

Friday 3rd July 2026

Long Wittenham C.E. Primary School



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

This week has provided a wonderful reminder of the richness of the opportunities available to our children. We have been fortunate to welcome a number of visitors into school who have helped to inspire our children, introduce new opportunities and celebrate their achievements.

In Monday's assembly, we were fortunate to welcome Kate Hawker from Jam Coding. She gave the children an exciting introduction to coding, demonstrating how it can be used to create games and inspiring them with the possibilities of digital creativity. She also shared information about the after-school game-making club that will be launching in September. We are always keen to provide opportunities that help children discover new interests and develop skills beyond the classroom, and we hope many children will choose to take part in this fantastic experience.

The week continued with another opportunity to see our children excel beyond the classroom at the iRock concert. As always, it was wonderful to welcome families to celebrate the children's achievements and enjoy their performances. The confidence, enthusiasm and musical talent on display were a credit to all of the children. It was particularly lovely to see the progression in skills and stage presence as we moved through the year groups, and especially poignant to watch our Year 6 pupils perform in their final iRock concert before moving on to secondary school.

We ended the week with a wonderful Celebration Assembly, where we recognised the achievements of the children who have been taking part in Reading Quest. We were delighted to welcome Heather Richards, Education Programme manager from Quest for Learning, who presented the children with certificates in recognition of their fantastic engagement and commitment throughout the programme. We are also incredibly grateful for the generous donation of books to the school, which will help to inspire even more children to discover the joy of reading. Reading Quest has provided a fantastic opportunity to foster a love of reading, encouraging children to explore new books, develop their confidence as readers and discover the enjoyment that reading can bring. We are incredibly proud of all the children who have taken part and hope they continue their reading journeys over the summer and beyond.

As we head into the final two weeks of term, we look forward to the exciting events and celebrations still to come. With so much to enjoy, attendance remains as important as ever so that children can make the most of these special opportunities.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Miss Clarke

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This Week's Learning

Acorn Class:

This week in Acorn Class, we have been reading *The Big Book of the Blue* and exploring fascinating facts about our favourite sea creatures. The children have enjoyed retrieving information from the text and using their learning to create some fantastic fact files. In Maths, we have been revisiting and strengthening the children's automatic recall of key number facts. Our focus has been on developing a deeper understanding of number relationships and the composition of numbers in a range of different contexts. The children have also been identifying, locating, and discussing the human and physical features of a contrasting locality, making thoughtful comparisons and building their understanding of different places.

Mrs Beeton & Mrs Humphries

Birch Class:

In Birch Class, we have enjoyed starting our new book, *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch*. The children have been writing speech bubbles to practise using exclamation marks and question marks correctly, as well as imagining what Mr Grinling might see from his window to develop their descriptive writing skills. In Science, we have been applying the knowledge we have gained throughout the year by carrying out a range of investigations. This week, we designed and built houses for the Gingerbread Man before testing them to find out whether they were waterproof. In DT, we proudly completed our textiles unit by sewing our own bunting. This was a challenging skill to master, and the children showed great perseverance and resilience, producing some fantastic final pieces. In History, we explored a variety of historical sources to deepen our understanding of the three queens we have been learning about, comparing their lives and discovering how their experiences differed.



Miss Clarke

Pine Class:

Pine Class have had a fantastic start to their new learning this week. In English, we began exploring *Belonging* by Jeannie Baker, a beautiful wordless book which has provided an excellent hook for developing our dialogue writing skills. In Maths, we started our statistics unit, learning how to read and create pictograms, tally charts and bar charts. In History, we examined photographs of artefacts to help us understand what life was like on the home front during the World Wars. Our Science lesson saw us conduct an investigation into seed dispersal, where we designed and made our own seeds before testing how far they travelled in different wind conditions. In DT, we carried out some market research to discover Pine Class's top three pizza toppings in preparation for making our own pizzas in the coming weeks. The children have also been busy completing their assessments and have shown excellent determination throughout, demonstrating a positive attitude and resilience in all they do.

Mrs McNamee

Oak Class:

This term, we have been busy rehearsing for our end-of-year performance of *Holes*. The children have been enthusiastically learning their songs and have begun making props to help bring the production to life. In Science, we have been investigating the fascinating properties of space blankets and exploring how their materials make them effective at retaining heat. In History, we have been learning about the Windrush generation and examining the varied experiences people faced after arriving in Britain, helping us to develop a deeper understanding of this important period in British history.

Mrs Greenway and Mr Smith

Attendance Update

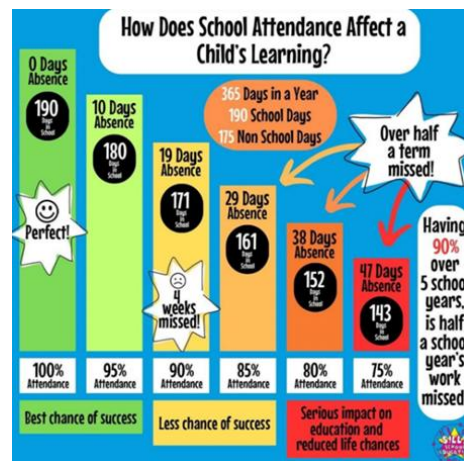
Whole school attendance: 93.5%

Congratulations to Pine Class: 95.45% attendance.

If you are not sure if your child is well enough to come to school please check the following guidance: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

Oxfordshire SEND Local Offer

Parents and carers can find comprehensive information about support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) through the **Oxfordshire SEND Local Offer**. It brings together guidance, services, and resources for ages 0–25, including help with identifying needs, accessing support, and understanding Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). Visit the Local Offer to explore what's available and how to access support: [Oxfordshire SEND local offer | Oxfordshire County Council](#)



Free School Meals Eligibility

Please look out for an email about Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility and take action if this may apply to your family. From September 2026, national changes mean all eligibilities must be reassessed, including extended criteria where households will now qualify for free school meals if they receive Universal Credit, regardless of income level. Families on lower incomes who receive certain other benefits may also be eligible under targeted criteria, and this group will continue to attract Pupil Premium funding for the school. It is important that parents complete the application form if eligible, as without this the school cannot confirm entitlement or provide free meals from September.

Dates for your Diaries 2025-2026	
Wednesday 15 th April	Elite After School Football Club (every Wednesday, 15 th April-15 th July)
Monday 8 th June – Monday 13 th July	Forest School for Year 6s who haven't attended this academic year
Tuesday 7 th July and Wednesday 8 th July	Rising year 7 transition days at St Birinus, Didcot Girls' and Aureus
Friday 10 th July	Celebration Assembly
Wednesday 15 th July	Oak Class Performance 2pm & 6pm
Friday 17 th July	Year 6 Leavers' church service 12:30pm End of term – break up at 1:30pm

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