



Long Lane Primary School
Long Lane, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG31 6YG
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office@longlane.w-berks.sch.uk
 @LL_Primary

12th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to the new school year and, in particular, to our new families for what I am expecting to be another fruitful and exciting year. I am pleased to be able to say that all the children have settled quickly into their new classes. This is a long letter but one I hope you find very useful!

Contacting school

If you or your child have any matters to discuss you can contact the **school office** at any time between 8.15am and 5.00pm.

The class teachers can be contacted in four ways:

1. In person or on the phone after school.
2. By e-mail using the address above.
3. By writing a short note for your child to bring in.
4. By relaying a quick message to me on gate duty or to them or a Teaching Assistant (KS1) at 'the door' before school starts. I also attach our communication guidelines.

Parking and traffic outside school*

Our school car park is not very big and when larger vehicles, including delivery vans, enter the site it becomes even more grid-locked. Therefore we do not allow parents/carers to use the car park between **8.30am and 9.00am** in the morning and then again from **3.00pm until 4.30pm** in the afternoon. This includes picking up from after school clubs. Parents/carers can drop-off or make quick visits to the office via the car park at other times but this must be in emergencies only please.

I do say this every year and it works really well – so thank you for supporting this next part! You will no doubt have noticed the congestion outside school along Long Lane during peak dropping off times. When everyone keeps to it, the 'unofficial one-way system' seems to help. This means entering Highfield Road (directly opposite school) from Long Lane and driving right round to exit via Orchard Close. If everyone then parks on the left we can keep traffic circulating. Parking on our neighbours driveways must also be avoided no matter how busy it gets. Please also consider the sight lines required by Mr. Darling, our Crossing Patrol, and don't park or drop-off where you shouldn't. There should be no parking on the sections where the road narrows or by the islands or on the double yellow lines. This is for your convenience and the safety of our children.

The main pedestrian gate will be opened at 8.30am and there will be a teacher on duty when the gate onto the playground opens at 8.40am and closed **promptly** at 8.55am, re-opening at 3.00pm for collection time! The big gates will be closed to vehicles between 8.45am and 9.00am and then from 3.15pm until 3.30pm and 4.00pm-4.40pm.

Scoot, walk or ride week – starts MONDAY 2nd October 2017

We would like to see as many people as possible using their scooters, bikes (with helmets) or feet to travel to school. As a reward the children will be able to earn a house point if they can

use a different mode of transport instead of a car, recorded in their class. We realise this may not be possible for some so 'part' journeys will also be counted. ie park the car further away and then walk – the 'five minute walk zone' is perfect for this! Please do encourage your children to take part.

Attendance

The Governors at Long Lane Primary School actively promote the aims of the school, and recognise that children must attend school regularly if they are to make the best of the opportunities they have to learn and make best progress. We had an above National Average attendance of **96.6%**

It is a parents'/carers' responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly. Missing school seriously affects children's longer-term life opportunities. Statistics show a direct link between attendance and attainment. Please read the table below, it is quite staggering!

Attendance	Days lost over 7 Primary years	Weeks lost over 7 Primary years	Equivalent in terms
95%	66	13	1 term
90%	133	26	2 terms
85%	200	39	3 terms (whole year)

Children are expected to attend school each day unless they are unwell. The expected level of attendance at Long Lane is a minimum of **96%**. This allows for the occasional day or two of absence through illness, without a child falling behind with their work. The school monitors attendance on a half-termly basis with parents being notified when attendance drops below 95%. This will include ALL types of absence including authorised ones (ie for illness and appointments etc). If attendance falls below 90% the head teacher will only authorise absences with medical evidence.

School Meals - Your school could be missing out on funding

Our school could get an additional £1300 per year from the government for each child from a family on a low income. This is called Pupil Premium and can be used to support children with their learning. Your confirmed registration could mean that your child is provided with extra support. If you are receiving any of the benefits listed, do the smart thing - **check your eligibility**

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit only (not Working Tax Credit) with income less than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Asylum Seekers Support
- Universal Credit

To apply online go to <http://www.westberks.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals> or you can call **01635 42400** to register by phone. All you need is your name and address, date of birth and National Insurance number!

Break-time snacks are restricted to fruit, vegetables (e.g. carrot sticks) and dried fruit (e.g. raisins). We actively expect children to bring in a **bottle of water** which can be accessed at any time during the day. Other flavoured drinks can be consumed at **lunchtime only** but please do not send in fizzy drinks.

Nut/food allergies

Like many schools, we have pupils in school with allergies to nuts /eggs/fish which could potentially be severe. Therefore we generally ask that no children bring these foods or food containing them into school in their pack lunch boxes so that all our pupils are kept safe. However, following our consultation last year we also realise that this is difficult for some parents too. So now the Year 1 and Year 2 classroom will be our designated 'nut, egg and fish free zones'. ALL children having a packed lunch in Years 1 and 2 will need to make sure their lunchboxes are nut, egg and fish free or highlighted to a staff member before lunchtime begins (may be a good idea if you let the class teacher know in the morning). Those children with these items in their lunchboxes will be asked to eat in the hall or a different classroom. If any junior children would like to eat their packed lunch in the 'zone', please also let me know. Thank you in advance for your support.

Social Networking sites

West Berkshire Local Authority issued schools with the following statement for us to use to remind parents about the use of social networking sites:

'Negative statements or comments about school staff should not be made on Facebook and/or other social networking sites. Such statements can be offensive and distressing for those concerned and are also potentially libellous. West Berkshire Council Legal Services will be informed of any incidents which the school considers give rise to possible legal action. Parents are reminded that should they have any issue as regards the school, the school's complaints procedures should be used.'

We are extremely fortunate that here at Long Lane you always have the option of asking someone should you have a concern. I do hope that you feel comfortable asking us for the correct information when it is needed and do not feel the need to post comments that may offend others. Individual parents will be written to reminding them if necessary.

I would like to remind you that as a school we have three official 'sites' that you can visit for the most up-to-date information. The first is Twitter, the second is our own school website and the third is the PTA's Facebook page which is visible to staff.

Twitter

We use this platform regularly to promote the activities that go on in school. It is a 'locked' group which means that you will need to request to follow. Each request is carefully checked but sometimes we do not recognise the name. If this happens please do let us know in person! If you have access to Twitter then why not 'follow us'?

Uniform

We are a 'uniform school' and believe that a co-ordinated style makes for a smart businesslike appearance and encourages the children to take pride in their school.

Children should wear sensible shoes with flat heels; trainers and canvas shoes are not considered suitable footwear with school uniform. Girls should wear grey socks with their grey skirts/shorts. Boys should also be wearing grey socks with their grey trousers/shorts. Girls can wear white socks but only with the summer dress (blue/white gingham style).

Extremes of hair fashions are not appropriate. In particular, words, lines or symbols cut into hair and Mohican styles are not acceptable within the school. We send out letters reminding parents of this! Also we request that long hair be tied back at all times.

Paperwork

We would ask that you return all forms and payments promptly to the school office when requested to do so. We would like to avoid having to bother you with nagging 'phone calls and text messages – thank you. **Parentmail and the app** are excellent ways to avoid this too!! Please ask if you need help with setting this up.

Safeguarding

As you will know, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and you too can play your part. If you have concerns about a child, whether you're a parent/carer or a staff member, you can contact me or Mr. S. Hunt (Safeguarding Governor) in confidence via the School Office. Or via the email address 'safeguarding@longlane.w-berks.sch.uk'

PTA

The **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will take place on Friday evening, 29th September, and will be followed by the **QUIZ NIGHT**. **Nominations for all the posts (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) are now being sought.** This year's committee was the smallest the school has ever seen but still managed to raise a huge total and run many memorable events. If you'd like to hear more about how you can help please come to the meeting. Also please note on your calendars the **CHRISTMAS FAIR will be on FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER after school.**

Curriculum news

There will be no separate letters from the Juniors and Infants but instead updates via this one newsletter!

Learning Themes & Shared Learning:

The learning themes for this half term are;

Year Group		Theme name	Skills main focus	Skills additional focus
Autumn 1 st Half	Year 1/2	Me and My World	Geography	Science
	Year 3/4	Game on!	DT/Art	Maths
	Year 5/6	Two Tribes	Art/DT	

Shared Learning consists of a range of learning tasks relating to the curriculum areas and the children will have the opportunity to choose which learning tasks they complete, against a specific criteria.

The learning tasks will generally be an opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge gained during class. If shared learning is not completed on time your child will be asked to complete it during their lunchtime. The shared learning overviews will be sent out shortly.

Community Champion Awards 2017

West Berkshire Council would like to acknowledge and thank those people within the District for the work that they do and is launching the **Community Champion Awards 2017** yesterday **Monday 11th September 2017**. This is your opportunity to nominate an individual or group who deserves recognition for their work in the community.

Nominating couldn't be easier; nominees simply need to live within West Berkshire and fit one of the following categories:

- The Pat Eastop MBE Junior Citizen of the Year Award (nominees must be 18 or under)
- Volunteer of the Year Award

- Community Group of the Year Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award

The web page link (www.westberks.gov.uk/communitychampion) is now live where you can complete the nomination forms.

Please spread the word within your school and partnerships and with anyone else you think may be interested in nominating someone, particularly a young person. We know that a lot of good work is done by young people, within the District, but need your help in identifying and acknowledging them. The closing date for nominations is Friday 27th October 2017.

Lunchtime Controller vacancy

We are looking to recruit reliable and motivated individuals to work during lunchtimes. Their main role is to supervise pupils in the dining hall, playground areas and school premises ensuring the safety, welfare, physical and mental well-being of pupils and the maintenance of good order and discipline. The hours are 12.15pm -1.15pm, term time only. Please contact Miss Sarsfield in the school office for an application pack. Visits to the school are welcomed and encouraged.

Home-School agreement

If you have not done so please can you sign the **Home-School agreement** that is printed on the inside of the Reading Record books – thank you. Junior children are expected to sign this as well, for the Infant children signing is optional.

Finally, please make sure that all items of clothing are clearly **labelled**. From time-to-time items go missing but it is far easier to return named items. We had a great deal of clothes left from last year! Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. P. Thorne,
Headteacher

Communication Guidelines between Parents/Carers and School

We hope that the following guidelines will ensure that you know who and how best to contact someone at school about a question or concern that you would like to discuss. A member of staff is always on duty first thing from 8.40am on the playground and can be approached with information. Email communication is an extremely important and effective tool for communication but please allow up to **3 working days for a full response**. We do, however, aim to deal with all enquiries swiftly and effectively and approaching the right member of staff will mean this can be further improved.

Type of question or concern	Person to contact	Means of communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Progress • Pastoral (eg friendships) • Maths, English - Shared learning • Reading 	Classteacher	By telephone before 8.40am (school office staff will pass on messages), verbally at the end of the school day or phone to make an appointment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground incident/ Academic progress 	Classteacher or Team Leader	Make an appointment via the office or in person at the end of the day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to daily routine 	Classteacher or School Office	In person in the morning or by phone during the day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Educational Needs 	SENco	Make an appointment via the office phone or email
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trips, Clubs, lunches, sporting fixtures, copies of letters 	School Office	In person or by telephone/ email
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illness or absence from school 	School Office	By telephone before 9am on first day of absence or via Parentmail
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidential (eg change in homelife, serious long term medical issue or formal complaint) • Quality of teaching and learning 	Headteacher	Make an appointment via the office phone or email
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTA event 	Chair or Vice Chair of PTA	By email or letter given to school office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor information 	Chair or Vice Chair of Governors	Email or make an appointment via the office, or in person

Mr. P. Thorne, Headteacher : headteacher@longlane.w-berks.sch.uk

School Office: 0118 9427187, office@longlane.w-berks.sch.uk

Mrs. T. Symth, SENCO: via the school office

Miss S. Aspindale, Infant Team Leader: via the school office

Mrs C. Rushent, Junior Team Leader: via the school office

Mrs. S. Wilkinson, Chair of Governors: via the school office



IMPORTANT DATES 2017-18



Welcome time (3.15pm – 3.45pm)

- Autumn Term – Wednesday 20th September 2017
- Spring Term – Tuesday 16th January 2018
- Summer Term – Thursday 7th June 2018

Parents' Meetings

- Autumn Term – Tues 5th (5-7pm), Wed 6th (4 -6pm) & Thurs 7th December 2017 (5-7pm)
- Spring Term – Monday 16th April 2018 (All day – please note this is an INSET day)

Parents' Forum

- Autumn Term – Tuesday 14th November 2017 7.30pm
- Spring Term – February 2018
- Summer Term – May 2018

'Class assembly' to Parents (including refreshments)

- Foundation Stage – Tuesday 12th December 2017 9.15am
- Year 1 and 2 – Tuesday 12th December 2017 2.00 pm and 6.00pm
- Year 3 – w/b 5th February 2018
- Year 4 - w/b 19th March 2018
- Year 6 - w/b 21st May 2018
- Year 5 - w/b 9th July 2018

Other events (Autumn Term)

- Year 5 to Adventure Dolphin – Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th September
- Year 6 to PGL – Monday 25th, Tuesday 26th & Wednesday 27th September
- PTA Quiz night and AGM – Friday 29th September
- Rainbow class photo - Friday 29th September
- Y5 Bikeability (1) – Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th October
- Year 1 and 2 to see The Gruffalo, The Haymarket, Basingstoke – Friday 13th October
- School Photographer – Individual photos - Monday 16th October
- Y5 Bikeability (2) – Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th October
- Drama workshop for Infants – Monday 13th November
- Children In Need Day – Bring a teddy and/or wear something spotty – Friday 17th November
- Year 5 & 6 Science Festival at The Oratory – Thursday 23rd November
- Nasal Flu Vaccinations - FS,Y1, Y2, Y3,Y4 -Friday 8th December
- Rainbow class Theatre trip, - Wednesday 13th December
- Church Carol Service – Tuesday 19th December 2017 at 7:00pm
- School Christmas dinner/Christmas Jumper Day - Tuesday 19th December 2017
- KS2 Church Service – Wednesday 20th December 2017 at 9.45am

Scout, walk or ride weeks – 2nd October 2017, 5th March 2018, 11th June 2018

Sports Day -Wednesday 27th June 2018, Infants am, Juniors pm (Reserve day Friday 29th June)

NO Curriculum evening – 'Meet the teacher' instead – Wednesday 20th June 2018

Transition week/Class swap - week beginning 2nd July 2018 (For Year 6 moving to Year 7 and all classes in school)

Leavers' Assembly and BBQ- Thursday 19th July 2017 6.30pm