



Dear Parent / Carer,

A warm welcome (finally) to all of our existing children and parents/carers and likewise to all our new pupils and their families! Pupils have been busily getting engaged in learning with their new teachers and showing them what they are capable of.

We welcome some new faces:

A return to the classroom at Long Ridings for Mrs. Richardson who is jobsharing class with Miss. Ferguson. Welcome back Mrs. Richardson!

Many of you will have now met Lynne Pennock in the Main Office. She joins us following the retirement of Jane Richardson after 29 years of service at the school. We wish Lynne well in her new role and hope that she enjoys being a part of the Long Ridings team.

Many pupils participated in the holiday club on site provided by Premier Sports over the summer break. We look forward to continuing this service next year. Several site and grounds improvements have started or been completed over the summer, including renewal of the KS1 pathways, car park fencing and the start of new alarm systems.

Already this term, Year 6 pupils have been to Kingswood, West Runton, Norfolk for their residential trip. Despite the weather they managed to enjoy the week of activities. On 30<sup>th</sup> September a meeting was held for the current year 5 parents to discuss next year's trip. The provider and venue has now changed for next year – as confirmed in a separate letter.

The School Photographer came in to school on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October to take individual and family photographs. Proofs will be sent home soon and you will be able to place orders and pay for them on-line.

Each year our Parents' Association never fail to amaze us with their fundraising prowess. This is always down to the dedication and hard work of a small proportion of the parent population. Please support, or get involved, where you can as this really makes a difference to your children's journey through the school, providing new or renewed equipment, facilities, books, trips, visitors, etc. They have already successfully organised an Inflatables afternoon and a Macmillan coffee morning. If you want to get involved, maybe come along to their AGM on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 p.m. in the KS1 Hall.

## Music Lessons

The exam results this year were the best yet!

James K. Piano Grade 5 Distinction

Ella G. Piano Grade 4 Distinction

Zaydann N. Piano Grade 1 Merit

Luke R. Piano Grade 1 Distinction

Rory T. Electric Guitar Grade 3 Merit

Alexander S. Electric Guitar Grade 1 Merit



## News from the Key Stage 1 School Council

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September we had a visit from Zoe (representative from Campaign for Change, UK Parliament) who spoke to the children in assembly and then met with the school council members. They discussed the House of Lords and the House of Commons and their differences. Followed by a debate about the good and bad things about our school including the school dinner rota and whether or not we should have school uniform, the majority decided not to have one.

## Parent Teacher Consultations

Parent Teacher Consultations took place last week. This meeting was early this term to get a sense of how your child is settling into their new class. You will get a chance to see your child's work by visiting their classroom later in the term. Dates will be issued as soon as possible.



## Parking

The never-ending saga of inconsiderate parking continues. I have a delegation of local residents coming to see me soon with their concerns. Please consider the need to drive, or where you park. Included in the complaints was a house that could not receive an important delivery due to poor parking and a local resident who could not get off their drive who had to walk into school to report the matter carrying a young baby. Parents are also reminded that Shenfield Gardens is a private road.

## ALDI Vouchers

As some of you may be aware, Sainsbury's are no longer running the Active Kids school vouchers scheme. This used to provide the school with an annual renewal of equipment and team kits. This year, ALDI are doing something similar. They are giving away stickers for schools to collect. You are able to receive a sticker for every £30 you spend. I have 2 very large posters (one for KS1 and one for KS2) to fill up. If you shop in Aldi, could you please ask for your stickers and send them into school? There will be a basket in the Main Office area where you can leave them or your child can bring them straight to me. For each poster we fill up and send back, the school will receive a sports pack and be entered into a draw to win £20,000.

As always, I appreciate your support. *Miss Armstrong*



## Baby Loss Awareness Week 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October

St. Peter's Church, Claughton Way in Hutton will be holding a memorial service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 3pm – 5pm for families who have experienced the loss of a child of any age, baby, stillbirth or miscarriage.

## Mental Health Awareness Day

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October we acknowledged this day by wearing something yellow. All monies collected will be donated to Kids Inspire which supports children in our school and across Brentwood through counselling and other interventions. Donations can still be made for the next few days if you wish to contribute.

## It's the final countdown – Remember: Parentmail ends soon:

**Please ensure you register with Studybugs by downloading their app for Android or Apple. (52% sign-up so far – thank you if you are one of these).**

Newsletters and other correspondence will be sent in future via the Studybugs app messaging system. This feature is free for the school to use within our existing subscription.



Here's the link: <https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

This will save the school around £1000 per year through not renewing the Parentmail subscription.

We've sent this newsletter through Parentmail *and* Studybugs – the latter as a test and to generate more interest.

More news soon.

Have a restful weekend when it comes.

Regards,

Wayne L. Harris  
Headteacher