

Friday 28th November 2025

Long Wittenham C.E. Primary School



Show our love through kindness, determination and curiosity; strengthening ourselves and our community

Please remember we are a nut free school

Headteacher's Message

RET Partnership

As always, we have been busy working within our Ridgeway Education Trust networks over the last few weeks. This has included attending the Full Education Board and the Primary Heads meeting, followed by key safeguarding and compliance work through the safeguarding pre-Ofsted visit, the DSL Network, and the Health and Safety meeting. We have also taken part in a range of curriculum and inclusion networks, including the Inclusion Network, Early Years Network, English Subject Lead Network, and Maths Hub meetings. These opportunities help us stay connected, share best practice, and continue strengthening our provision across the school.

Gabrieli Consort Singing Workshop

Last week, RET hosted a special singing workshop led by professional singers Emily Dickens and Gwen Martin from the Gabrieli Consort. Hundreds of students from across RET primary schools, including Oak Class, came together at DGS to join the Young Voices Choir (Years 7–8) for an inspiring day celebrating the benefits and joy of group singing. Students explored songs and rounds from around the world and learned how to sing confidently in multiple parts. Their behaviour was exemplary throughout, and Emily and Gwen frequently commented on how engaged, enthusiastic, and polite all the students were during the sessions. It was a real pleasure to see pupils from across the Trust collaborating so positively and creating such wonderful music together.

Support our Local Rainbows and Scouts Groups

We are very lucky to have a fantastic Rainbows group here in Long Wittenham and a Scouts group in Clifton Hampden, both run by dedicated volunteers. These wonderful organisations offer children a wide range of enriching opportunities—and much-needed time away from screens. Both groups are currently seeking new members. Contact details and further information can be found in the posters at the end of the newsletter.

Attendance Update

Our whole-school attendance this week was 94.85%. Well done to Pine Class for 98.2%.

Good attendance and punctuality are essential for children to keep up with their learning, build confidence, and feel part of school life. Even small amounts of missed time can add up. Thank you for supporting your child to be in school on time every day they are well enough to attend and arriving on time each morning.

The Week's Learning

Acorn Class

This week in Acorn Class, we have been enjoying the story *Night Monkey, Day Monkey*. The children explored what it means to be nocturnal and learned about the differences between daytime and night-time. In maths, the children have been composing and decomposing numbers from one to five, developing their number sense and confidence.

Telephone: 01865 407850

Email: office.3233@long-wittenham.oxon.sch.uk

They have also been practising their writing skills by creating their own labels and captions. Please check your child's reading record for guidance on how you can support their reading at home. We kindly ask that book bags are brought to school every day. Thank you for your continued support. **Mrs Beeton**

Birch Class

Birch Class have been reading Fergal is Fuming and have written guides on how to calm down when you're feeling fiery. They have also started their new story, The Secret Forest, and enjoyed looking closely at the illustrations. In Forest School, the children loved making homes for animals, and in RE they explored different images of the Nativity before creating their own. **Miss Clarke**

Pine Class

Pine class has started using our reading book, The Iron Man, in their writing lessons. They have been describing the appearance and character of The Iron Man, as well as inventing a new villainous character for their own stories. While the Year 3 students were at forest school, the Year 4 students have been practising gymnastics, creating 3-step routines both individually and as a group. In history, we are learning about Egyptian tombs, including how they were constructed and what can be found inside them. We are also exploring the discovery of Tutankhamun's sarcophagus. Our RE lessons have focused on how Christmas is celebrated around the world and the practices Christians follow during worship. In science last week, we experimented with liquids and solids, making Oobleck from cornflour and water, which the whole class enjoyed! This week, we experimented with ice and various temperatures of water. Lastly, in PSHE, we discussed what stereotypes are and how we can avoid stereotyping others. **Mrs McNamee**

Oak Class

Oak Class have been busy writing descriptive pieces inspired by a child of the Windrush generation arriving in Britain for the first time. In maths, they have been working confidently with decimal calculations. In RE, we continued exploring the theme of light and darkness and learned about the experience of journalist Brian Keenan, who was held hostage in Lebanon for almost five years, often in darkness. The children reflected thoughtfully on his story.

Mrs Greenway and Mrs Fraser

Early Help

All families need support at different times, and we are open to talking about this so that we can assist you or recommend other resources that could be helpful. Early Help support is available to all families via any professional, helping to identify and address issues early. For details, see: [Early-help-guide-for-families-Sept-2023.pdf](#)
This can be a valuable resource, and we are happy to guide you in accessing it if needed.

Have a lovely weekend!

A Week in Pictures



Dates for your Diaries 2025-2026	
Thursday 11 th December	Christmas jumper and Christmas lunch day
Friday 12 th December	Christingle in church 4pm
Tuesday 16 th December	Lego day funded by PTA
Wednesday 17 th December	EYFS and KS1 Nativity 10am & 2pm
Friday 6 th February	Pine Class Assembly 3pm
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Tuesday 24 th March	Pine Class Performance 3:30pm & 5:30pm
Wednesday 22 nd April	Parents Evening 3:30-5:30pm
Thursday 23 rd April	Parents Evening 7-7pm
Friday 24 th April	Birch Class Assembly 3pm
Week beginning 11 th May	SATs Week
Tuesday 19 th May	Sports Day- 10am followed by picnic lunch
Week beginning 8 th June	Phonics screening check
Friday 12 th June	Acorn Class Assembly 3pm
Wednesday 15 th July	Oak Class Performance 2pm & 6pm

earth trust

CHRISTMAS MARKET

CRAFTS | GIFTS | FOOD & DRINK | KIDS ACTIVITIES & MORE
FISON BARN, EARTH TRUST, OX14 4QZ

FRI 5TH DEC
6-9PM

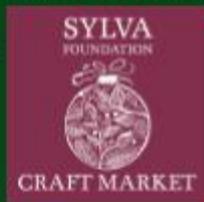
SAT 6TH DEC
10AM-4PM

20+ stall holders
Mulled wine & hot chocolate
Toast marshmallows
Festive barn, music & school choir
Write a letter to Father Christmas
And more!
Entry: £3/adult (under 16s free)



Find out more and book your Earth Trust Christmas Market tickets by scanning the QR code here.

Visit the Sylva Foundation Craft Market on the same day! Only 1.5 miles away at Long Wittenham, OX14 4QT



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Scouts



1st Clifton Hampden &
Burcot Sea Scouts

Join the adventure!

What do Scouts do?

Scouts is where young people, **girls and boys**, make new friends, have **amazing adventures**, and learn new skills.

Scouts are do-ers and give-it-a-go-ers. Yes, we go camping, hiking, swimming, abseiling, cycling and canoeing.

But, we also get to **hang out with our friends every week** – having fun, **playing games**, working in a team and **taking on new challenges**.

We have three fantastic groups who meet weekly in term time, so if you are aged 6 - 14, come and join us and see where your adventures will take you!

Scouts isn't just for young people!

Fancy joining in some of the fun? Whatever you bring to the table, **however often you can help**, volunteering with the Scouts can change young people's lives - and yours too!



BEAVERS

Age 6 - 8

Mondays

18:15 - 19:15

cubs

Age 8 - 10½

Tuesdays

18:30 - 20:00

SCOUTS

Age 10½ - 14

Fridays

19:00 - 21:00

For more information and to join the
adventure contact:

☎ 07712 834152

✉ sixshortmans@btopenworld.com

1st Clifton Hampden & Burcot
Scout Hut, Recreational
Ground, Abingdon Road,
Oxfordshire, OX14 3EL





Telephone: 01865 407850

Email: office.3233@long-wittenham.oxon.sch.uk



TIME 2 BOUNCE, BOUNCE INTO BOOKS FUNDRAISING EVENT

🌿 Long Wittenham Pre-School 🌿
Sarah's Stories (Usborne Books)



**Scan to shop and support
little learners**

How it works: Shop Usborne books through this link
and help stock the pre-school at no extra cost to you.

Telephone: 01865 407850

Email: office.3233@long-wittenham.oxon.sch.uk

OXFORDSHIRE WE ARE WITH YOU FORUM

JOIN OUR SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY!

We aim to walk with you on your Parent/Carer journey
A warm, parent session for anyone caring for a child or young
adult (up to age 25) facing mental health challenges.

Connect • Share • Learn Join us online or in person for relaxed,
insightful sessions led by:

- Parent Peer Support Workers
- Social Prescribers
- CAMHS Mental Health Professionals

Explore topics around mental health and neurodiversity in a
safe, welcoming space.

★ Plus: Special Guest Events Hear from professionals and
services across the field! and getting out in nature.



**TO REGISTER FOLLOW
THE LINK OR QR :**



WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/INVOLVEMENT/OXON/WHY/

Operation Encompass is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and all police forces.

“ Children who live in homes where there is domestic abuse, or who experience domestic abuse in their own teenage relationships, can be negatively impacted by this experience. ”

“ Children who experience domestic abuse are recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right¹. ”

“ We have ensured that a member of our staff, (Designated Safeguarding Lead) known as a Key Adult, has been trained about Operation Encompass procedures. This allows us to use the information that has been confidentially shared with us by the police, to understand how a child may be impacted by domestic abuse and to then offer support to the child/ren in our care. ”

“ Operation Encompass means that our school will be told, prior to the start of the next school day, when police have attended an incident of domestic abuse where there is a child or young person who attends our school who is related to any of those involved in the incident. ”

“ This information means that we can understand a child's behaviour and support that child in whatever way they may need or want. ”

“ We are keen to offer the very best support possible to all our pupils and we believe that being part of Operation Encompass helps us to do this. ”

¹ Domestic Abuse Act 2021

www.operationencompass.org

FIRST AID



SATURDAY 31 JANUARY

**OUTDOOR FIRST
AID TRAINING**

LW VILLAGE HALL 9AM-6PM (APPROX)
£82EA IF 12 PLACES BOOKED
BRING LUNCH TO SHARE

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT NINA ON
07921 451967

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