



Longcot and Fernham Church of England Primary School

Our Value this Term: Generosity

'Do good, be rich in good deeds, be generous, be willing to share' – 1 Timothy 6:18

Friday 17th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe that we are already nearly at the end of the first term of this school year! The last 7 weeks have flown by and already your children have achieved such a lot and made great strides in settling into their new classes. Next week, we are holding Parent's Evenings and would strongly encourage anyone who has not yet made an appointment to book in so that you can have some dedicated time to speak to class teachers about how your child has settled and how they are doing with their learning. Bookings can still be made online, and staff may contact you to arrange a suitable time if you have not made an appointment for the allocated evenings.



Please check the dates section at the end of this letter for forthcoming dates this term!

Harvest



We loved seeing so many families joining us at our Harvest Festival Services yesterday at St Mary's Church. We were really proud of all our children for their contributions and for managing the excitement and nerves which come with walking to the Church and performing in front of a sea of faces (not least when their music fails them!). Thank you, as always for your support and for being there for your children and for our school community.

Half Term

School finishes for half term on Thursday 23rd October at 3pm. There is a Teacher Training Day on Friday 24th, a full week of half term in week commencing 27th October, and a further Teacher Training Day on Monday 3rd November. We return to school on Tuesday 4th November. We really hope that you all have a wonderful time during this week and that your children have a very well-deserved rest after such a long term.

Halloween falls during half term week and we thought it might be useful to share the following links and guidance for safety and positive experiences for children celebrating or encountering Halloween.

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Tel: 01793 782381

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The first link is from the National Autistic Society website and may be helpful for those of you reflecting on the experience of your children who have (or may be awaiting) an autism diagnosis or any other communication and interaction need.

<https://www.autism.org.uk/what-we-do/news/tips-for-an-autism-friendly-halloween>

General Halloween Safety Highlights:



1. **Costume Flammability** – Many fancy-dress costumes ignite easily. Keep children away from open flames and heat sources.
2. **Buy Safely** – Choose costumes from reputable retailers and check for **UKCA or CE marks**. Look for labels noting *additional flammability testing*.
3. **Layer Up** – Encourage children to wear clothes underneath costumes for added protection.
4. **Stop, Drop and Roll** – Teach children what to do if their clothes catch fire.
5. **Candle Safety** – Keep candles and pumpkins away from walkways and decorations. Always extinguish them when finished.
6. **Battery Alternatives** – Use LED or flameless candles, ensuring battery compartments are child-secure.
7. **Be Visible** – Add reflective tape or glow sticks to costumes, especially as it gets dark earlier.
8. **Road Safety** – Use face paint instead of masks for better visibility, and remind children to stay alert near roads.
9. **Pumpkin Carving** – Young children should use safe, no-carve decorating methods.
10. **Choking Hazards** – Watch out for small sweets like lollipops or hard candy.

11. **Button Battery Safety** – Check that light-up decorations have secure battery compartments.

This website will give you some more information [How to keep children safe this Halloween | 12 top tips](#)

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Offer from a member of the Community

We have been contacted by a member of the local community who has a baby grand piano which they would like to donate to a budding musician or local family who would benefit from this. Sadly, we don't have the space to accommodate this at school but if this is of interest to any of our families, please pop in or email to let us know.

Could your child be eligible for Pupil Premium Funding?

Did you know that some children are eligible for additional funding to support them in school called the Pupil Premium. This funding is provided directly to school for any pupils whose families are in receipt of any of the following:



- **Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)**
- **Income Support**
- **Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The guaranteed element of Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)**
- **Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit**

If you think that your child may be eligible and have not yet spoken to us about this, please do let us know, as this funding can contribute to additional opportunities and activities for children in school.

PTA Events

Following our PTA meeting in September, we have set a number of dates for events in the coming months. Please do check the dates section for these and remember to let us know if you can offer any help and support for these. Key activities in Term 2 will be Film Night on Thursday 20th November and the Christmas Fayre on Friday 5th December.



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Author of the term

Each term, alongside class reading, we celebrate an author who we think children should know about. This term, our focus is the brilliant Nick Butterworth. Nick Butterworth is author of approximately 80 children's books, many of which he has also illustrated himself. Wonderful stories like Q Pootle 5, The Whisperer, Albert le Blanc and the fabulous Percy the Park Keeper series have been bringing joy to children for many years now! This week, we learned a little about him in Assembly on Monday and we have a collection of his books in the library and in classrooms for children to enjoy.



If you and your child would like to explore more about Percy the Park Keeper in particular, you might like to check out this link:

<https://percytheparkkeeper.co.uk/pages/activities>

or you might like to watch this interview and video of Nick Butterworth, which includes a chance to see him drawing live.

<https://www.wordsandpics.org/2014/10/interview-with-nick-butterworth.htm>

Jigsaw PSHE



Many of you will know that Jigsaw is a significant part of our curriculum for PSHE and contributes to children's development and understanding of self and relationships with others. It has a strong focus on being mindful and sessions always start with our Jigsaw chime and some calming breathing and time for mindfulness. This term, our 'puzzle piece' is called 'Being Me in My World' and children will be learning about belonging, being proud of who they are, recognising feelings, setting personal goals and

feeling safe and special. You can see an overview of the content for this term and future terms on the PSHE page of our website (under Curriculum). Here is a link:

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/longcot-and-fernham-church-of-england-primary-school/UploadedDocument/bf310e5c-6129-4885-a03e-6b56d1e8ddc7/jigsaw-snapshot-overview-map.pdf>

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Attendance

Thank you to all our families for supporting us to continue to have good school attendance. Please remember that we are unable to authorise absence in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Birthdays and holidays do not constitute exceptional circumstances. You can find much more information about attendance and absence in the letter which was sent out earlier this week.

Current attendance: 96.40%	Attendance target: 96%
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Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to the next few weeks of term!

Mrs Robins and the Longcot team

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 21 st October	Parents Evenings 3.15 – 7pm (except Blackbirds Class)
Thursday 23 rd October	Parents Evenings -All classes 3.15 – 7pm
Thursday 23 rd October	Last Day of Term 1 (3pm finish)
Friday 24 th October	INSET Day – school closed to children
27 th – 31 st October	Half Term
Monday 3 rd November	INSET Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 4 th November	Start of Term 2
Monday 10 th November	Odd Socks Day (to launch Anti Bullying week)
Tuesday 11 th November	Service Families Remembrance Service 10.45am
Tuesday 11 th November	Reception children vision screening
Thursday 13 th November	PTA meeting (Christmas Fayre Planning!)
Friday 14 th November	Children in Need Day
Tuesday 18 th November	Blackbirds & Robins Viking Workshops
Thursday 20 th November	PTA Film Night (3-5pm)
Monday 24 th November	Nightingales Egyptians Workshops
Thursday 4 th December	Wrens Class Nativity Play 1.30pm
Friday 5 th December	PTA Christmas Fayre
Tuesday 9 th December	Sparrows & Nightingales class Nativity 9.15am
Wednesday 10 th December	Sparrows & Nightingales class Nativity 1.30pm
Wednesday 10 th December	PTA Wreath Making Activity sessions
Friday 12 th December	Rocksteady Christmas Concert
Tuesday 16 th December	Christmas Service @ Shrivenham 6pm
Friday 19 th December	End of Term 2 1.15pm
Monday 5 th January	INSET Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 6 th January	Start of Term 3
Thursday 22 nd January	PTA Film Night

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Thursday 12 th February	PTA Valentine Disco
Friday 13 th February	End of Term 3 (3.00pm)
Monday 23 rd February	Term 4 begins

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Our School Designated Safeguarding Leads are

Mrs Sally Robins – DSL

Mrs Kent and Mrs McCluskey-Hornbuckle - Deputy DSLs

What to do if you think a child is at risk of abuse or neglect:

Immediate danger- call the police on 999

Immediate concern- If you have a concern about a child, please call
MASH on 0345 050 7666

A special helpline is available if you are concerned that a child you
know is being **sexually exploited**. Contact the Kingfisher Team on
01865 309196

[What to do if you think a child is at risk of abuse or neglect -
Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board \(oscb.org.uk\)](#)

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