

NEWS Bulletin



Latest News from Longhill

Issue 64

Friday 17th December 2021

Dear parents and carers.

Christmas is almost here and it's the end of what has been a challenging but very rewarding term for the children. The children have been excellent throughout and have been a credit to you. Some of the work they produce is outstanding and their behaviour has been fantastic.

The latest Covid-19 situation in schools

Unfortunately, once again Covid-19 has begun to cause disruption to the normal workings of the school and we have ended the term with more restrictions than when we started.

As we write this letter the Covid picture nationally is changing rapidly. The Omicron variant is spreading at an alarming rate with cases doubling every two days in the UK. The hope is that the booster programme starts to impact and the rate of infection starts to slow. We do know that it was really disappointing to cancel in person attendance to the Christmas activities but we felt it was the most sensible thing to do given the current circumstances. A link to watch the Foundation Stage/Year1 Christmas play will be sent out on Tuesday.

At this stage we are expecting schools to open as normal in the Spring term. We will continue to ensure that there is increased cleaning in school, staff are being asked to wear masks in communal areas and all areas are well ventilated. However, we all know that situations can change very quickly so please keep an eye out on any messages sent in the school holidays.

Staffing changes

We are sadly saying goodbye to two of our teachers at the end of this term. Miss O'Neill and Miss Failey will be leaving us to take on new challenges and we wish them the very best of luck in the future. Miss Failey will be returning in the new term to take a part time role linked to curriculum. We are also saying goodbye to Gail Melbourne who works as part of our catering team. Gail has been with us for many years and is starting a well deserved retirement!

We are delighted to be welcoming Miss Walker who will be joining our teaching staff and Mrs Spencer who will be joining our admin team in the office.

Ofsted

We had a 2 day visit from Ofsted a few weeks ago and we would like to thank those of you who provided the inspector with your views on the school. The report should be published early in the new year and as soon as we have a copy we will let you know.

Latest News

Merry Christmas!

We hope that you all have a lovely Christmas with your families and that your plans can go ahead as normal. Just a reminder that the children return to school on **Wednesday 5th January 2022** and we look forward to seeing you then.

Best wishes

Mr Batty and Mrs Pearce

School Notices

Communication with parents

From January 2022, we will be introducing a new way of communicating with parents/carers through the 'SchoolPing' app.

Until further notice, payments for school meals, trips etc will continue to be through ParentPay.

Further information to follow.

Christmas events

Monday 20th December - Christmas Party Day

Tuesday 21st December – Break for Christmas

Bikes/scooters on the playground

It is great to see children back on their bikes and scooters but they are not to be ridden on the playground. The children have been told this. If any children are seen riding their bikes and scooters on the playground then they will no longer be allowed to bring them into school which would be a shame.

Leaving school

At the end of the school day there will continue to be staggered pick up times to help keep a steady flow of cars and people on the school site.

Please pick your children up between the following times:

Foundation Stage will begin to leave from 3pm from the normal school exit.

Year 1 and 2 will start going home at 3pm from the 2 doors leading onto the playground.

Year 3 and 4 will leave from 3.10pm from the 2 doors leading onto the playground

Year 5 and 6 will leave from 3.15pm from the 2 doors leading onto the playground.

Conduct of parents on the school playground

We have recently had reports of a small minority of parents using threatening and abusive language towards other parents on the playground. This type of behaviour will not be tolerated on school premises. Anyone found to be acting in an abusive or threatening manner will be banned from accessing the school site.

Earrings

Earrings are not allowed at Longhill Primary School. Please ensure that your child has removed their earrings before coming to school. If they still have them in and we cannot contact you to remove them then unfortunately your child will not be allowed to take part in any physical activity - this includes going out at playtime. This falls under our health and safety policy.

Mobile Phones

Reminder that children should not bring mobile phones to school. If a mobile phone is brought into school, it must be handed to the class teacher.

School Notices

Water Bottles

Please remember to send your child with a water bottle, clearly named, on a daily basis. Bottles can be refilled in class throughout the day.

School uniform

The school uniform is as follows:

White or light blue polo shirt
Navy blue jumper / cardigan
Black/grey trousers (short or long) / Black/grey skirt
Appropriate footwear

If a child is not wearing the correct uniform parents will be contacted by the phase leader to discuss how we can support you in any way.

If a child arrives in the wrong jumper they will be asked to remove it and put it on their peg.

PE kit

The PE kit is as follows:

White / Light blue T shirt
Blue / Black shorts or plain tracksuit bottoms
School jumper can be worn if they are outside.

If your child is not in the correct PE kit we will provide them with some spare kit that they will be asked to change in to.

Children may still come into school in PE kit when it is their PE day. The PE days are as follows:

Monday - Foundation 2 and Year 2

Tuesday - Year 3

Wednesday - Year 5 and Year 4

Thursday - Foundation 1 morning and Year 6

Friday - Year 1

Online Safety Update

The best way to help keep your children safe online is by talking to them about what they do on the internet. The ThinkUKnow website is an excellent resource that provides plenty of resources to support this discussion between you and your children. The Jessie and Friends resources are brilliant for 4-7 year olds, while the Play, Like, Share resources are suitable for 8-11 year olds. Additionally, the websites www.parentinfo.org and <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/> are great websites that can help keep you up-to-date on the latest apps, games and websites that the children may be using. They also provide excellent guidelines for keeping safe while using the internet.

School Notices

Year Group Emails

Each year group as an email address for you to contact your child's class teacher, they are as follows

longhillstaffeyfs@hcat.org.uk

foundationstage.longhill@hcat.org.uk

yearone.longhill.@hcat.org.uk

yeartwo.longhill@hcat.org.uk

yearthree.longhill@hcat.org.uk

yearfour.longhill@hcat.org.uk

yearfive.longhill@hcat.org.uk

yearsix.longhill@hcat.org.uk

Diary Dates

2021-22

20 December—Christmas Party Day
21 December—CLOSE FOR CHRISTMAS
5 January—SCHOOL RE-OPENS
17 February—CLOSE FOR HALF-TERM
1 March—SCHOOL RE-OPENS
18 March—Red Nose Day
7 April—CLOSE FOR EASTER
25 April—SCHOOL RE-OPENS
2 May—BANK HOLIDAY—SCHOOL CLOSED
26 May—CLOSE FOR HALF-TERM
8 June—SCHOOL RE-OPENS
22 July—CLOSE FOR SUMMER

2022-23

6 September—SCHOOL RE-OPENS
20 October—CLOSE FOR HALF-TERM
2 November—SCHOOL RE-OPENS
20 December—CLOSE FOR CHRISTMAS
4 January—SCHOOL RE-OPENS
10 February—CLOSE FOR HALF-TERM
21 February—SCHOOL RE-OPENS
31 March—CLOSE FOR EASTER
17 April—SCHOOL RE-OPENS
1 May—BANK HOLIDAY—SCHOOL CLOSED
26 May—CLOSE FOR HALF-TERM
7 June—SCHOOL RE-OPENS
20 July—CLOSE FOR SUMMER

