

Dear Families,

Over the course of the year, each of our subject leaders completes a **subject review** which includes speaking to the children about their learning, looking at their work and visiting lessons to see the learning in action. These reviews are always a privilege to be a part of due to **the engagement and enthusiasm of the children**.

In our staff meeting this week, all of the teachers met to discuss the progress the pupils are making in the subjects that have been reviewed so far this year and to share all of the successes as well as anything that we need to improve to make their learning even better.

This meeting was an absolute pleasure as it was another reminder of the excellent work that goes on in school each and every day. The enthusiasm with which subject leaders spoke about the children and their learning meant that I left the meeting with immense pride and I want to share with you some of what we discussed.

Our PE curriculum is very effective with all children engaging in a wide range of learning, with Nursery class now having weekly sessions in the hall.

In Science, children were observed creating craters, being palaeontologists and testing the strength of toilet roll, to name a few. When they spoke about their learning, they were able to speak confidently using scientific words and were also able to remember their learning from previous years.

In History, there was great progress from last year with children have a sense of chronology, knowing when events had happened compared to others. They were also able to talk about how we know about History and how they can find out more using research.

During our discussion, we also identified that the next step for many of our children is to further develop their independence and leadership skills so that they become even more confident, especially when working on their own.



One of the concerns that these subject reviews can raise is for the children where they have missed learning due to repeated absence. Where children miss school regularly, this can have a major impact on their overall learning and confidence so I am reaching out to you, our families, to work with us to help reduce school absences even further. This call out is part of a new national campaign launched this month by the Department for Education (DfE) to remind families of the importance of school attendance.

The campaign includes information, advice and tips on where parents can look for support on the DfE's Education Hub. The hub also includes resources dedicated to children and young people's general mental health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on mindfulness with developing coping skills in young people.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, speak to your child's class teacher.

The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

- In 2018/19, just **40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards**, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders.



Lisa Millington
Headteacher

This week at Longlands



Happy birthday to:

Oliver Beech Alice Fir William Maple

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

STAR OF THE WEEK

Acorns	Leo
Saplings	Noah
Fir	Arthur
Willow	Quinn
Maple	Nandi
Rowan	All Pupils! *
Elm	Ava
Beech	Phoebe
Oak	Ruby

*Special mention to ALL of Year 3 who have demonstrated excellent efforts in class. Well done!

