

Building Community, Enriching Lives

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Welcome Back

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school today and hear all about their adventures over the Easter break. They have got stuck straight into their termly science week today, where they will investigate and answer the following questions:

Skylarks – What's growing in Longney? (plants)

Goldfinch – Why can't pigs fly? (living things and their habitats)

Swifts – Why don't we fall off the earth? (forces)

Please click [here](#) to see the knowledge organisers for each class so that you can see what the children will be learning. You can also read about how we teach science in school.

During spring term 2, our focus was Art and Design and Technology. The children have learnt so much and applied their new skills to a high standard in their finished pieces as you can see. During each art enquiry, the children find out about existing artists work, learn focus skills and then create their own final piece based on what they have learnt but bringing their own unique interpretation which is of course very important in art. Their final pieces are finished on a canvas so that they can really feel like artists.

In Skylark, the children found out about the work of Andy Warhol and Picasso. They learnt the skills of contrasting colours and how to draw a face in proportion. They then painted their own self-portraits on canvas in the style of Andy Warhol. Can you recognise them?!



Continued...

In Goldfinch, the children focused on landscapes. They found out about the contrasting styles of Vincent Van Gogh and LS Lowry. They then went out and about to take their own photographs of our beautiful Longney landscape to inspire their pieces. They learnt about perspective and having a foreground, midground and background in their landscapes. You can see how they applied this in their final watercolour pieces on canvas.



In Swift Class, they have had a really interesting term finding out about the work of street artist Banksy. They learnt how he uses art to share a political message and uses colour for effect. They thought about what message they would like to convey with their own art and then learnt the skill of stencilling. They designed their final pieces, cutting out the stencils and printing them on wood for a fantastic final effect which took a lot of care.

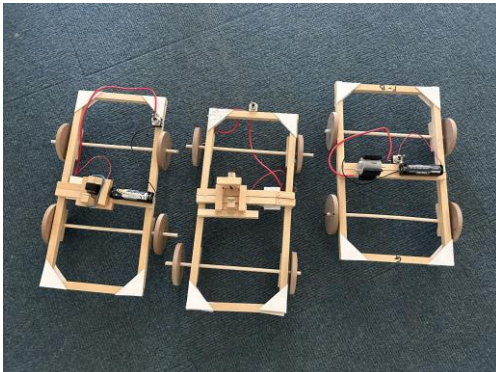
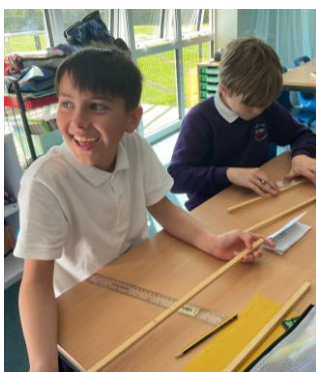


To find out more about how we teach art in school, please click [here](#).

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In Design and Technology, the children completed a project in each class in line with our two-year rolling curriculum. Skylark designed a page of a pop-up book using a mechanism inspired by 'On the Way Home' by Jill Murphy. Goldfinch sewed their own pencil cases and Swift class made Mars Rovers powered by motors.

With Design and Technology, the focus is on designing a product with a purpose and audience. The children must think about what their audience wants and needs and design something which will fit the purpose it is required for. They begin by finding out about their audience and researching current products as well as the history of design in their product. For example, this time Goldfinch found out about the inventor of the pencil case – Lothar Von Faber and Swift found out all about NASA's Mars Rovers. After this, they learn focus skills to ensure they can complete their project effectively. Goldfinch learnt to sew which was a difficult task they took to so well! Skylarks learnt all about how mechanisms work – sliders, levers and linkages. Swifts class focused on building and strengthening a structure out of wood and creating an electrical circuit to power their Mars Rover. Finally, they bring all these skills together to create a final product which they finish by evaluating. They work through the entire design process over the term, learning how real-life designers would approach a project.



To find out more about how we teach Design and Technology in school, please click [here](#).

Forest School is back!

It has been an absolute joy this term to have Mr Pritchard back at school with us carrying out our weekly forest school sessions. We have missed him so much since September and I know the children have too – they have loved being back in the woods and learning from him again! As you can see, they have had a lot of fun in the sunshine! Swallows loved their very first session and got stuck in being introduced to all the areas around camp and creating nature art inspired by Andy Goldsworthy. They were completely engaged throughout. I was lucky enough to walk up to fetch them at the end and have a sneaky hot chocolate around the campfire with them. As we got up to leave, Penny said very contentedly, 'well that was a lovely adventure' and I thought she had absolutely summed it up! These sessions will continue throughout the coming summer term, with each class going on rotation on a Tuesday morning. Thank you to Mr Pritchard for all the hard work he puts in for these sessions to go ahead, planning and preparing and maintaining the site and equipment for us. We are so grateful to him and so glad to have him back.



Wildlife Quiz

Well done to our fantastic team of four who recently won the first round of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Quiz! They had to answer some incredibly tough questions to make it through, both on their own and as a team. They have been preparing with Miss Woolway in the run up at lunchtime once a week and the preparation clearly paid off as they stormed to victory against Hunts Grove and Meadowside. The specimen and photograph rounds were a particular strength – they barely dropped a point and surged ahead following these rounds. Their win means that they now must prepare for a second-round match – we will let you know how they get on! A huge well done to Mina, Zoe, Theodore and Ella.



Lions at Large

There are even more winners at Longney as those of you who have been to celebration worship on a Friday will know. Ella in Swift class has been chosen to have her very own design painted on a lion for the upcoming 'Lions at Large' trail around Gloucester! She designed the lion whilst at her local Guides sessions and was chosen as the winner to represent the Guides across Gloucester. We are very proud of her and not at all surprised as her design was so well thought out and beautifully finished. She said she designed it so that the people on the trail would feel uplifted when they read the words – what a compassionate thought and one which tells you everything about Ella's kind heart. You can find information about the trail [here](#) – it takes place over the summer holidays from June – September and is raising funds for a Centre of Excellence for cancer care in Gloucestershire.

Please do go along and see Ella's lion if you are able – feel free to send us your photos with the lion for us to share with her 😊



Elsie's Charitable Haircut

If you were at celebration worship in the final week of term, you will know that one of our pupils in year 5, Elsie, had had her beautiful long hair cut over the Easter holidays alongside her mum to donate to the Little Princess Trust. This charity provides free real hair wigs to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions. They also fund childhood cancer research searching to find kinder and more effective treatments. A huge well done to Elsie who has given so selflessly for others in this way – what an inspiration for all of us. If you would like to donate to Little Princess Trust in support of Elsie you can do so on their Just Giving Page [here](#).

World Book Day

One of the best days of the year at school is always World Book Day and this year did not disappoint! It was a beautiful sunny day as usual and the children spent the morning in their Houses meaning they were able to mix across the age groups. The older children were fantastic role models for the younger ones and they really enjoyed being together with siblings, buddies and friends. They filled dream jars from the BFG, balanced like the Cat in the Hat, created chalk drawings on the playground in the sunshine, made story maps and 'stories in a cup' too. Thank you so much for everyone who supported with costumes - the children looked fantastic. What a lovely way to celebrate books and reading. Lots more photos can be found on the school website [here](#).



Open the Book

Each term, the local Open the Book team come in to school and run a worship for the children. They tell bible stories in an exciting and interactive way which really engages everyone. We are very lucky to have an active team and they get the Swift children involved each week acting out of the stories. As you can see, they love getting up and doing their part! With Reverend Richard retiring recently, we are waiting to see who will be taking over at Long Newnton church into the future as we hope to continue our strong relationship with them. We have contacted the current team who are in place in the interim and we hope a representative will be able to come and lead worship on occasion throughout this period. In the meantime, our Open the Book team will continue to visit regularly.



Local Community Trips

I want to say a huge thank you to Miss Woolway who has taken the lead this term on making links into our local community. She has lots of ideas lined up for how we can get out and about to support our curriculum and ensure the children know their local area well. This term she arranged for Swallow, Skylark and Goldfinch classes to visit the library at Beeches Green. We hope to do this annually going forwards to remind the children of what is on offer in their local area and to encourage their love of reading which is so important. They had a wonderful time listening to stories and engaging with what is on offer there. The library has lots of free activities throughout school holidays (as well as a lego club on Thursday 3.30 – 5!) and it is a great place to while away an hour with younger children for free – visit their website [here](#) for more information. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with this trip – it wouldn't have been possible without you.



There are lots more lovely photos on the school website [here](#). Miss Woolway has also planned a trip to Wholly Gelato for Swallows and Skylarks to look around the farm and see how the ice-cream is produced in the summer term. She will continue to forge links with others in our local community going forwards. If you have any suggestions of links that you think would be useful or places we could visit in the local area, please do let us know. She is particularly keen to contact a local care home but has not had much luck so far after sending out some initial emails – if anyone has a link to a local care home or knows anyone who works in one locally that may be interested in linking up, please do let Miss Woolway know.

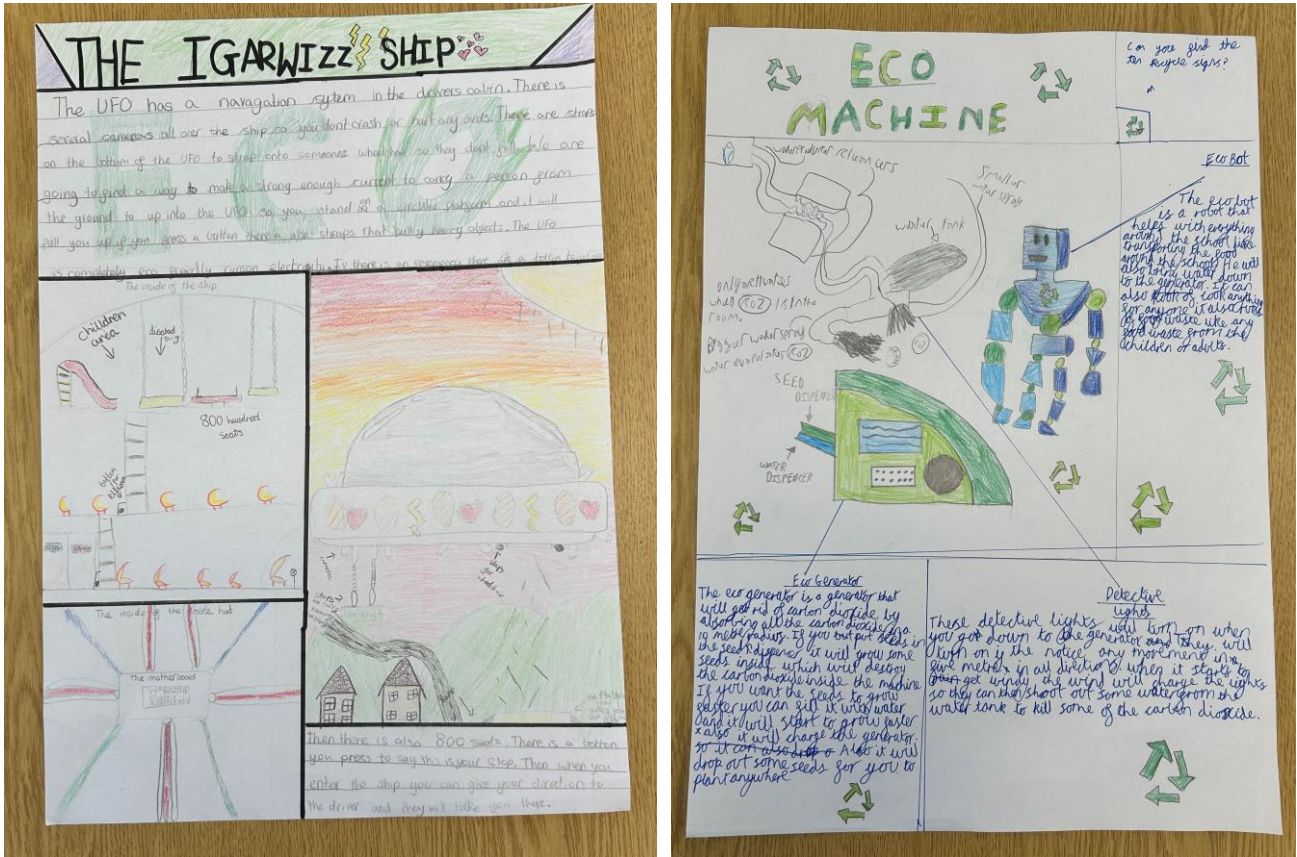
Sport at School

We have had some great sporting opportunities in school this spring term. In particular, we are pleased to have worked with Gloucester Rugby who sent two coaches to school to work with Swifts class each week on their tag rugby skills. They have learnt so much and it has been brilliant to work with professional coaches in this way. On a Thursday, Jay from The Yoga Glow has been visiting school each week to teach the children yoga skills. They have learnt a range of yoga moves, as well as finding out about how yoga can help you stay in touch with your mind and your body. Jay was hugely complimentary of the children and came to seek me out after the last session to let me know how impressed she had been with their progress over the term. Well done to Year 2,3 and 4. Swallows and Year 1 have been having fun on the field in the sunshine too – underneath the parachute! More photographs of our sporting fun can be found on the school website gallery [here](#) and [here](#).



Net Zero Competition

We wanted to share with you some of the entries to the recent Net Zero competition from Swifts Class. We were so proud of the way the children approached this competition and they designed some brilliant inventions to make the school more eco-friendly! They presented their ideas beautifully and worked really well together in their groups.



Health Education

Swallows and Skylarks have had some interesting visitors this term, to help them understand how to look after their bodies and stay healthy. They were visited by Nurse Pam who taught them all about first aid and also a local dentist who talked to them about the importance of tooth brushing. More photographs can be found on the school website [here](#).



Severn Bore

Thank you so much to everyone who came along to watch the Severn Bore with us. It was such a beautiful day and a really lovely opportunity for us all to be together as a school community appreciating the wonder of Longney and the beauty that surrounds the school. I'm so pleased that we were able to take the whole school along and that all the children have now had chance to see such a brilliant natural phenomenon that is truly unique to our local area. We will look out each year to find a date and time that works for school on the Bore timetable and hope to make this an annual trip. Thank you so much to the Friends of Longney who provided refreshments for the adults and children which made it a lovely start to the day. The children sat really patiently and the Bore was definitely worth the wait! What an incredible event to witness. Some of the highlights were a kayaker, a paraglider and even a lone duck being taken down the river on an adventure! It was a really special moment and one of my favourite mornings at Longney so far!

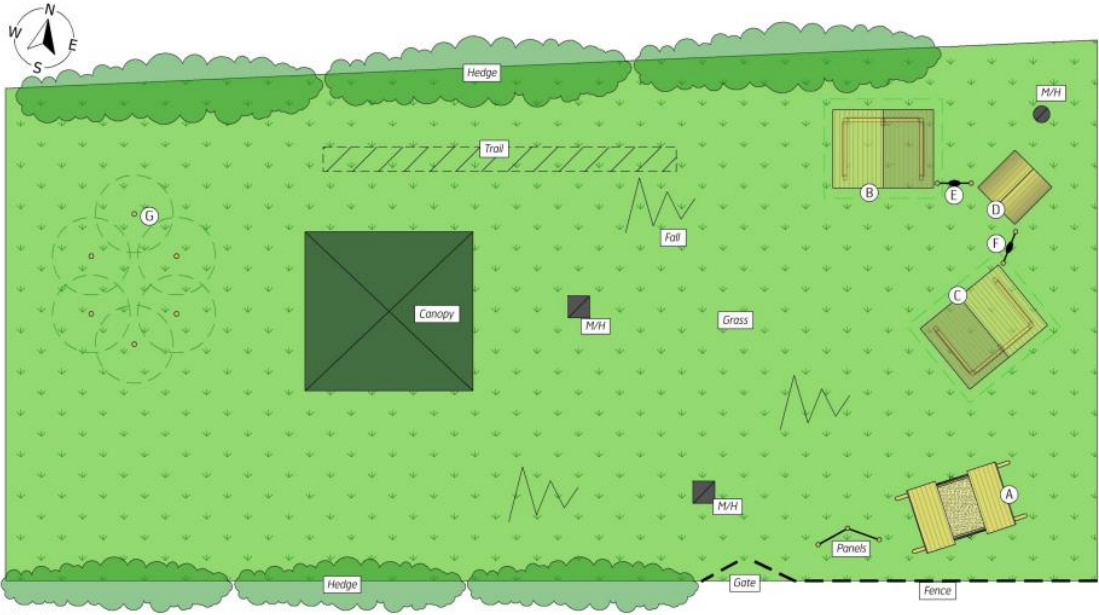
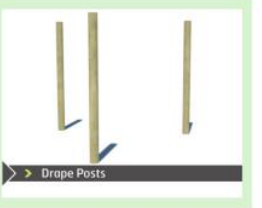


Friends of Longney Easter Fayre

What a fantastic end of the term it was out in the sunshine for this year's Easter Fayre. Thank you so much to the Friends of Longney team who organised the entire event including a special visit from Peter Rabbit! Thank you so much to everyone who stayed and socialised and spent money to support the school. A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered both in the run up and on the day. It is such a joy to see the whole Friends team in action putting in so much time and effort to support our school – it is inspiring and it really means the world to our school community. The event was a huge success and it was especially nice to just have everyone together out in the sunshine at the end of the spring term. Community is a huge part of our little school and the support from the Friends is an integral part of this. If you want to help out at Friends events or have ideas for fundraising or just want to be part of this friendly team to get to know other parents, please do contact them through the WhatsApp community or come along to the next FOLS meeting.



I'm really pleased to share that thanks to all the incredible hard work from previous and present FOLS team over the last two years, a huge amount of money has been raised and this has been put towards the first phase of our playground improvement at the back of school. You can see below the plans we have for this area. It is going to be turned into an area for imaginative play where the children can enjoy the beauty of our school setting outside at lunch and break. The children at Longney love imaginative play and we want to encourage this as it is a fantastic way for them to learn and develop together – across all ages. I'm pleased to share that we have been able to already order two of the play lodges, a covered sand pit which doubles as a stage for performances and a den building area with posts that the children can build from to create their own dens to play in. The Friends events this summer will continue to support this project and each time we raise another amount, we will order a further piece from the plan until it is all finished. Every penny that you spend at a Friends event goes to improve the children's lives in school and we hope that having a fantastic area at the back of school in which they can all learn and play together will really add to their daily experience at school.



Equipment:

- (A) Sand Pit with Sliding Lids - Scribed
- (B) Play Lodge - Scribed
- (C) Play Lodge - Scribed
- (D) Play Hut (Inc. Ground Fixings) - Soft Dig
- (E) Police Panel Activity Panel (Double Posts)
- (F) Supermarket Activity Panel (Double Posts)
- (G) 6x 1.8m Drape Post

SANDPIT

PRODUCT CODE - SANDPIT / V1 / BP



Please Note:
1600mm x 1200mm usable sandpit area once open.

PLAY LODGE

PRODUCT CODE - FLUDGE / V1 / BP

