

**Building Community, Enriching Lives**

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## Welcome Back!

What a wonderful day to come back to school in the sunshine yesterday 😊 it has been fabulous to see the children back together. They have got stuck straight into their learning with science weeks in Skylarks, Goldfinch and Swifts. Swallows Class really topped my day off when I walked through the classroom and they were dancing together to Bill Withers 'Lovely Day' as part of their music lesson! As you can see, it certainly brought us all a lot of **joy**.



We have also welcomed back Mr Pritchard this week and he spent the morning yesterday in the mud up at forest school checking the site and carrying out his annual risk assessment so that we are all ready to go with forest school next week. We are so pleased to have him back and I know that you will join me in sending him a warm welcome from everyone at Longney as the sunshine returns with him!



## Celebration Worship

Thank you so much to everyone who joined us on the last Friday before half term for refreshments after worship – it was so lovely to all be together at the end of the term. This Friday we have an information session instead of celebration worship. Miss Prosser and I will take you through how we teach reading, writing and maths in school including recent updates to our reading and writing curriculum in line with our school development plan. We hope you can join us. There will be refreshments afterwards in the hall and this will continue weekly after worship. We look forward to seeing you then.

## Science Week

This week, the children in Skylarks, Goldfinch and Swifts are answering the following questions during science week:

Skylarks – are all animals the same?

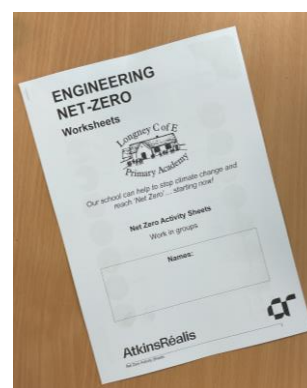
Goldfinch – what is the best surface for speed?

Swifts – how can we make our school more eco-friendly?

During science week, the children have one full day of science to kick their learning off and then work on their science across the week in the afternoons. Today they got stuck in with their enquiries and have already learnt a lot! The knowledge organisers showing the key knowledge they will learn can be found attached to this email. Please bear in mind that it is only one part of the knowledge organiser they will focus on this week, the whole thing will be covered across their Key Stage – ask your child to talk you through the part they have learnt this week to help their understanding.

If you want to know more about how we teach science in school, you can visit the school website curriculum page for science [here](#).

Goldfinch were carrying out a comparative test when I arrived yesterday as part of their scientific enquiry – timing themselves running on grass and on concrete to compare the surfaces. Skylarks have found out about different types of animals e.g. birds and mammals; classifying them into groups. Swifts class have met the engineers from Atkins Realis who spent the day in class yesterday introducing them to the 'Net Zero Superheroes' competition – you can read more about this [here](#). The children have gathered their initial ideas and will be finishing their presentations across the week ready to be uploaded for the judges on Friday. Having an audience for their work is an effective way of engaging them in their learning and you could feel such a buzz in the classroom as they started planning their futuristic ideas on how to make the school more eco-friendly.





## Lunchtime and After School Clubs

At lunchtime, our year 6 children very kindly give up their time to run clubs for the younger children. It is great to see the children all playing together across the age groups and to watch the older children modelling this so well. The children don't have to sign up to these clubs, they can just come along and join in each week. You can see them below having fun together at board games club.

After school, Miss Fry and Mrs Surman have been running a popular cooking club each Tuesday. Each week the children work in pairs to cook some fantastic feasts – this week was flapjacks and I was treated to the lovely smell wafting towards my office! These extra-curricular opportunities are an important part of life in school and it is lovely to see lots of children getting involved. If your child would like to join one of our after-school clubs but didn't sign up at the start of the term, it's not too late, please just let Mrs Hinde know and we can add them to the list.





## Key Stage 1 Multi-Skills

In February, the children in year 1 and 2 travelled to Archway Secondary School to take part in a Key Stage 1 multi-skills festival alongside other schools. It was a great opportunity for them to try out different sports whilst increasing their confidence taking part in front of others and as part of a team.

This is the beginning of building them towards increasingly competitive Atlas Sports events in Key Stage 2. I was lucky enough to attend this event and myself, Mrs Surman and Miss Ball were incredibly proud of them all. They approached the event with **compassion** for each other and **joy** in the moment; giving everything their best shot and supporting each other to achieve. Well done Skylarks!





## Gloucester Cathedral Christingle

You may have seen on Facebook that recently Goldfinch class visited the cathedral to attend a Christingle Service for schools. It was wonderful to be in such an impressive spiritual space to celebrate with the children. They had spent time before the service creating their own christingles with Miss Fry and learning about the meaning behind each part. These christingles were then lit during the service by hundreds of children around the edge of the cathedral. We all then sang a carol together whilst they were lit and it was a beautiful moment. The children also enjoyed meeting the mascot 'Chris Tingle (!)' All the children were brilliantly behaved and respectful during the service – well done Goldfinch class.





## Ubuntu – I am, because we are!

In Worship before half term I spoke to the children about the traditional African concept of 'Ubuntu'. This translates as 'I am, because we are'. We spoke about this in order to help the children understand the meaning and importance of community, in line with our school vision 'Building community, enriching lives'. The idea of ubuntu is that we cannot be fully human without other people – community is part of who we are and we must therefore prioritise each other in order to prioritise ourselves. Following this worship, the children were all given a quarter of a circle to decorate with an image that represented our school community. They did a fantastic job and all the pieces came together to make a beautiful display in the hall, reminding them every day of our wonderful community at Longney. The children had some really beautiful ideas as you can see below.

