

2nd September 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to see all the children coming into school today. They seem very excited and are settling back in quickly. I hope the information you have received has been helpful. Below is some further information to help our year get off to a great start. We have started the year thinking about the value of Hope, the symbol of the rainbow and the story of Noah's Ark.

FOOTWEAR

Due to us having to use the field to enter and leave school, there is a chance that the children's shoes may get wet. Therefore, if you would like your child to arrive and leave school in their wellington boots or more substantial footwear that is fine. They must then have a pair of shoes in the cloakroom to change into. This could either be their school shoes or pair of black plimsolls (daps).

LIVING VALUES

We have started the year thinking about the value of Hope, the symbol of the rainbow and the story of Noah's Ark. This term our focus values are Respect and Thankfulness. Please find the Home -School Value sheet for Respect with ideas for you to explore with your child/children at home.

HEALTHY EATING - REMINDER

At Longney we encourage pupils to think about eating healthily.

Break times – If you want your child to have a snack please send fresh fruit, fruit, vegetables, cheese or crackers. A reminder that children should only have access to water during the school day not squash. Please do not send loose nuts as they may choke on these in the playground. Sweets, chocolate and biscuits are not suitable for a mid-morning snack.

Lunch - All pupils in Class 1 and 2 are entitled to a free school lunch. These will be a sandwich lunch for the beginning of the year. If, however, you do decide to send your child with a packed lunch from home, please try to include a variety of food groups for your child. We do notice a deterioration in behaviour in those children who have a lot of chocolate, cake and biscuits in their lunch box and not a lot else.

Water bottles - Pupils are encouraged to drink water during the day to keep them hydrated. All pupils should come to school with a labelled sports bottle. Only water is permitted during lesson time.

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Instrumental lessons will not take place in school for the immediate future. Please speak directly to your child's teacher for further information.

MEDICAL/DENTAL APPOINTMENTS IN SCHOOL TIME

If you need to collect your child during the school day for an appointment, please come to the gate by the office and one of the staff will sign your child out. On return to school please would you again go to the office to check your child back in. This enables us to know exactly who is in school at any one time in case of an emergency e.g. fire.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

As you are aware, we work hard to ensure that all our pupils attend school and we are very grateful for your support in this area. The research demonstrates there is a direct correlation for children between attendance and achievement. We have always been very proud of our attendance.

If your child is unavoidably away from school due to illness, please phone Heidi in the office before 9.30am. If you know you will be late to pick up at 3pm due to traffic or some other problem, please also ring and let us know. If you need to request time out of school for your child, you must inform us in writing.

I am not able to authorise absence from school unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you do need to request time out of school for your child, please complete the absence form available from the office or on our website. Your request must be submitted two weeks prior to your child's absence.

Class registers are taken straight away and any pupil arriving after 9.00 am will be recorded as late. If your child is late after 9.10 am when registers have been close, a mark of unauthorised lateness will be recorded. Registers are scrutinised by the local authority and persistent lateness will be addressed.

MEDICINES

Medicines should be taken to the office in a labelled container which clearly states the child's name and dosage required and an authorisation form must be signed. If your child has a medicine that they self-administer, such as an inhaler, please send a note to school authorising the use and setting out clear dosage levels. We do not hold Calpol in school for general use. If your child has asthma, please complete and return the relevant form. If your child has any other medical needs, please speak to Ms Howard so the appropriate care plan can be put in place or updated.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Pupils at Longney look very smart in their uniform and this is part of the high expectations of the school. The dress code is a purple sweatshirt or cardigan, white polo shirt or white shirt or blouse, grey or black trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafore dress, purple gingham summer dress and black shoes. Trainers are not considered suitable footwear for the whole school day.

Watches and one set of plain studs or sleepers are the only jewellery that may be worn and long hair should be tied back. Both of these are for health and safety reasons. Nail varnish is not acceptable in school.

P.E. KIT

This year children should come to school in their PE kit ready for PE on Thursday and another day if this has been requested by the class teacher. PE will take place outdoors wherever possible so Years 3 to 6 will need their football boots and trainers as well so that they can take part in PE on the Maze throughout the year. All classes will need trainers, please do not send plimsolls/daps for outdoor PE as they get very wet.

P.E. kit is: purple t-shirt and black shorts/skorts, school tracksuit or black jogging bottoms/dark sweatshirt bottoms for cooler weather. An older style white school P.E. t-shirt is acceptable. Shin pads and football socks will be needed for football club.

WELLINGTON BOOTS

We allow the children to play on the Maze and in the Adventure play area at lunchtimes unless it has been very wet as long as they have their wellington boots in school. Please ensure a named pair of wellingtons are on the class wellie rack every day.

FOREST SCHOOL

When your child's class attends their Forest School session (approximately once every four weeks), they may come to school in the clothes they are going to wear for the session. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately as these sessions take place in nearly all weathers and the children will be outside for the whole morning. Two pairs of socks are good with wellington boots along with a spare pair in case they get wet. Jeans are not recommended as they take a long time to dry if they get wet, leggings are not suitable. Please make sure your child brings a coat on these days. Please do not send your child to Forest School in shorts. This is because there are stinging nettles and brambles around some areas.

Please ensure all uniform/clothing is named.

Yours sincerely

Penny Howard
Headteacher

