



Longlands Primary School

Wednesday 27th March 2024



A Message from the Headteacher:

Dear Parents and Carers,

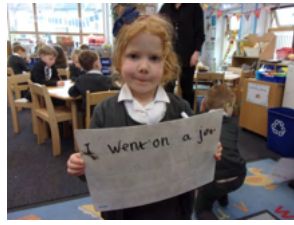
As the Easter break approaches, I am sure that you are all looking forward to spending quality time with family and friends. This half term has flown by and it has been a joy to see how much the children have been enjoying their learning. As usual, the school is a hive of activity and as I write, I can hear the children enthusiastically participating in activities with our visiting athlete in the school playground.

As I was making my way into school this morning, I was listening to the Children's Commissioner Rachel De Souza on the radio talking about children and their access to technology, apps and age appropriate content. It was interesting to hear that she is working alongside representative groups of children to lobby big tech companies. This in turn prompted me to think about the many challenges for parents to navigate in supporting our children in it's safe usage. In this months safeguarding focus, I have therefore included an information sheet with tips for encouraging discussions about digital lives. I hope that you will find this helpful.

Miss Owen

EYFS

The children really enjoyed working with Wei Wei class during science week to make a bridge using only paper and masking tape. They shared ideas incredibly well and worked together in their teams. In maths we have been ordering numbers, learning about odd and even numbers, learning how to double a number and how to create and interpret tally charts. The children in Monet and Matisse classes went around the class asking 'What is your favourite dinosaur?' and made tally marks for each response. They were then able to write the total for each dinosaur and using the information they had gathered could say which dinosaur was the most popular and which was the least popular. The children have been working very hard on their writing and lots of them can now write sentences, which is fabulous. We made books about what they would do if they had a pet dinosaur and also made a class non-fiction book together which we have placed carefully in our reading corners. After the holidays we are looking forward to learning all about minibeasts.



Mrs Allen

Key Stage 1

The last few weeks in Key Stage 1 have been so busy! We made rockets out of lots of different recycling materials. This linked to our book 'Look Up' which everybody thoroughly enjoyed! The children spent the whole afternoon carefully constructing their rockets.



We celebrated world book day on the 7th March! Each of the KS1 classes swapped half their class with one in KS2 and looked at different books together. Murakami read 'The Paper Dolls' by Julia Donaldson with Basquiat class. O'Keefe read 'The Worst Witch' by Jill Murphy with Kahlo class, and Warhol read 'The Ugly Five' with Malone class.



The week beginning the 11th March was science week. We completed an experiment to see what fruit would stop the jelly from setting and also made our own volcanoes with a reaction made from bicarbonate of soda and vinegar.



Warhol also performed their fantastic class assembly which everyone thoroughly enjoyed! Well done Warhol!

Miss Taylor, Miss Gayson, Ms Laughland, Mr Morand and the KS1 team

Lower Key Stage 2

What a jam-packed term this has been!

What a fantastic World Book Day we had in our class. We celebrated by pairing up with the younger children in years 1 and 2 (O'Keeffe Class).

We shared reading from the Worst Witch by Jill Murphy...learning about how her spells go wrong.

We did some fabulous descriptive writing, which we later shared in assembly with the rest of the school.

Science Week was amazing too, with a pairing up of class with O'Keeffe again for an experiment on Time with fruit setting in jelly, and a whole class activity, where the children carried out research on why dinosaurs became extinct, shared their findings and then went onto create information posters.

As part of our learning on Gregory Cool, the children have explored descriptive and figurative language. They created fabulous poems about the ocean and then went on to write some incredible poetry (including metaphors, similes and African creole).

They have also been finding out about some of the traditional dishes from the Caribbean, and they have used their computer skills to type up a recipe called bake and buljol (a dough and saltfish recipe).

In order to get a better understanding of the story, they have explored the emotions, thoughts, feelings and actions of Gregory through role play, which helped them to write a diary of various points in the story.

For their final Gregory Cool writing this term, the children used the descriptive language from the book to create a picture of the last scene, which they went on to describe in their own words.

As the story links to our learning in Geography, the children have found out lots of facts about Tobago; making comparisons between it and the UK, including location, environment, climate, the landscape, its people and its culture, as well as animals and traditions.

The children learned that many houses in Tobago are built on stilts as protection against flooding and vermin. In DT, they went on to make their own models, where they considered the most appropriate materials and ways of attaching for the best outcome.

In Music, we have continued to practice Bob Marley's Three Little Birds, and introduced instruments to accompany our singing.

This term, we have continued our Maths topics:

Year 3, exploring Time (analogue and digital, and 24-hour times) and Year 4, Fractions (mixed, improper, addition and subtraction), and Decimals (converting fractions to decimals, comparing and ordering).

In PE, Year 3 and 4 have learned and practised different throwing techniques in netball, catching, and learning the rules involved in playing a game, to enable them to play against each other in teams.



Houses on stilts



Children's own illustrations of the hilltop scene in Gregory Cool

Well done to all in Years 3 and 4, you have worked really hard!

LKS2 Team

Upper Key Stage 2

What an eventful half term! The main character of the book 'Cosmic' has been drifting through space and to understand how enormous our solar system is, we created a model using toilet roll. We used our maths skills to round the distance from each planet to the sun (to the nearest 1,000,000 miles). Next, we used one sheet of toilet roll to represent 10,000,000 miles. We had to calculate how many sheets of toilet roll were needed for each planet and placed a picture of the planet in the correct place. It was quite windy but we used resources on the playground to help, such as wooden blocks to keep the toilet roll in place. It was challenging to keep count, so we used blocks to help us remember how far we had measured. Before completing this outside, we had a look on the map at how far 1 mile is (from school to Sidcup Leisure Centre). Also, we checked how many miles we were from different cities around the world. We realised that the number of miles between each planet is unimaginable for us! Once we had completed our investigation, we noticed that the first four planets were a lot closer to each other than the remaining planets. Additionally, Year 6 have worked exceptionally hard during their SATs practice; we are super proud of how well they have done! Year 5 have also undertaken end of term assessments and it's fantastic to see the progress they are making. Rain has dampened our PE lessons, so we have had to utilise the hall to participate in various indoor activities. It's been a creative half term, where the children have produced some wonderful Art and DT work around our Power of Reading books 'Seasons of Splendour' and 'Cosmic': lino carving; sewing toy elephants; chalk, paint and pastel space-themed art. We are looking forward to a wonderful Summer term.

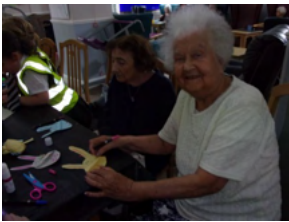


Mr Allen, Miss Childs and Mr Thurston

Other news!

School Council

I just wanted to say how incredibly proud I was of our wonderful school council who went to visit the residents of St Margarets care home last week and represented the school so well. It was wonderful to see the elderly residents smile and engage with the children as the children bravely started conversations with them. Luci, who organises the activities at the home had organised for the children and residents to make some cute Easter bunnies that would be used to decorate the home. It was beautiful to watch as the children were helping the residents draw round their hands, use scissors and decorate their bunnies. We are looking forward to going back after the holidays.



Mrs Allen

Football team

What has been a busy fixture list recently for the school football team, has seen the team work their way to a semi-final and a final of two cup competitions! The final of the small schools cup was contested against West Lodge. Unfortunately, even after playing some wonderful passing football, the luck wasn't on our side and we lost 4-0. I am incredibly proud of the whole team and throughout the different competitions, the team showed they are able to win with dignity and lose with pride. Well done to the whole team who represented Longlands so well.



Mr Allen

Gardening club

The playground is looking colourful with pretty daffodils, tulips, bluebells and hyacinths blooming. This half term Mrs Svensen and the children in gardening club have planted bedding plants, strawberries, potatoes, and sown seeds that when they grow will be used to make beautiful hanging baskets.

Gardening club will run again next term and the children will sow vegetable seeds, water and feed the plants & seedlings and weed playground areas for more plants.



Thank you to Thompson Garden Centre and FOLS for their donations.

If any parents have any of the items listed below that they could donate then please contact the school office.

- *Empty hanging baskets*
- *Large plant pots*
- *Low level planters or troughs*
- *Bamboo or willow canes*
- *Bags of compost or grow bags*
- *Potato sacks*
- *Plants for hanging baskets - such as lobelia, trailing begonias or petunias*

English

A.I.M. High Challenge Day

A few Year 3 and Year 4 children participated in the Aim High Poetry workshop. Children got to meet and work with Neil Zetter. They had the opportunity to create poems of their own using Neil's advice. The children were told to 'take risks' with their writing, think about rhythm, pace and that poems don't need to rhyme. The children's favourite poem was 'Banana!'



Here they all are with Neil and shouting banana!

Mrs Harris

Wrap around care

Don't forget to book your wrap around care for after the Easter holidays up to May half term in plenty of time to secure the sessions you require.

If you need wrap around care at short notice then please contact the school office.

If there is a change to who will be collecting your child from wrap around care please contact the school office in advance or in the case of a last minute change then please call wrap around care on 0208 300 2368 ext 1010.

Athlete Visit

On Monday 25th March, we were visited by Emmanuel Oyibo-Coker. He is a current Commonwealth British Champion gold medalist. He spoke about his journey to becoming an athlete and told the children that they need to have determination, resilience and self-belief.

Emmanuel then led PE sessions showing the children how to stretch properly with static and dynamic stretches and then the children loved taking part in the running games.

It was a really great day for the children and they even got to touch a Commonwealth Gold medal.

Hopefully this has inspired the athletes of the future.



Miss Gayson

Dates for the diary 2024

Friday 29th March—Easter Holidays begin

Monday 15th April—Inset day

Wednesday 24th April—KS1 trip to Royal Observatory

Friday 26th April—UKS2 trip to Royal Observatory

Tuesday 30th April—RNLI talk to year 5 & year 6

Wednesday 1st May—LKS2 trip to Kent Life

Friday 3rd May—FOLS own clothes day

Friday 10th May—O’Keeffe class assembly

Friday 17th May—Thomas class assembly

Friday 24th May—UKS2 trip to Imperial War Museum

Friday 24th May—FOLS disco

Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May—half term holiday

Monday 3rd June—1st day of summer 2 term



Attendance

Monet	96%
Matisse	97%
Murakami	97%
O’Keeffe	96%
Warhol	94%

Thomas	95%
Kahlo	97%
Basquiat	95%
Malone	97%
Ashevak	94%
Wei Wei	93%

Wishing you all a restful Easter break.

From Miss Owen and the Longlands Staff Team.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guidance, links and tips for adults.

Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life ...

MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you breach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time: they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them coming across harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

REMAND YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online. In some it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, that they are not to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect holiday spots; perfectly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also infrequently presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their beauty, having perfect skin and so on.

TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could steer a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

Meet Our Expert

Deborah Jennings of BAMF (Building Awareness in the Classroom) has almost 20 years' experience delivering relationships and citizenship education to schools, colleges and other education providers. A published author on the subject, she also advises the Department of Education on the self-leading element of the BAMF curriculum.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

MARCH '24

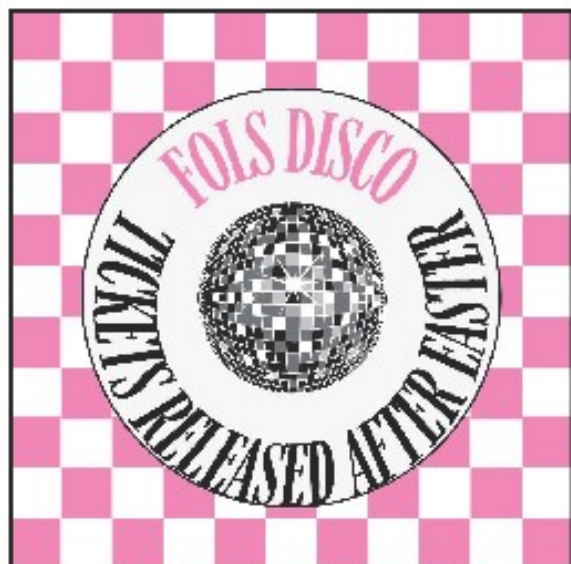
AN UPDATE FROM



HAPPY
Easter



DON'T FORGET YOUR BUNNY HOP MONEY IS TO BE RETURNED TUESDAY 16TH APRIL



MAY 24TH KS1 4.30 - 6 KS2 6.30 - 8



QUIZ NIGHT

WE RAISED £825!!!!

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP FOLS?

MONTHLY DONATION - COULD YOU SPARE THE PRICE OF A CUP OF COFFEE EACH MONTH? SET UP A STANDING ORDER FOR AS LITTLE AS YOU CAN - NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL SO YOU CAN HELP

VOLUNTEER - AS LITTLE AS AN HOUR CAN REALLY HELP

MATCH FUNDING - ASK YOUR NETS IF THEY DO MATCH FUNDING - THIS COULD DOUBLE THE FUNDS WE RAISE

FOLS CAKE SALE

Wednesday 27th March
After School

PLEASE BRING DONATIONS TO SCHOOL DROP OFF - ENSURE INGREDIENTS ARE SUPPLIED ALONG WITH CAKES.
NO NUTS!