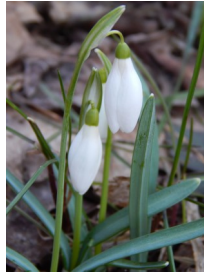


Longlands Primary School

JANUARY BULLETIN



Dear Parents and Carers,

The children have started 2025 and the Spring term with a continued enthusiasm and engagement in their learning. All classes have been working hard, trying their best and showing our school values in all that they do.

In this month's bulletin, there is lots of information including articles regarding uniform, attendance and punctuality.

Attendance and punctuality are both essential for our pupils to progress in their learning, develop as individuals and be successful in their future. You can support your children by ensuring that they are in school and on time.

Uniform is an important part of our culture and community here at Longlands and helps to establish a sense of belonging. We appreciate your support in ensuring that our children follow the Longlands uniform policy.

As part of their Spring term learning, KS1 took a trip to Wisley Gardens and Upper KS2 experienced a workshop around Early Islamic Civilisations. Both phases enjoyed their activities and were a credit to the school.

Our Longlands School Choir took part in this year's Young Voices concert at the O2. The choir were fantastic throughout the rehearsals and the performance and represented Longlands proudly. Well done Longlands School Choir! Thank you to Mrs Harris, our Choir Leader, Mrs Short and all the staff and helpers involved in ensuring that the trip and the concert were a success. Thank you also to our parents and carers for their support before, during and after the concert.

You'll have noticed the improvement work going on in our main playground and in our EYFS outdoor area, we are all so excited for the work to be finished so that the children can use the equipment. I know the children have enjoyed watching the works as they have been going on. Thank you to our FOLS for fundraising and thank you to all of you for your kind donations and support with the project. It goes to show how incredible our Longlands Primary School Community are!

Kind regards,

Mr Baines

Mr T Baines

Parking

We have been receiving complaints from our neighbours about the inconsiderate parking of our parents & carers who are obstructing driveways, parking on corners of roads, and on the grass verges leading to the school field. As well as upsetting the neighbours, you are putting our pupils at risk when they are crossing the road.

On Longlands Road there are no restriction on the parking bays at the time of drop off, nor after 3pm. The restrictions on the bays are only between 1pm and 3pm. These bays are only a short walk to the school.

Uniform and Appearance Policy

For generations, students of Longlands Primary School have worn their uniform with pride. Our uniform shows that we are part of the Longlands Primary School community, and this is a tradition we want to see continue long into the future. We believe in having high expectations for our children concerning school uniform and appearance, and strongly believe that these standards help to promote positive behaviour, support effective teaching and learning, contribute to the ethos of the school and support a sense of community and belonging.

We have sent you the updated uniform and appearance policy via parentmail. Please read the uniform and appearance policy carefully with your children so that they understand what is expected.

We expect all our pupils to follow the Uniform and Appearance policy.

Wrap around care

Please can we remind parents and carers to book their sessions for Wrap Around Care using IRIS Parentmail. Parents can book up to 7 days in advance. If you have an urgent requirement that is within 7 days of the date, then please contact the school office to book. Please ensure you receive confirmation of the booking from the school office before you send your child to breakfast club or after school club.

Entrance to Breakfast Club and collection from After School Care is via the rear of the school on Woodside Crescent. Please can we remind parents that dogs cannot be brought onto the school grounds when dropping off or collecting children.

On Friday 14th February, after school care will close at 4.15pm due to the school disco. Any KS1 children in after school care who are attending the disco will be taken into the disco by Mrs Foster.

On Friday 4th April, after school care will be closed to all pupils.

School dinners

Although meals are free to all parents and carers, the meals are not free to the school. If your child is signed up to school dinners, but you choose to send them with a packed lunch, then unfortunately the school will still be charged for this meal and the food will go to waste.

Please inform the school office if you wish to make a change to your child's meal preference.

Orienteering

If you are interested in orienteering then there are upcoming orienteering events in Kent this Winter. For further information please visit www.saxons-oc.org or www.dfok.co.uk

All events have courses for beginners. Go around individually or as a group, pair or family.

Sat 8 Feb	Ightham	nr Sevenoaks
Sat 15 Feb	Shooters Hill	nr Eltham
Sat 1 Mar	Hosey Common	Westerham
Sun 23 Mar	Knole Park inc. Yvette Baker Trophy Heat	Sevenoaks
Sat 12 Apr	Angley Wood	Cranbrook
Sat 26 Apr	Lullingstone	Eynsford
Sun 4 May	Ightham	nr Sevenoaks
Thur 15 May	Medway Senior School Games Competition	Capstone, Rainham
Sat 17 May	Milton Creek	Sittingbourne
Tue 20 May	Bexley Primary Schools Competition	Danson Park

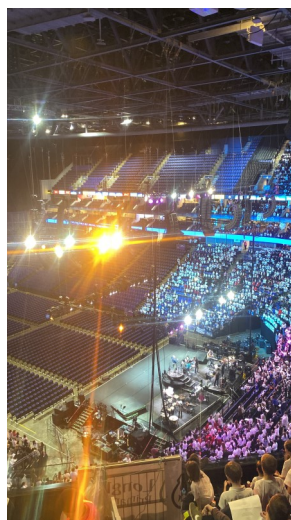
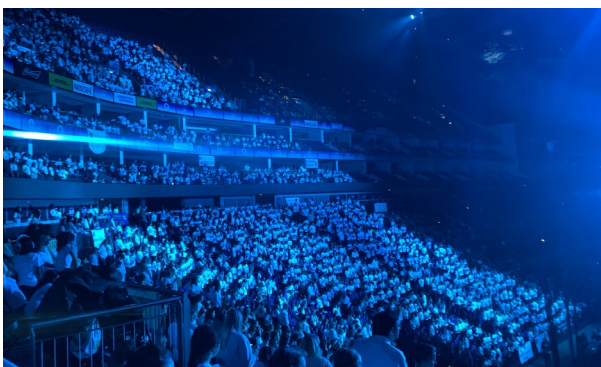
Young Voices 2025

Longland's School Choir had spent the last few months learning the songs for the Young Voices concert, a mixture of rock anthems, nostalgic 80/90's tunes and songs from the film *Hairspray*, a really eclectic mix of music.

Finally the day arrived, we knew it would be a long day but we also knew it would be worth it! The children arrived at the Arena and the atmosphere was electric right from the beginning. We spent the afternoon in rehearsals - going over the songs and dance moves ready for the evening concert.

As the time approached, the children became extremely excited..... some of the children had been to YV before so knew what to expect. The parents started to fill the arena, and the usual "where is my child" hunt began!

At last it was showtime! The songs, the moves and the atmosphere lead to an amazing performance - being part of a 9000+ strong choir is an experience that will not be forgotten!



Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

Attendance and Punctuality Matters

At Longlands Primary School, we believe that attendance and punctuality matters.

A good education gives children the best possible start to life and gives them opportunities for their future.

*Our expectation is that all pupils aim to have an attendance figure of **100%** for each term. This level of attendance will ensure success in lessons, as research has shown there is a strong link between outstanding attendance and positive attainment.*

If your child has good attendance, they will:

- feel more confident in their learning and lessons*
- contribute in lessons*
- work with staff to develop strategies to enable progress in their learning*
- develop as an individual through expectations, rules and routines*
- build strong relationships with children and adults in school*
- develop new friendships and create a wider network of friends*
- have more opportunities to socialise with their friends*
- do better at school*
- feel happier about school*

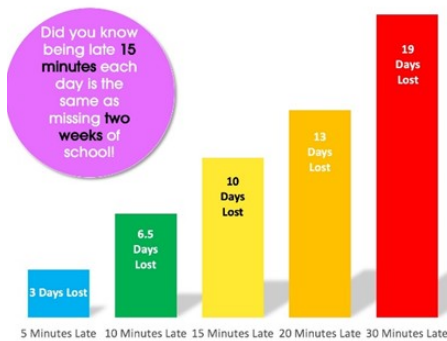
If your child is absent regularly they may:

- feel less confident in themselves*
- find work harder*
- have gaps in their learning*
- not feel part of the class or school*
- find it hard to make friends*
- not make the most of the opportunities provided by the school*

We appreciate that children are unwell from time to time and that there can be exceptional circumstances for absences, but we ask that you think carefully about keeping your child out of school.

Punctuality Matters!

Lost Minutes = Lost Learning



It is also important to ensure that your child is punctual each day that they attend school.

Our school day starts at 8.40am for KS2, 8.45am for KS1 and 8.50am for Reception. The school day finishes at 3.15pm for Reception, 3.20pm for KS1 and 3.25pm for KS2.

It's important that your child attends school every day and on time. Arriving late to school is unsettling and attending school on time is key to your child doing well at school. It will also set them up with good habits for their life and whatever they choose to do once out in the wider world.

Being on time will also give your child the opportunity to:

- feel settled and ready for the school day
- make lots of friends and feel included
- learn new things and develop many skills
- not miss any learning
- increase their confidence and self-esteem
- improve their social skills
- achieve their full potential and achieve their aspirations

All pupils should attend school in time for the start of their lessons. This provides pupils with the time needed to prepare for the day and be in class for when lessons start.

Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning:

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day add up to over 3 days lost each year
- Arriving 10 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 6 and a half days a year
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year
- Arriving 30 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 19 days a year
- 19 days lost a year through being late = 90% attendance.

Children are not entitled to holidays in term time. Holidays should be taking during school holiday periods. You can be fined for taking your child on holiday during term time.

All medical appointments should be booked outside of school hours whenever possible. Where this is not possible, the amount of school time missed should be kept to a minimum. We are unlikely to authorise time off for a medical appointment if evidence is not provided in advance of the appointment (e.g. appointment letter/text message).

There is a link between good attendance and high levels of attainment. Regardless of the reason, if your child is absent from school or late to school it will normally impact on their learning. Parents and carers are legally responsible for ensuring their child attends school on time, every day school is open.

Lateness – Average minutes

Monet	16. minutes
Matisse	13 minutes
Murakami	14 minutes
O'Keeffe	23 minutes
Warhol	9 minutes

Thomas	24 minutes
Kahlo	20 minutes
Basquiat	19 minutes
Malone	38 minutes
Ashevak	8 minutes
Wei Wei	15 minutes

Attendance figures:

Monet	93.43%
Matisse	94.86%
Murakami	95.9%
O'Keeffe	96%
Warhol	97.51%

Thomas	97.52%
Kahlo	97.61%
Basquiat	95.22%
Malone	95.67%
Ashevak	95.59%
Wei Wei	97.7%

DATES

Friday 7th February—NSPCC Numbers Day

Friday 14th February—FOLS School Disco

Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February—Half term holidays

Monday 24th February—Warhol Class Assembly

Monday 3rd March—Health Education Years 5 & 6

Monday 10th March —EYFS & Year 6—Height & weight screening

Monday 17th March—Kahlo Class Assembly

Tuesday 1st April—Rock Steady Concert

Tuesday 1st April—Parents Evening

Thursday 3rd April—Parents Evening

Monday 7th April—Monday 21st April—School holidays

Tuesday 22nd April –Inset Day

