

# Long Whatton C of E Primary School

Newsletter 03.09.20



Welcome back.... Finally! It has been so lovely to see all of the children again this term. We have missed them all so much! It is also lovely to see the parents and guardians again, although with staggered starts it is tricky to catch up with you all.

I hope that you and your families are all safe and well and are now managing to get back to sort of normality.

Thank you so much for all of your support that you gave to your children on the Google Classroom. I know it was not easy, especially if you were trying to hold down your own job at the same time but I am very grateful for all the effort you put in along with your children.

Thank you for also trusting us to look after your children back in school this term. I know it can't have been an easy decision to send your children back to school but I am delighted that every single child returned last week. We will endeavour to do all we can to keep the children and your families safe.

I'd also like to say welcome to our new children and parents who started with us this week. 15 new members of the Busy Bees arrived on Monday and have already settled into school like they have always been here.



The first two weeks have been busy so far. Last week we had a mental health focus in school. The week was about settling the children into school again and introducing them to all of the new routines that we have to put in place to ensure the children remain in their class bubbles as they move around the school.

This week has been assessment week. The aim of the week has been to find out where your children are at and identify any gaps. These assessments will enable us to plan and deliver lessons on a normal school timetable from next week that is pitched at the correct level and from there we can identify any children who may need some extra support to catch back up.

Mrs York, our Mental Health Lead, is still on standby along with the rest of the staff to support any children who may be struggling and need any mental health support.

We have got off to a great start this term and I think the time away from school for some has made them appreciate school more and certainly their friends. It was a joy to see them excited to see their friends again.

A big thank you goes to our PTA for putting on tea and tissues for our new parents in the outside gazebo on Monday. I am aware that we do usually open this event to all of our parents on the first day but I hope you can understand that due to restrictions on numbers allowed to gather this year due to government guidance we could only open this to our new starter parents this year. I am already in talks with the PTA to see if we could try to set up a tea and chat opportunity for parents in other year groups over the year so that you still have the opportunity to catch up as parents and visit the school in some capacity.





The school has been busier than ever over the summer. Even through Covid we have continued to drive the school forward.

You may have noticed the new windows in the hall and new front doors.

The stage has been knocked down in the Shooting stars classroom to create more room for the children.

The listed windows on the older part of the school have been painted externally.

The Phoenix tribe and the Shooting Stars have also been painted.

A new wall has been put in to the new Busy Bees class so that their learning is not disturbed. This has also created another area for the children to work in.

All classrooms have now had an interactive whiteboard installed which means further learning resources can be accessed and the screens are clearer for the children to see.

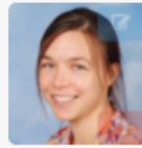


# Meet our TEAM

There are some new faces in school this academic year and of course new classes. Here is an update of who we all are .



**Mrs Sara Gray**  
Head Teacher



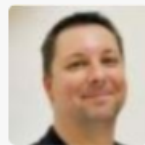
**Penny Plummer**  
Senior Teacher



**Mrs Lynda Goodwin**  
Office Manager



**Mrs Emma Conway**  
Class Teacher



**Mr Andy Cotton**  
Class Teacher



**Mrs Charlotte Mayfield**  
Teaching Assistant



**Ms Jill Ella**  
Teaching Assistant



**Mrs Gemma York**  
Higher Level Teaching Assistant



**Mrs Laura Dykes**  
Teaching Assistant



**Miss Hannah Sharp**  
Student Teacher



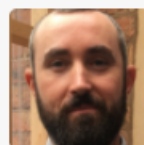
**Miss Maia Hellowell**  
Class Teacher



**Mrs Penny Plummer**  
Class Teacher



**Ms Katy Smith**  
Teaching Assistant



**Mr Richard Miller**  
Student Teacher



A big thank you goes to our parents for donating seeds and seedlings over the summer term. We nearly had an empty poly tunnel as we had been unable to plant with the children when the school closed but in June we were able to get growing again. We now have pumpkins, courgettes and tomatoes growing in our poly tunnel.



This term we are asking parents to keep your children at home if they are feeling unwell and display any of the symptoms of Covid 19. This is in order to keep other children and families as safe as possible.

If your child is sent home because they are displaying any symptoms we will ask you to take them for a test and if the test result is negative they will be welcome back into school. I do understand this may be disruptive to parents and children but we must do all we can to keep each other safe. Please contact your GP to organise a test.

Do not send your child to school or childcare if any of the following is true.

Your child has:

- a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- any other common symptoms of coronavirus - a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, or shortness of breath
- been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus
- been living with someone who is unwell and may have coronavirus
- an existing breathing condition that has recently got worse

**Gentle Reminder-** Please can I remind parents to stand behind the wall at a 2 metre distance and not to enter the carpark at pickup and drop off times. This is to keep both children and staff safe. If you need to speak to your class teacher please email the office to book an appointment or to receive a telephone call.

Thank you for your ongoing support,  
Mrs Gray and the Long Whatton Team