

**Building Community, Enriching Lives**

[www.longney.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.longney.gloucs.sch.uk)  
[admin@longney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@longney.gloucs.sch.uk)  
Tel: 01452 720461

## Lunchtime Clubs

This week we have introduced lunchtime clubs run by the year 6 children. They are so excited to lead the younger children in play and have had some fantastic ideas too! It was a real pleasure to look out across the playground today and see the children all playing beautifully together across the ages. The following clubs will be available to all the children each week: drawing club, book club, board games, drama, dance, football, playground games and cheerleading. The children do not need to sign up for these clubs, they can just come along on the day and enjoy them whenever they want to. Thank you so much to the year 6 children for being so enthusiastic in wanting to share their time with the younger children – they are brilliant role models for the rest of the school.

Because the children now have lots of equipment and things to do at break and lunchtime, compared to the start of the year, from Monday, we will be asking them not to bring any toys or trading cards in to school with them.

We will ask them to put them in their bags and bring them home from Monday if we find them with anything.

We will talk to all the children about this in school so that they understand.



Drawing club  
in action  
today

## PE Days

Just to confirm this term's PE days up until Christmas are as follows:

Skylark – Wednesday  
Goldfinch – Thursday and Friday  
Swift – Monday and Thursday

Please can the children wear their PE kit in to school on this day so that they don't need to get changed in school.

## New Start to the Day

We have been thinking hard as a team about how we can ensure that the day begins in a positive way for all the children. As a result, we have decided to return the morning drop-off arrangements to how they always were before the COVID-19 pandemic. There are many reasons for this - one of the main ones is so that the teachers can see you all in the morning! We would like the teachers and parents to have more contact and this is just not possible when they have to wait in their classes for the children to arrive. It will be lovely to have the opportunity each morning for them to chat to you and you can then pass on any messages directly to the teachers that you need to or ask them any questions and get to know them!

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](#).

These new arrangements will begin after half term and we really feel they will make a hugely positive difference to the children and us all as a school community.

## Young Voices

The deadline for young voices has now passed and I'm pleased to say that we are taking the majority of the Key Stage 2 children along with us. The children are practising the songs in worship and there are some fantastic medleys this year! We are attending Young Voices on the same night as Whiteshill Primary School, the other school within DGAT for whom I am the Headteacher. It will be lovely to have the children together at the event so that they can have opportunity to mix with other children from their year groups.

## Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival will take place in the school hall on the last day of term – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 2.40pm. Unfortunately, the church is having some building work done at present so is not able to host this year but we are happy to have Reverend Richard joining us for worship. We will be collecting food donations for Gloucester Foodbank on the day and all parents are welcome. Please put it in your diary for now and further information will follow.

## SEN Co-ordinator

As you know, Mrs Prosser has now taken on the role of SEND co-ordinator. She has got time out of the classroom to fulfil this role and at present she is getting to know the needs of the children on the SEN register. Those of you who I have met with over the last few weeks, if we discussed any support for your children going forwards, Mrs Prosser will now take on these actions. It will of course take her a few weeks to get through everything so please do be patient. She will be in contact if she needs any more information from you. Anyone who I have not been able to meet with yet, Mrs Prosser will be in touch to arrange a meeting with her directly.

## Fruit Snacks and Nut-free Policy

Please can we remind you that the children should only be bringing in a piece of fruit for their morning break. Children in Swallows and Skylarks are provided with fruit by the government for free but if they prefer a certain type of fruit, you are welcome to send this in with them.

As previously, we will be continuing with the nut and peanut free policy in school. This means that we cannot have any products with nuts or peanuts in school. Anything that says 'may contain nuts' is fine, but if it has nuts or peanuts in the ingredients you will not be able to bring it in to school. This allows us to keep all the children in the school safe as I'm sure we would all wish for your children if they had a life-threatening allergy.

## 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. We will of course give you time to buy this, just get them over the next few weeks when you are able.

## INSET Day

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

## Parents Evening and Homework

We are currently in the process of assessing all the children as we come up towards half term. This will help us identify their gaps and find out what we need to work on year going forwards. After half term, we will let you know a date for parents evening so that we can then have an informed conversation with you about your children's progress. It will also be chance for you to see their books and the wonderful progress they have made so far this term. We will also be setting out a new homework policy for after half term. We are thinking carefully about what will be most useful for the children at Longney to help them make progress and ensure you have everything you need to support them at home. In the meantime, please read with your children as often as you can and enjoy talking to them about what they are reading at present.



Swallows  
Class having  
fun in their  
outdoor  
area.