

Friday 5th December 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

#### Christmas Fayre

On Saturday we held our joint Christmas Fayre with Pre-school, and it was a great success! There was a wonderful community feel throughout the event, and together we raised an impressive £1,259.37, which will be split between the two organisations.

A massive thank you to everyone who gave their time so generously to plan the event and to help out on the day. We are incredibly grateful for all your support.



#### Panto



On Monday, the whole school enjoyed a pantomime performance of *Rick Whittington* by the West Midlands Theatre Company. It was a very funny show with lots of opportunities for the children to join in. We were also delighted that Pre-school were able to share the fun.

Thank you to the PTA for funding these opportunities that bring such joy to our community.

#### Didcot Library Visit

Birch Class enjoyed their return visit to Didcot Library today. They once again had the chance to share stories, browse the fabulous collection, and choose new books to take home.

Thank you to everyone who returned their books from the previous visit. We are still missing a handful, so please keep an eye out for them.

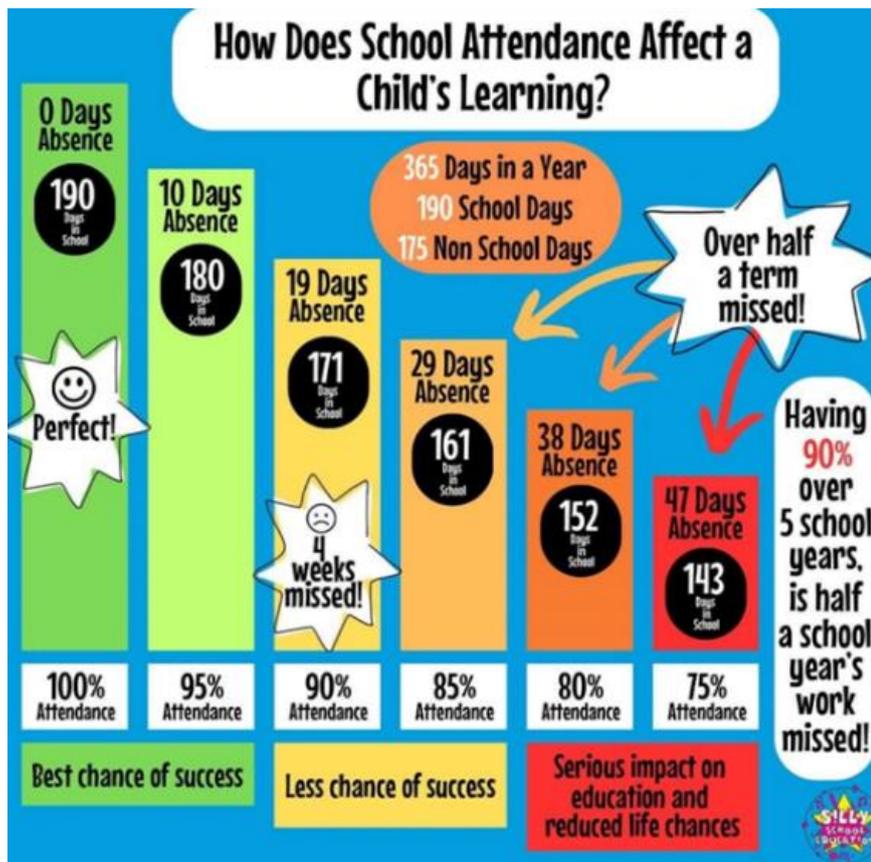


#### Day in the Life of a Chickpea

The Dialogue Society visited school on Wednesday and ran a workshop for KS2. Entitled a day in the *Life of a Chickpea* the workshop uses the journey of a simple chickpea to help children explore key British Values — democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. In this engaging one-off session, pupils reflect on identity, community, and belonging through imaginative activities that make complex ideas accessible.

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Our whole-school attendance this week was 91.62%. This is below the national average.

Even though we are getting close to Christmas, it is still vitally important that your child is in school every day. Learning continues right up to the end of term, and we also have lots of exciting activities planned that your child won't want to miss.

### The Week's Learning

#### Acorn Class

This week in Acorn Class, the children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the story of *The Marvellous Moon Map*. In maths, they have taken part in activities that highlight the purpose and importance of counting. We have also been learning about our school values, introducing new vocabulary such as *curiosity* and *determination*. In addition, the children have been discovering features of our local community, including different types of houses and homes, and learning about the places we can find in our village. **Mrs Beeton**

#### Birch Class

This week in Birch Class, we have continued reading *The Secret Forest*. We have explored how the author uses questions and commands to guide the reader and have written our own by looking closely at the illustrations. In maths, we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. We have been naming a range of shapes and beginning to explore their properties, such as the number of sides, edges, faces and vertices. In history, we compared the causes and consequences of the Gunpowder Plot. In science, we continued to investigate the properties of materials, focusing on which materials are waterproof. **Miss Clarke**

#### Pine Class

Pine Class said goodbye to our student teacher Miss Newman today. We loved having her in class; we will miss her calm presence. In English, we started to write stories about how the Iron Man was created. In maths we finished learning about each of the times tables up to 12 and have now started to learn about factors. In science, we learnt about evaporation and condensation. We finished the week with a great swimming lesson, learning about water safety in our pjs! **Mrs McNamee**

## **Oak Class**

This week in Maths, Oak Class have been working with decimal numbers. In English, they have begun their new writing journey, learning about the following grammar features: the past simple and past progressive tenses, recognising time conjunctions, and using a semi-colon. They also looked at an example of a diary entry and identified the key features needed to write an engaging one. In RE, the children have been learning about the importance of light in the Hindu festival of Diwali. **Mrs Greenway and Mrs Fraser**

## **Pendon Museum - Pop-up Café Wednesday 10th December, 10.00am-12.30pm**

This is a free drop-in event, with just a small charge for drinks and cake to cover the costs. All donations from the cakes go to support a local group, so please go along and support it if you can. The café is friendly to dog walkers, but they will need to have their refreshment outside with their dog(s).

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## **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.

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## **Young Carers**

A young carer is a child or young person who helps to look after a family member who may be ill, have a disability, experience mental health challenges or struggle with issues related to substance misuse. Their role can involve practical tasks, emotional support, or simply being someone who is always there to help.

Being a young carer can be rewarding, but it can also bring challenges. That is why we are committed to ensuring all our young carers feel understood, supported and valued. In school, this means offering a safe space to talk, checking in regularly, and making sure they have the time and help they need to thrive both emotionally and academically.

If you think your child may be a young carer, or if your family would benefit from additional support, please contact us. We work closely with local services to ensure families can access the right help, and we are always here to listen.

Together, we can ensure that every child in our school community feels seen, supported and celebrated.

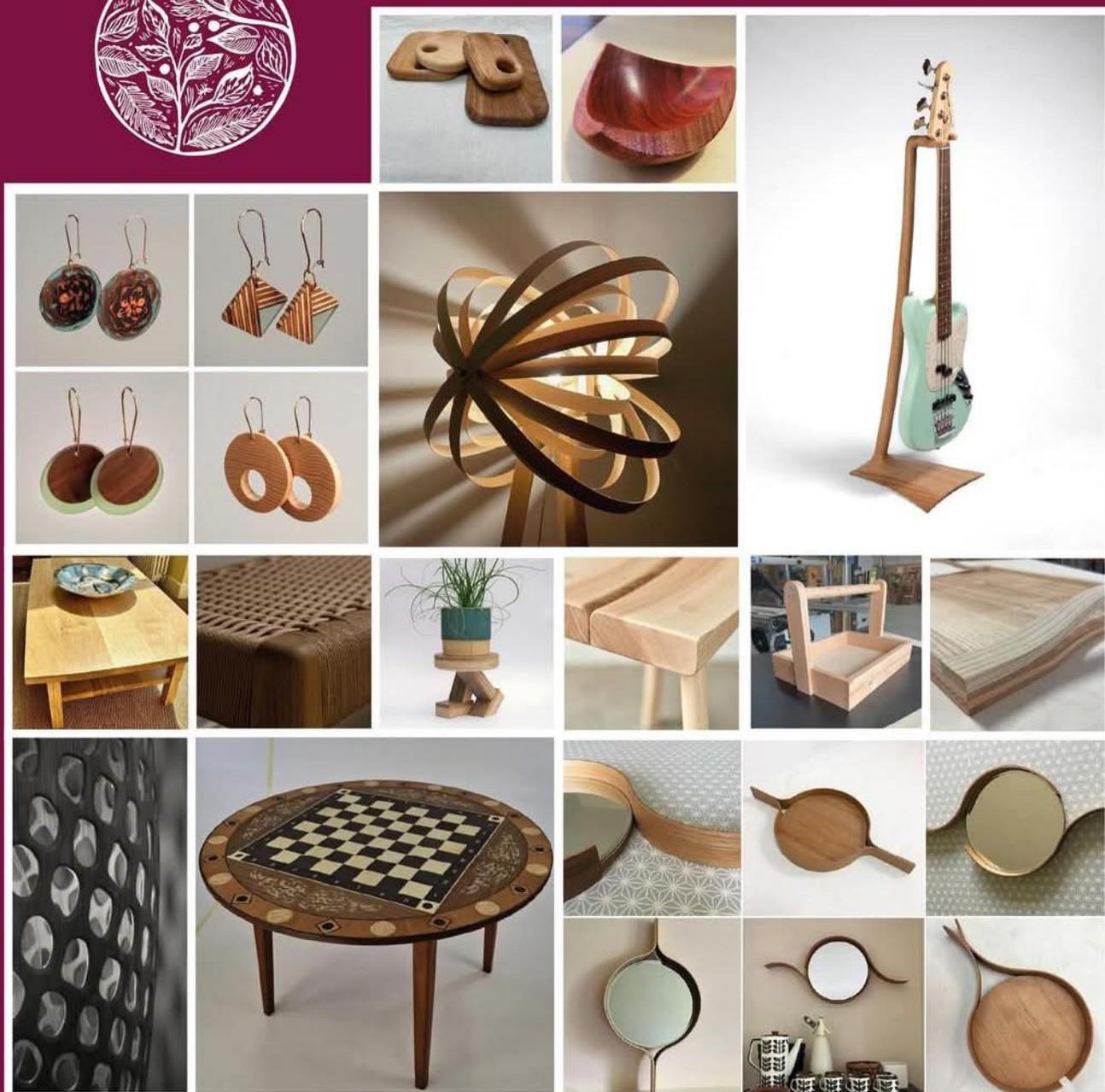
Dates for your Diaries 2025-2026	
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas jumper and Christmas lunch day
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle in church 4pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Lego day funded by PTA
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS and KS1 Nativity 10am & 2pm
Friday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

**SYLVA**  
FOUNDATION



# CRAFT MARKET

A festive showcase of fine woodcraft: shop unique handmade gifts and discover courses offered at the Sylva Wood School



**Friday 5th December 6pm - 9pm and Saturday 6th December 10am - 4pm**

Sylva Wood Centre, Little Wittenham Road, Long Wittenham, OX14 4QT

Free entry. Free parking. Hot drinks and Christmas treats. [sylva.org.uk](http://sylva.org.uk)

Visit the  **Christmas Market on the same day, in Little Wittenham!**

Telephone: 01865 407850

Email: [office.3233@long-wittenham.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3233@long-wittenham.oxon.sch.uk)

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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CRAFT MARKET

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# **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](mailto: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/WWY/](http://WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/INVOLVEMENT/OXON/WWY/)

## 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 right<sup>1</sup>. ”

“ 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. ”

<sup>1</sup> Domestic Abuse Act 2021

[www.operationencompass.org](http://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

Telephone: 01865 407850

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