



School News

Feb 2024

Building Community, Enriching Lives

www.longney.gloucs.sch.uk
admin@longney.gloucs.sch.uk
Tel: 01452 720461

What a term!

Apologies for the delay in the newsletter – we had of course some rather important visitors in the penultimate week before February half term and then sadly I was taken out by the horrendous flu that has been going around (I'm sure many of you have been caught out by it), so I was not able to complete the newsletter before half term. There is of course though so much to celebrate and I wanted to share with you what we have been up to over what was a short, but crammed full, half term!

Thank you so much for your support through our Ofsted inspection, I'm pleased to say that it was a supportive experience for us as staff and a fair reflection of the journey we are on as a school. The staff have been working at a rate of knots since September to make sure that we were ready for this inspection which we knew was due. They have worked so hard for your children and I cannot thank each and everyone of them enough for all they do every single day. I was incredibly proud to share the school with the Ofsted inspectors and your children were absolute superstars, showing off their learning and talking eloquently to the visitors throughout the day.

We know that this Ofsted inspection is simply a marker in the road of our journey as a school and I know, as do the team, that we need to keep going. We will continue to focus and work hard, growing and building on the foundations we have now laid to create a school that enriches all of your children's lives. We are excited for the journey ahead and look forward to going on it with you all!

School Ping and Calendar

Just to remind you that all communications from school now come through School Ping. It is really beneficial if you can download the App on your phone as everything from school will then be in one place for you to refer to. We are now using the calendar on the School Ping app as well so that you know when events are coming up and which week is forest school etc. Please do download the app if you have not done so already. If you have any problems or are not sure how to do this, please contact Mrs Hinde on admin@longney.gloucs.sch.uk or pop in to speak to her.

Residential

We of course have our Swifts class' residential coming up, which is very exciting! We are off to Viney Hill Adventure Centre in the Forest of Dean for 3 days from the 6th – 8th March. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the residential meeting before half term, where Mrs Prosser shared all the information needed with you. If you have any questions at all or are not sure of anything, please do let us know. We will put all photos on the school website and hopefully on our new school Facebook page too and we will send you School Pings to let you know we have arrived safely etc. We will be sending out medical forms for you to fill in soon too so that we have all of the information we need.

Young Voices

One of the absolute highlights of this term was of course Young Voices at the Birmingham NEC. Mrs Prosser and the team gave up their evening to take the children along to this incredible event. For those of you who have not been or don't know what this event involves, it is the world's largest children's choir. The children learn all the songs in the run-up and then they are joined by thousands of children from schools all over the country to perform together.

Accompanying them is a full live band, backing singers and an internationally acclaimed Conductor, David Lawrence. The songs were fantastic this year, with a Moana mash-up, Matilda medley and a walking medley that included songs like 'These boots were made for walking' and 'Walking on sunshine' just some of the highlights! The children were also treated to some incredible and inspiring performances, including MC Grammar, Urban Strides dance troupe and to top it all off, the ridiculously talented Nandi Bushell – a 13-year-old drummer who has performed at the Platinum Jubilee and on stage with the Foo Fighters. She was phenomenal and it was really inspiring for the children to see another child performing so confidently on stage. We hope that the children enjoyed the event as much as we did!! They were all superstars on what was a very long day. Well done to everyone who attended and thank you to the staff who made it possible.

Photographs of the event can be found on the school website gallery [here](#).



Staffing Update

Just to update you, we have decided that going forwards Mr LeTemplier will change his teaching pattern in school so that his leadership time is on one day a week, rather than in the afternoons. This means that Mrs Arnold, who had been covering on a supply basis since Christmas, is no longer working with us. We thank her for all her hard work over the last half term. We are sure that the children in Goldfinch will benefit from this change and the consistency it will bring and we are glad to have Mr Le T's fantastic teaching in the classroom as much as possible! I'm also pleased to say that Mrs Stephenson will be working with us in Swifts class to regularly cover Mrs Prosser's time out of class. Mrs Stephenson has worked with Swifts class previously and is an excellent teacher who they all get very excited to see so we're pleased to share that whenever Mrs Prosser is out of class going forwards, the children will have Mrs Stephenson teaching them each week.

Samba Drumming

All this term, Goldfinch have been learning to play the samba drums with a specialist teacher from Gloucestershire Music. They have had such a brilliant experience learning about rhythm and how to play together. It really does sound fantastic when they are all playing together. Every child is provided with an instrument and they learn so much from working with a teacher who knows the instrument so well. It is a really fantastic addition to the music curriculum in school. Here they are practising on pads ready to use the big drums!



Parent Governor Election

Further to the recent parent governor election, Paul Walker and Gemma Wingrove have been elected as parent governors. We look forward to working with them going forwards. Thank you to everyone who put their name forward to be a parent governor, the school could not run without your support and it is very much appreciated. Thank you as well to everyone who took the time to vote in the election.

Rowing with Mr Pritchard

Mr Pritchard was busy teaching the older children rowing during the Autumn term, preparing them for an upcoming competition at Stratford Park. He also invited them to come along to a taster session on the river! What a fantastic opportunity – thank you Mr Pritchard.



Joy in our learning!

There is so much joy every day in the learning at Longney. You can see below the children in Skylarks exploring in science, finding out about bubbles and plants across the term! Last term, the children were all exploring the local area in Geography too and this term they will become historians. Mr LeTemplier has been working hard in his leadership time on developing the curriculum to give the children as many immersive and effective learning opportunities as possible so that they can enjoy a broad curriculum in which they can all find a real love of learning and appreciation of the world around them.



Rainbow over
Longney this
morning...

