



# Longlands Primary School

Friday 25th November 2022

## *A Message from the Headteacher: Miss Janice Owen*



The second half of the autumn term is always a busy one and this year has been no exception. I am delighted that the children have had some wonderful learning opportunities and there is a great atmosphere around the school. Last week we celebrated kindness week and I was both thrilled and moved by what the classes did; more of which you will read about from phase group reports. This week the majority of year groups are carrying out various tests and assessments so that we can maintain a sharp focus on ensuring that any gaps in learning can be addressed, as well as checking that children are making good progress. There is of course a lot more work to be done in classes over the coming weeks and of course festive celebrations to look forward to.

You may have seen on the news that the country will gain an extra bank holiday next year and as a result, the school will be closed for an extra Monday on the 8th May. This will be an exciting opportunity for the children to experience the festivities for the coronation of King Charles III. We will add this date to the dates on the website and remind you again nearer the time.

# EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Parents and carers will be aware that I have communicated the link between absence and lower attainment in the past. A data study by the DFE published this year looked at link between absence and attainment at both KS2 and KS4 in 2019. Some of the key points to note are:

- Pupils with higher attainment at KS2 and KS4 had lower levels of absence over the key stage compared to those with lower attainment.
- Pupils who did not achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in 2019 had an overall absence rate of 4.7% over the key stage, compared with 3.5% among pupils who achieved the expected standard and 2.7% among those who achieved the higher standard.
- Generally, the higher the percentage of sessions missed across the key stage at KS2 and KS4, the lower the level of attainment at the end of the key stage.
- Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS2, 83.9% achieved the expected standard compared to 40.2% of pupils who were persistently absent.
- Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS4, 83.7% achieved grades 9 to 4 in English and maths compared to 35.6% of pupils who were persistently absent.



## **Punctuality and lost learning.**

You will also recall that I have talked about the importance of punctuality on many occasions in newsletters. As you can see from the table below, poor punctuality has a direct impact on learning.

<b>Minutes Late:</b>	<b>Equates to:</b>
5 minutes late each day	3 days lost per academic year
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost per academic year
15 minutes late each day	10 days lost per academic year
20 minutes late each day	13 days lost per academic year
30 minutes late each day	19 days lost per academic year

## EYFS



The children have been super scientists and have been learning all about night and day. We talked about how the Earth spins round on its own axis as it travels around the sun and that it is day time if the country you are on is facing the sun and night time if it is facing the other direction. We then learnt about nocturnal and diurnal animals and found out that humans are diurnal. The children really enjoyed the

book 'Owl Babies' and wrote some fantastic speech bubbles in the character of one of the owls. We also sequenced events in the story and made fantastic owl baby pictures by printing using different sized potatoes. We have learnt all of the level 2 sounds now in phonics and are becoming really competent in writing words and some of us are even starting to write simple sentences!



In Maths we have been learning how to make 5 in different ways and have been using the following language: "2 + 3 is equal to 5".

Last week we read a book called 'Kind' and we thought of all the ways we could be kind. We then made kindness posters that we put up all around the school to remind people what to do. We also made cards and bouquets of flowers for our family and for people in school that help us. We thought about helping animals and made bird feeders using pine cones, mashed bananas and bird seed and we even decorated pebbles with hearts, flowers and rainbows and left them on our neighbours doorsteps with a little message to brighten up their day.



## Key Stage 1



Key Stage 1 had a very exciting day earlier this term, where everyone dressed up as a witch or wizard. The children looked fantastic in their hats and costumes! The children created potions, thinking of all the different ingredients that might go in. They had to use lots of adjectives to

describe the Ingredients, as well as thinking what would happen if someone drank the potion. They also spent the afternoon designing potion bottles, thinking about the label and a colourful design. In English, we have been reading 'Rapunzel' by Bethan Woollvin, which the children are thoroughly enjoying. They have done freeze-framing and diary writing, with a focus on how Rapunzel would be feeling at the different points in the story. The children also had to write instructions for Rapunzel, telling her how they think she should defeat the witch. In History, they have been learning about castles, thinking about how they have changed style and material over time. In Art and DT the children have designed and started to make a castle, thinking about the different features that are needed such as a drawbridge, battlements and arrow slits.



## Lower Key Stage 2

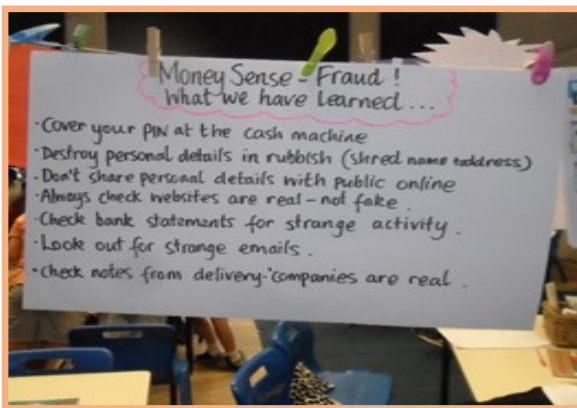


During Kindness Week, last week, Kahlo, Thomas and Basquiat Classes wrote beautiful kindness stories and poems for the residents at Northbourne Care Home.

On Wednesday, we took them along to the Care Home and presented the writing to them.

Some of the children read out their wonderful stories and poems and the residents told them how lovely their ideas were. Our visits ended with a happy sing a long together.

Kahlo Class had a fantastic time during our Natwest Money Sense activity 'Fraud'. They had an amazing time as they went from table to table inspecting the evidence to determine if a crime had been committed. We ended our session by collecting everyone's ideas on what they had learnt about how we can be more secure in our everyday lives.



This term, through our core Power of Reading book, African Tales, years 3 and 4 have been learning a great deal about the geography and culture of the African people. This week, as part of their learning, the children had a cultural visit from the African Activities company (funded by FOLS) which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Asante Sana FOLS—Thank you very much! During the visit, the children heard stories told by Kwame. He talked about his life in Ghana and when he first came to live in England. He taught them some African dance moves and talked about the instruments that he makes and plays.



Mrs Rossiter

## Upper Key Stage 2



Year 5 and 6 have been working incredibly hard this half term. We have been reading about Odysseus' adventures during our English lessons and have really enjoyed learning about the ancient Greeks and the Greek gods. We even created our own Greek gods! We thoroughly enjoyed producing Art work related to one of the chapters.



Year 6 have been working hard with all things Fractions! We have been learning how to add, subtract and multiply them. Year 5 have been learning about factors, multiples, prime and cube numbers.



During kindness week, we all created kindness jars for our school community but also decided to spread the kindness further. Wei Wei class delivered hand made cards of thanks to local businesses on Sidcup High Street. Ashevak delivered hand made notes around the local neighbourhood . And finally Malone stapled compliment cards to the Metro newspapers to brighten up the commuters day.



We are looking forward to all the coming festive celebrations, starting with the Christmas fete!  
See you all there!

Mr Allen



On

### **Sports Hall Athletics**

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 12 children from years 5 and 6 took part in an athletics competition held at Hurstmere school. At the event, the children took part in various field events such as: vertical jump, long jump, chest push, javelin, and speed bounce. The children also took part in races. There were lots of types of races that the children took part in such as: 1 by 1 relay, 2 by 2 relay and the 4 by 4 relay. The children also took part in a race called the 6 lap paarlauf. This is a race run by two people and they can choose the order that they run in for example they could do 2 laps each or one person does 3 the other does three. It was great to see the children experience the different athletics events and the children were particularly good at the javelin and chest push. We came third overall and we were awarded the respect award. A huge thank you to the children for their participation and to the parents who cheered us all on.

**Miss Gayson**

### **P.E Kit Reminder**

This is a polite reminder to all parents and carers that when children come to school in their PE kit that it is the kit specified on our school website. I have noticed a number of children recently who are wearing other colours than uniform.

## *Dates for the diary*

Friday 1st December— Own Clothes Day—bring a bottle or box of chocolates for the Christmas Fete

Saturday 2nd December—Christmas Fete—12pm—3pm

Tuesday 6th December—Rocksteady Concert 2.30pm

Thursday 8th December—New Parent Tour

Friday 9th December—NSPCC Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch

Friday 9th December—Years 1-6 Pantomime

Monday 12th December—EYFS Pantomime—The Clumsiest Christmas Elf

Wednesday 14th December—KS1 Christmas Show at 2pm

Thursday 15th December—KS1 Christmas Show at 2pm

Friday 16th December—EYFS Christmas Concert at 2.30pm



## *Attendance—31st October—25th November*



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

Monet	95%
Matisse	97%
Murakami	96%
O'Keefe	95%
Warhol	97%
Thomas	96%

*Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.*

*Miss Owen and all of the Longlands Team.*