

1st September 2025

Long Wittenham C.E. Primary School



Show our love through kindness, determination and curiosity; strengthening ourselves and our community

Please remember we are a nut free school

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all had a wonderful holiday and found time to relax. As we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday, we wanted to make you aware of a couple of changes.

Firstly, some of you may already know that we are renaming the classes to ensure they have strong links to our wonderful rural location. The new names and class teams are as follows:

Year Group	New Class Name	Staff Team
EYFS	Acorn	Miss Clarke, Mrs Beeton, Mrs Humphries, Mrs Manners, Miss Green, Mrs Karabulut
Year 1 & 2	Birch	
Year 3 & 4	Pine	Mrs McNamee, Mrs Bowtell
Year 5 & 6	Oak	Mrs Greenway, Mrs Fraser, Mrs Shayler-Brown

We chose these names because they reflect both our environment and the children's learning journeys. Just as acorns grow into strong oak trees, our youngest learners begin their journey in Acorn Class and continue to grow and flourish through Birch and Pine, before reaching Oak as confident, mature learners ready for the next stage of their education.

We are also making a small change to the way children come into school each morning, to ensure the start of the day is as calm and productive as possible. Rather than lining up, children will go straight to their classroom door, where they will be welcomed by a member of the staff team for that class. This will also give you the opportunity to pass on any messages directly to the adults working with your child.

If for any reason you require a longer conversation or a meeting with the class teacher, please contact the school office to make an appointment.

The playground gates will open at 8:40am, and the classroom doors will open at 8:45am. On entry, children will put their belongings away and begin an independent morning activity to help them settle quickly into their learning.

As mentioned in the Starting School booklet, Acorn Class may come in at 9:00am for the first week to enable an even quieter start. That said, if you are dropping siblings earlier, we are more than happy for the Acorn children to come in at the same time as them.

We hope these changes will help set a positive tone for each school day.

When you return to school, you will also see some exciting changes around the site. The RET site team have been busy resurfacing the area outside Acorn Class, installing a new canopy outside Pine Class, and creating a fantastic useable space outside Birch Class, as well as completing other repairs. These improvements have only been possible thanks to the funding and expertise we now have access to as part of Ridgeway Education Trust. Pine Class has also had a fresh repaint

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and is looking much brighter thanks to the hard work of a group of parent volunteers — we are extremely grateful for their support. Finally, a huge thank you to all of our staff who have been working so hard to get the classrooms looking fantastic and ready to welcome the children back.



We look forward to welcoming everyone back and beginning an exciting new term together.

Best wishes,

Gillian

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Dates for your Diaries 2025-2026	
Thursday 16 th October	Harvest Festival 2:30pm in the church
Friday 10 th October	Oak Class Assembly 3pm
Friday 24 th October	Open Class – a chance to look at your child's work so far this year. 3pm-4pm in the classrooms
Wednesday 5 th November	Parents evening 3:30-5:30pm
Thursday 6 th November	Parents Evening 5-7pm
Thursday 11 th December	Christmas jumper and Christmas lunch day
Friday 12 th December	Christingle in church 4pm
Wednesday 17 th December	EYFS and KS1 Nativity 10am & 2pm
Friday 6 th February	Pine Class Assembly 3pm
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Tuesday 24 th March	Pine Class Performance 3:30pm & 5:30pm
Wednesday 22 nd April	Parents Evening 3:30-5:30pm
Thursday 23 rd April	Parents Evening 7-7pm
Friday 24 th April	Birch Class Assembly 3pm
Week beginning 11 th May	SATs Week
Tuesday 19 th May	Sports Day- 10am followed by picnic lunch
Week beginning 8 th June	Phonics screening check
Friday 12 th June	Acorn Class Assembly 3pm
Wednesday 15 th July	Oak Class Performance 2pm & 6pm