

Longshaw Primary School Newsletter

Monday 21st January 2019

Message from Mrs Woods

On 9.1.19 parents had the opportunity to meet with the CEO from United Learning—Jon Coles. At that meeting, Jon spoke openly about the Trust and the school's merger before parents were given the opportunity to ask questions. I have tried to capture below some of what Jon Coles spoke about, most of which you can also find online: <https://unitedlearning.org.uk>

United Learning is a large trust with a significant number of school's (both Primary and Secondary) from as far north as Carlisle to Kent. Their mission is **'To bring out the best in everyone'** underpinned by the following core values:

- Ambition** – to achieve the best for ourselves and others;
- Confidence** – to have the courage of our convictions and to take risks in the right cause;
- Creativity** – to imagine possibilities and make them real;
- Respect** – for ourselves and others in all that we do;
- Enthusiasm** – to seek opportunity, find what is good and pursue talents and interests;
- Determination** – to overcome obstacles and reach success.

United Learning was founded in 1883 when girls education and achievement was a major social issue. Over time, things evolved and by 2003, Manchester Academy opened following the government's invitation to develop new academies. Today United Learning teaches over 40,000 students across over 60 schools, as well as employing around 7,000 members of staff including over 3,500 teachers.

Longshaw, under United Learning, will become part of a cluster of 6 schools including: **Longshaw, Whittingham, Chingford Hall, Winston Way, Walthamstow Academy and Gorsebrooke**. We will all to work together to provide school-to-school support, share experiences for our pupils as well as effective practice and realise efficiencies across the cluster.

Darran Ellison Leigh will be our new Director of Primary Education and Mark Cole, the school's Regional Director. Together they will visit Longshaw more frequently as the merger draws ever closer. They will be working with myself to discuss school needs and priorities as well as providing support. You may see them in and around the school as they begin to meet the children and staff—if you see them please say hello!

Some of the questions raised by parents at the meeting

Heating System: As you are well aware, the school's heating system is in desperate need of repair. Though Silver Birch fitted a new boiler a few years ago, unfortunately, the existing piping was never replaced. As the condition of these pipes deteriorates, so we have been experiencing a number of bursts. Although we have made recent temporary repairs, United Learning have supported us with a CIF bid which will hopefully cover the costs of replacing the pipework across the school. The school will hear if we have been successful in applying for this in March.

Finance: As part of United Learning's due diligence, they have undertaken all financial checks. Although the school will not receive any additional income in to its budget, United Learning will be working closely with the Trust in respect of the DfE's findings.

Staffing: United Learning have their own PR team who will be able to support the school with recruitment. The Trust does not have a 'bank' of teachers to bring in to any of the schools where there is a shortage of staff. Head Teachers at Longshaw and Whittingham will not be replaced.

Learning Mentors: United Learning will not bring new learning mentors to replace those lost before the summer holidays. This is very much determined by the school's budget, which at this present time cannot be afforded.

Reminders & Calendar Events

PARKING REMINDER

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to remind and ask ALL Longshaw parents and those dropping off / collecting children to and from school , to drive and park with due care and attention.

I continue to receive complaints almost on a weekly basis from residents of Connington Crescent re. some parents parking across drive ways, blocking roads and dropping children off on yellow lines. This is not safe.

As a result , local residents are lobbying for a change to road use along Connington Crescent which local Cllr Marion Fitzgerald is supporting.

Please can I ask once again for all parents to support the school by parking in safe and appropriate places—even if you are running a few minutes late!

There are plenty of surrounding roads around the school for you to park on—you may have a little further to walk, but this would be a great way to encourage your child to get some fresh air and exercise before starting their learning each day.

More importantly, I would hate to see one of our pupils being hurt or worse, all for the sake of parking closer to the school—could you live with this on your conscience?



CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Please check in the calendar of events, the date of your child's class assembly—there was an error in class newsletters sent out last week.

Parents are warmly invited to attend their child's class assembly. All assemblies are scheduled to take place Thursday mornings 9—9.30am.

22.1.19	Mark Cole / Darran Eddison-Leigh (UL) in school
24.1.19	5L Class Assembly—Parents invited
28.1.19	Y1 Phonics Workshop for Parents—
29.1.19	Dance workshop for years 3-6
30.1.19	Y2 Titanic Workshop in school
31.1.19	Y2C Class Assembly—Parents invited Governor Meeting—6pm
5.2.19	Safer Internet Day
7.2.19	Y2W Class Assembly—Parents invited
12.2.19	PARENT CONSULTATION EVENING
14.2.19	Y5P Class Assembly—Parents invited
18.2.19—22.2.19	HALF TERM
25.2.19	CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL
27.2.19	Year 3 Roman Workshop
28.2.19	2-3pm School Nurse drop in session for parents RH class assembly—Parents invited
6.3.19	Year 4 Viking Day
7.3.19	World Book Day 2019 World Maths Day 2019 Y1P Class Assembly—Parents invited
14.2.19	Y4O Class Assembly—Parents invited
15.3.19	Red Nose Day
19.3.19	9-10am School Nurse Drop in session
20.3.19	Year 5 Trip to Lee Valley
21.3.19	Y4A Class Assembly—Parents invited
28.3.19	Y3A Class Assembly—Parents invited
4.4.19	Y3H Class Assembly
5.4.19	CHILDREN BREAK UP FOR EASTER BREAK
8.4.19—22.4.19	EASTER HOLIDAYS
23.4.19	CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL
20.3.19	2-3pm School Nurse Drop in session
6.5.19	BANK HOLIDAY—SCHOOL CLOSED
16.5.19	Governor Meeting—6pm
21.5.19	9-10am School Nurse Drop in session
27.5.19—31.5.19	HALF TERM
3.6.19	CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL
18.6.19	Steve McQueen Y3 Art Project 2-3pm School Nurse Drop in Session
11.7.19	Governor meeting—6pm 9-10am School Nurse Drop In Session
19.7.19	CHILDREN BREAK UP FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS

E Safety News:

Building self-esteem and online resilience

Live streaming offers the opportunity for children to perform live online and view real time video content. With this technology, however, comes the risk that children may see inappropriate content and may upload too much personal information and thereby increase their vulnerability to exploitation.

Think U Know have created age appropriate activities to help children consider potential risk associated with livestreaming. The activities for eight to 11 year olds are intended to help build self-esteem, confidence and resilience online and offline. The activities encourage children to think about compliments and flattery they may receive online and identify people they can trust.

For young people over 13, the resource Charlie's Story focuses on a case study detailing the abuse of a young person via live streaming and can help explore the concepts of coercion/pressure online, barriers to disclosing and gives advice on where young people can seek support.

All resources include key information on reporting to CEOP and where to seek further advice and support. To download these materials, visit: bit.ly/ThinkUKnowLiveResources

Save the Date:



**Safer
Internet
Day 2019** | **Tuesday
5 February**
Together for a better internet

We will be taking part in Safer Internet Day on 5.2.19 and have planned a range of events and activities. Our Digital Leaders will start by presenting class assemblies about Internet safety and during Computing lessons we will focus on a range of activities that reinforce the importance of staying safe online.

Why not support with this by talking to your child about their use of the internet. Now would be an ideal time for parents to take a look at the Apps and games your children are playing—by checking that they are age appropriate. If you're not sure, you can always do a quick check yourself by visiting: <http://www.askaboutgames.com/pegi-rating/>

Attendance & Punctuality

EVERY LESSON COUNTS!

As we start the new year, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents of the importance of good attendance and punctuality. This is a whole school priority for Longshaw and something highlighted in the school's Ofsted Inspection report in April 2018 as an area for development.

Although at the end of the Autumn term we achieved our school target of 96% as you will see from the table below, we did not get off to the best start in the **first week back—our attendance dropped to 94.5%**.

Well done and thank you to those parents who continue to bring their children in to school on time every day, keep up the good work.

To remind everyone, taking time off during term time for holidays will not be authorised (this includes holidays booked by grandparents). If Dentist/GP appointments are needed for your child please ensure that you book them for after school hours or during the school holidays unless it is an absolute emergency.

Attendance is monitored weekly and where there are concerns, a referral to the School's Attendance Officer (Dean Nembhard) will be made.

I appreciate that the winter months and cold weather can bring with it illness, colds and coughs; if therefore you have any concerns about your child's health, then work with us—we can support in giving any prescribed medicine your child may need to take during the day. We also have School Nurse drop-in sessions for you to come and get some advice. Please also remember that if your child is really poorly in school, we will always give you a call and ask you to come and collect your child.

The main thing is that we continue to work together to ensure that our overall school attendance continues to rise. By attending school every day and on time, you are preparing your child for future employment—future employers will expect good attendance and time keeping!

It's also been proven that by attending school every day and on time, you increase your child's chances of achieving well in school. It makes sense—taking odd days off school means that your child falls behind on their learning. This can affect your child's confidence and enjoyment of school as they begin to struggle.

Our current whole school attendance is:

Class	Week ending 11.01.19	Week ending 18.01.19
Reception	92%	97%
Y1P	98.5%	89.1%
Y1H	94.2%	97.4%
Y2W	93.8%	95%
Y2C	82.6%	92.7%
Y3A	94%	98.4%
Y3H	98.7%	98.4%
Y4O	93.8%	99.3%
Y4A	96.6%	97.9%
Y5P	97.6%	98.2%
Y5L	94.9%	96.2%
Y6H	99.2%	99%
Y6M	100%	94.7%
Overall	94.5%	96.6%

