# LMS Newsletter

**Friday 23rd October 2026**

**Value of the Month: Individuality**

## Dear Parents/Friends,

I can hardly believe that we are already at the end of our first half-term for this academic year and it has been a wonderful half-term filled with a whole host of events and activities. We are delighted that the children have settled into their new classes so well and that we see them demonstrating so clearly our Long Meadow values in their lessons and in their daily interactions with their peers. It is a huge privilege to work alongside your children every day, and to see them grow and flourish.

## Long Meadow School is 25!




Would you believe that Long Meadow School has reached its quarter century? Today in school we are celebrating 25 Years of Long Meadow School!

This morning we held a special 25-year birthday assembly, where we listened to founder members of the LMS team - Mrs Karen Jestice, who has worked in our school office since the school opened, Mrs Kelly Hargreaves, who was a teacher at the school when it first opened and Mr Chris Bond, who has been Chair of Governors since the school opened – and has been for the past 25 years.

We discussed what it was like at Long Meadow School at the time of opening and some of the changes that the school has seen across the 25 years! We sang a special happy birthday song for the school, blew out cake candles and had an enormous party popper. This afternoon the children are enjoying games with their classmates and are being given a special sweet treat to take home to celebrate.

As we celebrate 25 years of Long Meadow School, it is a moment to pause, reflect, and give thanks for the incredible journey that has brought us to where we are today.

Over the past quarter of a century, Long Meadow School has grown and evolved, but at its heart, it has remained a place where children are cherished, nurtured, and inspired to achieve their very best.

Generations of pupils have passed through our doors, each leaving their own mark on the story of our school. They have carried with them not only knowledge and skills but also memories of friendships, belonging, and the care of dedicated adults who believed in them. This milestone provides an opportunity to thank the staff, past and present, whose commitment, passion, and unwavering dedication have shaped the school. Their hard work has created an environment where children feel safe, valued, and encouraged to dream big. We are equally grateful to the families and wider community whose support has been instrumental in making Long Meadow the special place it is today.

Most importantly, we celebrate the children. They are the reason Long Meadow exists and the reason we strive every day to be the very best we can be. Their curiosity, resilience, laughter, and achievements bring life to our school and give us hope for the future.

Here's to 25 wonderful years of Long Meadow School, a school built on care, community, and a shared commitment to helping every child thrive. May the next 25 years be filled with just as much success, happiness, and inspiration.

**Happy 25th Anniversary, Long Meadow School!**

## 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 9th November – 3.45pm
- 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.

## Calling all Parents of Year 6 Pupils – re: Application for Secondary School

**The closing date to apply for a secondary school place for September 2027 is 31st October 2026.** If our Year 6 parents have not already applied for a secondary school place, please do so before the deadline at the end of next week.




## Poppies and Remembrance

We are fast approaching the time of year when we take time for remembrance. We have a lovely selection of poppies and related remembrance items that we will be selling in school throughout the first week back in advance of our remembrance assembly that will take place on Monday 9th November.

## A Message from our New Chair of Governors – Mr Stuart Eldridge



I am writing following my recent election as Chair of Governors at Long Meadow School.

Having served as a governor for the past two years, I have had the privilege of seeing first-hand the dedication, care and professionalism that make Long Meadow such a special school. It is an honour to take on this role and continue supporting a school and community that I care deeply about.

As Chair, I am committed to working positively with staff, school leaders, governors and our wider community to build on the many strengths we already have. While governors provide strategic oversight rather than day-to-day leadership, our shared aim is simple: to ensure every child at Long Meadow receives the very best opportunities to learn, grow and succeed.

I am also keen to be approachable and accessible. If you would like to make contact, share an idea, raise a concern or simply introduce yourself, please feel free to do so. Building strong relationships and maintaining open communication will be important as we continue moving the school forward together.

With best wishes,

Stuart Eldridge
Chair of Governors
Long Meadow School

Email – via the school office

## New Heating System in School

Following on from significant works that took place in the summer holiday, where the old under-floor heating system across the school was taken out, this week and throughout the whole of the half term break we are having extensive work taking place in school to ensure that we have our new heating system installed. Our wonderful site manager, Mr Bourke, is working closely with the heating contractors to ensure that the installation of this new system is smooth and that that we have a fully operational heating system in place for the rest of the Autumn term that will ensure we are all toasty and warm in school, particularly as the temperatures drop.

## Parents Consultation Success

Thank you to all of you who attended our Parents' Evening consultations online throughout this week. Initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. It was wonderful to share with so many parents the success of your children since the start of this term.

In February, next term, we will be hosting our parent consultations face to face, where parents will have the opportunity to come into school and see the children's work.

## Parent Pop-Ins next half term

During the week beginning Monday 9th November, we are hosting our new 'Pop In' sessions, where parents are invited into the school to see the start of the school day in your children's classes. We hope that this opportunity will give you some insight into what your child's start of the day is like in their learning environment. These sessions will all start at 9am, after the children have settled into their classes and will last for approximately 15 minutes.

Dates for these events are as follows:

- Tuesday 10th November – Years 5 and 6
- Wednesday 11th November – Riverbank Classes
- Thursday 12th November – Years 2, 3 and 4

We look forward to welcoming our parents to join us for these events.

## Children in Need – Challenge Yourself 2026!




On Friday 13th November we will be celebrating Children in Need in school. This year's BBC Children in Need's 2026 Appeal, is challenge Yourself 2026! It is about choosing a fun challenge to complete.

With this in mind, on 13th November, we invite children to come to school dressed in sportswear, along with a donation of at least £1 to support the great work that Children in Need does to support children and young people across the UK.

We will be hosting a special Children in Need assembly, where children will be asked to challenge themselves. It will be fun!

## Free School Meals – Updated Flyer

You may be aware that there have been changes made to the rules around eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM). Some families have now become eligible for Free School Meals, while others may no longer qualify. For your information, please find attached to this newsletter a simplified flyer that explains the changes and eligibility criteria.

## Anti-Bullying Week




On Monday 16th November we invite children to come into school wearing odd socks to show their support for anti-bullying week and to celebrate what makes us all unique. There will be a special assembly on this day with an anti-bullying theme.

The Anti Bullying Alliance (ABA) are the official organisers of Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Anti-Bullying Week 2026 will take place from Monday 16th - Friday 20th November, with the theme: "Break the Silence". As a school which has zero tolerance of bullying, we will continue to talk about our conduct and how to make positive relationships, guided by our school values. Although this week will have specific focus on anti-bullying, this is something that we continue to work on and discuss all year round.

## Exciting Baby News!




We are delighted to report that Mrs Kelly Turner, teacher for Hawthorn Class in school is now expecting her second baby, which is due to be born in the spring time. I know you will all join us in congratulating her and her husband on this happy news. Obviously, this will mean that there will be a change of teacher in Hawthorn Class when we come to this time. We will inform families about this change when we have finalised the arrangements for teaching in this class.

## Stuck for Ideas for Activities Throughout the October Half Term?




We have created a poster that is attached with this newsletter that suggests lots of fun and free activities that you and your children can get involved in during the half-term break.

Take a look! You might find something to get involved in that takes your fancy.




## Rising Stars – Playworker Vacancy

Our wraparound care providers, Rising Stars, have a vacancy for a playworker to support children in the provision before and after school here at Long Meadow School.

If you are interested in the possibility of this hugely fulfilling role, please send your CV to info@risingstars-wraparound.co.uk

## Safeguarding Snippet – Driving Safely around the School Site




This week we have had a complaint from one of our parents who has noticed that on numerous occasions, other parents are not driving safely around the school site – and are, in fact, regularly driving into the exit of the car park against the flow of traffic.




Please can I urge everyone in our school community to drive carefully around the school site to keep all our children and families safe. We are a community that care about each other and wish to keep everyone safe with our actions. Many thanks in anticipation of your support with this.

## And finally…

Wishing everyone a truly wonderful half term and we look forward to welcoming all our wonderful children back into school on the morning of **Monday 2nd November.**

Best regards,



Ruth Seagar
**Executive Headteacher**