



LONG CLOSE SCHOOL

PEGASUS NEWS

SUMMER TERM

ISSUE 1

FRIDAY 28 APRIL 2017

THE HEADMASTER WRITES...



'Brendan is keen to develop his career in education further'. This was the reason given in the letter sent to you on Monday afternoon about my decision to move to North Bridge House, Hampstead, from September. Whilst this statement is true it is also a massive simplification of the process I have been through when making such a big decision. By July I will have completed my fourth year here at LCS. Whilst this may not seem all that long the current Y11 pupils, who will be leaving this term will have been in Year 7 when I first stepped through the door at LCS for interview. Current Year 6 pupils, some of whom will also be finishing their own LCS journey in

July, would have been in Year 2 at the time. During these four years it has been my pleasure and privilege to get to know your children, to watch them grow, and to get to know many of you along the way as well. I am passionate about doing my best to help Long Close be a wonderful environment for all who are part of the community and my decision to leave does not diminish this. During my career I have never been ambitious for the next position or promotion but I have always been driven by new challenges. All successful organisations believe in the development of their own staff and recognise that investment in people growth will benefit the whole organisation from top to bottom. Successful schools have teachers who model learning and are eager to explore new ideas, informed by the latest research. And yes I am 'keen to develop my career in education' through the challenge that has been presented to me at North Bridge House this coming September. Cognita have given me the opportunity to pursue the next challenge without leaving the organisation entirely – and for this I am very grateful. The easier decision for me would be to stay put, not to do the London commute, and to continue in a school where I am comfortable with those around me. However, this would not necessarily be the best decision for the pupils, staff and parents of LCS. With comfort comes the possibility of taking the foot off the pedal, to cruise and to be blinkered by wanting things to run the way they have always run, rather than how they should run. A new Headteacher brings with them a period of uncertainty but they also bring with them a fresh pair of eyes, a new skill set based around their own experiences and a new way of doing things. I am confident that Cognita, in Melissa McBride, have found someone who can help LCS go from strength-to-strength in years to come. I will be working hard to ensure a smooth transition and it is important to note that potential future investments in the school will not be affected at all by this change of leadership. In fact one of the attractions for Ms McBride coming to LCS was because it was a school looking to develop its resources and facilities in the coming years!

I have only ever left two schools over the last 20 years of teaching and these two days were probably my least favourite of my teaching career. I know leaving at the end of this term will be similarly difficult, emotional and surreal but I am comforted by the fact that I will be staying within Cognita and will be able to hear back directly from Ms McBride about how you are all getting along. I will be in touch shortly to confirm forthcoming opportunities for you to meet her. In the meantime it is important to remember that I am not going anywhere yet and we have a very busy and exciting term ahead of us with many wonderful things happening on the sports' field, in the classroom and on the stage! It is going to be hard work but great fun at the same time – and I am very much looking forward to it!

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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!

Nursery, Reception,

Yrs 1 & 2:

07783 198 998

Years 3-11:

07986 316 132

EARLY YEARS UPDATE BY MRS HARRIS

It has been a super first week back of summer term, we have welcomed some new families and their children into the setting and as you can see from the updates below the children's curriculums have started with some fun learning. The summer term school calendar was sent home to Early Years children via their book bags today (If your child is not in on Fridays they will receive one next week).

The calendar is also available on the school website, there are quite a few events for the Early Years parents this summer term, so do have a look at the dates so you are able to join us if you can.

YELLOW ROOM

Welcome back!

It's been great to observe the children greeting each other and the staff so warmly and happily after their Easter Break. We have had a very busy week building new relationships with the children as they have been exploring their new environment and the outdoor playground.

The children have had fun joining in singing familiar rhymes during carpet times and listening to the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle. We named all the different fruits and food the caterpillar ate before he transformed into a beautiful butterfly. We discussed the importance of eating all our food as the children were encouraged to eat their fruit during snack time and lunch. Some of the children decided to have their own pretend 'tea party' outdoors, they even made the staff a warm cup of tea!



GREEN ROOM

The children were very excited to return to nursery after the Easter holidays to share their experiences with their peers. This week we began our Minibeasts topic. The children started their week by recalling events about their minibeast hunt they had been on over the Easter break. They shared images of the insects and minibeasts they had found using their Tapestry home observations and spoke about their favourite one.

We then continued our investigations by exploring our very own nursery caterpillars. The children observed the caterpillars and discussed how they move, how they may feel and what they think is going to happen to them! We read the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle to try and understand what the lifecycle of a caterpillar looks like and how we are going to watch our caterpillars evolve. The children are very excited that our caterpillars are going to turn into beautiful butterflies.

The children then decided they would like to draw their own minibeasts. They made marks on paper using a range of materials representing the different minibeasts they had found. They had lots of legs!



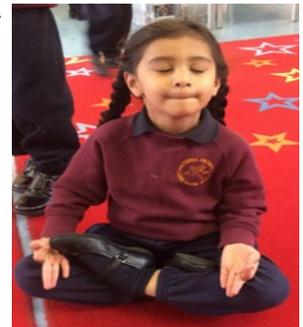
THIS WEEK IN EARLY YEARS

RED AND BLUE ROOMS

In the Red and Blue rooms this week, the children have been exploring the work of the Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky. After investigating and learning about his colourful painting titled 'Circles' through searching on the internet, we painted our own Kandinsky's circles and invented our own Kandinsky family tree for our families board. The children are so proud of their very own wonderful masterpieces! A very special box was delivered on Monday to the nursery containing some newly hatched caterpillars. The children have been observing them closely eager to see them evolve.



The children have learnt some new yoga positions this week when participating in our yoga sessions. They have also liked to challenge themselves physically in the outside environment using their balancing skills when negotiating their way over an assault course of their own making. Next week Red and Blue room will begin their school readiness programme, the children will visit Reception and start packing their own book bags at the end of the school day. We would like parents/carers to support us with this by collecting the children at 3.30pm from the Blue room side door at the top of the ramp (unless the children stay for tea and after school care) so that they are able to learn from the more focussed longer end of day Maths and English sessions.



RECEPTION

Reception have had a great start back to the summer term! We have had lots of chat about our holidays and the places we have visited, which has linked in well to our topic of 'Transport' this week. The children have been thinking about all of the different ways we can travel, the transport they have used and more unusual modes of transport, such as, hot air balloons, helicopters, submarines and rockets! During the week the children explored this theme by fixing Mrs Armitage's bike in the bike repair shop as well as taking their friends on a journey on the Reception bus! The children raced cars to see how far they went along ramp, made patterns with their tyre tracks in paint and washed them in our mini car wash in the classroom. The children even conducted a survey, watching the vehicles that passed by our school, looking for which ones were the most popular, using a tally chart to record this information! The week ended with the children bringing their own scooter or bike to school. They were extremely excited to bring their own vehicles in, getting the opportunity to race their bikes around the school grounds, use them for investigations in maths, making their own personalised number plates, as well as giving them a good wash at our Reception car wash.



PREP SCHOOL NEWS BY MS FIELD

KEY STAGE 1

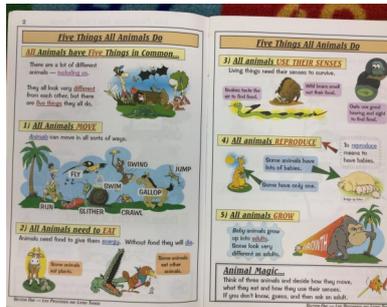
Year 1

It was wonderful to see so many happy smiling faces on Monday as the children returned to Year 1 in their summer uniforms, with new haircuts and great confidence. Many were keen to start the week in a laid back manner, nevertheless, Mrs Hallett and Miss Staniford had other ideas! In the Prep school it was suggested that the children have a go at doing a mile a day as part of a fitness initiative. The year 1 teachers were eager to implement this as soon as possible by starting to run around the school perimeter on Tuesday. The children were inspired to beat the teachers and therefore set out on a mission! As the week progressed they continued to be excited to take part in the daily mile... we hope this enthusiasm will last as we continue to build up our fitness and stamina! This week in our English Comprehension lesson the children discussed how to make a jam sandwich. They were given written instructions and were asked to stick the correct corresponding pictures to the sentences. This was followed by the children crossing from a series of sentence starters to write their own instructions. To reinforce the children's work they were encouraged to work in pairs to make a jam sandwich. It was wonderful to watch as the children worked in pairs, discussing the next step and using their critical thinking to work out how to cut their bread equally.

A fun first week back, we look forward to a fabulous summer term!

Year 2

There has been a real buzz in the air since the Year 2 children returned from the Easter break. They have got straight back into their learning routine taking in as many new facts as they possibly can! This has certainly been the case in Science. The children have been busy bees with their new topic, 'Living Things' looking closely at the differences and similarities between things that are alive. Together the children found out five fun facts that animals have in common. All animals move, eat, grow, reproduce and use their senses to survive. Great investigative skills displayed Year 2!



FORM & VICE CAPTAINS FOR SUMMER TERM 2017:

- 1H: Amrit Chahal & Basant Dhillon
- 1S: Naina Verma & Nihal Dhatt
- 2M: Inayah Baig & Krishav Sundar
- 2W: Ammiel Meer & Elina Wason
- 3I: Arjan Lai & Sivakami Malladi
- 3R: Smaran Kesireddy & Yuvraj Sanga
- 4M: Sara Butt & Arjun Bange
- 4R: Kismut Badesha & Manvir Singh Dhillon
- 5B: Parri Gohil & Alisha Chaudry
- 5C: Anisha Naidoo & Arron Lall
- 6F: Kiran Anand & Alman Aamir
- 6O: Natasha Sleep & Palash Rajput



PREP SCHOOL NEWS BY MS FIELD

KEY STAGE 2

Year 3

Year 3 have had a wonderful start to the Summer term! They have been looking closely at the environment and trying to understand how people have had a negative impact on our planet. The children have been encouraged to think of ways to eliminate these problems by doing little things to help. In history, we've carried on with our Romans topic and enjoyed looking at how far the Roman empire spread over the years. We then looked closely at the clothes and equipment used by the Roman soldiers during battle, which will hopefully lead on to our D.T. project of building our own magnificent shields! Could we please ask all parents to donate any large cardboard boxes as we will need them as soon as our research and designs are complete. Finally, we had great fun when the talented young actors and actresses in year 3 acted out a play script during our English lesson. Well done Year 3 on an excellent start to the term.

Year 4

A warm welcome back to all our wonderful Year 4 students. Can you believe the summer term is here already! This week we have started our new History, Geography, Science and RS topics and the children have been as enthusiastic as ever. In our first History lesson, we have been finding out about Edward the Confessor and how his lack of an heir caused a number of battles, as different people fought to gain the throne. Did you know that Harold Godwinson was actually the brother of Edward the Confessor's wife, Edith? The India topic, in Geography, has thoroughly engaged the children and they enjoyed sharing their personal experiences. In Maths lessons, we have revisited place value of 4 and 5 digit numbers and negative numbers, which proved quite tricky when placing on a number line. Please can all children review their 11 and 12 times tables? We are looking forward to our Creative Writing workshop which will take place throughout the day on Friday 5th May.

Year 5

This week year 5 have come back with a huge amount of enthusiasm for their new topics. They started the week writing poetry, specifically Haikus, a Japanese form of poetry with specific amounts of syllables in each line. The children focused their creations on animals and nature. In Science, the new topic of Life Cycles was introduced and they began creating a timeline of their life so far. As homework, pupils created some fabulous posters of their life which they had to research about and collected photographs and small items that they owned as babies. In Art, we began learning about primary, secondary and tertiary colours and the children have started to create a colour wheel. In DT the pupils have begun a new project of designing a placemat. The Geography lessons continued with the children investigating how rivers are formed. History has continued with the topic of Ancient Greece and have particularly focused on the comparison between the states of Athens and Sparta. We are looking forward to our trip to the British Museum in a few weeks! This will enhance the children's understanding of the topic.

Year 6

Year 6 are working really hard to prepare for their SATs exams in a week's time. Their diligence is to be commended. In addition they have begun new topics their other subjects. In art they have been learning about the history of photography and preparing to make their own pin-hole camera. They are also making working clocks in DT this term and have been busy with their designs.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS BY MRS BINGHAM

Welcome back to everyone at LCS and we're straight back into preparations for the musical events happening this term!

In KS1 Year 1 and 2 we are starting an 'Infant Choir' for the first time. This will be happening on a Thursday morning from 8.40am - 9.00am and is for all pupils in Years 1 and 2 who would like to do some extra singing - they will have their first performance at Speech Day at the end of the Year. Year 2 recorders continues on a Monday lunchtime - they did a fab lesson learning 'Hot Cross Buns' this week, and I am looking forward to their second performance this year.

In KS2 Years 3 and 4 are having a bit of a rest from rehearsals after their fantastic performance last term, and are concentrating on improving their listening and appraising skills through class performance and mini projects focussing on the elements of music.

Years 5 and 6 are now all systems go for our production of Oliver! which is taking place on the 26th and 27th June at 5pm in the School Hall. Messages will start coming home soon about costumes and general arrangements. I'm delighted to be working with Ash Sheehan and Abi Robinson (the Drama and Dance teachers at LCS) to ensure that we put on the best performance possible. There will be some extra rehearsals at lunchtimes, but we are currently working on a rehearsal timetable to ensure that there is as little disruption to class lessons as possible.

Senior Choir have had their first rehearsal this week and have been enjoying choosing their songs to sing at the PTA summer fete on Saturday 10th June.

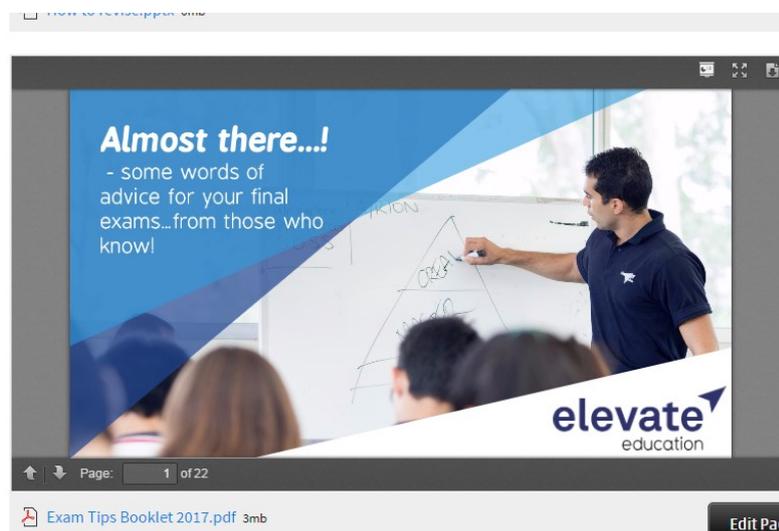
We currently still have spaces for people to learn drums, brass, violin or woodwind, ready for an immediate start, and waiting lists for piano, guitar and singing. If you would like your child to start music lessons either now or from September then please do complete a form from the office ASAP, to have the best possible chance of ensuring a slot. Recorder, piano and violin lessons can start in Year 2 and all other instruments should be able to be started in Year 3. Please contact me directly for more information.

Amy Bingham (Director of Music)

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS BY MR MCCARTHY

FIREFLY—REVISION TIPS

With exams approaching fast, I would like to draw your attention to Firefly and ensuring this tool is used to help with your revision over the long weekend. Full exam information is available, if you have any concerns please speak to your form tutor. We wish you the best of luck this coming term.!



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS BY MR MCCARTHY (continued)

SENIOR SCHOOL WORK SHOWCASE

Humza Hayat—Yr.10

The Robot Man Reports

Twisted hands, mangled fingers,
Keyboards typed and autocorrect twigged,
Voice monotone muttered miserable,
Tongue twisted time terror,
Waiting children, and gym weighted
Tree joints oiled and elbow grease spoiled,
Lyrical lies lambasted like lulls
Like Lime flavours with chocolate,
Slave labours whinge like a spoiled child
smacked by the sunburn.



SCHOOL NOTICES AND MATCH REPORT

OPEN DAY—SATURDAY 6 MAY 2017, 10.00-12.00 NOON

We would like to invite you to come and see your child's school in action at our next Open Morning on Saturday 6 May 2017, 10.00-12.00 noon. Ms Melissa McBride (appointed Headteacher from Sept 2017) will be addressing visitors at 10.15am before tours of the school start with our pupils from 10:30am. Mr Pavey will also be attending to welcome new and current parents.

All pupils are required to attend the event and will need to be in full Summer uniform (unless taking part in Sports where full PE kit will need to be worn). Should your child not be able to attend, please inform their form tutor asap. Details of pupil activities will be given nearer the time.

SPORTS FIXTURES FOR W/C 1 MAY 2017

U0 Cricket v Claires Court (a)
U15 Cricket vs Slough & Eton (h)
U13 Cricket vs Desborough (h)

SCHOOL CLOSED

EARLY MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY

MONDAY 1 MAY 2017

**School will re-open as normal
Tuesday 2 May 2017.**

SCHOOL EVENTS FOR W/C 1 MAY 2017

Tues 2 May—Yr 10 GCSE Biology Exam
Wed 3 May - Yr10 GCSE Chemistry Exam
Yrs7-11 Parents Mtg—Cyber Safety/Social Media
Thurs 4 May—Yr10 GCSE Physics Exam
Yr3 Trip to St Albans Museum—Verulamium

PTA NEWS

We hope everyone had a well-deserved Easter Break, this week has certainly been busy getting back into the routine and your PTA committee have been very busy working on plans for the fayre.



Summer Sports Carnival



Summer fayre news – The LCS Sports Carnival!
From next week we will be sharing more details on the fayre so please look out for the posters around school and flyers in bags. We want to get the students as involved as they can and are doing this in two ways:

1. The opportunity to submit a design for the programme cover.
2. Years 5 upwards and the business club can get involved by submitting their ideas for stalls that they would like to run on the day.

Five a side tournament sign up – **DEADLINE 18th of May.**

Our sports theme for the fayre also means there's a chance for those football loving Parents/Teachers to pull together their own 5- a side team and take part in a tournament on the day.

Once you have your team of five please email us with the following information

- Team name
- Name of the team captain
- A contact number for the team captain

There is an entry fee of £5 per team, once you confirm the team we will provide details of how to submit your payment.

Coming soon.....

More information on our fundraising efforts so far and plans for these funds!

Stay in contact with us-



Join the PTA Facebook page



longcloseschoolpta@gmail.com