

Newsletter Week 2 term 1, 11th September 2026

Last week was fab, and this week, if this is possible, has been even more so! More **laughter, smiles, excitement purpose, pride**, and most of the **gentle butterflies have subsided now**. It's honestly been the **most settled transition into a new academic year I have known**. Watching our children throw themselves into their **new learning**, adapt to **new classrooms**, get to know **new teachers / new curriculum topics** has been a **joy**. They have taken every change in their stride with curiosity and confidence again.

Our youngest, **our new Reception / EYFS children have been absolute superstars** as they completed their two-week induction. After settling so brilliantly into their slightly shorter days, they are officially **ready to start full time on Monday!** Exciting times. This was celebrated with a **welcome coffee morning this morning run by the FOLGs (thank you FOLGs)**, supported by our fab **Family Link** and also our **EWO** (lots of questions about holidays!) and so many parents came. There was a real buzz in the hall, and of the parents I spoke with, they all are enjoying the start, making new friends and happy that their child is too!

Please do keep an eye out for our youngest learners as they join us all on Monday morning at the busy entrance gates next week. As always, I know our wonderful LWG family will give them a huge smile and plenty of space as they take these first big steps into full school life. Thank you.

One moment this week summed up **everything that makes our school special**. We received a lovely, spontaneous message from a parent in lower Key Stage 1, asking us to thank our older upper Key Stage 2 pupils for taking the time to play with the younger children at breaktimes / lunch. The parent said how **welcome and cared for their child felt**, and how much their children had loved this. It is so lovely to hear, but didn't come as a surprise, we are lucky enough to see **this kindness on the playground every single day**.

Seeing our oldest children gently guiding and helping our youngest, sharing games, and looking out for one another is **pure loveliness**. That **sense of family** is not something you find in every school, and I hope you feel as proud of our young leaders as we do!

Alongside our youngest, we have also welcomed wonderful new children across other year groups, as well as fantastic new staff members who have already woven themselves into the fabric of our team. Across every classroom this week, we have seen paintbrush covered tables (!), collaborative group projects, outdoor discoveries, and those **lightbulb moments** where a tough new concept suddenly clicks.

Starting a new academic year takes a **massive team effort**. I am always grateful to our **dedicated staff** for creating such a safe and happy school, and to you, **our amazing families**, for your support and smiles!

Reminder, if your child is due to start primary or secondary school in September 2027, applications are now open, with secondary applications closing 31st October 2026 and primary applications closing 15th January 2027. Please see the relevant link for [primary applications](#) or [secondary applications](#).

We have been chosen to help **shape the future of safe walking, wheeling, and cycling for schools across the country!** How cool!

If you have a child in Reception, Year 1, Year 5, or Year 6, I would love for you to share your voice to **Active Travel England's quick 10-minute online survey**. It doesn't matter if your journey involves a walk, a scooter ride, or a car, every perspective helps.

As a great bonus, if 50 of our eligible families take part by 14th October, our school earns a **£75 Love2Shop voucher** for new resources for our pupils. Please have a look at the survey link to share your thoughts and help us fly the flag for our wonderful Longwell Green School Community! More info <https://natcen.ac.uk/ActiveSchoolTravel> and this for the direct survey link [survey.natcen.ac.uk/mrIWeb/mrIWeb.dll?I.Project=P2042601 MAI V1&i.user=121164](https://survey.natcen.ac.uk/mrIWeb/mrIWeb.dll?I.Project=P2042601%20MAI%20V1&i.user=121164)



Inside this week

- Y2 WOW day
- School communication types and their use
- Fantastic music events, including free ones
- Lego Land Tickets via FOLGs for INSET 7th October
- Clifton College and Magic for free on our doorstep
- Join the FOLGs!
- other events.

And more...



Below one of our new EYFS classes, reading one of their brand new books



School Shop & Uniform

Fruit of the Loom News!

quick reminder the the school shop on the School Money App (sorry, we don't take cash at the desk) is fully stocked! We see bookbags, drink bottles, and the coloured House PE T-Shirts. Those T-shirts are fruit of the loom brand, and are an absolute bargain at £2 each! Available in various sizes, we have them in your child's team colours, red, blue, green or white.

We are quite relaxed about our uniform, we never have asked explicitly for logo items and as long as they are as described on the website, we are happy!

We'd rather everyone was in school happy and learning, than being strange about the length of your collar! However, we do really like having everyone dressed in a similar way, as it adds to the family / team; think sports teams and the impact of everyone wearing a different colour would have! So thank you amazing parents for supporting this and having your children look amazing.)



(My child doesn't want to leave school and can't wait to get back, and) "...Behind their excitement is a fabulous team making sure our children have had a happy, and smooth start. My kids have come home buzzing about their learning. I know that doesn't happen by accident, but through all the thought and preparation put in over the summer. Well done Longwell Green!" A genuine email quote from a parent with more than one child in Longwell Green.



Our WOW Day!

Healthy Bodies, Happy Minds

On our WOW Day, we explored what it means to be healthy and tried lots of fun activities! We learned, moved, created, made and discovered. Here's what we got up to...

Healthy choices help us grow, learn and be our best!



In the Morning...

Dinosaur Yoga

We started the day with dinosaur yoga! We stretched, balanced and moved like our favourite dinosaurs. This helped us to:

- build strength and flexibility
- improve our balance
- focus our minds
- and feel calm and relaxed.



The Science Experiment

We wanted to find out what happens to our heart rate when we exercise and rest. First, we made a prediction. Then we measured our heart rate before, during and after exercise using a stopwatch. We recorded our results and looked for patterns.

What we did:

- 1 Predicted what would happen
- 2 Measured our heart rate (rest)
- 3 Exercised (e.g. running/jumping)
- 4 Measured our heart rate again
- 5 Compared our results



Finding Our Pulse

We learnt how to find our pulse by using our fingers (not our thumbs!) on our wrist or neck. We counted how many beats we could feel in 15 seconds and then multiplied by 4 to get our heart rate per minute. We found that our pulse got faster after exercise and slower when we rested.



Remember:

- ✓ Use your index and middle finger
- ✓ Count for 15 seconds
- ✓ Multiply by 4
- ✓ Find your heart rate per minute





Aboriginal Style Artwork

We learnt about Aboriginal art and the meaning behind the different symbols and patterns. We created our own artwork by drawing different fruits and filling them with dots. We used bright colours and careful dot patterns to make our designs unique.



The Fruits We Chose

- apples
- bananas
- strawberries
- oranges
- grapes
- watermelon
- and more!



In the Afternoon...

Designing and Making Fruit Kebabs

We designed our own fruit kebabs, thinking about a mix of different colours, flavours and healthy choices. Then we used a knife carefully to cut up the fruit and make our own kebabs. We followed safety rules:

- ✓ always use a chopping board
- ✓ hold the knife correctly
- ✓ cut away from our fingers
- ✓ work slowly and carefully
- ✓ helped by an adult when needed.



Our Healthy Eating Plates

We designed a healthy eating plate for a meal we would like to eat. We thought about the different food groups and how they help our bodies. We included:

- fruit and vegetables
- whole grains
- protein (e.g. chicken, eggs, beans, fish)
- dairy or alternatives (e.g. yoghurt, cheese)



What Did We Learn?

We learnt that...

- ★ our bodies need healthy food, water and sleep
- ★ exerciss helps our heart and muscles
- ★ we can make healthy choices every day
- ★ being active, creative and kind helps us feel good!



Healthy Choices...

- ✓ fuel our bodies
- ✓ boost our energy
- ✓ help us learn
- ✓ make us happy!



Well done Year 2 - you were amazing!

Communications with school

At Longwell Green we really value school and home being well connected and we thank you for the open and supportive communication we have with you, and this is a reminder (and for new families) about the best ways to get in touch.

The different ways you can contact us:

- **Phone:** A quick call to the office is often the best way for urgent matters. If you leave a message on the answer machine, we always pick these up.
- **Email:** Enquiries@longwellgreenprimaryschool.co.uk perfect for more formal or detailed queries.
- **Dojo:** A handy way for short, informal messages. These are not checked during the day, we're busy teaching!
- **In person:** Staff are on the ramp and gate most mornings and are available at the end of the day when dismissing pupils.

When to use what:

Quick or informal updates things like "Can I check when PE is again?" or "Just so you know, my child might be tired today after their birthday!", these are ideal for a quick word at drop off, or even better a dojo message as this goes straight to the teacher (see below).

Information from teachers will sometimes come via dojo for example updates about class things or school events).

Important things like as changes to going home plans, information attendance or absences really need to go via the office by phone or email, so we can be sure the message is picked up quickly. Please do not send important information via dojo, see below for why.

A few reminders:

- Teachers usually check dojo before school and again after pupils have gone home. **During the school day they are busy teaching, so they won't see messages straight away and I am sure you would rather they were teaching than answering messages!** Please don't send anything important like going home arrangements this way, it will not be seen in time!
- Respectfully, **please don't expect staff to respond outside of working hours after 5pm or at weekends.** Everyone works very hard during the school day, and we want to protect their rest time. If something important comes up out of hours, the best route is always the school office.
- **We do our best to respond to emails within 1-2 working days.** Sometimes replies take a little longer if more than one member of staff needs to be involved for example, but rest assured we are always working on it and for the emergencies as per above, they will be seen and acted on. For real emergencies, telephone is always best, even if it is an answer machine message as this is checked frequently.

We're really proud that many families who join us from other schools say communication here is one of our real strengths. Thank you for working with us to make sure we are all working for the same shared goal, the best for your child!

A Polite Reminder About Parking

We frequently receive messages from a local residents who live opposite / near school, raising ongoing concerns about parking at drop off and pick up times and we often get a lot at the start of a year. They've shared that cars are often parked on double yellow lines, block driveways, mount pavements and making it difficult for other vehicles to get through. On some occasions, parked vehicles have made it impossible to turn safely into nearby roads.

While we know this is only a small number of drivers, these actions cause frustration and even danger for residents and families walking to school.

We have been sent photographs, which I am aware residents do sometimes share with police also, and I can agree that there are some cars that are really making things dangerous and impossible to pass as a car on the road and also a walker on the pavement.

Please can we all make an extra effort to park safely and legally, even if it means a short walk to the school gates. Let's be considerate to our neighbours and help keep the area around our school safe for everyone.

Thank you for your support.



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Discounts available for children eligible for Pupil Premium





LEGO LAND TICKETS



INSET DAY - FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER

£23 each adult/child
(RRP £34 for this date!)

Child under 90cm goes free

Free carer tickets available
upon request and proof of eligibility

Parking tickets need to be
bought separately

No transport provided

Tickets on sale
@ www.folgs.org.uk
until 17th September!



MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!



JOIN THE FRIENDS OF LONGWELL GREEN SCHOOL PTA!

*New members wanted for the
new academic year!*



We are a friendly group of parents and carers
working together to raise funds and create
amazing opportunities and experiences for
all the children at our school.



**HELP AS
LITTLE AND
OFTEN AS
YOU LIKE**

Every bit of support
makes a big
difference!



**BEHIND
THE SCENES
OR AT
EVENTS**

There's a role for
everyone – whatever
your time or skills.



**ALL
WELCOME!**

Whether you can
help regularly or
just now and then,
you'll be warmly
welcomed.



AGM 23RD SEPTEMBER

Come along, share your ideas and be part of
something great for our school!



TOGETHER WE CAN DO AMAZING THINGS!



contactus@folgs.org.uk



Friends of Longwell Green School

Friends of Longwell Green School PTA is a registered charity (No. 1012805)



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UPCOMING OPEN EVENTS

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

PRESCHOOL - YEAR 6

FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER

SIXTH FORM

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER

YEAR 7 - YEAR 11



BOOK
YOUR
VISIT!





September 2026

Dear Year 6 Students, Parents and Carers

Wellsway School Open Evening – Thursday 17th September 2026 – 5.30pm-7.30pm

I am writing to invite you to attend our Year 6 Open Evening on Thursday 17th September.

The evening will begin at 5.30pm with either an introduction from the Headteacher at 5.35pm in Mendip Hall, or a tour of the school.

If you arrive for the 5.35pm presentation and Mendip Hall is full, you will be able to freely explore our facilities within each curriculum team and will be guided throughout by our wonderful young people. The Headteacher's introduction will be repeated at 6.20pm and 7.05pm and tickets will be issued on arrival to ensure all our visitors have the opportunity to hear about our unique community; one that believes in and actively promotes the traditional values of courtesy, respect, and compassion.

Our Open Evening continues to be very popular and as a result we are expecting a large number of parents and students to attend again this year.

The aim of Wellsway School is simple: to ensure our young people develop into ***"confident, respectful and successful young people."***

As a school, we are motivated by a sense of the moral seriousness of what schools do; by a conviction that education, while important, should also be fun; by a belief that schools should be inclusive families in which everyone is equally valued; and by a determination that each one of us will become the very best person that we can be.

We are incredibly proud of our school and we strongly encourage you to come along to our Year 6 Open Evening so you can see for yourself why Wellsway School is a special place to learn.

We look forward to meeting you on Thursday 17th September and to a wonderful evening at our fantastic school. For those parents/carers who are unable to attend the Open Evening or require additional information, we will be holding an Open Morning for Year 6 on Tuesday 22nd September between 9.15am – 10.45am.

Yours faithfully

Mr R Pearsall
Headteacher Wellsway School and
Executive Head of School IKB Academy

Please note for your convenience:

- Limited street parking is available; we advise those living within walking distance to arrive on foot.
- The vehicle gates will be closed, with car parking onsite limited to those with mobility needs. A site attendant will be available to assist on the gates and provide accessibility information.

BURST THE 5 MINUTE BUBBLE IF YOU PARK AND STRIDE TO SCHOOL



Having just won an award for making travel to school more healthy, and better for the planet, we know you are good at this, but can we get even better?

1 in 4 cars in the morning are on the school run.

We all dislike traffic and queuing. Yet we are part of it! At Longwell Green Primary we have tried to make this a bit better for you all by joining up with the Community Centre, who have agreed to allow

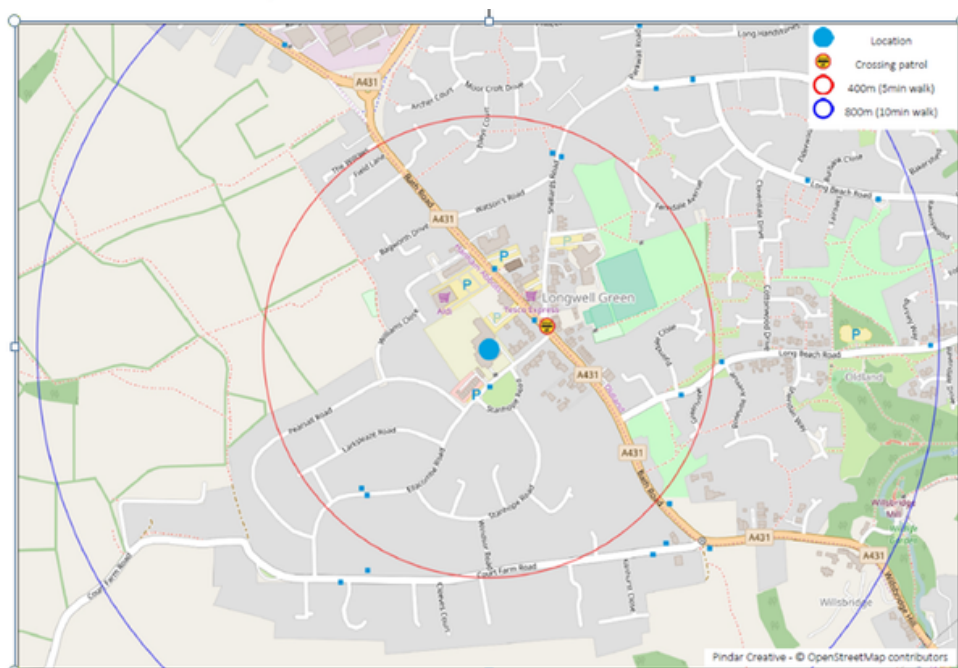
families to park there and walk the minute or two to school. This cuts down hugely on traffic by school and makes school a much safer place.

If your journey from home is too far to walk or cycle the whole way to school, then Park and Stride is the way forward! We have had made an Active Travel Zone Map (also on our school website <https://www.longwellgreenprimaryschool.co.uk/active-travel/>) which you can use to see where the 5- and 10-minute walking zones are around the school.

Walking Bubbles

We have also created *Walking Bubble* stickers which have been placed on lamp posts in a 5 minute 'bubble' around the school to make it easier to know where the 5 minute zone is.

The idea is that families park their car outside the 5 minute 'bubble' and the child/parent walk, scoot or cycle past a sticker to 'burst it' for the journey to be classed as park and stride. This 5 minute means you get a bit of a walk, enjoy the area and again, help to reduce pollution and the dangers of too much traffic by school.



As you can see from the map (larger on the web link above) we ask if physically possible that all parents **park in a way that helps this aim for all of our children.**

Thank you everyone who does this or something similar. If we all do a small something, it makes it much better for all of us. The sum of all of our efforts is much greater than the individual small bit each of us does. Or, if we all do something 1% kinder, it has a huge impact on everyone!

Magic Right on Our Doorstep through Heritage Open Days

There is something amazing about watching children's eyes light up when they discover something that makes them really excited, and here could be some chances for history to come off the page and into real life!

Between **Friday 11th and Sunday 20th September**, historic sites across South Glos (and right across the country!) are opening their doors for Heritage Open Days 2026. It is England's largest festival of history and culture, bringing together thousands of brilliant volunteers and organisations to celebrate the very places and stories that shape our local communities.

Best of all? It is **completely free** to explore!



100+ Events Available

Whether it's climbing to the top of a historic tower, stepping inside a hidden building usually off-limits to the public, or discovering how local workers shaped our towns, it's a great chance to make some lovely weekend memories together. As a school family, we are always talking about curiosity and pride, and this is the perfect chance to spark a little bit of both outside the classroom.

There are so many fab local events to see; from climbing the tower at St Mary's Church in Thornbury, to getting hands-on with history at the Winterbourne Medieval Barn or exploring the secret grottoes at Warmley (and LOADS more)!

You can search for all the exciting events happening here:

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/whats-on/search-2026-events.html>

If you do visit an event over the next couple of weekends, do let us know; we would love to hear all about the children's discoveries! We hope you have fantastic, curiosity filled adventures ahead!




heritage open days

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♡ = For ages 5-12 =

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