

Weekly Newsletter

1st May 2026



Message from the Head

Learning this week

Dear parents and carers,

The children have had another busy week at Long Marston. C1 have been exploring oceans through the work of David Attenborough, comparing frozen oceans packed with icebergs and polar bears to warmer ocean environments around the world. The children have enjoyed learning about the amazing diversity of life beneath the waves.

C2 have continued their fascinating topic on Kings and Queens, learning all about Richard III. They were amazed to discover how his skeleton was found in Leicester and even explored what historians believe he ate during his lifetime.

C3 have been learning about the Vikings and their invasion of St Cuthbert's monastery at Lindisfarne. The children have explored why this raid became such an important moment in British history.

C4 have been investigating Earth in Space, comparing the heliocentric model, where the planets orbit the Sun, with the earlier geocentric model, which placed Earth at the centre of the universe.

C5 have been studying evacuation during World War Two and discussing the moral dilemmas faced by characters in Friend or Foe by Michael Morpurgo, particularly when children discover a German airman and must decide what to do.

Our Red Kite Room children have been learning about growing. They have grown sunflowers and looked at how plants grow but also compared each others height and shoe size. They will check again in a term!

Next Friday, we will be celebrating David Attenborough's 100th birthday with a special day recognising the important messages he has shared though his lifetime. There is a live assembly around the country which we will take part in and classes are planning activities throughout the day based on his wildlife documentaries. If you are able to show your child one of his documentaries this week, it would really help.

Staffing Update

From next week we will be welcoming Mrs Bugden to the team in Class 1. Mrs Bugden comes with lots of experience including from a local nursery. We look forward to her joining the team.

A reminder that Monday is a bank holiday so we will see you on Tuesday 5th next week. Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Mrs Laura Whateley

Swimming Gala 2026

We are planning on running our annual swimming gala on Monday 13th July but are unsure of the logistics at this time. Half way through the term Tiddenfoot are moving to a brand new pool and we are hoping our gala will be held there. Further details will follow once we know more about the move.

Values Award

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

Class 1

Rory has demonstrated confidence, resilience and enthusiasm communication his swimming interests to the whole class. Rory really shone with his recount of his swimming holiday to all of class -well done!

Class 2

Chester for being resilient with all of his learning and for presenting his work beautifully.

Class 3

Rowan for having a great attitude to his learning this week.

Class 4

Otis for always making great choices and being a kind, resilient member of Class 4.

Class 5

Emily for resilience in all her learning this week especially Maths and long multiplication.

House Points

Larks 174

Martins 178

Swifts 135

Congratulations to the **Martins!**

Attendance this week

Class 1 97.5% Well Done!

Class 2 93.2%

Class 3 95.1%

Class 4 97.5% Well Done!

Class 5 94.2%

Whole School Attendance this year: 94.6%

Coming Up

Tuesday 5th May

- Dodgeball - lunchtime
- Summer Sports (KS1&KS2)

Wednesday 6th May

- Gardening Club - lunchtime

Thursday 7th May

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

Friday 8th May

- Piano Lessons

Additional Information



Class 3 and 4 School Visit to Gunpowder Mills

On Thursday, Class 3 and 4 went on a school trip to Gunpowder Mill. It was an amazing day. We were split into 2 groups . Whilst one was making an amazing rocket and launching it into the air, the other went on an amazing train ride with plenty of ducks and deer to see. We learnt how to make aerodynamic rockets. We even had a competition for whose rocket could go the furthest! On the train ride we passed a herd of deer and the guide pointed out there was more lying on the ground. Thank you very much parents for contributing to this trip. By Hattie and Harriet, Class 4.



Relationships and Sex Education

A reminder that the consultation on our amended RSE curriculum closes Friday 8th May. Please pass any comments to teachers or Laura Whateley by then. The consultation can be found [here](#).

Dates up until end of Summer term

Date and time	Event
Tues 5th May 9.30	Class 5 Maypole and bake sale— please don't park at village hall
Thurs 7th May	Bikeability Year 3
Fri 8th May	Bikeability Year 3 David Attenborough's 100th birthday celebrations in school
Mon 11th- Thurs 14th	SATs week Year 6—SATs breakfast before school
Weds 20th May	SEND and PPG coffee morning —please park on road HT afternoon tea
Fri 22nd May	Break up for half term
Mon 1st June	INSET day school closed to children
Tues 2nd June	Children return to school
Thurs 4th June	Class2 final forest school
Mon 8th June	Year 4 Multiplication check this week
Thurs 11th June	Class 1 first forest school
Tues 16th June	Reception Height, Weight, Vision, Hearing check—school nurse
Weds 17th June 9.15	Fathers' Day service in church R-6—please don't park at village hall
Fri 19th June	John Colet transition day Y6
Fri 19th June Eve	Intervillage competition—Aldbury
Mon 22nd June	Year 6 residential to Caldecott
Tues 30th June	Sports day and Teddy Bears' Picnic—please no parking at village hall Class 1 cake sale
Mon 6th July	Meet the teacher for Year 6 children at Tring
Tues 7th July	Year 6 transition day at Tring Class 1 and 2 Pirate Day in school—dress up as a pirate
Weds 8th July 5.45	Year 5 and 6 performance
Fri 10th July	Reports go home
Mon 13th July	New class move round including new children and N and Reception
Tues 14th July	Reserve sports day
Weds 15th July	End of Year church service—please don't park at village hall
Thurs 16th July	Class 1 last forest school
Mon 20th July	Y6 celebration afternoon
Weds 22nd July 9.15	Y6 leavers' assembly. Please don't park at village hall Last day of term 1.30pm collection



Caldecotte Residential

Just a friendly reminder that if your child is attending the Caldecotte residential the final instalment is due to be paid by 5th May.

Please ensure that your payments are up to date and the final instalment is paid in a timely fashion . If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Forest School Volunteers

Forest School for class 1 starts on 11th June. Letters regarding details will be coming out next week. However, in the meantime if you have a spare Thursday morning (10-12midday) or afternoon (1-3pm) and would be able to assist with any session please contact the school office.



May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 4th May

