

# Longman's Hill Community Primary School Newsletter



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Summer Term 2017

21/7/17

## Summer holiday

We have reached the end of another school year at Longman's Hill and I cannot believe just how quickly it has flown by. Once again, it has been an incredibly busy year for the entire school community and I am sure children and adults alike will be more than ready for a well-earned holiday! We have had such a fantastic year with children participating in various sporting events, going on trips and welcoming visitors. Ofsted came in the first term and we were delighted with the outcome; they saw what a fantastic school community we are and gave credit to staff and governors for all of their hard work.

As usual at this time of year, we say a sad farewell to the remainder of our Y6 leavers. All of the children have been incredible this year, facing the challenge of the raised expectations in SATs with a positive attitude. We wish them lots of luck as they move onto their chosen high schools.

We also have to say goodbye to some of our staff this year. Mrs Christie and Mrs Sharp, who joined our staff temporarily, are leaving us but I am sure it will not be long before we see them again in school!

Miss Long, who has worked at the school for 9 years, is leaving for pastures new and we wish her well. Mrs Gent is also leaving us to take up a senior leadership role just down the road at Brayton Primary.

I am sure that you will join with us in wishing all four of them well as they leave Longman's.

May I take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their support of the school once again this year. The impact of this support cannot be underestimated and it is very much appreciated. I hope that you all have a wonderful summer break with your families.

## **\*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING NUTS IN SCHOOL\*\*\*\***

Please may I remind parents that we have some children in school with nut allergies. The children concerned are allergic to various nuts including (but not only) walnuts and peanuts.

Therefore may I politely request that you DO NOT put any nuts/ nut based products in your children's pack ups. Thank you

### School Diary dates for 2017 / 18

Once again we have set dates for the next academic year. The annual dates for school events can now be found on the school website under 'news, events & recruitment' / 'Term dates'. Other dates (eg school trips) may of course be added over the year, but I will continue to give as much notice as possible of these via the school newsletters.

### Attendance

At Longman's Hill we pride ourselves on being a school with an enviable attendance record. However, this term in particular, the attendance levels have fallen below 97% for the first time since I became head, which is very disappointing. Looking through the registers this is largely due to an increased number of families who are going on family holidays during term time. We monitor attendance of children on an individual basis regularly; indeed we have a statutory duty to report the attendance levels of children with high levels of absence to Children's and Families' Services.

If your child's attendance level falls below 90% by the end of a full academic year, the DfE classes them as a 'persistent absentee' and steps may be taken to tackle the issue with parents. At Longman's, we do try to keep you informed, term by term, about the attendance for your child. This is to support you so that you can avoid unnecessary intervention from prevention services. However, we have ended the year with a larger number of persistent absentees than ever before.

If attendance levels falls between 90% and 93% we will monitor absence very carefully, placing your child's name on a monitoring list.

By law, I am unable to authorise any term time family holidays except in very exceptional circumstances, which must be evidenced. The LA are now issuing fines once again as standard practice, to parents who take their children out of school for any unauthorized absences.

Every day is important in school. It is understandable that as a parent you may feel that your child won't miss much if they are away for just a week but this simply is not the case. New learning takes place every day and it is often impossible for children to make up this lost learning time. We are seeing increasing numbers of children starting to fall behind at school due to taking numerous holidays during term time.

The governors and I would politely ask that you consider very carefully before booking any term time holiday next academic year. Many thanks.

### PARKING!

Despite numerous requests via newsletter, astonishingly, we still have lots of parents parking both inconsiderately AND illegally outside the school gates. Again this week, a very cross resident called into school since they could not get off their drive as a parent had parked across the end of their driveway, completely blocking them in.

This creates tension between the school and local residents which is not ideal for a community school.

However, more importantly, some of the parking is creating dangerous situations for our children (and parents) who walk to school. Children are being forced to walk along the road with cars flying past or cross between traffic parked almost bumper to bumper, reducing visibility. I appreciate drop off and pick up times are busy and parents often are on their way to work BUT if parents continue to park as they currently are, I really fear we may end up with a seriously injured or dead child. PLEASE consider the safety of OUR and YOUR children when dropping off and collecting children. Thank you.

**Dates for your diary**

**5/9/17 - First day of new term for all children**

**COMMENT SLIP**

Name of Child:

Class:

Comment / Idea/ Suggestion/ Feedback:

