



LONG CLOSE SCHOOL

PEGASUS NEWS

AUTUMN TERM SPECIAL

AUTUMN TERM SPECIAL

FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 2016

THE HEADMASTER WRITES...



In my first newsletter this term, I wrote about my assembly in which I had referred to the British Women's hockey team and their success in the Rio Olympics. I had shown the children a video of the winning moment followed by another clip that

showed how hard that group of players had had to work in order to reach that pivotal moment. At the time I asked the children to set their sights high and to consider how hard they were prepared to work to reach their own goals. It certainly feels as though the children have given their all this term and I know they have achieved many great things. Reflecting on this term, I looked through the calendar and at the school's Facebook page and a huge amount has been packed into it. Hopefully this newsletter will be a useful reminder of a busy and fun-filled term with super learning activities taking place both inside and outside of the classroom.

The seniors have travelled to Barcelona and the Year 4 children braved a night out at Ufton Court. Year 7 started their term with a long walk down the Jubilee River around the same time as the Year 6s were focusing on their 11+ exams. We have had Year group assemblies from Years 3 and 4 and we have seen the children on stage for the Harvest Festival, the Nativity plays and, most recently, in the Carol Service. Day trips have included the Nursery going to the Curve Library in Slough as well as the Lookout Discovery Centre in Bracknell – and we must not forget the wonderful opening of the extended nursery provision! Year 1 have visited the Winchester Science Museum, Year 2 have been to the River and Rowing Museum, Year 3 to the Roald Dahl Museum and Gallery, Year 4 have been to the Wycombe Theatre, Year 5 have been to Hampton Court and Year 6 have visited the Black Country Museum. Year 10 have had sessions from Elevate Education in order to help them to improve their study skills as well as visiting Computer Associates for a day, looking at the opportunities presented by qualifications in STEM education.

Y11 have shown great leadership both in their work as prefects and as general role models for the younger pupils. The sporting life of the school continues to be very busy and the children have competed in many hockey and rugby games as well as some football fixtures and even a swimming gala. Our relationship with Slough Schools' Sports partnership has enabled us to introduce the senior pupils to softball, coached by a professional, and next term we are looking to introduce handball and enter the girls into a football competition. Events that have involved the whole school community have included the 'Book Character Day' at which Mr Willy Wonka had so much fun, as well as the school PTA Christmas Fair. Sadly we have also said 'goodbye' to Mrs Davies but we have been keeping in touch and we know that she is doing very well. The world outside LCS has continued to throw up surprises with the result of the US presidential election causing quite a stir around the school. However, getting children ready for the world beyond the school gates and learning to pay attention to it is all part of what we are trying to do here at LCS. Our curriculum design, both inside and outside the classroom, is not accidental, but deliberate, and whilst it can always be improved, it is clear when reviewing another very busy term that the staff have been working very hard for the very best interests of your children. I would like to publicly thank them for everything they do but would also like to thank you for your continued support. I will be responding separately about the 'Voice of the Parent' survey but knowing that we all have the same interests at heart and knowing that we can have an open and honest dialogue about how we can continue to provide the very best for your children is a critical part of the process. So thank you! And have a fabulous holiday, a Happy Christmas, a very good rest and I look forward to welcoming you and your children back in 2017!

Brendan Pavey

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR LONG CLOSE FAMILY!

AFTER SCHOOL CARE MOBILE NUMBERS

ASC team members can be contacted on the following numbers between 3.30pm and 6.00pm each day.

If you are running late to collect your child from ASC, please give the staff on duty a quick call to let them know. Thank you!

***Yellow, Red, Blue Room & Reception:
07783 198998***

***Years 1-11 (Mrs Bahri):
07986 316132***

EARLY YEARS REVIEW BY MRS HARRIS

After a super term, the end of term seems to have come upon us rather quickly! The holiday time ahead gives the Early Years Team time to reflect on their practise. Teaching and learning and the individual child's outcomes are always high on the agenda, alongside the children's safety and happiness. We collate half termly data for all the early years' children that helps us to inform our planning and provision for next term's curriculum, which allows your child to make continuous progress. It is important as a staff team that we do reflect on all our achievements and areas in which we can improve on - like the children, we never stop learning! Our parent partnership is growing all the time as we have built new relationships and settled many new children and their families into the setting this term. The Early Years Foundation Stage relies upon your support at home and I hope we can continue to build upon this. With your continuous involvement in your children's learning experiences in the Nursery and Reception classes, the children will continue to reach their personal goals. I thought I would share some snippets and photos that we have looked at with the children to remember some of the exciting events and activities that have happened this term. The Early Years team wish you a happy, healthy and safe Festive Holiday and will look forward to seeing you in the New Year as we bounce back into action in the Spring Term after spending some time with our families.

Wednesday 5th October—Nursery Expansion Opening celebration.



Fun having our Scrumys Gym session in the new outdoor covered classroom!



EARLY YEARS REVIEW BY MRS HARRIS

Visit to 'The Curve' Library in Slough as part of our book week celebrations to inspire our early readers.

An Autumn walk to Upton Court Park to observe and understand the changes in the environment around us at this time of year.



An educational visit to 'The Lookout Centre' to extend our learning around habitats and our homes. We worked together to make dens with huge logs. We extended our learning around early science to inspire our investigations into our Five Senses topic.



Dressing up as book characters to engage the children fully in understanding that books have many different characters in them that make up the story.

Diwali celebrations inspired the team to wear a sari as we learnt about the 'Festival of Lights'. The children enjoyed having beautiful Mehndi patterns painted on their hands to celebrate Diwali.



Harvest Festival allowed us to think about all the different types of foods we are able to grow and eat. We celebrated with songs and a story and donated some beautifully decorated Harvest boxes to charities in the local community.



A visit from Mrs Baig, one of our Reception parents, sharing their profession as an 'optician', helped the children to understand how important our eyesight is and how to care for our eyes.

EARLY YEARS REVIEW BY MRS HARRIS

A visit from PC Woodcraft supported the children's understanding of 'people who help us in our community.'



December arrived and Christmas preparations began as the children made their own decorations at home to decorate our tree.



Our Christmas celebration was rather a special celebration as the children shared the story of 'The Sleepy Shepherd'.



The PTA Christmas fair allowed the children to celebrate the arrival of Santa and his Elves as we joined in with lots of creative activities to decorate our homes with!



Not to mention the exciting mischievous Elves who visited Nursery and Reception to lead the way for Santa to come! Please take a look on Facebook and Firefly for more images.



PREP SCHOOL REVIEW BY MS FIELD

KEY STAGE 1:

There was much excitement in Year 1 yesterday as the children received a special letter from Father Christmas himself! He asked that the children help him to design a new toy for him to give to boys and girls around the world. The children learnt how toy company Jacks help Santa design and make toys especially for him when they watched a clip on YouTube showing how people begin by brainstorming ideas, choosing one idea, outlining the toy and deciding what materials would be strong enough. The children got straight to work thinking of ideas and drew their new designs. They were very innovative - the children hope that Father Christmas will use their ideas next year!

Year 1 had a marvellous time performing for their families on Monday during their Christmas production. Wonderful singing, music and acting was observed by all! Well done all and thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed the merriment!

Highlights of this term for Year 1 have included: creating their own scarecrows for the Harvest Festival; exploring the experiences at the Winchester Science Centre and creating their own fairground rides; swapping books at the 'book shop' and dressing up as their favourite book characters for Children's Book Week; learning about the importance of hand-washing using special lotion and UV light; meeting PC Woodcraft and learning all about the role of a police officer; and finally, the KS1 Nativity as mentioned above. It's been a very busy term and they have all worked very hard! We hope that you all enjoy the Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you all again in the new year.



Wow what a term! Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the year and have participated in so many wonderful activities.

At the beginning of the year the children had a fabulous time visiting The River and Rowing Museum, exploring different materials and investigating how materials have changed over time. They then travelled back in time looking closely at the life of Florence Nightingale. The children participated in drama workshops, DT challenges and used their senses during creative writing sessions to help bring history to life.

Year 2 have had the pleasure of learning about life outside of Long Close School this term, listening carefully to Nurse Almeyda and PC Woodcraft talking about their jobs and what their role in the community entails.

Finally, what a performance the children put on for us all! The Years 1 & 2 Nativity Performance truly was the highlight of the term. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves whilst projecting their voices, using their best story tell voices and having excellent stage presence. Mrs Woodcraft and Miss Moss are so proud of you all. We wish you all a well deserved, restful break!



PREP SCHOOL UPDATE BY MS FIELD

YEAR 3

What an eventful term we've had in Year 3! The children have worked extremely hard in all subjects and were in awe when learning about the ancient Egyptians, especially the gory bits! They have enjoyed studying about teeth and eating, which was not only good scientific knowledge, but also as a life style benefit. The children have realised how important dental hygiene is and the need for a healthy diet. In geography, the children were in wonder when zooming in on different parts of the world, especially their home town, using google. They were fascinated to see how different cities from around the world looked in bird's eye view.

We mustn't forget our wonderful trip to the Roald Dahl Museum and Gallery, celebrating our year 3 author, which was a thoroughly inspiring day out. The children embraced the activities at the museum and used the experience to enrich their work at school. The assembly at the end of November was a riot of fun and a triumph of a performance! The children put their heart and souls into making it such a memorable success. Well done Year 3, what a brilliant start to the year!



YEAR 4



What a jam packed term Year 4 have had! The children have settled in so well to the Year 4 routines and are becoming responsible, well-rounded and independent students. One of the main highlights of this term has been our residential trip to Ufton Court in September. This proved to be an excellent way of each class getting to know each other and their teachers. The sun shone down on us and the children enjoyed taking part in fire building, bracelet making, drama activities and discovering what an Anglo Saxons banquet would have been like. The children looked fantastic when they dressed in traditional Saxon clothing for their banquet.

Building on this learning, the children have been finding out about the daily life of the Anglo Saxons and about Sutton Hoo. They were amazed at the size of the ship that was buried in a mound! Did you know it was about 27 metres long?

In science the children have been learning about Moving, Growing and Habitats. They have had to use their investigative skills in a range of outdoor activities. Our focus is now to develop their predictions and conclusion writing.

Our geography lessons this term have been focusing on map reading skills and our local area. More recently, we have been looking at how we use water and where it comes from. This has linked in with PSHE, as we have been looking at the quality of drinking water in different countries.

Our recent trip to see Gangsta Granny provoked many discussions in both classrooms and the theatre trip also allowed the children to compare the book to the performance. This term, we have been focusing on developing our character and setting descriptions and there has been a huge improvement in the quality of the children's writing and vocabulary - well done! Next term will be exciting as we start to find out about new topics including the Vikings, Keeping Warm and Caring for our Environment.

We both wish everyone a happy New Year and look forward to the start of the term.

PREP SCHOOL REFLECTIONS ON THE AUTUMN TERM

YEAR 5

This term we have had a fantastic time in Year 5 with lots of amazing events.

Harvest

In October we made outstanding harvest boxes for people in need. Our harvest boxes had lots of food and Autumn themed decorations. Not forgetting our harvest assembly where we sang many songs and different year groups performed different things.

Science experiments

In science we have done many experiments such as the parachute and balloon experiment where we tested whether air had weight. We compared the time it took for the parachutes to land on the ground. The longest time was the best and the shortest was the least successful.

Another experiment was when we made air mobiles to detect heat by measuring how fast the spiral was turning. This experiment was quite difficult because we had to do exact measurements, otherwise it wouldn't work.

School trip

Our school trip this term was when we visited Hampton Court Palace where Henry VIII ruled and lived. We attended three workshops: one was based on the kitchen in the Palace; another was about working in Hampton Court Palace and the different jobs there; and the final task was to test our learning and knowledge about Hampton Court Palace and Henry VIII using iPads. That was so cool!

Book week

On book week, we had to make potatoes dressed as book characters. Many people brought funny and exciting potatoes into school. Then we had to create our own story and make it into a story box. On Thursday we were allowed to dress up as a book character. Everyone tried to participate, even in the senior school. A lot of teachers did too! We had to bring in £1 to give to charity. We had many games during break and lunch times. It was more like a fair where money was given as donation to charity. Many games including:

- * Pie-face
- * Jewellery making
- * Ball in the hoop
- * Lucky dip and many more

Shakespeare

In November we had a big focus on Shakespeare and we were lucky enough to have The Young Shakespeare Company performing 'Twelfth Night'. It was so much fun because us children also had a chance to act out different characters from the play. In class, we were also learning about Shakespeare's story called 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', which was very confusing but we realised that all of Shakespeare's stories are always a little confusing anyway!

Christmas Fair

The run up to Christmas was as always pure magic. People in choir sang on the stage whereas other people set-up and ran stalls in the hall and in the dining hall. There were many stalls including Santa's grotto, Flip a coin, Help Santa, Snow mallows, Reindeer cupcakes and glazed stars



PEGASUS CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the most recent Pegasus certificate winners:

1H Basant Dhillon

1S Nyra Seth

2M Aminah Naveed

2W Aman Gandhum

3I Dara Lall

3R Yuvraj Sanga

4M Rajan Basram

4R Dylan Dev

5C Nikita Saini

5R Gabriel Joly-

Panayiotou

6F Alman Aamir

6O Layla Suleiman



PREP SCHOOL REFLECTIONS ON THE AUTUMN TERM

YEAR 5 (continued):

Carol service

An annual carol service happened this year in St Mary's Church. Junior choir, orchestra, senior choir, soloists, duets and readers all participated. Although we rehearsed for weeks, we still felt very nervous on during the service! Luckily, we managed to remember all our lines and tries to sing like little angels. Many families came to watch and it was a very exciting event.

By Year 5's Form and Vice Captains

YEAR 6

11+

Early in September, many members of year 6 completed a challenging task; the 11+. It was extremely difficult and very nerve-racking but everyone tried their hardest.

School Trip

As we are learning about Victorians in our current history lessons, we visited the Black Country Museum in Birmingham for an educational experience about the Industrial Revolution in Victorian times. It was very fun but we learnt a lot on the way, we even went down a coal mine and we learnt what some of the dangers were when working down there! We also learnt about two children who came from different economic backgrounds and went into the houses they had lived in.

Harvest Festival

Every year we sing and perform in an amazing Harvest Festival. We spend time making harvest boxes filled with food for the people in need. This year 6F read poems we had written ourselves in class and explained why we celebrate harvest. 6O performed a traditional African scene describing the greatness of sharing.

Book Week

In Book Week, Years 5 and 6 set up stalls to raise money. There was a variety of stalls from a raffle to dodge ball and all of them raised a lot of money. In lessons we studied two characters from the book we were reading, 'Street Child'. They were Jim Jarvis and Grimy Nick. Jim, who was a poor orphan, was the hero of the story, whilst Grimy Nick was the unpleasant villain. We also dressed up as a book character. Not only ourselves – we dressed up potatoes too!

Shakespeare Play

The Young Shakespeare Company came to our school once again to perform an exhilarating show of 'Twelfth Night' to Years 5 to 8. A lot of us were involved in the performance, which we really enjoyed.

Christmas Fair

We set up stalls to raise money for the PTA and the choir sang some carols they have been practising. The audience loved it and we raised so much money!!! Overall, it was a great evening for everyone.

By Prep School Head Girl, Poppy Collyer and Head Boy, Ali Younas



REFLECTIONS ON THE AUTUMN TERM FROM THE SENIOR SCHOOL

We went on the Jubilee Walk in September and it was great fun. But it was a very long walk. We did a bit of sketching and drawing. We also took academic pictures and we saw some fishermen.

Year 7

In September, I played football against Hall Grove and we won 10-0. I scored a goal and spent the second half in goal.

For book week in November, I dressed up as Vikkster from the Sidemen book.

During the Christmas Fair, I did two stalls—guess the teddy's name and put the nose on Rudolph.

In the practice for the Carol Service, I sang Once in Royal David's City and O Little Town of Bethlehem with Years 3-11 in the hall.

Kasim Chaudhry, Year 7

In November, we had book week and I dressed up as a skeleton from The Burglar Caught the Skeleton. We also went and read to / played with the Nursery and Reception children for over an hour.

This month, I have done an athletics competition with some of my friends.

Keira Suman, Year 7

In November, we did the Young Shakespeare Company's Twelfth Night. It was very enjoyable and fun to watch. We had the Christmas Fair in December—the food was delicious and the games were fun! Overall, the days were fun and the term was interesting. I cannot wait for term 2!

Aamna Aamir, Year 8



The past term has been extremely educational and fun! The first part was my favourite part due to the mesmerising trip to Barcelona, Spain. On 28 September, we departed from England and set our destination to the famous city of Barcelona in Spain. We visited the Museum of Contemporary Art (MACBA) and visited two enormous volcanoes, which were magnificent and interesting. We also visited the landmarks of Barcelona, which included the colossal Sagrada Familia. We had the chance to taste traditional Spanish food including tapas and paella.

Another highlight has been the multiple football matches I played in. We had won most of our matches including our away match against St James Boys' school, which we won 6-4.

We also had a fun packed book week, which started on 31st October. Both ends of the school dressed up as a character from their favourite book. I dressed up as semi-Superman and bought a large amount of sweets, which were sold for charity.

In addition to this, we also had the Christmas Fair, which we have every year, a few weeks before Christmas day. The day includes the chance to meet Santa and differed stalls where you can play games and buy Christmas related food and products.

The carol service was packed with Christmas songs performed by the choir and instruments played by students at Long Close.

Ian Jacob Esquivel, Year 9

REFLECTIONS ON THE AUTUMN TERM FROM THE SENIOR SCHOOL

The first term for this year's Year 10 students was filled with moments that will last us a lifetime and constantly leave us with never ending elevated learning. September consisted of a very hands on trip to Barcelona. We not only engaged in an extremely interactive environment but also opened up our language skills and it gave us a broader aspect on our travelling experience. After the two hours, which felt like years to our young and excited travellers desperate to discover a place where we could experience something with our friends and fellow teachers, we finally arrived in Spain. Although physically tired but mentally ready, we roamed the city's streets engrossed in its culture - eager to digest the city's beautiful nightlife and the city's explosive days. A few places will show you that. The sheer energy around the city shocks you everywhere you go but you find yourself slowly but surely loving Spain. Seeing the La Familia Segrada made by Gaudi and solely seeing the towering piece of Spanish art throughout the years is clearly something to be experienced. Seeing the volcanoes in Spain with the beautiful scenery was breath-taking and completely left us speechless. Eating in a Spanish restaurant continued to give us even more background on the intriguing and alluring culture of Spain. After every day that had taken us on a different journey, we still managed to have fun at the dormitories. The inside walls of Spain never failed to leave us perplexed and bewildered. Surely but sadly, we had to leave. After a week of re-telling our trophied memories, we had multiple people giving us experience within their working field. Of all the things I could say about this very long term, one thing I couldn't say is that it has been boring. So with this winter coming to an end, I have only to wait for another.

Haider Hassan, Year 10

The first term of Year 11 was very eventful and busy. Between the hard-work preparing for our approaching GCSE's, we have also had a lot of educational fun. Highlights of this term include: informative assemblies from parents, Study sensei from Elevate, and of course, the Year 9-11 trip to Barcelona.

On 26th September, Years 10 and 11 had a talk from the charity 'Elevate' about the essential skills we will need to maximise the efficiency of our revision. This talk was both informative and fun. We hope that the charity can come to us again.

Our second and most significant event of this term for Year 11 was the exciting trip to Barcelona, from 28th September – 1st October. Here, we enjoyed many events such as visiting an N.B.A café, buying items in local shops, and visiting the famous cathedral, La Familia Sagrada, designed by Gaudi over 100 years ago.

In more detail, on the first day after arriving we also went on a boat trip, ordered food in a restaurant, and even went to a beach. On the second day, we went to the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art, we were taken on a tour around a volcano and were given a talk on the volcano's effect on the nearby area.

In Barcelona, our schedules were always packed, but we still enjoyed downtime where we played table-tennis, talked to locals, and generally had a good chill out. I speak for everyone when I say we loved Long Close School's trip to Barcelona, and hope the younger kids can also enjoy any trip in the future, even without us.

In the Year 11 class, a group of four of us have been made into the school's first 'Young Sports Ambassadors'. This means we will be pioneering the Young Ambassador programme by encouraging children to take up sport outside of school and running a few warm-up sessions. This happened after a day spent being taught how to be a good coach.

Other than normal assemblies, we've had two assemblies from parents, hearing about Mr Lall's job in law and Dr Nathu's job as a GP. These talks taught us a lot about the hard but rewarding duties in their respective professions.

Personally, I have enjoyed attending four clubs each week after school. War Games on a Monday where we play risk (I'm winning, yay!), Football club on Tuesday where we practice 5 a-side matches, Enrichment Club on Thursday in which we discuss and practice the essential skills needed to be a young man in society, and finally Prep on a Friday, available to the whole school as a homework club.

Overall, the first term of Year 11 can be best described as mentally demanding, but the amazing teachers and the fun activities listed has made it more than worthwhile.

Zackery Hodge, Year 11

SCHOOL NOTICES

TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2016
LAST DAY OF THE AUTUMN TERM

Please note that there will be no Clubs, Prep or After School Care on the last day of term.

Sibling cover only will operate between 3:30 and 4pm.

All pupils in Nursery-Year 2 should be collected by 3:30pm.

All pupils in Years 3-11 to be collected by 4pm.

LOST PROPERTY

Just a quick reminder that any unnamed items left in lost property after the end of term will be donated to the PTA's second hand uniform shop. Please go to the School Office if you want to check items there first.

**ALWAYS GROWING HOLIDAY CLUB
ZOO LAB, CHRISTMAS PARTY AND MUCH MORE!**

It's not too late to book your childcare for the holidays. Always Growing will be open at Long Close School from Wednesday 14th December to Friday 23rd December and at The Windsor Boys' School from Wednesday 21st to Friday 23rd December and again on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th January. The activity plan is on our website at www.alwaysgrowing.co.uk/school-holidays. Zoo Lab will be visiting both sites in the morning of Thursday 22nd December and all activities are tailored to suit 3-13 year olds!

Please do get in touch to book or if you have any questions at all, you can call us on 07761 293425 or email us at info@alwaysgrowing.co.uk.

Many thanks,
Lewis Fogarty
Director
Always Growing

REVIEW FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

What a very, very busy term it has been for everyone in Music at Long Close School! We got straight to work in September preparing for our two Harvest Festival Celebrations; children bringing in many beautiful boxes full of food to donate to people in the local community. Every single child in the Prep and Nursery parts of the school took part, and the school hall was full to overflowing with parents and pupils on both occasions! After half term we had the Remembrance Assembly; ably led by Year 4 pupils reprising some of their amazing assembly about WWI and selected senior pupils reading poetry and prayers.

The preparations then started in earnest for the various Christmas celebrations held throughout the school community. Events kicked off with 'The Sleepy Shepherd' nativity story, performed by 75 Early Years children. The two Reception classes proved that the show must go on when chicken pox spread through the classes the week before and half the children were off school (Mrs Bingham will admit to panicking slightly at this point!). However they pulled through; learnt their lines, sang their songs and did a wonderful job!

The KS1 Nativity 'Gabriel's Big Break' followed, with Ammiel and Zachary bravely performing solo songs in front of all the mummies and daddies in a sell out performance! The Year 2 children learnt all their lines off by heart and spoke with wonderful confidence and assurance. Year 1 were fabulous in their supporting roles and I look forward to them taking the lead in next year's nativity performance.

And finally, the Carol Service! This was a triumph and the children performed wonderfully. The children worked so incredibly hard to put on the performance, with hours of rehearsal and preparation time behind the scenes. Special mention must go to the Year 11 soloists - Eoin Brennan and Ria Dhalala, for whom it is their last Carol Service, who both performed solos with great assurance. There was a mixture of secular and sacred music; from the trumpets and brass playing the descant verses of the Carols and filling the church to the orchestra playing Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and Year 3 singing Jingle Bells. Many thanks must go to our visiting musicians who came to support us; including our new piano teacher Mr Darrah, singing teacher Mrs Janusz and guitar teacher Mr Chandler.

Well done to all the pupils for working so hard and I am delighted with what they have achieved this term. Looking forward, we have the Young Voices Trip to the O2 in January, the Wellington Choral Day in February, and the Prep and Senior Concerts and the Year 3 and 4 Production in March, so lots of lovely things to look forward to!

On another happy note, we are delighted to confirm that we have a drum teacher starting in January at Long Close School, which is in response to several parental enquiries. If you would like your son or daughter to have drum lessons please get a form from Mrs Jones in the front office and return it to the school as soon as possible. Spaces are also available on all other instruments that we offer at Long Close as well.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas.

Mrs Bingham



UPDATE FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Badminton, rugby, softball, athletics and netball are the wide range of sports that the senior girls have been exposed to in just one term!

KS3 started off with building on their badminton skills from last year. The girls played a variety of single and double matches which led to forming the first ever U14 badminton team. The team played against a variety of schools in the borough and showcased their outstanding skills, winning every single match. On Fridays, the girls played netball in the lessons and continued to work on specific techniques in defending and attacking.

KS4 focused on softball, a new sport for Long Close. With a professional coach from the Softball Association, the boys and girls in the upper part of the school developed their skills and understanding of the rules as well as playing games against each other. We are hoping to take our best players to the softball festival in the Summer term.

After half term, we were lucky enough to have Ali Lawrence with us from the London Irish Rugby Union. These sessions focused on introducing the game to the Year 7s and building on the previously acquired skills. The girls showed great stamina and, as the weeks went on, they showed excellent participation and enthusiasm even when the weather was not on their side!

The athletics competition was a great event to take part in. The U14 athletics team completed a range of events including shot put, relays, vertical jump, triple jump and standing long jump which they had been working on throughout the Friday sessions. The girls had a chance to compete against high performing schools in the borough and are looking forward to continue to practise their skills ready to participate again next year.

Next term will be as busy as this one, kicking off with dance and rowing.

Hockey has been the main focus for both Key Stage 1 and 2 with Year 3 being introduced to this sport for the first time.

After building up a secure skills base and tactical awareness, the U9A and B squads played over 12 fixtures and were extremely successful throughout the term, not losing a single game!

Years 5 and 6 widened their range of skills and incorporated quite complicated strategies into their gameplay. It was so encouraging to see Year 6 in particular apply the tactics shown them during lessons against their opposition. The teams had fourteen fixtures with the U11s unbeaten and the U10 only losing one game!

For the first time ever a team of swimmers from Key Stage 2 took part in a swimming gala at Langley Leisure Centre. Twelve swimmers took part – six boys and six girls. We came fourth overall and were so pleased to have taken part in such an exciting event. The races ranged from 25m (1 length) to 200m (8 lengths) and the aim of the organisers was to promote participation in swimming and spread the word that it is fun. All the competitors came away with a grin on their face and a horde of free goodies!

Next term we will be participating in netball and swimming.

Well done girls for a superb first term! *Miss Malocca, Mrs Collet and Mrs O'Connell*

STOP PRESS! LCS PROUD TO RECEIVE SILVER AWARD IN THE SCHOOL GAMES MARK SCHEME

Long Close School has recently achieved Silver level for the government-led School Games Mark scheme. The School Games Mark is an awards scheme launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community. In order to take part in the scheme, schools need to meet strict criteria relating to participation of games within the school and competition both inside and outside of school. Each school is then graded according to this criteria in order to determine whether they meet bronze, silver or gold standard.

Long Close was able to achieve silver status thanks, in part, to two specific points:

- The appointment of four Young Ambassadors for sport within the school, who received training and they now run meetings with house captains and are involved in leading small groups leading warm ups.
- Through creating links with external clubs, including England Softball Association, London Irish Club, the local Rowing and Indoor Athletics clubs and East Berkshire College Sports Club.

Mr Pavey said: "We are delighted to have received this recognition from the School Games Mark programme and we will continue our commitment to developing competitive sport across the school. Sport is a very important aspect of life at Long Close and I would also like to congratulate the sports staff at the school for working so hard to make this all possible."

PTA NEWS

We hope you are all looking forward to the end of term as much as we are – the Christmas holidays bring a well-deserved break for all of us!

The Christmas Fair and Santa's Grotto last week was a great success. We managed to raise £750 so once again thank you all for attending, volunteering and donating!



We would love to get your feedback on the fair and the grotto so please do take a moment to fill in our short survey – <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6TBVWQ7>

Alternatively, you can contact your class reps or the PTA via our email address at longcloseschoolpta@gmail.com.



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