

Long Whatton C of E Primary School

Newsletter 09.07.21



I can't believe how fast this academic year has gone! It has been a difficult year of navigating our way through the pandemic again.

I would like to thank the staff at Long Whatton for all that they have done for our children. They have worked tirelessly completing extra lunchtimes as we needed to split classes into bubbles and worked wearing PPE when cases grew, which was often hot and exhausting. By January I had asked them all to teach lessons live to families at home which was something they had never done before and was nerve wracking as they navigated technology and the pressure of teaching in front of other adults. Other staff supported key worker children. As soon as the children arrived back I asked them to assess and plan boosting back the progress that had slowed down over lockdown. They went above and beyond for your children and I immensely proud and grateful to them all. I feel very lucky that we have a team that supported each other throughout.

I would also like to thank you as parents for your support this year which I know how been difficult for you all too. Trying to work or get on with your routines whilst supporting your children through lockdown is no easy task and yet you all supported us and helped your children to access the Google classroom and their work. Due to your support you made our jobs easier when the children returned as the children had still accessed teaching.

Thank you to your wonderful children, who bounce back from these lockdowns and are so resilient. They have found coming back after the second lockdown difficult and they have also found being in class bubbles restrictive because they have always liked to play with friends from other classes. With bubbles finishing in September I am so looking forward to the children being able to play across the school again.

I am currently awaiting further guidance for August from the government but will update you of any changes over the summer. Thank you for your patience as we await further guidance.

Currently the provisional pick up and finishing times are:

After half term drop off times and entrances in the morning will be:

8.40am—Phoenix Tribe- Side gate

8.45am- Busy Bees- Front Door

8.45am- Flying Falcons- Side gate to the field

8.50am- Shooting Stars—Side gate following on from Phoenix Tribe

Pick up times will remain the same:

3.00pm- Busy Bees-Front door

3.05pm -Shooting Stars- Side gate

3.10pm- Flying Falcons- Side gate to the field

3.15pm—Phoenix Tribe- Side gate

Please also remember that if you have a sibling with a different start and finish time to another child please send them in on the earliest child's start time and the latest child's start time and we will hold them in school for you. You do not need to wait for the teacher to come outside before you send in the siblings.

Our year 6 leavers.



We would like to say farewell to our wonderful year 6 children. We have loved having them at Long Whatton and are so proud of the children they are today. We know they are going to go on to great things in the future! We have had a wonderful few weeks creating some special memories with them.

The Year 6 campout

We had pizza, melted marshmallows, games and definitely no sleep! It was so lovely to spend the evening with them. Thank you to Mr Lawson and Miss Hellawell who camped with the children and I last Friday and made it possible.



The Wind in the Willows

The children put on a fantastic performance of Wind in the Willows, which they performed to each class bubble this week. The singing was beautiful and brought a tear to your eye. It is loaded onto the Google Classroom for the year 6 parents to see in its entirety.



Awards Ceremony

The year 6 children also received awards recognising their dedication and hard work over the years at Long Whatton. Well done year 6's!



We will miss you!

I would also like to say a huge thank you to our PTA this year. Despite the difficult restrictions they have still continued to think of ideas to raise money for the school and ways to give back to our children.

They supported us in mental health week with organising the Covid Hero bears, the mother's and father's day gift sales, the year 6 pizza's for camping and a gift water bottle so that the children can remember their time at Long Whatton.

They have also organised sweets for our children today.

Thank you for supporting them with red, white and blue non uniform today. All the proceeds raised go back to our children.

Thank you for supporting the PTA.



We are also saying goodbye to Miss Ella this week. She has been such a valuable member of our team. Not only does she teach computing in school but she helped to set up and run the Google Classrooms, manage the school office and sooo much more. She has been fundamental in driving the school changes with me over the last 3 years and we will miss her dearly. She has shared that she has enjoyed her time with you and the children and wants to take on one last challenge. We wish her every success.

Staff additions for August

We have exciting additions to our staff team in the new term.

Mr Lawson will be staying on at Long Whatton and will be completing boosting in maths in all classes over the year. In the afternoons he will be delivering Science across the school as he was a scientist before he came into teaching.

Mr Odom has been teaching music across the school this year as Mrs Chantrill has focused on piano tutoring. He will be teaching music to all classes each week rather than one class per term from August so that we can ensure we continue with the quality music provision we have at Long Whatton.

Mrs Winter's will be joining the team delivering French for years 1-6. She will also be teaching Spanish to year 6 children too. We are really excited to have a specialist language teacher in our school and can't wait to see the children progress in French over their time at Long Whatton.

We think you'll agree our children are very lucky to have the additional, Science, Music and language specialists teaching them from August.

Class names

As you are aware we have been working on our school vision this last year. Last week on the transition days we asked the children to choose new class names for our classes. Our vision relates to our acorn with the children starting their journey with us growing from an acorn into an oak tree. Therefore we felt that the class names needed to reflect our vision. The children worked in their new classes to choose an animal that lived in an oak tree with the youngest focusing on the animals that lived at the bottom of the tree to our older pupils focusing on what lived on the top of the tree. The children then took a vote and the new class names for August will be:

Reception- Hedgehogs

Years 1 and 2- Squirrels

Years 3 and 4- Robins

Years 5 and 6- Owls

School works- There are a lot of school works going on over the summer, including emergency lighting, painting and grounds maintenance. The works have been carefully timetabled to ensure that they can work in isolation following current Covid guidelines. The field and school will be closed during this time to allow work to commence. I looking forward to updating you in August on the school changes as we continue to drive the school forward.

Graham our new premises officer joined us in June and has been amazing in keeping our premises clean and tidy for the children to enjoy.

Have a lovely summer and maybe even a holiday! We look forward to seeing you all again in August

Best Wishes, Mrs Gray and the Long Whatton Team.