



LONG DITTON

INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

THE HEART OF LONG DITTON SINCE 1911

NEWSLETTER

22nd January 2021

LATEST NEWS

Dear Parents and Carers

I can't believe it's Friday again already. What a busy week this has been. You might have heard a cheer from our house on Wednesday evening. My mum got her letter to be vaccinated and we literally cheered in celebration! I know it's not much and we are far from being out of the woods but maybe, just maybe, there might be a small light at the end of the tunnel.

Eco School Assembly and Working Together Project

Thank you and well done to everyone who has already started working in school and at home to collect litter or think about recycling more. Over the next few weeks there will be more challenges and activities for you take part in to help our environment. Please make sure you send in any pictures of your endeavours – we can add them to the newsletter to celebrate 😊 (There's a Big Bird Watch coming up!)

Home Learning

Thank you very much indeed for all the messages about our home learning offer. We really appreciate the time you take to let us know what we are doing well and what we need to improve. Some of the things we have improved on following on from feedback from parents and carers so far are:

- Differentiation and introducing different groups and challenges
- Slowing down the talking on the videos and giving more time to respond
- Focusing on how we address the children in the videos

- Creating more 'lesson' like videos for the children to join in with, rather than telling them what to do with parents and carers
- Ensuring that not all lessons include writing as a way of recording
- Sending Post Cards home to say well done for special achievements with home learning
- Uploading the home learning on a different day

Things we have been asked to improve and that we are currently working on:

- Light and sound quality of the videos – we have contacted our IT support and will be trying to improve this.
- Live lessons - Next Week Year 2 will begin some live sessions with their class teachers. We are going to hopefully build upon these sessions once we know that they are safe, useful and manageable for everyone. Reception will hopefully begin to offer a live session the following week.

Due to the number of Critical Worker children in Year 1 we do not have the capacity to offer live sessions at the moment but we will be trying our best, if they are very successful, to see if we can coordinate some live sessions for Year 1 as well.

Please note that schools have been directed to offer recorded **or** live lessons and they should be suitable for the age of the children. (Ofsted have raised some safeguarding concerns over live lessons and we are approaching them with caution')

I was a little surprised this week at the DfE release stating that most primary schools have between

9% and 20% of their children attending in school. We currently have nearly 40% of our children attending school. I think it is important to point this out because there is a large difference in the demands on all of teaching staff for a school with 9% of children attending and 40% of children attending.

Pressures on Parents and Carers and Cortisol Levels

Since the start of the pandemic I have been reading a magazine called 'The New Scientist'. I am not promoting the magazine and I only started to read it because I wanted facts about the virus and not 'hype' from the media. In this week's issue it explores the cortisol levels in parents and how the pressures of working from home and providing home learning will have increased cortisol levels for parents and carers. It explains that we should be careful about what support we are offering because simply offering a tip on mindfulness or meditating could be just another pressure added to busy schedules!

With all of this in mind, please remember to let us know if you need help or are finding things challenging. We can't solve everything but we will endeavour to help if we can.

Lateral Flow Tests for Staff in School

From next week the staff in school are being asked to take part in twice weekly lateral flow tests provided by the Government. You can find out more information about these tests at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-for-staff-in-primary-schools-and-nurseries/rapid-asymptomatic-coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-staff-in-primary-schools-school-based-nurseries-and-maintained-nursery-schools>

Ember Learning Trust Annual General Meeting

Tuesday January 26th at 6pm is the annual general meeting for the Ember Learning Trust that we are part of. All parents and carers are welcome to attend. The meeting will be held via zoom please see below message from the ELT chair to attend.

Dear Families

The Ember Learning Trust AGM is scheduled for Tuesday 26th January at 6pm. You are warmly invited to join the Trustees.

The meeting will take place using Zoom and the details are:

ELT is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: ELT AGM Meeting

Time: Jan 26, 2021 06:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89090949616?pwd=Z3kyUthdW5pczBBWxFwMm9zM1VvQT09>

Meeting ID: 890 9094 9616

Passcode: 88nAV2

Birthday Books

Thank you to Nyla, Ruan, Harry A, Mosi and Denes for each choosing a birthday book to give to their class.

Thought for the week:

"Resilience is fundamentally underpinned by the concept that it is not so much the hard times we face that determine our success or failure as the way in which we respond to those hard times"

Positive Psychology

Hope you have a great weekend!

Mrs Paines

Nursery

We have had a splendid week.

It has been lovely to welcome some children back to the nursery and they have settled into routines very well, we have been impressed!

We have been sharing and talking about the work that all children have been putting on Tapestry.

In our maths work the children have been exploring the concept of weight.

Using the vocabulary of heavy and light they have been comparing different objects around the nursery using their hands to help them decide which item is heavier/ lighter. They have also been able to explore and use simple pan scales

demonstrating heavy and light by watching the scales tip! Of course they also noticed that there is a similarity between the pan scales and the seesaw in the garden which provoked lots of interesting conversations!

We have been sharing lots of stories and talked about information books this week. We used an information book to find out about Polar bears.

The children were able to explore the transformation of water turning to ice and then melting and turning into water again. As well as discussing the temperature of the ice using their sense of touch.

The children have enjoyed throwing and catching bean bags in the garden. They have also used the parachute and enjoyed working collaborative giant marble run using guttering and small balls. We have visited the hall in small groups to make obstacle courses using the mats, benches, tunnels and low boxes to climb, travel and develop their balance and coordination.

On Friday next week we will be having a dressing up day in Nursery and children can come to Nursery in fancy dress clothes if they wish. Please remember children should still dress warmly – layers under their costume.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Reception (Year R)

In reception this week we were very impressed by the children's work ethic.

Next week, our focus will be on two new set 2 sounds: 'ow' and 'oo'. We will practice identifying these sounds by reading and writing them down. In maths, we will recap our learning on subtraction and then move onto subtraction word problems. We will read the story of the 'Billy Goats Gruff' and use the story to support our learning in other areas. We will be challenging the children to make their own bridges for the bully goats to travel over and we will be making our own trolls. Later on in the week, we will continue to think about how to

look after our community by thinking about our usage of water.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the office or the class emails.

Beagle – beagle@longditton.surrey.sch.uk

Corgi- corgi@longditton.surrey.sch.uk

Year 1

We have had a fantastic week in Year 1. We are so impressed with how hard the children are working both at home and at school. We hope you are finding the home learning useful. When you look at the home learning, please do not feel the pressure to do everything listed; we understand that everyone's circumstances are different and you can 'dip' into what suits both you and your child best. We want the learning to be fun and if it becomes a battle, then it is counterproductive. Please be guided by your child's interests, concentration, ability and your own set of individual circumstances.

Next week, we will be writing our tiger information text, learning about birds and moving onto sequencing days and events in maths.

Please continue to try to read every day and, if possible, add comments or record your reading in your reading record.

Class emails:

dalmatian@longditton.surrey.sch.uk

husky@longditton.surrey.sch.uk

Home learning for children coming into school

Next week is the RSPB big garden birdwatch, we have set the task for the children at home to make a bird feeder. We will not be making these at school so you may like to make one at home.

Reminders

PE for those in school will be on a Monday and a Thursday so please come in PE kits on these days.

Year 2

We hope you have all had a great week. We have really enjoyed reading The Magic Box poems and watching the performances on Tapestry. We were impressed with the children's creativity and imagination. It has been lovely to see so many videos of children reading poems that they have written themselves. It has been great to see their faces and see how much they have enjoyed the learning. Thank you for all your hard work.

Next week, in maths we will be learning about fractions. This unit will include fractions of shape and number. For literacy we are linking it to our topic work, children will be researching Asian animals. In topic, we will be focusing on the continent Asia. As part of the week's learning, we will create a fact file about New Delhi. In PSHE, we will continue designing our garden of hope and dreams. This week, we will invent a bird based on one of the school's values.

If you have questions, or need any help, please email your child's class email.

labrador@longditton.surrey.sch.uk

spaniel@longditton.surrey.sch.uk

Have a lovely weekend.

Year 2 team

School Office

We miss all the children in school and hope everyone is keeping well and safe at home.

Friends

Hope everyone is doing well, it's almost the end of what every kind of January you have chosen to do!

Get into the 'spirit' of Valentines and secure your ticket!

GIN LOVERS:

If you are a gin lover or want to give it a try while raising much needed funds for both our schools,

this next fundraiser is for you. Our latest collaboration between Long Ditton St Mary's Junior School / Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School and No 97!

Click on the below link for full details:

<https://thegoodlifemerch.co.uk/shop/collabs/longditton-stmarys/>

Join us on the 11th February, 8pm via Zoom.

All welcome, so please share it with family and friends. The more the merrier! And the more we share the more we raise (our glasses) for our schools!



Please help our schools create our **LOCKDOWN LOVE COOKBOOK**.

We knead the dough!!

See the poster for all the details.

Send your family favourites to longdittonfriends@outlook.com

Go and bake!

(No plagiarism please)

If you're going to send us a recipe to be included in the Lockdown Love Cook Book, please put all the details into this word document and email the completed document along with a picture of the recipe to the Friend's email address by 1st Feb. All details can be found in the template doc. Thanks and look forward to seeing your recipes!

Yarn Bombing

This was a great hit last year and we're trying it again! We would love to have all your crochet or knitted Easter decorations. we need squares, finger knitting. pom poms. Please!!

Remember to keep playing the Elmbridge Lottery! You could win a lot of money!!

The Friends

ACHIEVEMENTS



Golden Certificates



Credit Cards (4x Certificates)



Other Achievements

Finlay for trying your best in all areas of your learning.

Brooklyn for your fantastic maths work. We could see you tried so hard – well done.

Luca for being super resilient with all your work this week.

Alex P for persevering with maths.

Amaan for working hard and showing resilience for your poster about Venice.

Luna for being resilient in her home learning.

Aurora for persevering with your home learning – keep up the great work.

Emily for always trying your best and making some super silly sentences this week in literacy.

Hari for lovely story book writing.

Jose for your retelling the story of the Gingerbread Man.

Joseph H for trying super hard in yoga.

Asiya for working so hard on your home learning.

Mia for creating an excellent information map and retelling of facts about tigers.

Lola for excellent subtraction work using a number line.

Esther for her fantastic pointillism paintings

Archie for a fantastic week back at school.

Olly for trying really hard with his home learning.

Elliot for being polite every day when he gets his lunch.

Lennox for being kind to his friends.

Sia for coming into Nursery smiling.

Thomas G

Joshika

Joshua S

Harry A – 5

Mosi – 6

Denes – 6

Matina – 6

Nyla – 7

Ruan - 4

Please email any achievements to the school office.

CELEBRATION DAYS / EVENTS

January 2021

Tuesday 26 th	Australia Day
29 th -31 st	RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

EVENTS / ACTIVITIES (outside of school) / School Adverts

Please note the school does **not** promote or endorse any children's clubs or activities advertised.



Are you struggling to provide food for yourself or your family?

The Foodbank is here to support anybody who is currently finding it difficult to provide food for themselves or their families due to financial or other issues. **You do not have to be in receipt of benefits to get help from us.**

If you feel that you need support from us, then please call or message us on: **07908 777475** or email referrals@eastelmbridge.foodbank.org.uk and we can let you know what you need to do for us to be able to deliver an emergency food parcel.

Catherine Heavens
East Elmbridge Foodbank Coordinator