

**Long Ridings**  
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Headteacher: Ms N. Murthen



**Primary School**  
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[www.longridings-pri.org.uk](http://www.longridings-pri.org.uk)  
Deputy Headteacher: Mr D. Tullett  
4<sup>th</sup> May 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a good long weekend. It is a shame that the sun has disappeared once again.

#### **Parents' Association**

I had the pleasure to meet all the mums on the Parents' Association via Teams. It was lovely to see how dedicated and committed you all are. Thank you for all your hard work and for raising money to support our school. We have big projects lined up and we will soon meet up with Mrs McLennan and Mr Burton to discuss where to invest the funds raised. Our aim is to ensure that we make a difference in our children's lives at school.

#### **Sports day**

Change 4 Life week will take place from 05.07.21 to 09.07.21. We have therefore decided to hold our sports day during that same week. You will be pleased to know that we would like to invite parents for sports day. The event will however be held in a staggered manner where each year group will be performing at different times to help us manage big gatherings during this pandemic. I am writing to give you some advance notice and nearer the time, we will confirm all our plans. Sports activities will take place on the field; parents will be invited to attend and to leave after the activities. There will not be any opportunities for picnics this year. We are aware that this arrangement will need multiple trips from some of you who have more than one child with us. Apologies for the inconvenience. I am sure we will have your blessings to organise sports day in this manner during this critical time. Please see below the sports day schedule. Timings will be confirmed nearer the time.

YEAR GROUP	DATE	TIME
FS	Tues 06.07	Morning
Yr 2	Tues 06.07	Afternoon
Yr 1	Wed 07.07	Morning
Yr 5	Wed 07.07	Afternoon
Yr 3	Thurs 08.07	Morning
Yr 4	Thurs 08.07	Afternoon
Yr 6	Frid 09.07	Morning

Last week, teachers were asked to carry out a class survey to find out: what the children like best about our school, what could be improved and what they would like me to change. I am sure you would want to know what your children have said in their survey. Please see below their feedback:

**What do the children like best about LR?  
What makes us unique? What makes them  
feel proud to belong to LR?**

- Sports
- After school clubs with Premier
- Their friends
- The teachers
- The new Headteacher
- Worry boxes
- Art
- Muga
- Their uniform
- Star of the week and other celebrations
- Daily mile
- The big playgrounds and fields
- The bees
- Music lesson

**What improvements they would want to see  
?**

- More regular trips
- More awards
- More children's work on displays
- Cleaner classrooms
- More clubs
- A cooking area/ a children's kitchen
- Extension of the Library
- Study areas
- Improve playground surfaces
- Class pet
- A range of food choice at lunch time
- More play equipment out at lunch times
- For the HT to teach one lesson in Year 1
- New bike shed

In assembly, I shared the whole school's survey with Years 1 to 6. Please see below my response to their suggestions:

PUPILS' FEEDBACK APRIL 2021	
YOU SAID	WE DO
➤ More regular trips	I would like each year group to organise 3 trips each year: 1 main big trip and 2 local trips. We will include trips on the curriculum for the next academic year.
➤ More awards	From September, we will start a monthly 100% attendance award, Writer of the month and Mathematician of the month. I also intend to start a 'Hot chocolate with the Headteacher' next half-term. More information will be shared when we have confirmed all plans and all the criteria for each award. I am meeting with the School Council pupils soon to discuss behaviour awards and the existing Rocket points.
➤ More children's work on displays	I have very high expectations when it comes to the learning environment. In the Summer Term, I am working with staff on 'Displays and our learning environment' in readiness for the new academic year.
➤ Cleaner classrooms	I am a big fan of tidying up and de-cluttering. Staff have been amazing in helping me to tidy up the school. In the Summer holiday, we will decorate the KS 2 building and tidy up all classrooms with more focussed displays. Mrs Stevens has spoken to the cleaners regarding our expectations as well.
➤ More clubs	Something to work on in readiness for September. I would like us to run more clubs indeed. I would love us to have a gardening club as well.
➤ A cooking area/ a children's kitchen	This is one of my biggest dreams. I adore cooking and did cookery lessons at Secondary school. I would love to teach Cookery to our pupils. However, this is a bigger project which is not on my 3 year planner. Maybe for a later stage.
➤ Extension of the Library	The Library features on my action plan for this term- to be ready for September. We will move the Library into the ICT suite and make it a KS 1 and 2 Library. We have plans to get mobile devices for ICT lessons and clear the suite.
➤ Study areas	I really like this idea. I will see what we can do to create some study pods/ areas outside the classrooms- especially in KS 2.
➤ Improve playground surfaces	All booked for this summer. Mrs Stevens is working on the 'Playgrounds Improvement' project.
➤ Class pet	I am not sure yet how this will work. (In my previous school, we had the regular visit of a guide dog in the school and some children used to read stories to him.) I will talk to the teachers and the School Council about this.
➤ A range of food choice at lunch time	At the moment, we are serving a restricted menu because of the measures in place for Covid. Once all restrictions are lifted and lunch times are back to normal, I am sure the kitchen Staff will revisit their menus. I will share your views with them.
➤ More play equipment out at lunch times	Agree. I am sure the middays will look into this once all Covid restrictions are lifted. I will inform the Midday Supervisor.
➤ For the HT to teach one lesson in Year 1	I would love to teach a lesson to the Year 1 pupils maybe once my day gets a little bit lighter. I will speak to the Year 1 teachers.
➤ New bike area	A new bike shed will be built near the KS 2 building soon. Mr Lawler is working on this project alongside the PA.

### Couple of reminders from teachers

We have noticed that a few children are bringing in chocolate bars and other sweets in their packed lunches. Please help us promote a healthy lifestyle. We encourage healthy snacks please.



### A message from Foundation Stage teachers

The weather is still not that warm yet. We would like the children to bring their coats in as we do many activities outside.



### Litter

Please do not throw rubbish on our school premises. We urge you to use the bins that are dotted around the school. We have noticed a lot of litter around the main car park gates.

### Behaviour

We are doing our best in school to keep promoting our core values. We are reminding the children about the importance of being kind, respectful, resilient, responsible and curious. We will appreciate it if you could please help us promote these core values.

LONG RIDINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL CORE VALUES:		
L	Independence	Curiosity
R	Tolerance	Responsibility
P	Perseverance	Resilience
S	Courage	Kindness

### Celebrating our pupils achievements

- Maddie and Acacia Mai have been great Eco Warriors all of last week, picking up litter on their way to school.
- Millie and Isobel donated their hair to the Little Princess Trust to help make wigs for people suffering from cancer.
- Freddie in Year 2 did a 5k run and raised £3000 for Epilepsy Awareness.
- Holly and Lilly have just found out that they will be performing at the Silverstone Grand Prix in July.
- Elsie in Year 3 was awarded a Bronze certificate by her music teacher.



We are very proud of you all. It is always a pleasure to hear about the different activities the children take part in to help the wider community.

If you would like me to make a mention of your children's achievements in the newsletters, please send me the details via [admin@longridings.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@longridings.essex.sch.uk)

### What you can do at home

I would like to reinforce the importance of sharing books with your children and reading to them. If your child finds reading challenging and you need the support to help them, please talk to their class teacher for some advice and tips. As a school, we will start teaching reading comprehension on a regular basis as we have noticed that the children are struggling with inference and deduction in most year groups. It will be great if you could please put some time aside for daily home reading.



### Staying safe online

If you allow your children to access Youtube at home, please ensure that the parental locks are on and that you supervise what they are accessing at all times to keep them safe online. We have been told that some inappropriate videos are being circulated on Tiktok. So, if your children have access to Tiktok, we will advise that you are fully aware of what sort of content they are accessing. It is essential to stay alert as online safety is key.

**BE SMART ONLINE**

**S SAFE** Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen by anyone and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.

**M MEET** Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk).

**A ACCEPTING** Think carefully before you click on or open anything online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.





**R RELIABLE** You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be real or fake, inaccurate or not really true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.

**T TELL** Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childnet - 0800 11 11 or [www.childnet.org.uk](http://www.childnet.org.uk)

**BE SMART WITH A HEART** Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your Friends if they are worried or need by spreading their happiness online.

WWW.CHILDNET.COM

What do good readers do? Help your child to learn the skills to become a good reader.

Predict	Clarify	Question	Summarise
 <p>I will think what the chapter is about. I will think what happens next.</p> <p>I can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the title</li> <li>• Use the headings</li> <li>• Use the illustrations</li> <li>• Use what I have already read</li> <li>• The last chapter....</li> <li>• In the last paragraph... but</li> <li>• In the next paragraph..</li> <li>• The heading tells me...</li> </ul> <p>I will read the text to check my predictions I can change my predictions as the author gives me more information</p>	 <p>I will write down the words and phrases I do not understand I will find out what they mean</p> <p>I can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop and think what the author wants me to know</li> <li>• Re-read or read to find clues</li> <li>• Picture it in my mind</li> <li>• Think about what I already know</li> <li>• Make sure I am using the punctuation</li> <li>• Read faster or slower</li> <li>• Look for the base word</li> <li>• Try another word that makes sense</li> <li>• Use a dictionary</li> </ul>	 <p>I will ask questions to help me understand what I have read I will think of questions while I am reading the text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What? When?</li> <li>• Who? Why?</li> <li>• Why is ...important</li> <li>• Why did....do that?</li> <li>• What are the differences between?</li> <li>• What would you do?</li> <li>• What do you think about?</li> <li>• What are the reasons for?</li> <li>• Is...fact or fiction? How do you know?</li> <li>• How do you feel about the character?</li> <li>• What part was most interesting? Why?</li> <li>• How is the author making us feel excited? Scared?</li> </ul>	 <p>I will identify the main idea in the text. I will say what the page is about in two sentences. I will leave out the small details. I will use headings, titles, and the topic sentence.</p> <p>I can say things like...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This page is about...</li> <li>• The main point of this paragraph is...</li> <li>• The main idea is....</li> <li>• The next idea is ....</li> <li>• The most important information is ....</li> <li>• In this part of the story....</li> <li>• The author is telling me...</li> <li>• The author wants me to think....</li> </ul>



A reminder that 6<sup>th</sup> May is a non-pupil day as it is the Polling Day.

**And finally to finish on a lovely note**

I really enjoy the little chats I have with so many of you at the gates in the morning and I am so proud of the children.  
Thank you for your continued support.

Ms Murthen