

Long Mead Newsletter



Term 3



Can you believe we are already halfway through of Term 3, Christmas and the New Year seems like a distant memory! The children have settled down brilliantly and are all eager to learn something new in 2017.

School Attendance

At Long Mead we want **all** the children to thrive in their learning and to reach their full potential. An area which we can all work together on is attendance and punctuality, being in school on a regular basis, and on time, is one of the best ways you can support your children.

The Government's target for children of statutory school age is 95%. We are therefore looking at all attendance of children **below 95%** and will be sending letters home to parents of children who fall into this category, hoping to support and work with to improve attendance.

When children are absent or late into school it has a big impact on their learning and affects their attendance. We are aware that on occasions children are unwell and should not be in school (e.g. sickness and diarrhoea), but for minor illnesses like colds and coughs it is better for the children to be in school and then the school office can contact parents if they need to go home.

Days off school add up to lost learning.

Please see below figures to show how your children's attendance can be affected by absences:

175 Non School Days a Year →		175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments			
All 190 SCHOOL DAYS 190 days for your child's education	180 DAYS OF EDUCATION 10 days absence	171 DAYS OF EDUCATION 19 days absence	161 DAYS OF EDUCATION 29 days absence (Half a term missed)	152 DAYS OF EDUCATION 38 days absence	143 DAYS OF EDUCATION 47 days absence
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
GOOD Best chance of success Gets your child off to a start!		WORRYING Less chance of success Makes it harder to make progress		SERIOUS CONCERN Not fair on your child Possibility of court action!	

Please be aware poor attendance and lateness can result in a Penalty Notice

Late Arrivals

There have been a worrying number of children arriving late, in some cases this is too regular. This not only disrupts your child's learning, but also the rest of the class is interrupted which is unfair to them.

We understand that sometimes things happen that are out of the ordinary. However, lateness should otherwise be avoidable by adjusting routines (please contact the school if you need to discuss any issues).

We will be monitoring families that are late, and regular lateness may result in a meeting, or even a penalty notice, being requested.

Thank you for your cooperation.



NSPCC Dance-a-thon

Long Mead will be participating in a Dance-a-thon fundraising event on **Friday 27th January** in support of the NSPCC campaign 'Every Childhood is Worth Fighting For'.

Children will take part in the Dance-a-thon in their classes for one hour in the day and will need to have a full PE kit in school.

Sponsorship forms have been sent home, and we ask they be returned, with sponsor money, by **Friday 3rd February**.



Severe Weather

In the event of more snow Long Mead School is unlikely to close as many of our staff live locally.



However, if the school is closed, a text will be sent to parents/carers and a message will be placed on the KCC School Closures web site www.kentclosures.co.uk and announced on local radio.

It may be difficult for those who live some distance away to bring your child to school, but there is an expectation that pupils who live within the locality WILL attend. If it is felt that an absence is unnecessary it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

In severe weather it may be advisable to send your child with additional clothes and wellingtons. If St Margaret Clitherow School is closed Long Mead will be unlikely to be able to provide a hot lunch and you will be requested to send your child with a packed lunch even if they are in receipt of Free School Meals.

Parents can register for text and email alerts on the Kent closures website. This means that as soon as the status of the school is changed on the website, registered parents will receive a text or an email.

Dates for your diary

Dance-a-thon for NSPCC	Fri 27 Jan
No nursery afternoon session	Fri 27 Jan
Last day of term 3	Fri 10 Feb
First day of term 4	Tues 21 Feb
Parent consultations	Tues 14 March
Parent consultations	Wed 15 March
Mother's Day Assembly	Thurs 23 March
Red Nose Day	Fri 24 March
Last day of term 4	Fri 31 March

THANK YOU for all your support last year - we raised money for a number of different organisations including:

Christmas Fair approx. £1,200 (the money raised will go towards subsidising school trips and other activities for the children)

Children in Need - £341

Save the Children (Christmas Jumpers) - £114

Alzheimer's Society (Sponsored Football) - £162

Bridge Trust (Nativity collection) - £59

Letters home: Please note that we will be putting a copy of all letters sent home on the school web site and sending out via email. Please let us know of any changes to email addresses or contact numbers.