Monday 9th November 2026

Long Wittenham C.E. Primary School



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

Following a busy start to term last week, it has been wonderful to reflect on the many opportunities for learning and personal development taking place across the school. In our whole school assemblies, we launched our termly focus on celebrations, encouraging children to think about the importance of marking significant events and milestones in our lives. This links closely with our PSHE learning on Celebrating Difference, where pupils have been exploring the importance of respect, inclusion and understanding the unique qualities that make each of us special.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended Parents' Evening last week. We value these opportunities to work in partnership with families and to celebrate the progress children are making. For families in Pine Class, a dedicated Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday 25th November, providing an opportunity to meet with their new class teacher and discuss how the children have settled into the term.

Attached to this newsletter are the termly curriculum overviews, which outline the learning taking place in each class this term. We hope these provide a helpful insight into the exciting topics and experiences planned for the children over the coming weeks.

We were also delighted to see Oak Class set off on their residential visit on Sunday. Residential experiences provide valuable opportunities for children to develop independence, resilience and teamwork, and we look forward to hearing all about their adventures when they return.

This Friday, we will be supporting Children in Need, with the School Council, supported by Oak Class, helping to organise activities for pupils throughout the afternoon including the Strictly 26 Step Challenge. There will also be an after-school cake sale, and we hope families will be able to support this worthwhile cause. All cake donations welcome. Events such as these give children the opportunity to make a positive difference to the lives of others while demonstrating our school values of kindness and community.



Miss Clarke

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Attendance

As we move into the winter months, we know that coughs, colds and seasonal illnesses become more common. We encourage families to use NHS guidance when deciding whether their child is well enough to attend school. Many minor illnesses will not prevent children from enjoying a full day of learning, while children who are genuinely unwell should, of course, be given the time they need to rest and recover.
Regular attendance is important because small amounts of absence can quickly accumulate over the course of a school year. By ensuring children attend school whenever they are well enough to do so, families can be confident that when illness or other unavoidable circumstances arise, those absences will have less impact on their child's overall attendance and progress.
Thank you for your continued support in helping every child make the most of their time in school.

Whole School Attendance
Whole school attendance was **94.7%**
Congratulations to Oak Class**,** who achieved **98.5% attendance**.

This Week's Learning

Acorn Class:
Last week in Acorn class we enjoyed the story The Proudest Blue, learning lots of new vocabulary and exploring the different feelings and emotions experienced by the characters. In maths, the children have continued to take part in practical activities that help them understand the purpose of counting and use it to find out 'how many' objects there are altogether. We have also been learning about how to stay safe on Bonfire Night and being around fireworks, discussing the importance of being careful around them and understanding how to keep ourselves and others safe. Reading books were sent out in book bags last week, together with a 'reading for pleasure' book that your child has chosen to share with you. Please remember to fill in the reading diary every time you read with your child. A great start back to the new term Acorn class!

Mrs Beeton & Mrs Humphries

Birch Class:
Last week, Birch Class enjoyed starting *The Darkest Dark* in English, using the story to inspire their writing as they practised writing accurate sentences and shared their own ambitions and dreams. In History, we have begun learning about the Great Fire of London and why it is such an important event in Britain's past. In Science, we have been exploring seasonal change, observing signs of autumn and discussing how the natural world changes throughout the year. The children have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity, and we are looking forward to another exciting week of learning.

Mr Bruno

Pine Class:
As I come to the end of my first week with Pine Class, I would like to say what a pleasure it has been to meet and teach the children. They have made me feel incredibly welcome and have shown a positive attitude to learning throughout the week. I have already been impressed by their enthusiasm, kindness and willingness to get involved in class activities. I am looking forward to getting to know the children and families better over the coming weeks and to supporting them as they continue their learning journey. Thank you to everyone who has already taken the time to introduce themselves. If you would like to speak with me, please do come and say hello after school or contact the school office.

Mr Jenner

Oak Class:
Last week, Oak Class started to read Street Child, exploring how the author develops characters and settings at the start of the story. We have investigated how dialogue can reveal a character's personality and how descriptive language that appeals to the senses helps create a strong sense of time and place. In RE, we have started our new enquiry into the importance of celebrations and how they help people remember significant individuals and events. In French, our focus is the home, and pupils have been learning how to describe the type of house they live in. In Computing, we have been developing our coding skills by creating and debugging programs, while in History we have begun exploring the impact of the railways as a significant turning point in history, with a particular focus on their influence on our local area.

Mrs Greenway and Miss Clarke

Important Dates		
Event	Date and time	Who should attend
2026		
Remembrance Service	Wednesday 11th November 10.55am	Memorial (outside school gate)
Rising Reception Stay and Play	Friday 13th November 2.00pm	Parents with children starting in September 2027
Children in Need	Friday 13th November	Whole School
Celebration Assembly	Friday 13th November 3.00pm	Whole School Community
Celebration Assembly	Friday 27th November 3.00pm	Whole School Community
Beauty and the Beast Panto	Wednesday 2nd December pm	Whole School (in school hall)
Christingle Service at St Mary's Church	Wednesday 9th December 4.00pm	Whole School Community
Christmas Fayre	Saturday 12th December	Whole School Community
Acorn and Birch Class Nativity	Wednesday 16th December 10.00am and 2.00pm	Acorn and Birch families
End of term	Friday 18th December 1.30 finish	
2027		
Pine Class Assembly	Friday 5th February 3.00pm	Whole School Community
Birch Class Assembly	Friday 23rd April 3.00pm	Whole School Community
Acorn Class Assembly	Friday 11th June 3.00pm	Whole School Community

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