



Longcot and Fernham Church of England Primary School

Our Value the Term: Thankfulness

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

Psalm 107:1

Monday 12th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our latest newsletter! As we reach the midway point of the first term, it is wonderful to look back at how much our pupils have already achieved. Across the school, pupils have settled into their new classrooms and there are wonderful examples of creativity, resilience and progress everywhere you look.



Recently, we have had the opportunity to celebrate the determination and community spirit shown from the children who competed in the Trust's cross-country event. They all tried their best and importantly, had a wonderful time!

It was also lovely to see all children exploring global cultures during our vibrant celebrations for the European Day of Languages.

Looking ahead, this term will also see four of our talented Year 5 pupils prepare to represent us at the upcoming Trust's mathematics competition. We wish them lots of luck and know they will represent Longcot and Fernham well.

Thank you for your continued support in making the start of this academic year so energetic and successful. Please check the dates section at the end of this letter for a reminder about forthcoming dates this term.

SEND Parent Survey

Oxfordshire Parent Carers Forum (OxPCF) is the independent voice of parent carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Oxfordshire. Attached is a link to a SEND Parent Survey that asks about your experiences of SEND services and support. They last ran a survey about parent carer experiences in 2025. The results helps everyone understand what has changed over the past 12 months, what has stayed the same, and where families are experiencing improvement or continuing difficulty. The survey should take around 10–15 minutes and your answers will help inform the Department for Education stocktake in October 2026, Oxfordshire's SEND improvement and reform work, and OxPCF's discussions with education, health and social care leaders.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OxPCFSEND26>

Longcot, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7SY

Tel: 01793 782381

Headteacher: Mrs Sally Robins and Mrs Carmel McCluskey-Hornbuckle

Chair of Governors: Sue Hunter

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Site Works

In the next couple of weeks, you will notice some scaffolding going up around parts of the school. This is because the school is having essential roofing work done, which is excellent news because it means we will have a secure, watertight roof before winter arrives.

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.

Attendance target:	96%
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Book Boost

Please see attached a poster about an exciting opportunity to buy books and unlock free books for the school! The event only runs until October 20th so if you are interested, act soon.



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Communication

As a gentle reminder to our school community, we kindly ask all parents and carers to mindfully respect the Parent Code of Conduct regarding online and social media discussions about our school. Whilst we completely understand that frustrations can arise, posting grievances or specific school issues online is often counterproductive and can be hurtful. Instead, **the best option is always to discuss any concerns directly with our class teachers or school leadership**, who are always ready to listen, support, and work together on a solution.

The Parent Code of Conduct can be found on our website here:

<https://www.longcotandfernham.school.co.uk/policies>

Parking Reminder

We have had multiple reports of unsafe parking outside school over the last few weeks at drop off and pick up times. These seem to involve parents parking directly outside school and causing a danger to children and parents/ families trying to walk to school and cross the road from their own vehicles which are parked further away from school. We have also had reports of some frustrated and hostile communication between parents, which is a terrible shame given how supportive our community usually is. Please can we ask you to allow plenty of time in the mornings to park considerately and keep the area outside school clear and safe for pupils arriving at school. We do understand that some Blue Badge holders may need to park closer to school.

Have a lovely week and we look forward to the next few weeks of term!

Mrs Robins, Mrs McCluskey-Hornbuckle and the Longcot Team

Dates for the diary

Thursday 15 th October	Harvest Services at St Mary's Church: Lower School: 1:15 Upper School: 2:10
Thursday 22 nd October	SEND parent meetings
Thursday 22 nd October	Last Day of Term 1 (3pm finish)
Thursday 22 nd October	PTA Chocolate Sale at 3pm
Friday 23 rd October	INSET Day – school closed to children
26 th – 30 st October	Half Term
Monday 2 nd November	INSET Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 3rd November	Start of Term 2
Tuesday 3 rd November	Parents Evening
Thursday 5 th November	Parents Evening
Monday 9 th November	Maths Information Session- EYFS, KS1 and KS2 (letter to follow)
Wednesday 11 th November	Service Families Remembrance Service 10.45am
Monday 16 th November	Odd Socks Day

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Monday 16 th - Friday 20 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 7 th December	EYFS Nativity: 9:30
Wednesday 9 th December	KS1 Nativity: 1:45
Thursday 10 th December	KS1 Nativity: 9:15
Thursday 17 th December	Christmas Services at St Mary's Church: Lower School: 1:15 Upper School: 2:10
Friday 18 th December	End of Term 2 1.15pm finish
Monday 4 th January	INSET Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 5 th January	Start of Term 3

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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