# School News

16/11/26

Building Community, Enriching Lives

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

**School Attendance: 95%**

**This newsletter contains:**

- **What's New:** Thank you for fundraising, responding to disruption
- **Curriculum Focus**: reading
- **Reception 2027 Tours**
- **Dates for your diary** – please note club dates

## What's New

Week 3 of this 7 week term and it definitely feels like winter is here. The children will continue to play on the main playground for our morning breaktime, but all children will use The Maze at lunchtime when we have more time to change into wellies. It is important that the children get time outside to stretch and run around as well as play creatively with their friends, however, when the rain is heavy, the children will remain inside for creative play activities with friends.

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the cost of our pantomime last week, Beauty and the Beast was enjoyed by all, and it wouldn't have happened without your generosity – either in supporting the FoLS with their fundraising activities or contributing directly. The atmosphere in the building on that day was amazing, all the children (and staff) were loving the jokes and singing along with the songs.

It has been so wonderful to see the writing some children have produced, following on from the work they have been doing on fairytales. The children have spent time orally rehearsing the stories, making sure they are completely confident in telling the story before writing it down. Being confident in what they want to write before they write it, then taking time to add in creative elements – absolutely amazing results. Be sure to have a look at your child's writing at our next parent open morning on the 3rd of December.

**Curriculum Focus – Reading.** Reading is the gateway to everything, both within our curriculum and in life. There is that special moment when your child starts to notice familiar symbols when out shopping, then that turns into recognising brand names then reading signs – then you realise your child is reading! The joy and pride this brings, to both you and your child! Learning to read is one of the most important skills a child will develop, as it unlocks access to every area of the curriculum and helps them become confident, independent learners. Regular support at home, such as sharing books, listening to your child read and talking about stories, strengthens the reading skills taught in school. Just a few minutes of reading each day can make a significant difference to a child's vocabulary, comprehension, confidence and enjoyment of reading.

At Longney, teaching children to read and developing a lifelong love of reading are among our highest priorities. We are committed to ensuring that every child becomes a confident, fluent reader and has access to a rich range of high-quality books that inspire curiosity, imagination and enjoyment. Through our reading curriculum, daily reading opportunities and carefully chosen texts, we aim not only to teach children how to read, but also to help them discover the pleasure that reading can bring. By

working together, school and home can play a vital role in nurturing enthusiastic readers who are well equipped for future learning and success.

Robins class: daily phonics with reading books linked to their phonics. **Early Letters and Sounds (ELS)** is the phonics programme we use to help children learn to read. It teaches children the sounds that letters make and how to blend these sounds together to read words. Lessons are fun, engaging and carefully structured, helping children build their reading skills step by step. Children also take home reading books that closely match the sounds they have already learned, allowing them to practise successfully and grow in confidence. Through ELS, we aim to give every child the strongest possible start on their reading journey.

Kingfishers and Ospreys: Children continue to use the decodable phonics reading books until they are more confident and fluent readers. As children become more confident and fluent readers, they gradually progress to becoming independent readers, with their book choices carefully guided and monitored by the class teacher to ensure they continue to be challenged, supported and inspired by what they read. This works alongside Whole Class Reading, which involves the teacher and class reading and exploring the same high-quality text together. Through discussion and questioning, children develop their understanding of vocabulary, themes, characters and key ideas, helping to deepen comprehension and foster a love of reading.

Keep an eye on our website for samples of questions which you can discuss with your child when sharing a book together. Just 10 minutes of reading each day can make a big difference. Listening to your child read, sharing stories together and talking about books helps build confidence, fluency and a love of reading. Most importantly, make reading an enjoyable part of your daily routine.

**Responding to disruption** As many of you may have seen in recent news reports, more and more schools are receiving malicious hoax calls designed to cause anxiety and disruption. Last week many schools across Europe were the victims of such malice. The safety and wellbeing of our children and staff is always our highest priority. As part of my professional experience, I am very aware of the importance of shielding the children from the nature of the incident. While incidents of this nature are extremely rare, we would like to reassure you that the school has clear procedures in place to respond to any threat or hoax.

Should the school receive such a threat, we would immediately follow advice from the police and emergency services and implement our emergency procedures. Depending on the circumstances, this may involve evacuating to a safe location or securing the school building while assessments are carried out. Throughout the process, the welfare and safety of all children would remain our primary concern. We would do our very best to ensure the children are safe, calm and relatively unaware of the threat received.

Parents and carers would be informed as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so through our usual communication channels. We kindly ask that parents do not come to the school, or try to contact school, particularly via phone, unless specifically requested, phone lines must remain clear to allow communication with the emergency services, therefore, calls will not be answered, as this helps emergency services manage the situation effectively.

Please do be reassured that these events are very rare, but staff are fully prepared and experienced if any such incident should arise.

**Reception 2027 Tours**

We will be conducting tours of the school for parents who have children due to start school in September 2027. If you have a younger child due to register for school, or know of any family members or others in the community, please encourage them to get in touch with Fiona in the school office to book a tour of the school. Tours are available on Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings, but if you need a different time to suit your schedule, please do ask.

| | Dates | Event |
|---|---|---|
| Week 3 16/11/26 | Monday 16th Nov | Young Voices |
| | Tuesday 17th Nov | Sports Club |
| Week 4 23/11/26 | Monday 23rd Nov | Young Voices |
| | Tuesday 24th Nov | Sports Club |
| Week 5 30/11/26 | Monday 30th Nov | Young Voices – Last one |
| | Tuesday 1st Dec | Sports Club – Last one |
| | Thursday 3rd Dec | ***Open morning for parents 8.45am – 9.15am*** |
| Week 6 7/12/26 | W/C 7th Dec | **NO CLUBS** |
| | Wednesday 9th Dec | Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day |
| | Thursday 10th Dec | Rock Steady Concert |
| | Thursday 10th Dec | Christingle Service – St Lawrence Church |
| Week 7 14/12/26 | Tuesday 15th Dec | Robin's Nativity Performance |
| | Thursday 17th Dec | FoLS Christmas Fete |
| | Friday 18th Dec | End of Autumn term 2 – **No ASC** |
| | **Tuesday 5th Jan** | Term starts back – **YOUNG VOICES CONCERT** |

For those that have perseverd to the end:

What do you call a dinosaur that never gives up?

A try-try-try-ceratops!!