



Longstone CE (VA) School
The Cross
Great Longstone
DE45 1TZ

Telephone: 01629 640377

Email: enquiries@longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk

Website: www.longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Simon Beahan

Thursday 21 December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

With me steadily working my way through the chocolates in my advent calendar and panicking about yet purchased presents, it seems that Christmas is just around the corner. We close for the Christmas break on **Thursday 21 December 2023 at 3:15pm (today!)**. School will reopen to pupils on **Monday 8 January 2024 at 8:50am**.

On behalf of myself, the governors and the staff, a sincere thank you to everyone who has supported the school in some capacity during the year. I hope that you all have a peaceful, healthy and very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Happy Holiday!



A thank you from me...



As I return to Curbar, I would like to thank you all for your contributions to the successes, of which there have been many, at Longstone since I arrived as headteacher in September 2020. I only came for a term but it has lasted a bit longer than I anticipated! But, as always in a busy school, it has absolutely flown by and I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I will miss Longstone having got to know the children, staff, community and families well. It is a very special place to work and learn and I appreciate the support I have been given by you all to best enable our children to nurture, ignite and shine. The school provides our children with amazing provision and I know it is in a great position to get even better with the talent and expertise of our school team. Most of all, a massive thank you to the children who made me feel so welcome when I first arrived and have made this journey a fantastic experience – they are truly an amazing bunch. I wish you and your families all the best for the future.

Staffing update

Once again, we would like to wish Mrs Crease lots of luck and best wishes as she begins her new job at Grindleford in January. And I know you will join me in welcoming Mrs Georgina Sedgwick to the school. Miss Sedgwick will be teaching Morpurgo from January. She has spent some time in school getting to know the children and staff.

Well done to everyone!

The autumn term and the run up to Christmas is always busy. It is clear that everyone is very tired this week and is deserving of a great holiday! Well done to all of our children for their hard work and effort this last term. They continue to show an amazing attitude and enthusiasm towards their learning and are always keen to shine! Thank you also to the staff team - we are very fortunate to have such a hardworking and dedicated group of adults who ensure the children are provided with the very best opportunities and are looked after with care. And finally, thank you to our governors – volunteers who work hard behind the scenes to both support and challenge the school to be the best it can be.



Christmas Celebrations



We have enjoyed lots of Christmas festivities during December. Amongst other things, we enjoyed the school nativity, the Christmas Story at St Giles' church, Christmas dinner, Sparkle and Shine, a trip to the Panto (oh, yes, we did!), Decoration Day and Christmas jumper day. Thanks to everyone who supported and enjoyed these events. They have been magical. We have been so pleased to enjoy so many of our traditional Christmas events and thank you for supporting them so enthusiastically. It's a credit to our staff, wonderful children and our wider school community.

FOLS

We are so lucky to have such a wonderful and dedicated FOLS group. Last week, they organized and ran an amazing Christmas Bazaar. We are always extremely grateful for the resources and enrichment opportunities FOLS fund. Thanks to all who contributed and were able to support in some way. If you can get involved with FOLS in any capacity then please get in touch! All monies raised go back into the school.

New Starters in Reception for September 2024

If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 you'll need to apply for their infant or primary school place by midnight on 15 January 2024. They'll start school in September 2024. You can apply online at:

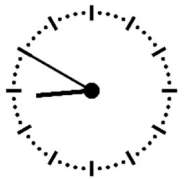
<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-school-place.aspx> or call 01629537479. Please note that all applications made on time receive equal

consideration. Applying after the deadline may reduce your chances of getting a place at your preferred school - particularly if it is popular. If your child has a statement of educational needs or an Educational Health Care Plan contact the county special needs section on 01629536539. Please share this information with other prospective parents who might not have children at the school and feel free to tell them that we are a great school!



Start of the day...

New year, new routines! It is great to see so many children getting to school punctually so that the children are in the classrooms ready to learn at 9:00am. The classroom doors are open for the children at 8:50am. Please ensure your child is punctual so that they can make the most of the learning opportunities provided for them.



Attendance Letters

In January, you will be receiving a termly letter detailing your child's attendance information for the autumn term. Our aim is that all of our children are here **on time every day**. However, we know that is not always possible as children can become unwell – there's lots of viruses and bugs going around at the moment! However, the government continue to make the importance of regular and punctual attendance clear to schools. The aim of the letter is to ensure you have the full information about your child's current attendance and are aware of the importance of good attendance whenever possible.



Let it snow!



There may come a point when we get another dollop of snow. We will always endeavour to open school. However, when there is particularly severe snow or ice, the school has to consider the safety of the children, parents and staff in getting to and from school. We also have to ensure that there are enough adults in school to supervise and teach the children. Sometimes, due to travelling distances, it is difficult for staff to get to school or arrive on time. If there are adverse weather conditions, the school will text parents as soon as we have decided about whether school is open. We will also put a message on Facebook and the school website. It could be that we decide to open a little later to allow children and staff to travel to school safely. It could be that we decide it is in the best interests of everyone to close the school for the day. In making any decision regarding change to our usual arrangements, we are mindful of the health and safety of all concerned as well as understanding of the difficulty's families may have in terms of planning in advance, finding childcare etc. We will do our very best to make sure that any decisions are the right ones given the information available to us and that they are communicated to you in good time. We are sure that you will also have contingency plans in place – and let's hope that we don't have to use them! Parents need to make their own judgement regarding the safety of their journey to and from school.

Parent Pay

Please ensure that Parent Pay accounts are in credit for school dinners.



Fundraising

Thanks to all those who donated to our recent fundraising events in school. We raised about £100 for the British Legion through our Poppy Appeal. We raised over £300 for Children in Need through our non-uniform day and cake sale. And we raised nearly £60 for Save the Children on Christmas Jumper Day. Thank you!



Longstone CE (VA) School
The Cross
Great Longstone
DE45 1TZ

Telephone: 01629 640377

Email: enquiries@longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk

Website: www.longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Simon Beahan

The Hive

Our after-school club currently runs from 3.30 – 5pm from Tuesday to Friday. We are always looking at ways of supporting our school community so please contact the school office if you would consider sending your child to the Hive at other times i.e. after school Monday or for breakfast club provision. Please be clear about which days you would regularly use the club. We can collate this information and work out whether it is viable to extend the Hive to further times and days.

Getting in touch...



If you need to get in touch then please either ring (01629 640377) or email the school at enquiries@longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk If your call isn't answered then leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. If you would like to speak with a teacher, then also ring the office to make an appointment.

Diary Dates

We will distribute spring term dates after the Christmas break.

Kind regards

Mr Simon Beahan
Executive Headteacher