

Building Community, Enriching Lives

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Christmas at Longney



We have got lots of exciting events ahead in the build up to Christmas at Longney. On Friday 5th December FOLS have arranged for a pantomime to visit school and perform for all the children. We are very excited to start our Christmas celebrations in this way and the children are invited to wear Christmas jumpers to get in the festive spirit. They are invited to bring some chocolate or a bottle for the FOLS Christmas tombola. More information on School Ping.

The children in Swallows and Skylarks will be visiting the Cheltenham Everyman Theatre to see a performance of the Little Mermaid on Tuesday 9th December. We take the children to the theatre every year and it is always a very special moment. This show takes place in the small theatre to the side of the Everyman and is designed for younger children. We are looking at summer theatre options for the older children in Key Stage 2 and hope to have something booked soon – more info to follow.

The nativity performance will take place on Tuesday 16th in the morning and evening – hot drinks and mince pies will be served for parents to help get you in the Christmas spirit! The children have been really enjoying their rehearsals and we can't wait for you to see it.

Wednesday 17th is Christmas lunch day and we will decorate the hall and play Christmas songs for the children to enjoy this lovely moment of celebration and **joy** together!

See below for information about school council's Christmas charity project which we are hoping you will support in line with our **Compassion** value.

We can't wait to celebrate Christmas with the children!

Stroud Book Festival

Skylarks, Goldfinch and Swifts all went along to the recent Stroud Book Festival. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to hear an author speaking live and be inspired by reading and books! Skylarks class saw the author Jarvis who talked about his books including the Bear and Bird series. He was hilarious and made the children laugh out loud with his funny ideas! He also did a lot of live drawing and the children got to join in too! Goldfinch and Swifts went to see the wonderful Roger McGough who I'm sure some of you will remember from childhood! He is a brilliant poet and was so inspiring for the children. What a joy!



School Council and Teddy Bears

We are delighted to share that our recent school council elections were a fantastic success! The children showed great confidence by preparing speeches and voting for their peers. Congratulations to the children who have been elected to represent their peers in this way. As part of their first project, the council will be organising a **Teddy Bear Drive** in support of the **Teddy Bear Trust**, which provides comfort to children in need or those who have experienced difficult times, distributing teddies across the world. We are inviting children to donate one of their own soft teddies if they wish, and to write a kind, compassionate note to tie around its neck to make someone's day a little brighter. The teddy bear trust are looking specifically for soft toys. Please take a look at their website here:
<https://teddytrust.org.uk/>

Teddy bears we love

- Small enough for children to carry
- Clean and in good condition
- They do not emit a noise of any type (this could compromise the child's safety if it made a sound)
- Cuddly, soft and comforting

Other soft toys we don't

- Extra large teddy bears (teddy bears exceeding 38 cm/15 inches)
- Teddy bears with mechanisms or batteries inside, and anything that makes a noise
- Branded goods or toys
- Animals other than bears
- Also, no dolls, knitted toys, beanie animals, monsters, pigs, nylon pillows, snakes, or keyrings

This is completely voluntary, and we are so proud of our pupils for showing such compassion!

Run Pudsey

This year, our school proudly took part in Run Pudsey with the theme "*Challenge Yourself to 25!*". From Monday 10th November to Friday 14th November, we completed a daily exercise challenge, doing 25 repetitions of a different activity each day. Monday was 25 star jumps, Tuesday was 25 passes to a friend, Wednesday was 25 martial arts moves, Thursday was 25 burpees, and Friday we finished with 25 laps around the maze! Everyone did an amazing job, and thanks to your generous donations, we raised an incredible **£664**. Because we successfully completed the challenge, we're looking forward to receiving our medals soon. Thank you for your support!



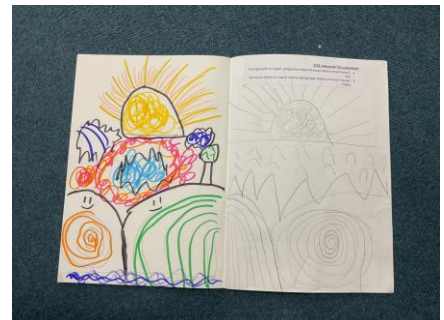
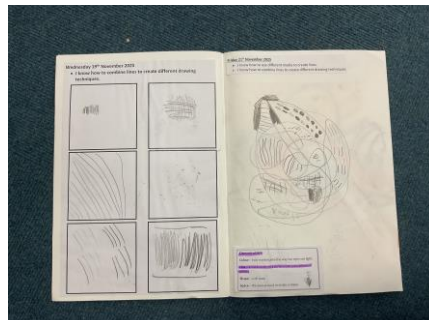
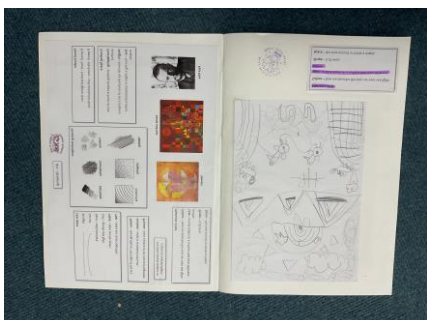
Swallows Class

This term, we have been exploring a range of exciting topics and celebrations. Towards the end of October and in November, we learned about **Remembrance Day** and why it is commemorated, as well as discovering how **Diwali** is celebrated. The children enjoyed creating their own beautiful **Rangoli art** and making **Diya lamps** to mark the festival. Throughout the term we have focused on the work of the famous artist **Wassily Kandinsky**, studying his use of primary colours and concentric circles. We explored concentric circles in nature and even recreated them during **Forest School** using natural materials. Throughout these sessions, the children experimented with a variety of media, including oil pastels and watercolours. Kandinsky's work has also inspired us to look more closely at shapes—circles, squares, and rectangles.



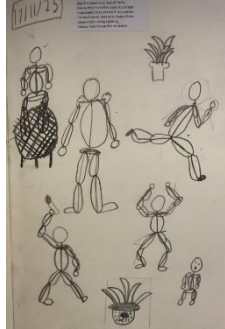
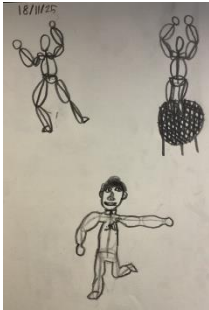
Skylarks Class

Skylarks have been learning all about measuring in maths! Over the last few weeks they have measured length, weight, capacity and find out about how to do this more accurately now they are older. In art this term, the children are finding out about the work of Paul Klee and in particular his work *Castle and Sun*. They have found out how to use line and texture to fill a space and are building towards their final piece. We can't wait to see what they create!



Goldfinch Class

Goldfinch Class have been busy exploring patterns in multiplication during maths, learning how to spot and explain these patterns with confidence. In art, they are studying DaVinci paintings, specifically the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper and have been developing their sketching and shading techniques to create accurate drawings of people, paying close attention to proportion, detail and blending from dark to light to work towards making a self-portraits that combines all the skills they have worked on. Meanwhile, in computing, the children have loved planning and creating their own stop-motion videos, carefully crafting a beginning, middle, and end to bring their ideas to life.



11	0x	2x	4x	6x	8x	10x
9	18x	36x	72x	108x	144x	180x
27	54x	108x	162x	216x	270x	324x
36	72x	144x	216x	288x	360x	432x
45	90x	180x	270x	360x	450x	540x
54	108x	216x	324x	432x	540x	648x
63	126x	252x	378x	504x	630x	756x
72	144x	288x	432x	576x	720x	864x
81	162x	324x	504x	648x	810x	972x
90	180x	360x	540x	720x	900x	1080x
99	198x	396x	594x	792x	990x	1188x
108	216x	432x	648x	864x	1080x	1296x
117	234x	468x	702x	936x	1170x	1404x
126	252x	504x	792x	1044x	1350x	1620x
135	270x	540x	864x	1152x	1500x	1836x
144	288x	576x	936x	1260x	1650x	2052x
153	306x	612x	1008x	1368x	1800x	2268x
162	324x	648x	1080x	1476x	1950x	2484x
171	342x	684x	1152x	1584x	2100x	2700x
180	360x	720x	1224x	1692x	2250x	2916x
189x	378x	756x	1296x	1800x	2400x	3132x
198x	396x	792x	1368x	1908x	2550x	3348x
207x	414x	828x	1440x	2016x	2700x	3564x
216x	432x	864x	1512x	2124x	2850x	3780x
225x	450x	900x	1584x	2232x	3000x	4000x
234x	468x	936x	1656x	2340x	3150x	4216x
243x	486x	972x	1728x	2448x	3300x	4432x
252x	504x	1008x	1800x	2556x	3450x	4648x
261x	522x	1044x	1872x	2664x	3600x	4864x
270x	540x	1080x	1944x	2772x	3750x	5080x



Swift Class

Swift Class started the term exploring the question 'Can we bend the sun's rays?' The children used the idea of light travelling in a straight line to investigate how shadows are formed; setting up their own investigations. Continuing with their application of scientific enquiry skills, the children then made their own periscopes to answer how light travelling in straight lines and reflecting enables us to see.

In PE, the children have been learning about skills and tactics that can be applied to a range of invasion games: including hockey and netball.



Mrs Tranter

We wanted to share with you the news that the wonderful Mrs Tranter had decided to hang up her teaching assistant boots and retire at the end of the Autumn term. Mrs Tranter has worked at Longney School for 30 years and is one of the most enthusiastic and caring TAs I have ever worked with. Mrs Tranter started at the school when her youngest daughter was still at Longney and all her children came through the school. She has worked in a host of roles including caretaker, cleaner, midday supervisor, breakfast club leader and teaching assistant and has worked across all the classes at some point in her time here. We can't thank her enough for all that she has given the school over this time and I know there are hundreds of children who have benefited from being supported by her. She really is unforgettable! We look forward to saying a proper goodbye to Mrs Tranter and celebrating her at the end of term. We invite you to join us on **Thursday 18th December for a final celebration assembly** of the year and to say goodbye to her if you are able. Mrs Tranter is of course part of the community here so we hope that she will continue to come and visit us for many years to come!

Tag Rugby Festival

We were incredibly proud of our Swifts class rugby players recently who went along to the Atlas Sports Tag Rugby Festival at Painswick Rugby Ground. They have been honing their skills in lessons and they went along and absolutely smashed it on the day! They got through to the semi-final of the competition against all the small schools in the Stroud District and came away with silver medals! What an achievement! Well done to all the children who represented our school on the day.

Homework

Now the children have settled into their new year groups, we will begin homework again this year in line with our homework policy which was written following your feedback last year. Swift class have had their first homework of the year come home this week and Goldfinch and Skylarks will follow next Friday. The homework will always be something they have done in class already so they should be able to approach it, however please do not worry if they are finding it difficult – just give them time and space and have a go. Keep it a positive experience and leave blank what they can't do or try it and then when it is marked in class, they will learn from their mistakes and hear about how to have a go next time. Please continue to read with your children as often as possible at home, particularly children in Reception and Key Stage 1. Children in older years can be encouraged to read alone and out loud to you as often as they are able.