



Longwick C of E Primary

Grow · Flourish · Fly

From small beginnings, great things grow Matthew 13:31–32



Curiosity · Perseverance · Respect · Responsibility

Dear Families,

Thank you for your attendance at last week's Year Ahead meetings. It was wonderful to see so many families engaging positively with their child's learning and the plans for the year ahead. These meetings are an important part of building strong partnerships between home and school, and your willingness to attend, ask questions and share reflections helps us create the best possible learning environment for every child. Staff appreciated the opportunity to talk through routines, expectations and curriculum content. We hope you found the sessions helpful and reassuring as we begin the new term.

This week, our whole-school focus is **Respect** — respecting each other, respecting adults and respecting our wider community. As this is the start of a new term, we want to take time to rebuild positive relationships, kindness and calm communication.

In school we will be talking about:

- how we speak to one another
- how we solve disagreements safely
- how we show respect to adults in school and in the community
- how our actions affect others

We would be grateful if families could reinforce these messages at home. A shared approach makes a huge difference to children's confidence and behaviour.

Please find attached parent guidelines for Respect. This guidance along with others will be available on our school website shortly.

Safeguarding

Online Safety – Start-of-Term Focus

At the beginning of every term, children take part in lessons on **online safety**, including how to use social media, messaging apps and online games responsibly.

This term we are emphasising:

- positive online behaviour
- understanding influence and persuasion
- recognising unsafe or unkind interactions
- knowing when to speak to a trusted adult

It is important that children and families understand both the **positive opportunities** of the use of online platforms and social media and the **risks** that can affect wellbeing. We encourage parents to talk openly with children about what they see, share and experience online. Guidance documents are attached.

Allergy Awareness and Benedict's Law

All staff have recently completed updated allergy and anaphylaxis training, in line with Benedict's Law, to ensure we can respond quickly and confidently if a child experiences an allergic reaction. In school, we keep an up-to-date register of children with allergies, and this is reviewed regularly by our medical and safeguarding teams. If your child has an allergy that we are not yet aware of, please contact the school office as soon as possible so we can add this to their records and ensure the correct support is in place.

We also have a KITT medical kit in school, which includes emergency equipment and spare adrenaline auto-injectors. A parent guidance form on allergies is attached for your information, and we encourage all families to read it carefully.

Road Safety

The main Longwick to Thame Road is extremely busy at all times with parked cars reducing visibility. We want to keep all children safe. If your child is out and about without an adult, walking, cycling or scooting, we ask that you always know where your child is and are in constant contact.

Please take time this week to talk to your child about:

- crossing safely using the traffic light crossing
- dismounting from scooters and bicycles before crossing
- stopping and looking carefully several times
- walking rather than running near the road
- staying close to an adult

We will be looking at opportunities in school to revisit road safety through our curriculum.

Thank you for your support.

Ms Collinson

What have we been learning in school?

Reception – Retold the story of Incy Wincy Spider and in maths added up to 4

Year 1 – Took part in a hearing walk, listening to loud and quiet noises

Year 2 – Learned about the Great Fire of London

Year 3 – Learned about how people lived in the Stone Age

Year 4/5 – Explored the impacts of drinks on the enamel of our teeth in Science

Year 5/6 – Have been creating electrical circuits using symbols for components

Value Champions of the week:

	Reception		Lexi and Sonny
	Year 1		Grace B and Nina
	Year 2		Poppy
	Year 3		Eliza and Lizzie
	Year 4/5		Daniel and Hassaan
	Year 5/6		Grayson and Louisa

Longwick Primary School Attendance week ending 18th September

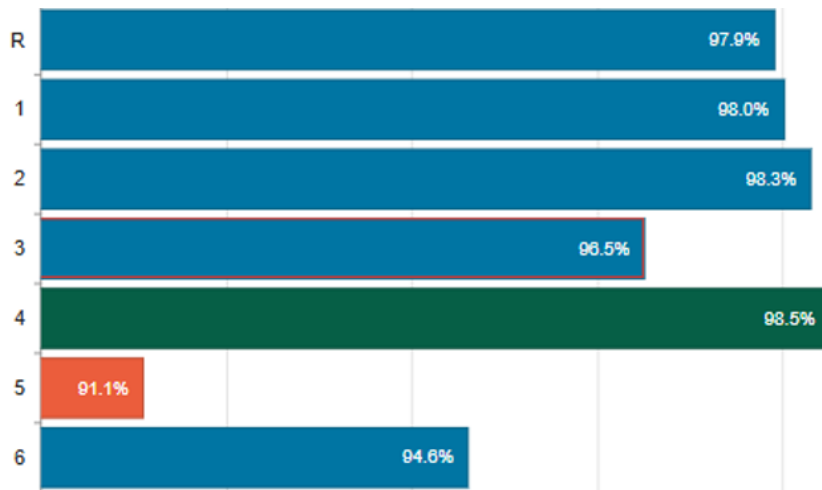
Overall school
attendance

96.9%

Government Target:

95%

**Congratulations! This week's Attendance Award goes to
Year 4 with 98.5 % Attendance.**



Punctuality and Attendance

We are already experiencing growing numbers of children being absent from school or late. If your child is late after the register closes this is recorded as unauthorised absence. You may be asked to provide proof of a medical visit.

Remember, we now have a 2 week half term holiday, a 2 week Easter holiday, 1 week May and February half term holiday and a 6 week summer holiday. Term time holidays will not be authorised.

If your child wakes with a sore throat, slight cough, slight grumbly tummy, please send them to school. If your child is waking feeling tired, consider your evening routine and time to go to bed.

As the day progresses so do children. We will always call you if their health deteriorates.

Remember every day lost is a day of lost learning.

It is a government, local authority, ODBST and school initiative to improve the attendance of all children in all schools.

Bucks LA monitor attendance of every child regularly and along with school monitoring, make regular checks and calls to school to discuss individual children in detail. If school is concerned about your child's absence you will be asked to:

- have a conversation with the Class Teacher
- attend a meeting with the Assistant Head Teacher
- attend a meeting with the Head Teacher

Please see below a detailed document that will help you further understand the **2024 DfE guidelines to School Attendance**. If you are having difficulties, please speak to your class teacher in the first instance.

FIRST OFFENCE Penalty Notice for term time absence is increasing to £80 if not paid in 28 days this increases to £160 from £120

SECOND OFFENCE will be a penalty notice of £160 instead of the £80

THIRD OFFENCE in 3 years will proceed straight to Magistrate's Court. Fines here can be up to £2500 per parent per child

10 sessions absent in 10 weeks becomes a 'notice to improve'

Longwick Primary School Attendance What Parents Need to Know

DfE School Guidance- Working together to improve school attendance August 2024

When does attendance become statutory?

Children are not legally required to attend school until the start of the term after their 5th birthday. Before this age, attendance is encouraged but not enforced with fines.

Authorised vs Unauthorised Absence

- Authorised: Illness, medical appointments, exceptional family events (agreed by the headteacher).
- Unauthorised: Holidays or absences not agreed by the school.

What is a “session”?

Each school day has two sessions: morning and afternoon.

1 day off = 2 sessions of absence

New National Rule (from August 2024)

If a child of compulsory school age has 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school-week period, the school must consider a penalty notice.

“Rolling” means any block of 10 consecutive school weeks, even across terms.

Penalty Notice Fines

- £80 per parent, per child (if paid within 21 days).
- £160 if paid between 22–28 days.
- Unpaid fines may lead to prosecution under the Education Act 1996.

Our School’s Approach

- We work with families to support good attendance.
- Requests for leave must be made in advance and can only be agreed in exceptional circumstances.

We will seek advice from the Attendance Team at the Local Authority if exceptional circumstances are unusual or unavoidable.

- We will always consider individual situations fairly and with understanding.

Good attendance gives your child the best start in life – together, we can make every day count!

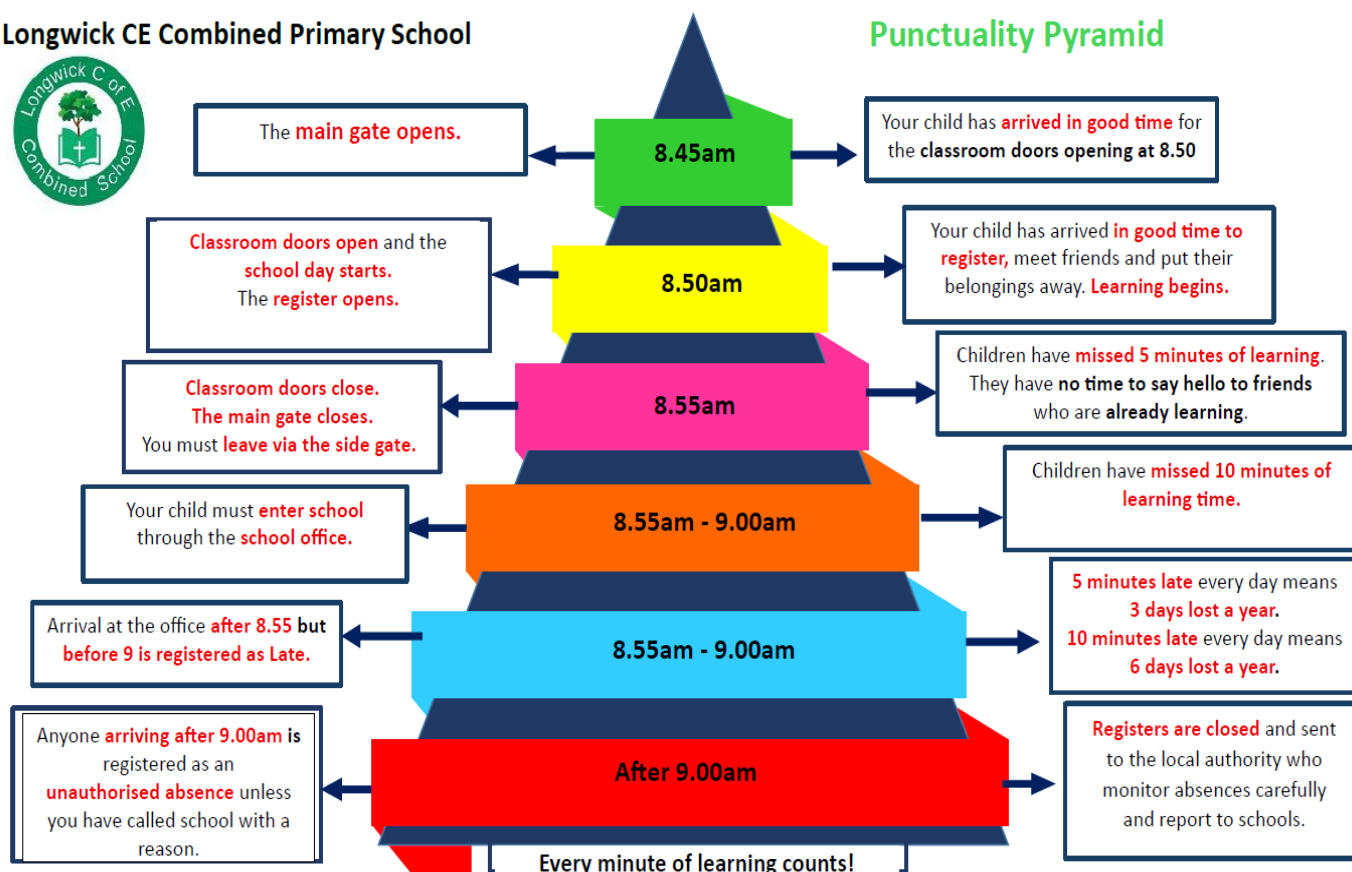
For full details, see the Department for Education's guidance: *Working together to improve school attendance (August 2024)*, available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_-_August_2024.pdf GOV.UK (You can also find it via GOV.UK: “Working together to improve school attendance

Longwick CE Combined Primary School



Punctuality Pyramid



The JR Sports Group

Making each day brighter for every child



Fun first



Inclusive



Safety



Quality



It has been a great start back to wraparounds and sports clubs, the children have been kept busy with marble runs, new games and toys, football, and so much more!

News From Friends (PTA)

Meeting date: Monday 28th September

Our first meeting of the year will be next Monday online using MS Teams. A link will be sent out nearer the time.

We hope to welcome lots of new faces, even if it's just to see what we do.

We will be talking about events for the year ahead and the Christmas fair in particular.

Volunteers needed

We are currently in need of a **secretary** to take on the role temporarily or as a joint role.

Social media manager: we would like to find someone who can run our new Facebook and Instagram pages - could it be you?

Please get in touch if you can help by email on friends@lgw.odbst.org or speak to Alicia.

Longwick Scarecrow Trail update

Wow! What a brilliant start to the year! We were so happy to welcome the 26 scarecrows and nearly 200 people who attended the Fun Day on Saturday. Thank you to everyone who came to support the event and especially to the volunteers who pitched in all day.

Trail maps are still available from Londis and Flojo's coffee this week. The winner will be announced on Sunday 27th September. Please follow Longwick Scarecrow Trail on Facebook for all the latest news and tag us with some of your photos.

