

Building Community, Enriching Lives

www.longney.gloucs.sch.uk
admin@longney.gloucs.sch.uk
Tel: 01452 720461

Christmas at Longney

Wow – well what a festive season it has been for my first full Christmas at Longney! After having to close the last couple of years, it has been so lovely to see the children enjoying all the wonderful events in school together. It has certainly brought a huge amount of **joy** to the children and staff alike!

We kicked things off with the fantastic nativity, all put together skillfully by the incredible Miss Woolway and Ms Spencer. The children sang their hearts out and all did so well to get up on the stage in front of a large audience on the day. We are all still humming the Perfect Christmas Tree as we walk down the corridors in school!

There are lots more photographs on the website gallery [here](#).



Next up, it was the FOLS Christmas Fayre. This year, FOLS planned for the fayre to be spread out around the school further so that there was more room for everyone to have fun and relax together. This really paid off as nearly the whole school attended and it felt like a fantastic **community** event where the children and adults could all enjoy each other's company and of course all whilst supporting the school. All together, the Friends raised an incredible £800 from this event! This money will go a long way to add to your children's experience in school. Thank you so much to everyone who helped out in the run-up and on the day and a particular thanks to our new FOLS committee led by Yasmin Cross our new FOLS chairperson.



At present, the Friends have funded the theatre trips for the children this winter and will also fund coaches for other trips throughout the year. Coaches are incredibly expensive these days so we know you all appreciate this support with the cost.

We are also currently working with a playground design company to create a plan for the grassed area at the back of school. We are planning for this area to become a place where the children can engage in play together with den-building, a covered sand-pit, staged area and structures to encourage imaginative play. The friends have kindly donated the money for us to get this project started and your fundraising efforts this year will mean that we can continue to improve this area for all the children to use.

On the day of the Christmas Fayre, we of course also had a special visitor in school. The FOLS arranged for Santa to come and see all the children and give them a gift before Christmas. It was so magical for the children as they walked into the hall and saw Santa in his grotto as you can see! There are lots more photographs on the school website gallery [here](#).



This week, on Wednesday, we had our Christmas lunch in school. Dessi, our server, provided us with a fantastic spread and all the children sat together pulling crackers, telling terrible cracker jokes (!) and singing Christmas songs in the festive hats they had made in the morning. Once again, it was an absolute joy and so nice to have all the children in the hall together. Thank you to all the staff who prepared for lunch, in particular Mrs Hinde who made the magic happen! Again, lots more photos can be found on the school website [here](#).



Thank you to everyone who came along to the Christingle service on Thursday and a huge thank you to Reverend Richard who very kindly spent a lot of time and effort arranging this with us. It was lovely to hear the children sing and to celebrate in the church, especially as we were not able to last year. We look forward to doing this more and more in the future.

Thank you and well done to the children who read prayers and held the Christingles during the service.



Finally today, the children from Reception to Year 3 visited Cheltenham Everyman for a magical performance of the Elves and the Shoemaker. It was the most fantastic way to round off the week – please do ask them about it as I'm sure they will have lots to share! They all sat completely enthralled for an hour as the three actors on stage told the story. There were the most incredible elf puppets which came out at night as the shoemaker slept, songs and dances which we could all join in with, beautiful lights which lit up all the whole room and even bubbles at one point! It truly was a magical performance and it was wonderful to see all of the children's faces enchanted by the whole thing. Thank you to all the children for being so brilliant and making the day a really special one.



Thank you

I must say a huge thank you to my team at Longney as we end the autumn term. They are an incredible group of people who work so hard every day for your children and I cannot thank them enough for all they do every day. In particular, thank you to Miss Woolway, Miss Fry and Miss Prosser who have supported Skylarks within the last month to ensure that they continued with their curriculum including their D&T cooking project, took part in a wonderful nativity and enjoyed the festive celebrations!

In January, we welcome Mrs Surman to our team, along with Miss Ball who will be joining us a teaching assistant in Skylarks to replace Miss Kitchener who finished along with Miss Hoskins in December. Mrs Surman came in this week to meet the children and they spent a lovely morning together so I am sure they are excited as we are to have her on the team. Miss Ball is a fantastic addition to Longney - she is a professional basketball player who has come to the end of her career and has spent some time coaching in schools. She then moved to becoming a teaching assistant and having worked within DGAT before, is excited to continue her career at Longney. We can't wait for you to meet them both in January.

Breakfast Club

Thank you very much to the wonderful Gill who runs our breakfast club each morning. She works so hard for the children, planning exciting activities for them and keeping them entertained every day. They kicked off our festive season in school by decorating the Christmas tree in the hall and finished it today with carols in the playground this morning!

Breakfast club is really popular at the moment, in particular our early drop off. Because Gill runs this session on her own, we need to make sure that children are not coming in too early going forwards so please see the recent School Ping for details of both breakfast club arrangements and early drop-off from January onwards. Thank you very much for your support with this.



Design and Technology

In amongst the Christmas celebrations in the last few weeks of term, the children have completed their design and technology projects in Skylarks, Goldfinch and Swifts. Each class had a project with an audience to design food for. Skylarks created a healthy Christmas buffet for their friends, Goldfinch designed a main meal for Swallows class and Swifts class designed and cooked a three course meal for Mrs Hinde (halloumi and prawn skewers, bangers and mash with gravy and apple and blackberry crumble!) Each class started out by finding out their audience wants and needs and then designed the food accordingly. They learnt lots of focus skills like how to chop and grate safely and then spent a day this week making their creations. It was fantastic to see them all working together and we hope they will use their new found skills to help you with the cooking over Christmas!!

More photos can be found on the school website gallery [here](#).

