platforms which your children may currently be using online.