

Monday 21st September 2026

Long Wittenham C.E. Primary School



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

Last week, children across the school marked International Day of Democracy by learning about the importance of having a voice, participating in decision-making and contributing positively to their community. As part of this, pupils took part in elections to choose their Class Representatives. Candidates spoke confidently about why they would be a good representative and shared ideas about how they could support their classmates throughout the year. Following the class votes, the results were announced to the whole school and we were delighted to congratulate our newly elected Class Representatives. They will play an important role in ensuring that pupil voice continues to be heard and valued across the school.

We have also appointed our House Captains for the year. These pupils were selected in recognition of their positive attitudes, commitment to our school values and ability to act as role models for others. House Captains will take on a range of leadership responsibilities, including supporting house events, encouraging participation and helping to foster a strong sense of teamwork across the school. Congratulations to all of our Class Representatives and House Captains. We look forward to seeing the positive contribution they make throughout the year.

Meet the Team Event

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Team event. It was wonderful to see so many families joining us at the start of the new academic year. The event provided an opportunity for parents and carers to meet class teachers, learn about classroom expectations and gain an overview of the exciting learning planned for the year ahead. It was also a valuable chance for us to share some of our key messages and priorities for the year. We greatly appreciate your support and look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year to provide the very best opportunities for all children.

Celebration Assemblies and Class Assemblies

Throughout the year, we look forward to welcoming families to a range of assemblies and school events. Celebration Assemblies provide an opportunity to recognise children's achievements, both in and out of school, and to celebrate the many ways they demonstrate our school values. These occasions allow us to share and celebrate the successes of our pupils as a school community.

Class assemblies provide an opportunity for children to showcase their learning, share their experiences and celebrate their achievements with family members and the wider school community. To help families plan attendance, we have included information alongside each event in the dates section of this newsletter indicating who is invited. We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to these special occasions throughout the year.

Dates for the Term

To help families plan ahead, we have included the key dates for this term below. These include assemblies, parent events and other important school activities. Alongside each event, we have indicated who is invited to attend where appropriate. Whilst we always aim to keep dates unchanged, there may occasionally be a need to make amendments. Should this happen, we will communicate any changes as soon as possible.

Miss Clarke

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Attendance

Thank you to all families for your continued support in ensuring children attend school regularly and arrive on time each day. Last week, we shared information about exceptional leave and the procedures that schools are required to follow. This week, we would like to focus on the positive impact that good attendance has on children's learning and wellbeing.

Every day in school matters. Regular attendance helps children build confidence, maintain friendships, develop positive routines and fully engage with their learning. Even occasional absences can mean that children miss important teaching, class discussions and opportunities to practise new skills.

At our school, we believe that good attendance is a shared responsibility. By working together, families and school staff can help children establish positive attendance habits that support their success both now and in the future. If you are experiencing difficulties that may affect your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are committed to working with families to provide support wherever possible.

Whole School Attendance Last week: 96.1%

Congratulations to Oak Class with the highest attendance of 98.95%

This Week's Learning

Acorn Class:

We have been enjoying the story, *It's a George Thing!* which explores the idea of discovering the activities and interests that make us unique. In Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of number by practising subitising. Rather than counting, subitising encourages children to recognise the number of objects in a small group instantly, simply by looking and knowing how many there are. The Acorns have also been busy strengthening their fine motor skills in preparation for writing. Activities have included carefully scooping glitter into containers using spoons and using large tweezers to place pom-poms onto swirls. These fun hands-on tasks help to develop the hand strength, coordination and control needed for early writing skills.

Mrs Beeton & Mrs Humphries

Birch Class:

Birch Class have enjoyed reading *This Is Not My Hat* and using the story to inspire their writing. The children have created speech bubbles for the characters while practising the correct use of I, my and me. In Geography, they have been exploring the human and physical features of Long Wittenham, and in Science they have been learning about the different parts of a plant. Reading books have now been sent home and will be in children's books bags each day. Regular reading at home is one of the best ways to support your child's progress, so please try to read together as often as possible. Thank you for your support.

Mr Bruno

Pine Class:

Pine Class had another busy and engaging week of learning. In English, the children wrote a first-person character description of a witch. Inspired by *The Witches* by Roald Dahl, they also explored how to identify a real witch by retrieving information from the text in our reading lessons. In Geography, we continued our learning about rivers, focusing on the water cycle and how rivers are formed. In Music, the children have been learning to sing *I've Been to Harlem* and developing their keyboard-playing skills. Our RE lesson explored Hindu beliefs about karma and how our actions can have consequences. We finished the week with an Art lesson, where the children practised tonal shading techniques to create depth and texture in their artwork.

Mrs McNamee

Oak Class:

Oak Class have been busy across a range of subjects this week. In English, they have been writing a discussion text, considering the pros and cons of allowing children to walk home through the forest and using evidence to support different viewpoints. In RE, the children have been learning about the origins of the Holy Trinity and exploring where references to the Trinity can be found in the Bible. In Computing, they have been developing their spreadsheet skills, learning how to enter data and format cells effectively. Meanwhile, in French, they have begun a new topic on transport, learning vocabulary for different modes of travel.

Mrs Greenway and Miss Clarke

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Important Dates		
Event	Date and time	Who should attend
2026		
Celebration Assembly	Friday 25 th September 3.00pm	Whole School Community
Inset Day	Friday 5 th October All Day	School closed to pupils
Residential Information Meeting	Wednesday 7 th October 5.30pm	Oak Class parents
Oak Class Assembly	Friday 16 th October 3.00pm	Whole School Community
Rising Reception Open Morning	Wednesday 21 st October 9.30am	Parents with children starting in September 2027
Phonics Information Meeting	Wednesday 21 st October 6.00pm	Reception and Y1 Parents
Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church	Thursday 22 nd October 2.30pm	Whole School Community
PTA Autumn Disco	Friday 23 rd October 4.30pm – 6.00pm	Children from year groups
Parents Evening	Tuesday 3 rd November Wednesday 4 th November	Parents and children
Celebration Assembly	Friday 13 th November 3.00pm	Whole School Community
Celebration Assembly	Friday 27 th November 3.00pm	Whole School Community
Christingle Service at St Mary's Church	Wednesday 9 th December 4.00pm	Whole School Community
Acorn and Birch Class Nativity	Wednesday 16 th December 10.00am and 2.00pm	Acorn and Birch families
End of term	Friday 18 th December 1.30 finish	
2027		
Pine Class Assembly	Friday 5 th February 3.00pm	Whole School Community
Birch Class Assembly	Friday 23 rd April 3.00pm	Whole School Community
Acorn Class Assembly	Friday 11 th June 3.00pm	Whole School Community