



# School News

Sept 2025

## Building Community, Enriching Lives

[www.longney.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.longney.gloucs.sch.uk)  
[admin@longney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@longney.gloucs.sch.uk)  
Tel: 01452 720461

### Welcome Back!

It has been so lovely to welcome back the children to school this September and see how they have grown over the summer. We have been so proud of how well they have transitioned into their new classrooms and how they have welcomed our lovely new reception children into school.

We are so pleased this September to welcome 5 new families to the school in Swallows class this year. It is always so lovely to have new families join our school community and I know that you have already been so welcoming to them as they start on this exciting adventure at Longney. Welcome to our siblings who are joining their older brothers and sisters at Longney too and who we have been so looking forward to getting to know since they were tiny! It is lovely to have them in school at last!

The transition for the children this year has gone so smoothly in no small part due to the hard work of Miss Woolway and Mrs Spencer who supported the children through the transition in the summer term so that they were ready when September came. Thank you to all of you for engaging with this process so enthusiastically, it makes a huge difference to your children.

Welcome to Reuben, Harry, Elsie, Taylaa, Olivia, Harry, Ellis, Ava, Brodie and Freyja.

I'm pleased to let you know as well that we have had 6 children join our school in September beyond Swallows class. Welcome to Jesse, Jade, Maddie, James, Aoife and Rupert and their families. We are so pleased to welcome them all into the Longney community. This means that our numbers going into this year are strong and we continue to build the school and grow. We can't wait to show more families around this year. I have attached our marketing leaflet to this newsletter so that you can share it with any families you know of who may be looking for a school for their child either mid-year or for September 2026.

### Safeguarding at Longney

From this September, Miss Prosser will now be fulfilling the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead in school. She has worked as my deputy for the last two years and so will now take on this role in full. I will be acting as her Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead to support her as needed. If you have any safeguarding concerns to do with school or a child within our community, you can contact her at any time through the school phone number or on [rprosser@longney.dgat.org.uk](mailto:rprosser@longney.dgat.org.uk) – you can of course talk to any of our staff about any safeguarding issues, but Miss Prosser will co-ordinate our school response to ensure consistency.



Miss Prosser – DSL



Miss Francis – Deputy DSL

## Attendance Policy

You will find our DGAT attendance policy on the attendance page of our school website [here](#). It gives you all the information you need with regards to your child's attendance in school. Attendance is incredibly important as ensuring your child is in school as regularly as possible means they don't miss out on our full curriculum and learning opportunities. We try to make every day and week as engaging as possible so that your children want to be in school with us and their friends.

We are always very happy and willing to work with you to support your family or child if there are barriers to attendance. Please do come and talk to either your child's class teacher or Miss Prosser in her role as SENCo and attendance lead at any point to let us know if this is something you are concerned about. There are many things we can offer to support you, and it is a normal part of life in school so please do not worry.

I have attached to this email an attendance flowchart which gives you all the information you need to know for who to contact if your child can't attend school. If you have a pre-arranged absence coming, please call in to the school office or email to get a copy of our 'leave of absence request form'. It can also be downloaded from our school website [here](#). This should be completed as soon as you know about the upcoming absence. We will respond to this request via email. *Please do be aware that term-time holidays are unauthorised in all schools and are likely to result in a penalty notice which must be paid promptly or it can lead to further legal action by GCC ultimately resulting in a £1000 fine if not paid – all the information about this can be found on the leave of absence request form which can be also be downloaded from our school website [here](#). I have also attached a leaflet to this email with more information about penalty notices.*

I have added two INSET days to the October half term this year so that this gives families a chance to holiday outside of the usual half term if needed. Our term dates for this year can be found [here](#).

We will keep you informed of your child's attendance percentage throughout the year with a termly letter. This letter is just to keep you informed. We totally appreciate that there are many medical reasons why a child cannot attend school and therefore do not implement rewards or sanctions for attendance, we just want the children to attend as much as possible so that they can learn and thrive in school. Miss Prosser is our attendance lead and so she may get in contact throughout the year if your child's attendance has dipped, just to make contact and explore the reasons with you so that we can offer support.

Thank you to all of you for your support with this and for your clear communication with us each morning at register time which allows us to ensure the children are all safe and sound each day.

## Our curriculum

Don't forget you can find out all about our curriculum on our school website [here](#).

I wanted to let you know a little about how Skylarks, Goldfinch and Swifts class start their year each September.

Every year, we start with a week of Personal, Social, Health Education in the first few days of term following the INSET. This covers a huge host of objectives which allows us to set the expectations for the class and explore friendships and social issues. This means that all the children start the year feeling supported and heard. We then follow this in the second week with a science focus. We carry out a science week with a key question in the first week back after every half term throughout the year. You will find out more about this below. Also in this week, the children have a focus poet for their English work. They find out about the poet and their poems and then they study one in detail, learning it off by heart for a whole class video performance. This video will be shared with yourselves at our upcoming welcome event which takes place every year after school in October. More information to follow via School Ping. Finally, in week 3 the children now have a full timetable and begin their geography enquiry for the term, with a focus on local geography for each class.

## Swallows Class

In Swallows, we've had a wonderful start to the term, settling into our classroom and learning all about where things belong and how to keep our space tidy. The children have enjoyed exploring and becoming familiar with their new environment. To help us get to know one another, we've been sharing family photos and talking about the special people in our lives. We also read *The Colour Monster*, which helped us begin to understand and talk about our emotions in a fun and meaningful way. In maths, we've been exploring numbers 1 to 3 through subitising activities, helping the children recognise quantities without counting. It's been a great way to build early number sense!

We've also been reading *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, which has inspired lots of imaginative retelling—both in small world play and during our adventures in Forest School. The children have loved using their hands and feet to explore paint and create muddy footprints, bringing the story to life in creative ways. It's been a busy and exciting time, and we're so proud of how well everyone is settling in and engaging with all our activities!



## Skylarks Class

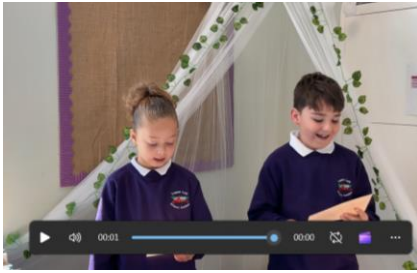
Skylarks class we have settled so well and have had a wonderful time getting to know each other and our new classroom. We have had lots of fun learning about the nonsense poems of Spike Milligan and recording a brilliant rendition of the poem 'On the Ning Nang Nong!' which we will share with you at the upcoming welcome event in October. In science, we have answered the question 'Am I a predator?' learning all about simple food chains. In geography we have started our local geography study this term, finding out about the human and physical features of the school and the village. We look forward to continuing to grow in confidence as we settle into Skylarks throughout the Autumn Term.





## Goldfinch Class

Goldfinch class have had a brilliant start to the term! We have been reading the poems of Edward Lear who is known for his whimsical poems and limericks. We have had fun learning and performing 'The Nonsense Alphabet' poem, recording it on video to share with you at our welcome event in October. In Science, we have been exploring the question 'How and why does a lion chase its prey?' where we built on our simple food chain knowledge from Skylarks by finding out about producers and consumers, predators and prey and how a skeleton provides support and movement for the body. We particularly loved this element and the floppy hand that Miss Fry let us explore in order to experience how it would feel not to have a skeleton! In geography we have started to find out about the human and physical features of Gloucester. We are looking forward to an upcoming trip into Gloucester to see some of these features for ourselves. Further information to follow on School Ping soon.



## Swifts Class

In Swifts class we have enjoyed stepping up to our new responsibilities across the school. We have been given our house captain badges and been invited to join the sports ambassadors. Anyone in Swifts who has an interest in sport and wants to support our school in this area can become a sports ambassador. In this role, we will be responsible for the sports equipment at lunch and will have chance to help out with sporting lunchtime clubs and other activities. We will also be forming a worship team of willing volunteers who will help out in collective worship throughout the year. Finally, we were very excited to meet our buddies and have a stay and play with them in Swallows class. We can't wait to be role models and provide support for them as they enter their first year at Longney. In English, we have been busily learning the poem 'People Need People' by the poet Benjamin Zephaniah. In science, we have been answering the question 'What does a Kangaroo have in common with a stomach bug?' finding out about how living things are classified including micro-organisms, plants and animals. In geography, we will find out about the whole of Gloucestershire, building on our work from the other classes and focusing on human and physical features including biomes, vegetation belts and land use.



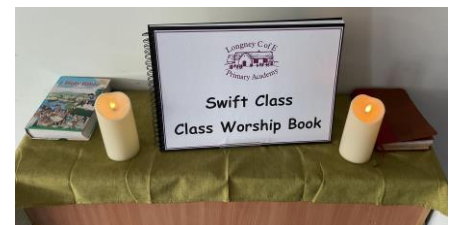
## Vision and Values



In the entrance to our building now we have the vision and values displayed prominently for all children and adults to see daily. We hope that this serves as a visual reminder for everyone who visits Longney. Thank you to Mrs King who kindly came in during the summer holiday to finish this mural off for us.

Last Monday, all the children took part in our annual values day. They spent the day in their 'House' teams which are mixed age across the school. This meant the older ones had chance to support the younger ones and they could all share time together and enjoy each other's company. Each teacher prepared an activity in line with one of our values. Mrs Bezance ran an activity where the children worked together to produce 'harmony garden' pictures, Miss Prosser had fun painting with the children the things that bring them 'joy', Miss Fry discussed the meaning of belief and the children wrote affirmations to help them believe in themselves and Miss Woolway carried out a science experiment with the children to show how being kind to an egg can lift it up! Just in the way that if we are compassionate towards each other, we too can lift each other up! The children worked so well together in their teams and it was a great way to start our year by bringing the values to life.

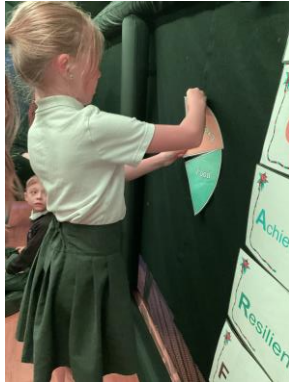
In my role as RE subject lead, I have been developing our collective worship offer in school to further reflect our vision and values. You will see some changes to celebration worship over the coming weeks to support this work. Each day we now play a piece of music which is linked to our values to see the children in and out of worship. We talk about the meaning of the lyrics and how they can inspire us. You will hear these pieces each week on a Friday so please do listen out. We have also started to introduce shared words at the start and end of worship which the worship team will be supporting with each day. On a Wednesday, the children reflect on the worship theme of the week in their class worship. This gives them chance to talk further and think together on a subject. Each class has a class worship book to display their reflections, which they will take turns sharing on a Friday with you all too.





## Inflatable Classroom

As part of our PSHE work at the start of each year, we invite the SCARF inflatable classroom in to school. Each class visits the classroom throughout the day and the children learn from an expert on how to stay safe and healthy. It is great for the children to have an outside voice on this subject and gives them chance to have hands-on practical experiences in a fun environment. They all engaged so well and we were very proud of how they got involved.



## Forest School

The children have started forest school again this term up in the woods with the wonderful Mr Pritchard. Swallows class had their first session this week on a lovely sunny day! They got stuck in straight away and had a wonderful time exploring the area with activities linked to the book 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt!' They have been exploring this book in school too, thinking about the different textures, sounds and sights of the book. As you can see, they have had so much fun learning together!

Thank you to Mr Pritchard for once again linking the forest school learning so effectively with our curriculum and for finishing with hot chocolate too of course! Well done Swallows for being so brave and curious on their first trip into the woods.

