



# School News

11/5/26

## Building Community, Enriching Lives

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### Updates

Well, how is it that January lasts forever then you blink and it is almost the middle of May!

First and foremost, let me say a huge congratulations to our fabulous Year 6 pupils who started their Year 6 SATs tests this morning. After a good breakfast, they kick started their week with the Punctuation, grammar and spelling papers! Day 2 involves English Reading; Day 3 is Maths papers 1 & 2; with the final maths paper on Thursday! The children have been very well prepared by Ms Prosser, who has conducted class based revision in a very informal but productive way, so that they children feel prepared without any added anxiety.

Please could I use this opportunity to ask that all children arrive promptly this week to avoid any additional noise or disruption for these pupils – they deserve to have the best chance of a quiet working environment without the distraction of children arriving late – thank you for your support with this.

**Lates and Absences:** It would be really positive to see an improvement in the number of children arriving late on a regular basis. 5 minutes per day amounts to 25 minutes per week, which is equivalent to a phonics lesson, or 1-1 intervention. We know that mornings can be busy for families, and sometimes arriving on time can be a challenge. However, being in school at the start of the day really helps children feel calm, settled, and ready to learn. When children arrive late, they can miss important routines and may find it a little harder to feel comfortable and join in straight away. We really appreciate your support in helping your child arrive on time so they can begin each day feeling confident and ready for learning. Please note that registers close at 8.45am, anyone arriving after this time is marked 'LATE' on the register. Please continue to support your child by helping them arrive at school on time.

**Parent Meeting about class structure:** Thank you to everyone who attended our parent meeting with Rachel Howie to hear about the changes to school leadership and class structures. My heartfelt thanks to everyone who has offered kind words about the confirmation that I will remain as Headteacher at Longney, I look forward to continuing our work together to live out our school vision of 'Building Community, Enriching Lives'. I hope that the presence of Mrs Howie, Ms Thomas and our Governors, helped to reassure you that the future of Longney is a positive one.

The main themes from all the feedback and questions were: **Communication** between school and parents; the **website** and how it portrays the school; **curriculum** information on a regular basis (termly maps). Thank you to all who contributed, we need the feedback to know how we can improve to provide you with the information that helps you feel reassured about the educational experience your child is receiving.

**FOLs Fundraising:** Thank you so much to everyone who has donated **so far** to the 'Get Outside' challenge – we are so close to reaching the total of 10,000 minutes of outside activity – I'm sure there are still some sponsorship forms at home just waiting to be handed in! Please can I ask that all sponsorship forms are handed in by Wednesday this week so Jordan can count up the minutes and find the grand total for this fundraising event.

We are hoping to fundraise for a trim trail to be built in the grassy section of our grounds next to the Magic Garden. This is a big project and really needs a team effort – thank you for all your support.

**In classes:** It always brings me such joy to walk around our school and witness the joy and hard work that goes on. Thursday afternoons for Key Stage 2 are all about wheels – skateboards and scooters! For those that really want to develop their skills of jumps and tricks, to those that want to experiment with friends – the joy and laughter really fills the air.

**Reception** class were learning to tie knots which helps to develop their fine motor skills. They were also using coloured water, rose petal and drain pipes in their continuous provision – it was truly wonderful to see the team work and social interaction as they helped each other. Another joyful moment was seeing them out on The Maze using the newly donated equipment to build their own obstacle course. Using the tyres, cable reels, and planks – the children worked together to create something very special.

**Skylarks** were reading The Gruffalo last week, thinking about the rhyming and repetition in the story and how they can replicate this in their writing. This week they are focussing on their DT project, designing and making Push and Pull cars for Swallow class. So far there has been some decorating of the external chassis and lots of discussion about axles and wheels.

**Goldfinch** have been working on their science topic, circuits – they ask some younger pupils for a design brief for a 'lamp' and they set to work to create a working lamp using a battery, wires, crocodile clips, and bulbs. The results were absolutely amazing, the children were so proud I was called to their classroom to come and view their results. That really did brighten my day!!

**Swifts** have obviously been working very hard on their revision – however, it hasn't all been hard work and no play! this afternoon they started their DT project which will see them design their own catapult, based on research from the Ancient Greeks, who are the oldest known makers of catapults!

**CHICKEN POX** We seem to have a prolonged 'outbreak' of chicken pox. The first few cases were reported over the Easter Holidays, the incubation period can be up to 14 days. The initial symptoms start before the spots break out, with children often showing cold/flu/ hayfever type symptoms of runny nose, and generally feeling unwell. Once spots appear, we ask that children remain at home until the last new spots have crusted over. For more information, please check out the NHS link here: [Chickenpox - NHS](#)

Dates	Events
11/5/26	Year 6 SATs week
15/5/26	Swift swimming
21/5/26	PGL parent information session 3:30pm (Swift Class)
22/5/26	Swift swimming FoLS cake sale No After School Club
25/5/26	HAPPY HALF TERM
1/6/26	RETURN TO SCHOOL
2/6/26	New Reception (Sept 2026) Meeting
5/6/26	Swift swimming FoLS Colour Run Event – 3.15pm
10/6/26	Year 6 Leavers Service at Cathedral
15/6/26	Swift Class go to PGL Torquay
15/6/26	FoLS ice-lolly sale 3:10pm
26/06/26	Whole school photos
29/6/26	Sports Day 9.30am – 12pm
2/7/26	Moving up Morning
03/7/26	KS2 Trip to Bristol Old Vic – Horrible Histories
5/7/26	School Fete – 1pm to 4pm
17/7/26	Year 6 Leavers Service at school LAST DAY – HAPPY HOLIDAYS