



Longlands Primary School

Thursday 19th October 2023



A Message from the Headteacher:

Dear Parents and Carers

It is quite hard to believe that we have almost completed our first half term of this academic year. The time has flown by and the children are well and truly settled back into school life. As always, there have been lots of exciting learning opportunities in every phase and of course there will be lots more next half term. Last Friday, we welcomed Reverend Parsons from Christchurch to lead a harvest assembly. We have not seen him in school for a while and it was lovely to welcome him back – he was very impressed by the children's rendition of the old harvest favourite 'Cauliflower's Fluffy'. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the amazing contributions you have donated for our harvest collection. All items have been donated to the foodbank in Avery Hill. A member of our support staff team is a regular volunteer at this foodbank and I know your contributions will make a real difference to the families who use it.

Attendance

Monet	96%
Matisse	95%
Murakami	92%
O'Keeffe	95%
Warhol	93%



Thomas	95%
Kahlo	96%
Basquiat	96%
Malone	97%
Ashevak	92%
Weii Wei	96%

I am confident that all parents and carers realise the importance of regular attendance and punctuality. At Longlands, improving our attendance has and will continue to be a high priority. I am conscious that it is important for school to remind parents about some of the national data around attendance. For example, in primary schools less than 65% of children achieve good results in English and Maths with an average of 15 days absence a year compared to almost 90% where the average is less than 8 days. With regard to authorised absences in exceptional circumstances, reasons such as family bereavement or taking part in an agreed religious observance would be acceptable for short absences. Taking time off school for family holidays, birthdays and shopping would not be authorised. A final thought:

The world is run by those who turn up.....

Attending school every day = 100% attendance

Attending 4½ days a week = 90% attendance = 4 weeks missed per year

Attending 4 days a week = 80% attendance = more than half a term missed per year.

Attending 3½ days each week = 70% attendance = more than a quarter of the school year missed.

An average attendance of 80% or less across a child's school career adds up to missing a whole 2 years from school.

Being late for school reduces learning time. If your child is 5 minutes late every day they will miss three days of learning each year.

If your child is 15 minutes late every day they will miss 2 weeks of learning each year.

Make every minute count

School Uniform



As I have mentioned on a number of occasions, parents have told us that they want to keep our traditional school uniform. Please can I remind you to ensure that your child is dressed in line with our uniform policy (please see school website for further information). I would particularly urge parents to take note of our PE kit as detailed in the policy. As the weather gets colder, please ensure that you send your child in a plain dark (preferably black) tracksuit with appropriate footwear. We now have a supply of school ties on sale in the school office should you need to purchase one.

Please be reminded that children are expected to be dressed in winter uniform after the half term break.

Thank you to our school community

As you may have heard, a family from our school community was affected by a fire in their home. The home is destroyed but thankfully the family are unharmed, although they have lost all of their furniture and possessions.

A gofundme page has been created by another parent to help them rebuild their home. If you would like to contribute to this, the link is below.

<https://gofund.me/310ed76e>

Thank you to all of you who have already supported by donating items of clothing, toys etc.

Miss Owen

Hello... from the Longlands' Governing Body



Back row: Tony Hayes, Robert Constable, Abimbola Anyiam, Stephen Morgan, Sergio Muniz-Aragon (recently resigned), Mr Murphy (Teacher).

Front row: Sandie Homewood, Miss Owen (Head Teacher), Victoria Adduono, Ben Turner.

Together we are the Longlands' Governing Body and we wanted to say a quick hello to you!

We work closely with the Head Teacher and the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that children receive the best possible education, achieving their maximum potential during their time at Longlands.

We work with Miss Owen to:

- make plans and decisions about the direction the school is heading in, providing strategic leadership.*
- ensure that the finances of the school are appropriately allocated as we hold the main responsibility for the school's financial choices.*
- appoint members of the senior leadership team and hold the Head Teacher to account for the pupils progress.*

In the new academic year, we will be sharing a bit more about who we are and what we do, as well as keeping you updated on any relevant information. In the meantime, you can read a bit more about us and our responsibilities on the schools website:

<https://www.longlands.bexley.sch.uk/governors/>

EYFS

The children in Reception have been working really hard to learn the sound that lots of letters make. They have been learning how to form the letters correctly and ensure they start in the right place for each letter. Some of the children have already learnt how to read and write some words! In Maths they have been using the language of 'more' and 'fewer' to compare different amounts and in Science they have been learning about the seasons. They have learnt that there are 4 seasons and that right now we are in the season of Autumn. They made seasons wheels and drew beautiful pictures to represent Autumn. The children learnt that the reason the leaves change colour on the deciduous trees is because there is less sunlight. They really enjoyed going to Forest School and they loved exploring the space and looking for minibeasts and interesting objects.

Mrs Allen



Key Stage 1

KS1 have continued working really well throughout the weeks leading up to half term. In maths Years 1 and 2 have been looking at the composition of different numbers as well as practicing addition and subtraction skills and are now moving on to looking at shapes in Year 1 and word problems in Year 2. We have continued reading *The Adventures of The Egg Box Dragon* in English. We have written letters to the Egg Box Dragon and conducted interviews to find out more about him and have even had a tea party with our fancy crowns that the children made at home! The children made their own jam sandwiches and decorated fairy cakes fit for royalty! They planned out what was to be made by writing a menu to describe the food that they will serve.

Science has been filled with lots of experiments over the last few weeks. Our topic has been 'materials' and we have done a lot of testing of suitability. The children have looked at insulations, testing what keeps ice cool and what keeps liquids warm (which got a bit messy!) and what makes a material waterproof.

The Adventures of The Egg Box Dragon has carried over into art and DT where over the last few weeks the children have planned, created and made their own moving pictures with lolly sticks and card. In music, the children have experimented with all the instruments and have found the beat and the rhythm of different songs.

KS1 Team



Lower Key Stage 2

We have had a fantastic start back to school this year.

The children have really settled into their new year groups and have been enjoying their new learning.

As part of the children's English learning using our core book, Pugs of the Frozen North, Years 3 and 4 have been busy writing poetry, letters and lots of diaries, as well as taking part in a great deal of discussion and role play activities connected with the story.

In Geography, we have explored changes in the earth's climate and its associations with the polar regions, and in History, the children have been finding out lots of facts about polar explorers and have discovered lots of facts about polar explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton.

During our Maths lessons, we have been embedding understanding of place value and rounding in Year 3, focusing on word problems and identifying the 'mystery number', and in Year 4, our focus has been on addition, subtraction and multiplication skills, where most recently we have explored word problems and identifying the information necessary to calculate the answers. The children have been learning how important it is to read and understand the questions.

The children have been most interested in our Science topic this term, States of Matter, where we have carried out lots of experiments to support the children's understanding of liquids, solids and gases. The children have added to their learning of melting and freezing and have also learnt about evaporation and condensation. During their learning on the Water Cycle, the children found out that the water being used today was also around when dinosaurs walked the earth.



In English, Years 3 and 4 children use language from the text and their emotions to role play Shen and Sika rescuing the polar bears from the chasm.

Upper Key Stage 2

Wow! What a busy first half term it has been in Year 5 and 6! We have really enjoyed our Power of Reading book 'Skellig' by David Almond and we have produced some excellent writing around this. We have written letters, diary entries, non chronological reports and even retold the story from another character's perspective! As well as our fantastic writing, we have also been focusing on character exploration through drama using evidence from the text. We took part in conscience alleys, hot seating, freeze frames and the acting out of various scenes.

In Maths we have been learning about place value and the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). We are growing in confidence in our mathematical knowledge and are developing lots of strategies to solve calculations.

We have also had big focus on Science over the past half term. We have been learning about how to classify living things into groups. We made our own classification keys whereby we asked yes/no questions about observable differences.

We have enjoyed developing our hockey skills during our PE sessions and have been using our improved skills during games.

We are looking forward to all the fantastic new learning that is to come after the half term break.

Miss Childs, Mr Thurston and Mr Allen

The Year 5 & Year 6 Team



OPAL

This term the children have continued to be very creative in the Amazing Art Area. They have been making necklaces, rings and bracelets as well as other brilliant pieces of art. There has also been lots of planting going on, which is making the playground a lot greener with Gardening club. They have planted flowers, garlic and onions.

If you can, please can you donate:

Dressing up clothes

Old, clean sheets for den building

Thank you to everyone for your support and donations to help improve the children's play experience.



Miss Gayson

Badminton Festival

On Wednesday 18th October, 8 children from Year 4 took part in a Badminton festival at Hurstmere School. At the festival, the children took part in lots of different activities including: badminton golf and badminton catch. All the activities were designed to practise different badminton skills. The children loved taking part and they showed some great skill. Thank you to all the children, who took part and our spectators for cheering us on.



Miss Gayson

Dates for the diary 2023

Friday 20th October—Inset Day

Monday 23rd October—Friday 27th October—Half Term

Monday 30th October—Back to school

Monday 30th October—Friday 3rd November—Year 6 Bikeability

Thursday 9th November—Flu immunisation

Monday 13th November to Friday 17th November—Kindness Week

Wednesday 15th November—FOLS AGM

Thursday 30th November — Choir Christmas Concert

Friday 1st December—Choir performance Morrisons

Wednesday 6th December—Choir performance Care Home

Saturday 9th December –FOLS Christmas Fete

Wednesday 13th December—KS1 Nativity

Thursday 14th December—KS1 Nativity

Friday 15th December—EYFS Christmas Concert

Tuesday 19th December—Rock Steady Concert



Wraparound Care

Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club are still proving very popular thanks to Mrs Foster and her team.

Please can we remind you book sessions in advance as we cannot take walk-ins if the session is fully booked.

Bookings for Wraparound Care should be made at least 7 days in advance. Cancellations must be made at least 48 hours in advance, otherwise you will still be charged.

Wishing you all a lovely half term

Miss Owen and the Longlands Primary School Team

FOLS NEWS!

The Magic Show was a hit with the children and a fantastic £605 was raised for FOLS!

Please come along to the AGM to hear what plans there are for further fundraising this academic year, what we are fundraising for and where the funds were spent last year.

Friends of Longlands Primary School

AGM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Wednesday 15th November - 7pm

The Studio, Longlands Primary School

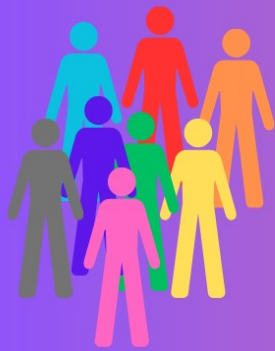
Entrance via Woodside Crescent

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS APPROVAL, ELECTION OF NEW
COMMITTEE MEMBERS, PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.
NEW IDEAS ALWAYS WELCOME

Committee nominations can be made on the
night or in advance by emailing
Longlandspa@hotmail.com





REASONS TO JOIN FOLS

SUPPORT THE SCHOOL

- Events held at school and funds raised.
- Enrich your child's learning and their school experience.

TOTALLY FLEXIBLE

- Everyone can get involved, it's not as much of a commitment as you may think. You can put in as much or as little time as you want.

FUN AND REWARDING

- Volunteering is a fun, rewarding experience. Seeing the children enjoying events you've organised or helped with makes it very worthwhile.

BE BETTER CONNECTED

- Create closer links with the school, staff, other parents and gain a better understanding as to what's going on in the school.

CREATE LASTING MEMORIES

- Our children are only at school for a short time, but they will remember the fun events held and how they benefited from them.

HAVE YOUR SAY

- Give your input into what fundraising events are held.



UTILISE & SHARE YOUR SKILLS

- Everyone has something they can bring to FOLS. It could be an opportunity to use skills you don't often get to use and to gain new ones.

GET INVOLVED

As parents leave the school, we need new volunteers to help ensure FOLS continues.

For more information please E-Mail:

Longlandspa@hotmail.com

And to keep up to date with news and events, follow us on Facebook and Instagram:

[Friends of Longlands School](#)



Mayors Meals Introduction

INDEPENDENTCATERING | EDUCATERLIMITED

FABULOUS FOOD AT SCHOOL

MAYORS MEALS

From September 2023 all children in KS2 will be entitled to a free school lunch, courtesy of funding from the Mayor of London

The Mayor is stepping in with the one-off proposal to ensure that healthy free school meals are universally available to all primary school pupils for one year from September due to the extreme pressures currently facing households across the capital.

The free lunch is equivalent to over £500, which represents an amazing saving per child across the year.

As the school's catering provider, Independent Catering provides a freshly made lunch in our school kitchens using locally grown produce from the UK.

Complementing the 3 choices of main meal and vegetables your child can supplement their lunch with a freshly prepared salad from the salad bar and a choice of 5 desserts.

Don't just take our word for it. Following a recent Parents Come Dine with me feedback from parents who dined on a school lunch included:

'Very yummy and healthy'

'Really slick operation and the food was good'

'Lovely meal and great to experience it'

'Lovely curry and berry mousse - Olivia loves her school dinners'

We know that only 1.6% of packed lunches meet the same nutritional standards as school food. Improving childhood nutrition is vital and school meals are key to achieving this.



We ensure your child receives a healthy balanced lunch; our menus are freshly made in our kitchens and served with a smile by our wonderful dedicated team of catering staff. (Our salad cart is awesome by the way!)

Our approach is simple! Great food prepared on site and fantastic value for money for parents.

Please give us a try! Your child will love it - and you'll save some valuable time not making lunch boxes!

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW OUR SHORT PROMOTIONAL MOVIE](#)



WE ONLY USE



INDEPENDENTCATERING.CO.UK

EDUCATERLIMITED.COM

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 games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, tips and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling; if so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially gristier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child rocking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lyndi Corbett is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site OGBoss and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, here she's a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, her articles have been published in influential sites including iStock and Tech Radar.



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.10.2021

Born Ready, School Ready, Bexley Ready

Bexley are excited to share their updated Born Ready, School Ready, Bexley Ready resources platform for families (and practitioners).



Click: [Born Ready, School Ready, Bexley Ready - New Web Page Platform! Bexley Early Years](#) to find out more.

Bexley Council Community Survey

Bexley Council are seeking responses from all those who live, work, visit or study in Bexley about their feelings of safety. The survey is a chance to highlight local crime and disorder issues which concerns people the most – and alongside other data, help the Bexley Community Safety Partnership set its priorities for 2024/25.

The survey is open until Friday 27 October. You can scan the attached QR code or visit www.bexley.gov.uk/communitysafetysurvey

Take our survey, have your say

Bexley Community Safety Survey

Are you concerned about **safety** in your area?

Tell us how we could **reduce crime** in Bexley

Simply fill in our **online survey** or scan the QR code

www.bexley.gov.uk/communitysafetysurvey