



School News

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Building Community, Enriching Lives

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

Learning at Longney

This term at Longney the children started with a science week as they always do after each half term. This allows them to dig deeper into a scientific concept and apply their scientific enquiry skills. These are all plotted out carefully across the classes to ensure progression. If you would like to know more about our science curriculum and what your children have been learning in their recent science week, please click on the curriculum page of our website [here](#). The children answered the following questions during their science weeks:

Skylarks – How does my body heal?

Goldfinch – Can rocks change?

Swift – Can we build a compass?

For the remainder of the term, the children will be focusing on history and design and technology, alongside their weekly lessons of PE, PSHE, music, RE and french (Key Stage 2).

In Skylarks the children are finding out about the history of homes and housing and will focus on the Great Fire of London and the impact this had on housebuilding.

In Goldfinch, the children are finding out about Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and how they invaded Britain.

In Swift class, the children are learning all about the Ancient Shang Dynasty and what else was happening in the world at this time.

Towards the end of term, all three classes will culminate in designing and making food as part of their design and technology lessons – we are looking forward to seeing and tasting their creations!

Online Safety Leaflet

Attached to this email is a parent information leaflet from Stay Safe Workshops who delivered our online safety curriculum to the children in school recently. It is a useful document which gives you ideas for how you can understand what your child is doing online and support them to make good decisions. Please do take a look.

Stroud Book Festival

Last week, years 4, 5 and 6 visited Stroud Book Festival to see the fantastic author and Olympic athlete Eloise Smith talk about her new book 'Winner Takes Gold'. The children came back excited and inspired by hearing a real-life author speak. At the end, the children even got to meet Eloise one-to-one which was a special moment. These trips are very important to encourage a love of reading across the school and we hope to go to Stroud Book Festival each year going forwards so that all the children in school can benefit from this fantastic opportunity. As you can see, they even managed to get Miss Prosser and some of the children up on stage!



Skylarks

I wanted to share with you all the news that Miss Hoskins, our current Skylarks teacher, will be leaving Longney at the end of the Autumn term. She started her career as a newly qualified teacher last September and has been a fantastic part of our team as we have all settled in together to life at Longney. Into the future, Miss Hoskins has decided to explore other options and see where life takes her beyond teaching. We wish her the very best and I'm sure you will all join me in thanking her for all her hard work.

I'm pleased to share that we have employed Mrs Surman, a fantastic teacher who I have worked with previously at Whiteshill where she covered a maternity leave. She is an incredibly experienced practitioner who before training as a teacher was the manager of a nursery setting for several years. She is also a qualified SENCo and has been safeguarding lead within her setting so she brings a very high level of knowledge and understanding to the role. Her background is very much play-based learning as well so she is keen to develop this in Key Stage 1 which will be of great benefit to our children here, particularly with our development of the outdoor area at the back of school which we can use to support the younger children in their learning through play.

Mrs Surman was an incredibly hard-working and professional member of my team at Whiteshill and I am so pleased to have the opportunity to work with her again. She will be coming in before Christmas to meet the class and say hello to you out on the playground before her start in January. I know that you will all make her feel welcome.

Sporting Events

What a proud headteacher I have been this week. I attended two sporting events, first the tag rugby festival on Wednesday with children from Swift class and today the development football festival with children from Goldfinch. Both events were an absolute joy and every single child who attended did our school proud. It was wonderful to see them all in their matching kits and you could tell that the Atlas Sports coaches were really impressed with their positive attitudes towards the games and to each other.

At the tag rugby on Wednesday the children played so well. They used the whole pitch and supported each other so that everyone was involved. They won all but one of their matches and were genuinely one of the best teams on the day because of how well they worked together and made the most of every person on the pitch. At the end of the event, we were awarded the certificate for 'passion' by the Atlas Sports coaches who commented on the fact that the children at Longney all celebrated each other so well and that every time one of us scored a try, the whole team were cheering and celebrating that person. This was absolutely spot on and summed up their fantastic attitude on the day. Thank you to all the children who attended.

At today's football festival, I was blown away by the talent on the pitch. The children again all played together so well, supporting each other and making sure that everyone was involved, cheering each other on and keeping their heads up when the other teams scored – all of which earned them the 'teamwork' values certificate from Atlas Sports. We won two out of four of our matches and scored some incredible goals including one nearly from the halfway line! The speed of the team really stood out and Jess and Hallie, amongst others, scored several goals between them thanks to the excellent tackling and passing of the whole team. Hallie scored a hat-trick in one game and was mentioned by name at the end in front of all the other teams as being one of the top scorers on the day! I am so proud of the children and how they supported each other and cannot thank them enough for such a lovely morning.

It was very nice for me to see the children today playing with and chatting to the children from Whiteshill who were also at the football tournament. They were all so kind to each other and brave enough to have a chat and get to know each other which was lovely to see 😊

As you can see, by the end, both teams were tired, muddy and happy!

Well done team Longney – what a fantastic start to our sporting year!

