

Long Whatton C of E Primary School

Newsletter No 51 29.08.19



Welcome back to the start of the new academic year and term! We really hope you've all had a fantastic summer and plenty of sunshine!

This academic year we are welcoming our new teachers: Mr Andy Cotton to the Phoenix Tribe and Miss Maia Hellowell to the Shooting Stars. We are also welcoming our new Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Mrs Gemma York, who will be working between the Flying Falcons and Shooting Stars. Mrs York comes with a wealth of experience and has worked as both a teaching assistant as well as a learning mentor in a number of primary schools.

We are really looking forward to working with our new members of the team and they have settled in already! Please say hello when you see them. I'll introduce them further at our next congratulations assembly.

The staff have been working so hard over the summer to make the classrooms bright and engaging for the children and their hard work has really paid off. I even think Mrs Conway moved in over the summer!

There have been some exciting changes in the building over the summer. We have started to create a library for the children downstairs in my old office. We have designed our library around our Forest School vision and have had Fireman Sam's illustrator in school painting the walls!



I'm sure you'll agree the room is inspiring and will be a lovely space for the children to sit and enjoy their reading. As soon as the carpet is down next week I'm hoping for some volunteers who can help put all our books onto the shelves using a library system. Our children are already keen to be librarians!

School Council

I've already led an assembly this week on school council and the role in the school. The children have been asked to write a speech or create a PowerPoint explaining why they would make a great school councillor and what they would like to change or do. The elections will be held on Monday 2nd September during assembly time. Any help or encouragement to have a go from parents would be greatly appreciated.



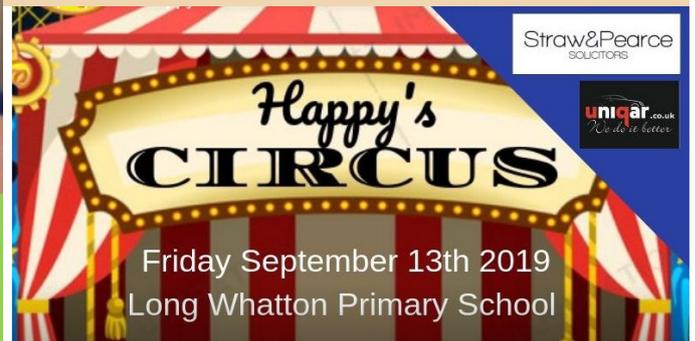
ICT Suite

We have also been working on creating an ICT suite in the old school office over the summer.

The old woodchip has come off and the room has been decorated.

The interactive whiteboard is going on to the wall soon and the room is then ready to use!

Hopefully this will inspire the next computing generation!



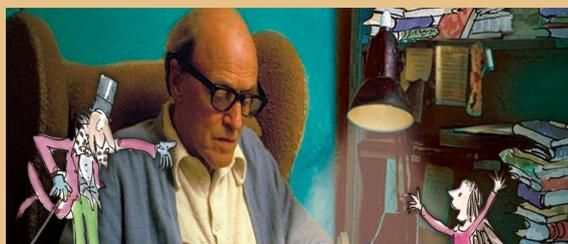
We would like to thank our PTA again this year who provided tea and cake and more importantly tissues for our Busy Bees parents.

We can't wait to be welcoming the circus to Long Whatton very soon! Please make sure you get your tickets before they run out as we haven't got long left!

We are holding a circus day in school on Thursday 5th September to really get the children excited about the arrival of the circus.

The children are welcome to put on their red noses, wigs and clown costumes for the day!

We have tickets in the school office and you can buy them online.



Roald Dahl Day is celebrated this year on Friday 13th September!

We will be reading and writing about some of Roald Dahls classics and dressing up for the day!

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/longwhatton/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=16190&fbclid=IwAR1fIHOhcdjoDIDJ4v9pfajivfkTemDDais8VQQbKEQm34IViClt-cgFz8g#.XWaN5ChKhPZ>

We are so proud of our children and their success with their amazing vegetable competition entries for the Long Whatton Show! The children have loved growing the vegetables this year and we can't wait to see if we can grow some even bigger entries for next year!



There have been some welcome additions to the Flying Falcons this summer too!



A new set of balustrades have been put into the classroom so that the children can sit up there and use the valuable space. It has also created much needed carpet space for all of the children to be able to sit for their lesson inputs.

Ben the tortoise has also arrived in the class and is proving to be very popular already and is being very well fed!



Do pop into school after school to have a look at the classrooms and of course Ben the tortoise. You are as always more than welcome!

Communication

Front Door

We hope you've had a chance to see our new entrance and lobby which will certainly help to keep our children safe. Don't forget you can now come into the lobby and speak to Dave in the office any time as his hatch is now in place, and he'd be more than happy to help with any questions you may have.

Following on from our Communications Policy consultation we have put a teacher on the front door each morning with me on a rota so that you can catch them first thing in the morning. Otherwise all teachers will be available after school for a catch up as usual.

The rota is:

Monday- Mrs Gray and Mrs Plummer

Tuesday- Mrs Gray and Miss Hollowell

Wednesday- Mrs Gray and Mrs Plummer

Thursday- Mrs Gray and Mr Cotton

Friday- Mrs Gray and Mrs Plummer

Mrs Conway is available at the Busy Bees gate on each morning.

Parent Forum

You will notice on our key dates that there is a parent forum. The objective of the Parent Forum is to facilitate positive and effective two way communication between parents and the school, providing a channel for communication, feedback and suggestions for improvement.

Specifically to:

- Promote the partnership between school staff, its pupils and its parents/carers
- Develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of the pupils
- Identify and represent the views of the parents on matters affecting the education and welfare of the pupils.
- Scope specific feedback and suggestions for improvement of:

Communication, New Initiatives , Parking and safe routes to school, Parents evening format, School trips and events , Views on school policies when they are updated e.g. Behaviour/Homework .

Please pop along to our first one on October 4th at 2.15pm in the hall before congratulations assembly.

Key Dates for this half term

5th September- Circus activity and dress up in a circus theme day!

6th September- Reading buddies 2.15pm followed by congratulations assembly at 3.45pm

13th September- Roald Dahl Dress up day

13th September- **Happy circus arrives and the greatest show begins!**

16th September- Beaumanor hall residential meeting 5.00pm

19th September- PTA meeting 7.00pm

20th September-Reading buddies 2.15pm followed by congratulations assembly at 3.45pm

28th September- Cross country at Prestwold Hall

4th October -**Parent Forum** followed by congratulations assembly at 3.45pm

7th October- Parents evening 3.30-7.00pm

8th October- Parents Evening 3.30-5.30pm

9th and 10th October- Beaumanor hall residential. Year 1 and 2 go all day on the 9th and year 2's stay over night and return on the 10th October. Year 1's will be back in school on the 10th October as normal.

11th October break up

(Harvest date to be confirmed with the church and communication will follow shortly)

Key Dates for the year

Residentials:

9th and 10th October- Beaumanor hall residential Key stage 1. Payment will be in instalments with full amount being paid by December.

11th, 12th, 13th, 14th February-All of Key stage 2 to Whitemoor lakes. A residential meeting will be held in Autumn 2.

Trips: Our aim is for all classes to partake in 1 trip per term to further enrich our curriculum.

Swimming:

Monday 24th Feb- 23rd March for 5 weeks, years 1 and 2

Monday 20th April-18th May for 4 weeks, years 3 and 4

Monday 1st June-29th June for 5 weeks, years 5 and 6