

Longman's Hill Community Primary School Newsletter



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Autumn Term 2022

16/12/22

We wish you a merry Christmas....

On behalf of all the staff and governors, I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas. I do hope that you enjoy a peaceful and relaxing holiday with your children and families. Thank you for your support this year; it is very much appreciated. We look forward to welcoming the children back for the start of the Spring term on **Wednesday 4th January**.

Staff Farewell

Today we have said goodbye to Mrs Ginty, the Teaching Assistant in Y3, who has gone on to take up a new role, out of schools. We wish her well in her new adventures and thank her for her hard work.

December Fundraisers

Many thanks for supporting our fundraising efforts a few weeks ago for Children in Need. The children looked fantastic in their all their spotty attire and you all cooked up a storm to provide us with lots of buns for the sale. We raised a fantastic £377.04.

The Save the Children Xmas jumper day raised £115.15.

The school fair was also immensely successful, thanks to your generosity and the hard work of staff. We raised £1558.99 which will be put to good use in school.

Dogs on site and at gates

Please may I politely remind parents and carers that dogs are NOT allowed on the school site / grounds (even if they are picked up and carried!). Additionally, they should not be tied to school railings or gates. We have had several complaints about barking dogs tied up near the entrances to school on Parkways and Myrtle Avenue; whilst they may not dangerous, they do scare children walking past them into school. Our own school dog Maya does not go outside onto the school grounds/ field/ playground or pathways and we would ask that parents adhere to our 'no dog' policy. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Save the Date!

We have recently bought into an online reading programme for all children in KS2, which they can access at home. Children have been using it in school over the last 4 weeks and we are already starting to see the positive impacts for children who access it at least 3 times per week. We will be running a parent workshop in school at 4pm on Thursday 19th January. More details will follow, but for now, please save the date. Thank you.

School Meals

The new Spring term menus are now available on ParentPay. Thank you for your support of our new in-house catering; we have seen a good take up of meals and hope this will continue next term.

Safeguarding Message from Chris Simpson | Digital Police Community Support Officer



Hi everyone, recently I've been asked about an app which has come to the attention of a number of schools within the county- the app is called **BeReal** and is becoming quite popular amongst teenagers / older KS2 children at the moment. So, to provide you with some further information about the app please see below.

Creating an account

When a user downloads the BeReal app, they must add their phone number, name and age. They then create a username and password to use the app. At this point, they are asked to create their first BeReal post to start seeing others' photos too.

Posting a photo

Then every day at a different time, the app alerts users that it's time to take a photo of what they are doing in the moment. Users have 2 minutes to take a photo and submit it to BeReal for others to see. The picture features whatever the user focused on as well as an image of the user in their current state in the top corner.

Before submitting the photo, they must choose an audience (friends only or everyone). Users can also share their location and save the image to their device. After the user posts the photo, they can add a caption. If the photo is shared outside of the standard two minute window, other users can see a note that tells them this.

You cannot see someone else's photo if you have not yet posted your own for the day.

Interacting with others

After a user posts their own image, they can see others' and react to them. To comment on someone's photo, users must be friends. However, if 'everyone' can see the photo, then anyone can react to it. There are six standard emojis to react with along with an option to create a RealMoji. With RealMoji, users can create their own by taking a picture of themselves. For example, instead of the thumbs up emoji, a user could send themselves give a thumbs up.

Reporting inappropriate content

BeReal's Terms of Use encourages users to report any content that is sexual or pornographic, or related to hate speech, extremism, violence, suicide or self-harm. Photos, RealMojis and comments can all be reported if they fall into these categories or breach other items on the Terms of Use. This includes spam and advertising as well as bullying and discrimination. However, the company itself is a hosting company, which means it is not required to monitor the information others post.

What to watch out for

Like any app or platform where users might interact with strangers, BeReal has some features that parents should be aware of:

- **Pictures are unmoderated:** this means that if your child is scrolling through the Discovery feed, they may come across an item someone posted that features inappropriate content. Additionally, RealMojis could feature the same kind of content. It's important that users report this kind of content if seen for review.
- **No parental controls:** because of the nature of this app, there are minimal privacy controls

and no parental controls. That doesn't mean it is unsafe. However, if your child is under the age of 13, they may not understand the nature of the app and misuse it.

- **Photos use the front and back camera:** although the user might point at one thing to photograph, the camera will also take a picture of the user themselves. It's important for young people to be aware of their surroundings to avoid posting anything they don't want online.
- **Some people are photographed without their permission:** scrolling through BeReal reveals images that users have taken that feature other people who may not be aware they are being photographed. This is an issue of consent that some young people might not consider.
- **It's easy to connect with strangers:** some young people may send or receive friend requests from strangers through the Discovery tab if they are sharing with everyone. Once another user is on the 'Friends' list, they are able to comment on photos. They may also receive notifications about your posts. However, users can delete others from this list very easily.

How to keep children safe on BeReal

With any new [social media app](#), gaming platform or similar, it's important to discuss with your child the benefits and risks to ensure they are aware of how to get help where needed. Some conversation points might include:

- how to [report inappropriate content](#)
- the importance of considering their surroundings when taking photos. If they wouldn't like their photo posted without consent, they should extend the same courtesy to those around them
- who they are interacting with; have they met outside of BeReal?



BeReal is a French social media/photo sharing app released in 2020, gaining popularity in 2022. It encourages users to post a photo of themselves and their lives without filters or editing every day at a different time.

School Diary Dates- Spring Term 2023

The full year of diary dates is available on our school website. Go to 'News/Events/Recruitment' Term Dates' -'school diary dates for parents 22/23'. See below for the first term of events. Some activities/ dates may be subject to change but we will always contact parents to inform you of any changes.

Tue 3 th Jan	Staff Development Day
Wed 4 th Jan	Term begins
W/B 23 th Jan	Maths parent drop ins- each class to confirm own date and time
Thurs 9 th Feb	Young Voices trip with choir
Fri 10 th Feb	End for half term
Mon 13 th - Fri 17 th Feb	Half term holiday
Mon 20 th Feb	Term begins
Thurs 2 nd March	World Book Day- details nearer the time
Fri 17 th March	Red Nose Day- Comic Relief 2022- details nearer the time
WB 20 th March	Stay & Create - classes to confirm own date and time
Tue 28 th and Thurs 30 th March	Parents evenings (Tue 3.30-5.30pm / Thurs 4.00-6.30pm)
Fri 31 st March	Easter lunch & Last Day of Term
1/4/22- 19/4/22	Easter Holidays
Mon 17 th April	Training Day
Tues 18 th April	Term begins