



08.4.24

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. I trust you all, had a very happy Easter and a really good break.

The end of the term was incredibly busy as you know with year 5 and year 6 on their residential visit and a visit from Ofsted also in the final week of term. Following that busy end to the term, there has been lots of work going on behind the scenes during the holiday with the start of the building work and some work around recruitment.

Recruitment

I am pleased to say that we are now fully staffed in school following the departure of Mrs Dillon and Mrs Prestidge and that both classes affected now have stable staffing for the summer term.

One of these positions is going to be filled by a deputy head teacher, Miss Nisha Mehta, for the summer term who will commence employment with us on the 22nd of April. She will be working alongside Mrs Doberska to teach the year three class for the duration of the summer term.

This will ensure that Mrs Doberska can continue the important work around SEND across school and the new teacher will also bring some additional leadership capacity to school, following the departure of Mrs Dillon.

Miss Mehta comes with excellent credentials. She is excited for the opportunity to work in our school alongside the Y3 children and shows a real passion for her work.

Obviously, we have had recruitment to fill in Y6 also. Miss Howell has very kindly upped her hours as well as Mrs H Hill which has been the best solution to offer consistency to the children. As explained to parents of Y6 pupils, we just had a teaching element to cover on a Monday morning. This will be filled by Mrs Petras who will cover the Monday morning for the whole of the summer term teaching Spelling, Spanish and PE to the children. Miss Howell will teach the core elements for that day on the Monday afternoon.

Parents will perhaps have seen that we have vacancies advertised for commencement in September to cover these roles in the long term.

I am also sorry to announce that Mrs Fletcher (teaching assistant) will be leaving us in the coming weeks, having secured a new role in a specialist school. We will be very sorry to see her leave and I would like to thank her for all her work here at Long Itchington. We are currently putting in arrangements to cover this role as we move forward.

Building work

During the holidays there has been much activity on the playground as the building work gets into full swing.

As noted on dojo during the break we have made some slight changes to morning drop off arrangements. Children in Wren, Puffin, Robin and Woodpecker can be dropped off as usual via the Key Stage 1 playground. Swift, Kingfisher and Swan class will need to be dropped off via the Main Entrance and through the school hall.

For collection, both gates will be open as usual with Swift, Kingfisher and Swan leaving via the Key Stage 2 playground (where the student lockers are).

As previously requested, please do keep a particular eye on any younger children who may be coming onto the school site to make sure they don't stray into the construction areas. I have spoken with all of the children this morning about how we manage playtimes and lunchtimes and class teachers will be walking through fire exit procedures with the children today.



Sports and Clubs Update

It was fabulous to read Mrs Hill's recent dojo post citing all the things that we have managed to offer the pupils last half term – so many options for children to enjoy.

Our After School programme this half term will be as follows:

Monday - Y5 & 6 mixed Football

Tuesday - Lego club (book via parent pay or email school office)

Wednesday- Forest School (book via parent pay or email school office)

Thursday- Running club starting 18th April then every other week.

I would also like to thank Laura Morris who has very successfully run our debating club last half term – the children have loved it! This is set to continue this half term on a Friday lunchtime. It has given the children so much to think about and was fabulous for me to see the children generating such thoughtful contributions to the club at the end of term.

Ofsted

Following our inspection at end of term, I have been asked today about the outcome. The report is due to be published within 18 working days of the inspection, so may not be available for some time yet, given the two week break we had immediately after the inspection. I anticipate it will be available towards the beginning of May and will be shared with parents just as soon as we can.

Food bank

You will recall that last term we set up a small foodbank in school. This is just a reminder that this service is available to any families that might need it and any requests to use the food bank will be handled sensitively. Several of you have asked if you could contribute in any way – this is not necessary at this time as we only currently require a limited stock. If donations are required, we will of course make those requests to families, but I would like to extend my thanks for these very kind offers.

Attendance and Punctuality

It is very important that pupils attend school regularly so that they can receive continuity in their learning and therefore any absence requests will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances – a copy of our attendance policy is available via this link:

[attendance-policy-january-23.pdf \(primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/attendance-policy-january-23.pdf)

As part of our commitment to ensure that our standards for attendance are consistently high, we will be alerting parents to 'persistent absenteeism' – that which falls below 90%. Letters will be going out this half term. I will also be requesting medical evidence for absence that relates to illness of any pupils with attendance below 90%. This could be a screen drop of a GP appointment or a copy of a prescription.

When deciding whether your children is well enough to attend school, the following NHS link can offer some helpful advice.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

It is important that we work together on supporting attendance, so please do get in touch if your child's attendance is a concern and there are barriers that we can help with. We are always willing to support.

Our current attendance sits at 95% and we have a school target of 97% - it would be great to meet that target this half term.

Family Information Service

The family information service can be a great source of information, advice and one-to-one support for families with children and young people aged 0 to 25 across Warwickshire on issues including:

family relationships

finance

housing

parenting support
special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
childcare
health and wellbeing

If you would like to access support or discuss any issues affecting your family, the phone number for the Family Information Service is 01926 742274.

You can read the latest FIS newsletters via these links:

[Welcome to the latest Family Information Service Newsletter - Tuesday 02 April 2024 \(campaign-archive.com\)](#)

[Welcome to a special edition Family Information Service Newsletter - Thursday 4 April 2024 \(campaign-archive.com\)](#)

Sponsored Readathon

Thank you so much for your support in our recent sponsored readathon in aid of the British Red Cross. This was so well supported by families and we managed to raise over £700. Thank you to the incredible work of Y3 pupils whose idea it was, inspired by their curriculum work in PSHE and for the support of Mrs Prestidge in bringing their ideas together in such an effective fundraiser!

Long Itchington History Group

The Long Itchington History Group have very recently donated £150 to our school to spend on books to support our history curriculum – we are so grateful for this kind support and look forward to creating our shopping list! I have asked a small group of children to write some letters to say thank you and to tell the history group a little about what they have been learning in History at school this year. It is wonderful to have such lovely links with community groups, who want to support our school.

That feels like a lovely way to end this newsletter - I hope you have found this information useful and I look forward to everything that is coming up during this exciting term in school.

As ever, please do let us know if there is anything we can help with or that you need in order to make your child's school journey the best it can be!

Many thanks
Rebecca Richards

Headteacher