

**Dear Families,**

This half term, the school value that we are focusing on is **'We try our best'**. This was a value that was strongly in my mind on Wednesday when I was lucky enough to attend my daughter's graduation from University. As you can imagine, this was a very proud day for me and my family. I thought back through my daughter's education and the value of trying her best was crucial. She, like so many other children, has rarely found school easy and really had to work to achieve her best at each stage of her school life.

During her graduation, I was also lucky enough to hear James Timpson, who was handing out the degrees, speak about his experiences in his job as the CEO of Timpson's shoe repairs and key cutting. James Timpson is proud to employ former prisoners and this is an active part of his business. He spoke it being all of our responsibility to go out and use our skills and knowledge for our own benefit and also for the benefit of others. He also spoke about giving former prisoners a chance that they may not have had in the past.

This made me think about what we do for children here at Longlands and I was proud again to think of how we, like James Timpson, really encourage all of our children to try their best, whether they are finding things easy or hard. We don't give up on the children, no matter how hard they are finding things. We aim to give them the chances they need to have a really positive time at Longlands. We want them to leave us with a great knowledge of subjects, as well as knowing how to give their best. We want our children to be generous with their time so that they are using these skills both for their own benefit and for the benefit of others.

By helping the children to do these things, I know that we are doing our small part in helping the next generation to be kind and caring about all people. We are helping them to be problem solvers both practically and when dealing with conflict. With all of the challenges that there currently are in the world, this is the future that I would like for my children and for yours.

**Public Health have asked us to share this message with all families about the continuing increase in measles cases.**

Cases of measles are increasing in the UK, including in the West Midlands, and it's likely that there will be cases in Shropshire soon.

Measles is a viral illness that can be serious and sometimes fatal. Spending 15 minutes with someone with measles is enough to get the virus. Symptoms of measles include high fever, runny nose, cough, red and watery eyes, small red spots with a bluish-white centre inside the mouth. A rash can appear later, usually on the face, upper neck, hands and feet, fading after 5 to 6 days. If you've not been vaccinated against measles, you can be at risk, but it's most common in young children. Someone with measles can spread the virus up to 4 days before a rash appears, and up to 4 days after.

Measles can have serious and sometimes fatal consequences, so make sure you and your children are up to date with MMR vaccinations and ask your GP about catch-up jabs if needed. The MMR vaccine is highly effective at protecting against measles.

If you are unsure if your child is up to date with all their routine vaccinations, you can check their Red Book (personal child health record) in the first instance. If you are still not sure, or if you need to bring your child up to date with their vaccines, you should contact their GP practice to check and book an appointment.

If you are concerned that your child has measles, please call your GP in the first instance, to reduce the risk of passing the disease to others in the waiting room. More information on measles can be found [here](#) and information on the MMR vaccine can be found [here](#).



*Lisa Millington*  
**Headteacher**

### This week at Longlands



### Happy birthday to:

- Jude Taya
- Willow Maple
- Brodi Adam
- Acorns Fir
- Molly
- Beech

### UPCOMING EVENTS

January	
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
February	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Year 3 Read the Game
5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Bikeability
6 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 swimming
8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Read the Game
9 <sup>th</sup>	Break up for half term
w/b 12 <sup>th</sup>	Spring half term holiday
19 <sup>th</sup>	PD Day – children not in school
20 <sup>th</sup>	School reopens
20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 swimming
28 <sup>th</sup>	Athlete Visit to Longlands: Chris Tawiah basketballer
29 <sup>th</sup>	Athletics competition (The team will receive a letter)
March	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 swimming
7 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day
8 <sup>th</sup>	Biggest Session Ever – Girls' Football Day

### STAR OF THE WEEK

- Acorns Archie
- Saplings Hudson
- Fir Tamara
- Willow Emma
- Maple Ruby
- Rowan Amelia
- Elm Sally
- Beech Beau
- Oak DJ

