

# Weekly Newsletter

13th February 2026



## Message from the Head

### Spirituality—Now moments

This week, in worship, the children have been reflecting on taking moments to pause and think. Life can feel like a whirlwind but taking time to put down screens and pause is good for everyone's mental health and wellbeing. Some children said they find these moments when they are in the flow of writing or painting, some said when they play music and some said they find their now moments in prayer or when they spend time in nature. In the busyness of half term, I hope you and your children all find a moment to pause.

I really hope you have a lovely half term week and we will look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 23rd February.

Best wishes,

*Mrs Laura Whateley*

### Come and work at Long Marston

We have an exciting opportunity for an **After School Club Assistant** to join the team at Long Marston. We are looking for a caring, enthusiastic and reliable person to join our After School Club team. The role involves supporting children at the end of the school day and helping to create a safe, happy and engaging environment.

Hours : 3.00pm (or 3.15) - 4.15pm or 3.00/3.15 -5.30pm

Days : Flexible (to be agreed)

Contract : Term time only

Experience of working with children is desirable but not essential. These roles often lead to further work within the school, making this an ideal opportunity for someone looking to gain experience in an educational setting.

#### **Safeguarding:**

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate safeguarding checks, including an enhanced DBS check.

For more information, please contact the school office on [admin@longmarston.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@longmarston.herts.sch.uk)

### National Year of Reading and World Book Day

2026 is the National Year of Reading, aiming to encourage more children - and adults - to read for pleasure. Reading for pleasure is in decline - a recent survey by the National Literacy trust shows that only 32% of young people aged 8-18 say they read in their free time, which has fallen from 68% in 2005. Reading for pleasure is a key indicator of future success, with those who read regularly typically making more progress at school and achieving better exam success.

At school, we have planned a number of events to encourage a love of reading, to sit alongside our usual curriculum which features regular reading and carefully chosen books to inspire children. KS2 have already had a virtual author visit organised by Tring Bookshop, and all children have taken part in National Storytelling Week activities. Coming up, we have World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. We are inviting children to come to school dressed as a favourite book character. Please could they also bring with them a copy of the book their character is from, as teachers have planned activities in class using these books.

Finally, **we are sending home this week the World Book Day £1 vouchers**, so that you have an opportunity to use them over half term. The vouchers can be exchanged for the special £1 World Book Day books available in bookshops and supermarkets, or used as part payment towards any book. We hope you have fun choosing a lovely book with your child!

### **Values Award**

Rewarding all those who demonstrate our values of kindness, respect and resilience.

#### **Class 1**

**Lily L** for always demonstrating kindness and caring I her play with her friends.

#### **Class 2**

**Samuel** for demonstrating resilience in all of his learning.

#### **Class 3**

**Isaac** for working really hard and showing resilience with his writing and times tables.

#### **Class 4**

**Finley H** for showing kindness towards friends in need.

#### **Class 5**

**Emily** for her resilience with her learning this week - she has worked really hard!

#### **House Points**

**Larks 302**

**Martins 321**

**Swifts 173**

**Congratulations to the Martins!**

#### **Attendance this week**

**Class 1 94.0%**

**Class 2 89.3%**

**Class 3 95.1% Well Done!**

**Class 4 95.5%**

**Class 5 89.9%**

**Whole School Attendance this year: 94.7%**

**Target for the Year: 95.3%**

## Coming Up

### Tuesday 24th February

- Summer Sports - lunchtime
- Mini Olympics (KS1)

### Wednesday 25th February

- Gardening Club - lunchtime

### Thursday 26th February

- Girls Football - lunchtime
- Cheerleading
- Game on Football Club (KS2)
- French (KS1&KS2)
- Drums / Guitar Lessons

### Friday 27th February

- Piano Lessons
- Spanish Lessons



## Bridgewater KS2 Cross Country

On **Saturday 21st March**, KS2 children are invited to compete in the Bridgewater Cross Country Race in Berkhamsted. Last year was the first year Long Marston took part and our children did really well. Classes run the daily mile every day and have a good level of fitness. If your child would like to take part, please sign up on Arbor. Please can everyone sign up by Thursday 26th February as we have to let Bridgewater know numbers. More information will follow for children who sign up. Additionally, if children want extra practice in advance of this, Tring Junior Park run is running every Saturday morning at 9.00am.

Many thanks to Lucy Hill who will be coordinating our runners on the day.

## Consultation on local government reorganisation

In late 2024, the Government set out plans to change how local councils across England work together. This means areas like Hertfordshire that operate a two-tier system - where some services are run by district councils and others by the county council are being asked to rethink how things are organised. Have your say on this consultation [here](#).

## Forest school Help for Class 3

We are still very short of helpers for forest school for Class 3's forest school after half term. If anyone is able to help, even for just a morning or afternoon, it would be greatly appreciated. At the moment, there is the risk that some sessions may have to be cancelled.

**Help keep our streets safe for everyone:**

- ✓ No parking on yellow zigzags  
These keep the crossing clear for children.
- ✓ Allow extra time  
Rushing = risky parking.
- ✓ Respect driveways  
Please don't block homes or paths.
- ✓ Walk, cycle, or share a lift  
Fewer cars, safer roads.

**Why it matters:**

- Safer for children and families
- Pavements stay clear for buggies and wheelchairs
- Emergency vehicles can get through fast
- Happier neighbours, safer community

**Please don't:**

- Double park
- Park across driveways
- Stop close to junctions

**Think before you park!**  
A few extra seconds = a safer street for everyone.



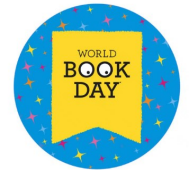
## Caldecotte Trip Payments

If your child is due to be participating in the Caldecotte residential trip in the summer please can you ensure that you are keeping up to date with your instalment payments. Payments are due on the following dates: 2nd February, 2nd instalment. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the school office

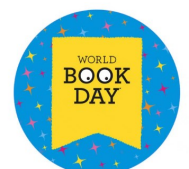
2nd March, 2nd April, 2nd May - £80.40 for each

## Product recall Hobbycraft coloured play sand

We have been informed that Hobbycraft have issued a product recall due to suspected asbestos contamination. See [here](#) for more information.



**World Book Day**  
**Thursday 5th March**



### Long Marston Win!



Congratulations to Long Marston's football team who beat Little Gaddesden 6-3 last night. In very muddy, wet conditions the boys played excellently and showed great sportsmanship. Well done to all who competed and represented Long Marston so well.

### Perform Workshop

We were very pleased to receive a visit from Perform on Thursday 12th February. The children had a wonderful time exploring the theme of Midnight in the Toyshop and using drama, dance and singing to help develop their confidence, concentration and social skills.

To complement the workshop, there is a free educational app for iPhones and iPads based around the theme of Midnight in the Toyshop. It contains fun games, creative tasks and videos of the themed songs and dances. Click here to download it free or [www.perform.org.uk/toyshop](http://www.perform.org.uk/toyshop) here to find out more about the Midnight in the Toyshop theme.

Perform run regular weekly classes in the local area and they are offering a special introductory discount to all parents of Long Marston VA C Of E School if they come along for a free trial session before Friday 3rd April.

To claim your discount, just call Perform on 020 7255 9120 quoting DHXZ030426 or book a Free Trial Session online at [perform.org.uk/try](http://perform.org.uk/try).



### Dates for Spring 2 Half Term

Date and time	Event
Mon 23rd Feb	Children return to school
Thurs 5th March	World Book Day - Children welcome to dress up in their favourite book character and bring the book their character is from
Mon 9th March 3.30-6.00	Parent teacher consultations - in person
Weds 11th Mar 9.15	Mothering Sunday service in church— <b>parents welcome</b>
Weds 11th Mar 5-7.30	Parent teacher consultations evening - online
Weds 18th Mar eve	Year 6 SATs information evening with Mrs Soar
Thurs 19th Mar	Class 2 Cake sale—no nuts. Allergens labelled
Sat 21st Mar	Bridgewater Cross Country KS2
Mon 23rd Mar	Lacrosse taster sessions
Tues 24th Mar	Lacrosse taster sessions
Weds 25th Mar 9.15	Easter Service in Church— <b>parents welcome</b>
Fri 27th Mar 1.30	End of term— <b>early collection</b>



### School Cup

Last week, Coach Dylan organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of the School Cup. It was a cross country event and the whole school took part. The children were made aware that everybody's final placing would help towards their team's score and the team with the lowest average would win. Medals for the winners of the boys' and girls' race in each year group will be given out after half term.

### **Overall scores**

1st = Martins - 199 points  
32 runners – Average – 6.22

2nd = Swifts -176 points  
26 runners – Average – 6.77

3rd = Larks - 219 points  
32 runners – Average – 6.84

### **Fastest Runners**

Class 3 winners  
Freddie H & Evelyn

Class 2 winners  
Myles & Sophie C

Class 4 winners  
Finley H & Juliette

Class 5 winners  
Thomas & Paige