



# School News

May 2024

**Building Community, Enriching Lives**

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## Next year and beyond...

It has been a real whirlwind of a year for us all at Longney – there have been several changes since this time last summer which we know must have felt overwhelming for you as families and we cannot thank you enough for the support and patience you have shown throughout, as we come to the end of our first year here as a team.

One of the most important things anyone ever taught me as a leader is to ‘keep the main thing, the main thing’.

What this means is that we must take the long-term journey of development one step at a time. There is so much that I know Longney can be and offer as a school as it has done in the past, including far richer links into the community, a broader and more exciting curriculum and extra-curricular offer for your children and a vision which will give them all they need to grow in to confident, independent learners. However, into the future, my job is to ensure that all these important aspects of our school are not provided at the expense of the building blocks of learning – reading, writing and maths. As you know from the Ofsted report in February, this year the focus has had to be on building strong foundations in these areas. This meant bringing in a new phonics scheme and developing the EYFS curriculum, classroom and outdoor area so that all children who enter school will have chance to reach their early learning goals. We have focussed on developing the reading, writing and maths curriculum and assessment systems so all children can learn all they need to be ready for the next steps in their learning at the end of each year. We have also of course focussed on setting high expectations for all, including with learning and play behaviours which will allow the school to be an inclusive environment, which works for every child.

I wanted to let you all know though that these strong foundations we have built are only the start. This year is not the end product; we are only just beginning. The start of the next part of our continued journey of development is of course to secure the highest quality teachers for your children. I’m very pleased to say that Miss Woolway and Miss Hoskins have both agreed to take on permanent contracts at Longney so that they will be able to carry on the wonderful work that they have started in EYFS and Key Stage 1 into the future.

With Mr Le Templier moving on to pastures new, to give consistency and provide you with a leader who is incredibly passionate about your children and the future of this school, Miss Prosser will be taking on the role of senior teacher and continuing in her role of SENCo. I cannot tell you how excited I am about this. As those of you who know her will understand, Miss Prosser is an incredible teacher who is completely dedicated to all the children in her care. Miss Prosser will provide a port of call for yourselves and the staff when I am not on site and we will of course be in constant contact to ensure consistency for the children.

Finally, last week we interviewed a number of teachers and I’m happy to share that following this, Miss Hannah Fry will be joining us from September. Her lesson was one of the strongest interview lessons I have seen since I became a Headteacher. We know that Hannah will add so much to our team and continue to provide the high expectations which Mr LeTemplier has set this year – we are excited for you to meet her!

To confirm, the teachers for next year will continue as follows:

Swallows – Miss Woolway  
Skylarks – Miss Hoskins,  
Goldfinch – Miss Fry  
Swifts – Miss Prosser

## Friends of Longney School

Thank you so much to the Friends of Longney who provided the children with a fantastic outdoor disco to remember this term! They had brilliant fun and luckily the sun shined on them too. Thank you so much for the team who worked hard to provide so much joy for all the children!

Attached to this newsletter you will find advertisements for the FOLS upcoming Colour Run and summer fete. Please do put the dates in your diary and come along to support the school – your fundraising makes a huge difference, especially now when school budgets are very low and as you will see below, we have exciting plans for the FOLS funds going forwards.

FOLS also very kindly spent the weekend clearing out the large cupboard at the back of school so that we have more space for what we hope can be a boot room for the children. This will allow us to store their welly boots in a dry environment and give them space to take off their muddy outer clothes when they return from forest school, tidying up the side of the school as well. Thank you to everyone who helped with this.

Thank you to the current FOLS committee who have kept the organisation going this year. They always need help and support from you and each event takes up a huge amount of time and effort for a small group of people. Please do get involved wherever you can and let them know if you are able to volunteer at or in the run up to an event so that we can continue to hold these into the future, not only to raise funds but also provide us with important opportunities to spend time together as a school community.



**FRIENDS OF LONGNEY SCHOOL**

# COLOUR RUN

25 MINS TO RUN OR WALK AS MANY LAPS AS YOU CAN

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
FRIDAY <b>JUNE 21</b>	WARM UP STARTS <b>3.30PM</b>	SCHOOL <b>MAIZE</b>

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE  
SIBLINGS & PARENTS CAN JOIN!

**WWW.THEFOLS.ORG.UK**

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 809266  
REGISTERED UNDER THE GAMING ACT 2005: DC 0740HSRUGASP

Longney CofE Primary Academy



**FRIENDS OF LONGNEY SCHOOL**

# VINTAGE Fete

**SATURDAY JULY 13TH**  
**1PM-4PM**

*Free Entry*

FOR THE EVENT TO BE A SUCCESS WE NEED PARENTS HELP. PLEASE VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME!

PLEASE CONTACT JEN, MEL OR VICKI FOR MORE INFORMATION

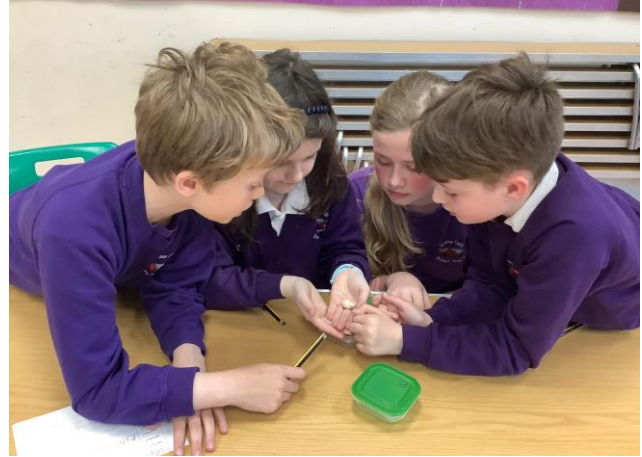
BBO  
CAKES  
BAR

*Open to all*

GAMES  
STALLS  
RAFFLE

## Gloucestershire Wildlife Quiz

A huge well done to our wonderful nature club who competed in the first round of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Quiz this year. I'm pleased to share that they stormed through, beating two teams from local schools, answering a range of tricky questions confidently and competently. They have spent their lunchtimes since preparing with Miss Woolway and are looking forward to the next round against Moat Primary and Lakefield. Well done team Longney!



## Year 6 SATs and Celebrations

This term, our year 6 children took part in their annual SATs tests which every year 6 in the country completes for reading, spelling and grammar and maths. Miss Prosser spent time in May preparing them for the tests and making sure they entered the week calm and focussed. Year 6 SATs give a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience testing in a positive way in an environment where they feel safe and supported, before they move on to secondary school where testing will be a much more frequent part of their lives. We hope we have given the children a positive experience which they will remind them in the future that they can do anything they put their mind to! We celebrated the end of SATs with bacon sandwiches, movies, playtime, hoodies and ice-cream as well as cupcakes very kindly provided by Isla for her classmates 😊

Well done Year 6 – we are all so proud of you!



## Vision

As part of our work on developing Longney into the future, we have been thinking hard about the vision and values of the school. The Longney school vision of 'building community, enriching lives' sums up perfectly what we see Longney school providing. We offer an education for those from all over the local area, not just from the village itself and as such, building a community of which they can all feel truly part and which enriches their lives, is incredibly important. We have chosen a new piece of scripture to support this vision which you can find out about on our school website [here](#) if you wish to know more.

In order to live out this vision fully, we need a set of values which represent the ambition we have for all our children. We want to ask therefore your support in summing up what it is you desire for your children and the values which are important to you. We have already spent time asking the children and staff their views but we want your input as well so that we can ensure the set of new values we choose will represent the whole school community. Please take the time to answer the questions on the attached form to help us with this piece of work which will give us exciting whole school values which we can use to support our vision for the new academic year in September.

## PC Kim Visits

This term, the teachers have booked in a number of visits to build relationships with PC Kim who works locally to support our community. She has been in to school on several occasions giving the children chance to get to know her and hear from her on a range of subjects including road safety, the role of the police and how to stay safe online. You may have heard about Miss Woolway being handcuffed for stealing a necklace recently (!), I'm pleased to confirm that this was part of a role play in our assembly with the children acting out a full police investigation including Matthew reading Miss Woolway her rights! Swallows and Skylarks were also lucky enough to have chance to try on uniforms and even see inside PC Kim's police van. All of these visits to school are so important as the children learn to trust the police as a provider of care and support in their local community and learn from a respected outside source some really key safety messages.



## Knex Challenge

A huge well done to Emily and Kaylin who went along to Renishaw for the final of the Knex Challenge having been the winning pair chosen after the first round in school. They had chance to see a huge engineering firm in action and took part in the final alongside schools from all over Gloucestershire. They built an eco-friendly refuse truck with working mechanism and presented it to the judges. Thank you to Emily and Kaylin for representing the school so well in both rounds.

## Outdoor areas

Going into next year, we are planning to develop the outside areas at school so that they can be used as much as possible going forwards. We have not been able to use the school to the best of its abilities this year as the spaces are not fully safe for the children to explore, with a lot of older equipment needing to be removed and replaced. As I've said above, we hope to use one of the large built in cupboards at the back of school to provide a boot room for the children. This will mean the new build frontage where the beautiful windows give a fantastic view of the school will be clear of discarded wellies!

Mrs Hinde is currently sourcing a local company to re-do the markings on the playground so they provide an inviting play area which I'm sure you agree will make a huge difference.

At the back of school, you will see over the coming weeks our handyman removing old play equipment and clearing the site so that we can then, supported by the funds raised by FOLS this year, buy new equipment for the children and develop this space for use as a play and learning space. The children will be able to play during breaks, sit under the new canopy for outdoor lessons, garden as part of our science curriculum and make the most of this space for forest school when needed in the winter months, including the lovely seating area at the back which just needs a spruce up!

**Please do support the FOLS events coming up so that we have enough funds to provide your children with a purposeful and fun space so that they can be outside as much as possible throughout the coming years.**

## Bikeability

Well done to the year 5 children who were able to take part in bikeability. This gives them chance to learn their bikes safely on the road with trained bike safety teachers. They showed courage and perseverance to learn these important safety skills.



## Atlas Sports Events

This term we took part in some further Atlas Sports events, including girls' cricket and Key Stage 1 multi-skills. As you can see, the children really enjoyed being out and about competing and learning new sporting skills. Well done to everyone who took part.



## Sports Day

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June, we will be holding our annual sports day on the Maize at Longney. The morning will follow a similar format to previous years and you're very welcome to come and watch as much or as little of the morning as you want if you are able. Approximately timings will be as follows:

9:30 – 10:45: carousel of activities (in houses)

10:45 – 11:00: snack break

11:00 – 12:00 races (in houses, in order of year groups)

Please can your children wear suitable trainers and their school PE kit but with a t-shirt the colour of their house instead of their usual PE t-shirt as follows:

Avon – green, Severn – red, Thames – blue, Wye – yellow

If you do not know which house your child is in, please ask Mrs Hinde.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Swifts Class Production

Swifts class will be finishing their year with a school production of the Lion King. The children are so excited and will have come home with their parts and scripts so that they can start practising. The performances will take place for Swift's class parents only on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 1.30pm and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm for your diaries. Further details to follow.

### Finally...

Thank you very much to everyone who donated to see a teacher dunked at the end of school today – we raised a fantastic £153 to support the library at Kwena combined school in South Africa where Miss Woolway spent one of her placements as a student teacher. Unfortunately, the funding for the library has been stopped and so we are hoping to help them fill their shelves with books to support their learning of English. I'm sure none of you will be surprised to know that £125 worth of your donations were for Mr Le Templier and so we had great fun soaking him at the end of school – we hope the children enjoyed it as much as we did!

