

Friday 23rd October 2026

Long Wittenham C.E. Primary School



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

It has been another busy and enjoyable week at Long Wittenham, with plenty of opportunities to celebrate, welcome visitors and share achievements.

Yesterday evening, I was delighted to attend Long Wittenham Pre-School's AGM. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the many successes the Pre-School has achieved over the past year and to support such an important part of our local community. Long Wittenham Pre-School is an important part of our wider school community, and the strong links between our settings play a vital role in helping children and families make a positive start to their school journey. I am keen to continue strengthening this partnership. The Pre-School is currently looking to recruit new trustees to support its ongoing work, particularly for named roles, including Treasurer. Trustees do not need to be current parents. The role is about bringing a range of skills, experience and perspectives to help guide and support the Pre-School's continued success. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in supporting this valuable community resource, please contact chair@longwittenhampre-school.co.uk for further information.

Our Harvest Festival was a wonderful occasion and a fitting celebration of gratitude and community. In the lead up to the service, children explored the meaning of harvest in assemblies and reflected on the importance of being thankful for all that we have. The service itself showcased the children's excellent singing, thoughtful prayers and the work they have been completing in class. It was particularly lovely to see the confidence of Acorn Class on their first visit to the church, and I know many parents and carers enjoyed sharing this special occasion with us.

We were also delighted to welcome prospective families to our recent Open Morning. Our Year 5 and 6 House Captains and House Representatives were excellent ambassadors for the school, leading tours with confidence, enthusiasm and pride. They spoke positively about their experiences at Long Wittenham and represented our school values brilliantly. If you know of any families considering schools for their children, please let them know about our Stay and Play session on Friday 13 November. We will also continue to offer tours throughout the term.

As many of you will know, Mrs McNamee began her maternity leave slightly earlier than expected this week. We are delighted to share the wonderful news of the safe arrival of Ada Maeve McNamee. I know that you will join me in sending our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the McNamee family at this very special time.

Looking ahead, I am pleased to announce that Mr Graham Jenner will be joining us after half term as Pine Class teacher. Mr Jenner brings a wealth of experience and has already spent time in school this week getting to know our staff, pupils and routines. We are excited to welcome him to the Long Wittenham community and know that he will be a fantastic addition to our team.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. I hope you all have a restful half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back after the holiday.

Miss Clarke

Telephone: 01865 407850

Email: office@long-wittenham.school

Attendance

All parents should now have received a letter outlining their child's attendance for this academic year so far. Our school attendance target is 96% or above, and any concerns will have been highlighted within the letter.

Regular attendance plays a vital role in children's learning, wellbeing and sense of belonging at school. Every day matters, and at this stage of the year even a small number of absences can have a significant impact on attendance percentages. If your child's attendance is currently below our target, now is the ideal time to work together to improve it.

We understand that there can be a variety of reasons why attendance may be a challenge for some families. If you would like support or advice, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are committed to working in partnership with families to ensure every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for your continued support in helping children attend school regularly and make the most of every learning opportunity.

Whole School Attendance

Whole school attendance was 97.1%

Congratulations to **Class Oak**, who achieved **99% attendance**.

This Week's Learning

Acorn Class:

In Acorn Class this week we have been exploring books about seasonal change. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about autumn, spotting signs of the season in our local environment, and expressing their creativity through a range of beautiful autumn-themed art activities. In Maths, we have been comparing groups of objects and using the language of "more than" and "fewer than" to describe what we can see. The children have had great fun collecting and sorting a variety of objects to compare and discuss. In RE, we have continued to learn about role models, thinking about how figures such as Moses and Jesus showed qualities that others could learn from.

Mrs Beeton & Mrs Humphries

Birch Class:

This week, Birch Class have enjoyed looking back on and applying their learning from across the term. In English, we have been reading Ravi's Roar and retelling part of the story, focusing on accurate sentence structure and clear writing. In Geography, we explored our local area by mapping our journeys to school and discussing the different landmarks we pass along the way. In Science, we revisited everything we have learned about plants and shared our knowledge with confidence. It has been wonderful to see how much progress the children have made this term.

Mr Bruno

Pine Class:

This week, Pine Class have been busy reflecting on and celebrating their learning. In Geography, we enjoyed learning about some of the world's longest rivers and discovering fascinating facts about these remarkable natural features. We then reviewed everything we have learned during our rivers topic by creating informative posters and sharing our knowledge. In English, we used our creativity to write our own twisted fairy tales, adapting familiar stories with exciting new characters, settings and plot twists. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of measurement, comparing and measuring length, height, mass and capacity.

Mrs McNamee and Mrs Shayler-Brown

Oak Class:

This week, we have been putting everything we have learned in English this term into practice by writing a character description. We have focused on precision, accuracy, creative language choices and varying sentence structures for effect. The writing produced has been fantastic and clearly demonstrates the excellent progress the children have made this term. In Science, we have been exploring the life cycles of insects and reviewing all of our learning from this term by creating informative leaflets about life cycles. Writing as experts, the children have confidently shared their knowledge and understanding. In R.E., we reflected on the concept of the Trinity and considered the different aspects of our own identities. We explored how this connects to what Christians believe about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Mrs Greenway and Miss Clarke

Telephone: 01865 407850

Email: office@long-wittenham.school

Important Dates		
Event	Date and time	Who should attend
2026		
PTA Autumn Disco	Friday 23 rd October 4.30pm – 6.00pm	Children from all year groups
Parents Evening	Tuesday 3 rd November Wednesday 4 th November	Parents and children
School Photographer	Thursday 5 th November	Pupils – in school
Rising Reception Stay and Play	Friday 13 th November 2.00pm	Parents with children starting in September 2027
Children in Need	Friday 13 th November	Whole School
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