

### Dear Families,

In the run up to the Christmas holiday, I have been thinking about gratitude and would like to share some things that I am grateful for in 2023. These range from small to big things. I am thankful for the amazing team at Longlands who are so committed to the children – they give their time to run clubs, trips, residential, sporting events and teams and community events. I am thankful for our Ofsted visit in July (never thought I would say that) as we had a very fair team who recognised the great things that we do here at Longlands. I am grateful to you, our community for being so supportive and helping us to continue to improve with your openness and honesty.

I am thankful to the Marches Academy Trust who have supported us in making improvements to the school building, helping us to create and even better learning environment. There will be more development over the coming months, which we are very excited about.

Personally, I am eternally thankful for my family who are always so supportive and patient.

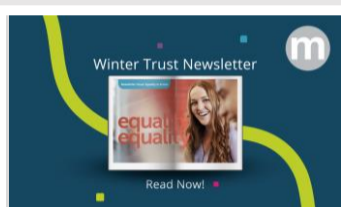
Then we have the heart beat of our school – the children. I am so thankful, every day, for the wonderful children who we get to spend our days with as we watch them progress and develop into the wonderful young people that they are.

I received a wonderful email from someone who heard our choir sing at the recent Festival of Lights which I wanted to share with you. *"I was at the Festival of Lights in town with my mum and Aunty. We were all thrilled to see the choir from your school singing. They were absolutely brilliant and a credit to you all. As an ex teacher I know the hard work which goes into performances. Please could you pass on our appreciation to all the children involved and the staff as well."*

I have been asked to share another message from the Children's Commissioner, below.

*We have had an amazing response from nursery, primary and secondary schools across England and as a result I've decided to extend the closing date to Friday 19th January 2024 to allow even more children the chance to have their say. This will give schools, children and young people an extra month over the festive season to take part in 'The Big Ambition'.*

Children and parents can complete the survey here: [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition)



The Marches Academy Trust's Winter Newsletter is now available to read!

This issue looks at our Trust value of 'Equality' – we're working hard to make sure everyone is treated fairly and equally, with access to all opportunities to reach their full potential. Throughout the newsletter you will see examples of this in action from across our Trust. This issue also contains an update from our CEO and the Chair of Trustees, insights from our Executive Team along with interesting news and updates from staff and all schools across the Trust. Please have a read at the following link:

[https://issuu.com/marchesschool/docs/marches\\_academy\\_trust\\_winter\\_newsletter\\_2023](https://issuu.com/marchesschool/docs/marches_academy_trust_winter_newsletter_2023)

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!**

*Lisa Millington*  
Headteacher



## This week at Longlands

including Christmas card competition winners from Y1 – 6

Zachary Yr4

Isla Yr5



Emmy Yr 1

Mia Yr6

Taya Yr2

Scarlett Yr3

## BIRTHDAYS



Ruby  
Ethan

Acorns  
Oak

Mark  
Mila

Saplings  
Saplings

Boden  
Lorelai

Willow  
Fir

Phoebe  
Luca-Andrei

Beech  
Fir

## UPCOMING EVENTS



December	
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Break up for Christmas
January	
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas HAF Active Holidays sessions
8 <sup>th</sup>	School reopens
9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 swimming
11 <sup>th</sup>	Reception and Year 6 height, weight check and Reception healthy teeth talk
11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Read the Game
15 <sup>th</sup>	Application for Reception places 24/25 closes
16 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Vision screening
16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 swimming
17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Library visit
18 <sup>th</sup>	Basketball competition (The team will receive a letter)
18 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Read the Game
19 <sup>th</sup>	Kwik Cricket Festival (The team will receive a letter)
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 2 swimming
25 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Read the Game
26 <sup>th</sup>	Maple Class/Year 2 parent session 1.30pm
30 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 swimming

## STAR OF THE WEEK

Acorns	Harlow
Saplings	Noah
	Xion
Fir	Kris
Willow	Lwandile
Maple	Nathan
Rowan	Rosie
Elm	Skyla
Beech	Isla
Oak	Ethan

