

Newsletter 3 – Monday 5th October 2026

Value of the Month: Individuality



Dear Parents/Friends,

Welcome to the third newsletter of the academic year.

The term is already well underway and it has been a pleasure to see our school buzzing with energy, enthusiasm and curiosity in learning. The children have settled well into their new classes and routines, embracing challenges with confidence while continuing to demonstrate the kindness, respect and positive attitudes that make our Long Meadow School community so special.

Across the school, staff have been working hard to provide exciting and engaging learning opportunities, and it has been wonderful to see children participating so enthusiastically. Many thanks to our parent partners and wider families for your continued support and partnership. By working together, we ensure that Long Meadow School is a place where every child feels valued, nurtured and inspired to achieve their very best.

Parent Tours

Over the coming weeks, we will be conducting parent tours for prospective families. These will take place on the following dates and times:

- Monday 5th October – 9am
- Thursday 8th October – 9am
- Tuesday 20th October – 9am
- Tuesday 10th November – 9am
- Tuesday 17th November – 9am

Throughout the duration of these tours, we will be sharing our Long Meadow school vision, ethos and school leaders will be available to answer questions and queries about the workings of our wonderful school.

If you know of any prospective parents who may be interested in attending these tours, please let them know or ask them to call in to the school office for details. We welcome any new families to come along and see what this wonderful school is all about.

Parents Consultations Approaching

Please note that our first parent consultation sessions of the school year have been arranged to take place on either Tuesday 20th or Thursday 22nd October. For this term, these will be taking place online and are important meetings where parents can meet together with their child's class teachers

and to learn about how children have settled into their new classes and how they are progressing in school since the start of term. Teachers are keen to meet up with our lovely families!

To book your consultation with your child's class teacher, please complete the Google form that has been emailed to all parents last week.

Attention to our Year 6 Parents!

Attached to this newsletter is the flyer for the Shenley Brook End open evening, which is aimed at current Year 6 families. Applications for Secondary School must be made via the Milton Keynes Council website, which can be accessed [here](#). The deadline for applications is 31st October 2026.

Celebrating Black History Month – and the value of Individuality

Now that we are in the month of October, all children across the school will be exploring the value of **individuality**. As part of this work in assemblies and PSHE work at the school, we are having a particular focus on Black History Month. This is a time set aside each year to celebrate the achievements of black men and women both in the past and in the present day.



Across the UK, this year the national theme for this month is "Honouring Our Communities," celebrating everyday individuals, local networks, and unseen contributions that support and sustain Black British society. This is

a positive way to raise the profile of this very important subject and to support many of our other school values of kindness, love, respect, pride and positivity.

Are you entitled to Pupil Premium Funding or Free School Meals for your child/children?

Parents and carers who receive certain benefits may be eligible for either Pupil Premium funding or Free School Meals. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children receive free school meals at no cost to you. This is a universal entitlement for all infant aged children. By applying for free school meals for children in these year groups, parents receiving one of the welfare benefits listed below will be eligible for Pupil Premium funding. This is extra money for the school, provided by government, to pay for targeted support for learning.

From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, UK government are expanding FSM eligibility to all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit regardless of household earnings. Free school meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

A pupil is only eligible to receive a free school meal where both:

- a claim for this support has been made
- their eligibility has been verified by the school where they are enrolled or by the local authority

Households may also be entitled to a meal if they:

- are in receipt of income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- receive the guarantee element of Pension Credit
- meet criteria set out in separate guidance for [families with no recourse to public funds](#)

There are now 2 categories of benefits-based free school meals:

- **Targeted FSM**, which continues to be based on the existing threshold, covering pupils in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. Pupils under Targeted FSM are also eligible for Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF), pupil premium and the 'extended rights' element of school travel assistance.
- **Expanded FSM**, a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings exceeding £7,400 will be entitled to expanded FSM. Pupils under Expanded FSM are entitled to meals only.

Ever 6 FSM Cohort

Pupils who are, or have been, eligible for FSM over the last 6 years are part of the 'Ever 6' FSM cohort. This is used for disadvantage funding and accountability purposes. Following the expansion of FSM, Ever 6 FSM will be based on targeted FSM.

If you think that you might be entitled to Pupil Premium or Free School Meals, please speak to the office team and they can support you with an application.

Attendance and Punctuality



Good attendance starts in the Early Years. From the very beginning of a child's school journey, being in school every day helps children develop a strong sense of belonging, build friendships and feel part of their class community. These daily experiences matter. They help children feel secure, confident and connected to the people around them.

As children move through primary school, the benefits of good attendance become even more significant. Regular attendance supports academic achievement by ensuring children do not miss important learning and opportunities to practice new skills. It also helps them develop resilience, independence, responsibility and the life skills needed to succeed both in school and beyond. Every school day offers valuable experiences that cannot be replicated at home, whether that is working collaboratively with classmates, taking part in discussions, learning from mistakes or celebrating success together.

By ensuring children attend school every day, families are giving them the very best chance to thrive socially, emotionally and academically. Everyday counts, and every child deserves the opportunity to experience all that school has to offer. Click here to watch this short video from the DfE - [Why attending every day matters in primary school](#)

Year 5 Swimming

The children in Thistles Class in Year 5 have begun their swimming lessons at Stantonbury swimming pool this term. So far, the children have loved every moment and have been incredibly excited about their Tuesday afternoon swimming adventures, from boarding the coach to developing their swimming skills in the pool. It is most definitely the highlight of Thistles Class week and Mrs Hargreaves is very proud of how the children have upheld our school values and represented Long Meadow School in its true light. They are certainly having a splashing time and making us all so very proud.



As the year progresses, all children in Year 5 will have the opportunity to further develop their swimming skills.

Recommended Reads for Children



We are often asked by parents to recommend books for children at different ages across the school. This can be a difficult task for parents, as it really does depend on the interests of the children and there are so many new, exciting titles being released all the time.

With this in mind, please see the links here for recommended reading lists for children across the whole school:

<https://peters.co.uk/100-books-for-every-year-group-primary>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/100-best-books/>

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/key-stage-book-lists>

I fully recommend that parents and children take a look at these lists together and feel sure that you will find some books that will be of interest to your children.

Harvest Assembly and Food Bank Thanks



On Friday last week, we held our harvest assembly in school, which was a wonderful occasion, where we were able to sing, pause, reflect and be thankful for the incredible provisions that we all enjoy, particularly in these times of financial stretch for everyone.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our wonderful array of donations to support the work of the Milton Keynes Food Bank as part of our Harvest celebrations.

Our Student Council are supporting in packing all the donated items and preparing them for collection from the volunteers at Milton Keynes Food Bank and actually taking these items, accompanied by school staff, to deliver these to the Milton Keynes Food Bank and for them to see the very important work of this organisation.

Safeguarding Snippet – Online Safety

Our focused online safety learning is delivered across the different year groups in a variety of ways across the year, but our core message remains the same and revolves around The SMART Rules, which are:



S – Safe – Keep yourself safe on the internet by not giving out your personal information to people or places you don't know.

M – Meet – Meeting up with people you have only spoken to on-line can be dangerous, always tell a trusted adult and take them with you.

A – Accepting – Be careful accepting files from people or websites you don't know. They can contain viruses, malware or nasty and upsetting content.

R – Reliable – Not all information online is reliable. Double check information found on websites by checking other sites, looking in books, etc.

T – Tell – Always tell a trusted adult if someone or something upsets you whilst you are online.

If parents would like to reinforce these messages at home there are a number of useful websites that you can visit with your children including:

- Internet Matters - [Keep Children Safe Online: Information, advice, support - Internet Matters](#)
- O2 NSPCC Net Aware - [O2 NSPCC Net Aware - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- NSPCC - [Keeping Children Safe Online | NSPCC](#)
- CEOP Education – Parent Section - [Parents and carers | CEOP Education](#)
- Platform Guides from National Online Safety - [Library | The National College](#)



Dates for your diary for this half term

Please see below the dates in your diaries for this term:

- Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd October – Parent Consultations – remotely – for parents of all children across the school
- Thursday 22nd October - Individual school photos
- Friday 23rd October – Children break up for October half term
- Monday 2nd November – Children are welcomed back into school

And finally...

I would like to share with everyone what a happy, positive and successful few weeks we have enjoyed together in school. Children are extremely settled in their new routines, systems and structures of the school day and are demonstrating excellent attitudes towards their work in school. We are thrilled to see all the children working so enthusiastically.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ruth Seagar'.

Ruth Seagar
Executive Headteacher