



Long Buckby Junior School

South Close, Long Buckby, Northampton NN6 7PX

Tel: 01327-842445

Headteacher: Mr T Cox

e-mail: head@longbuckby-jun.northants-ecl.gov.uk
www.longbuckbyjunior.co.uk

Friday 18th September 2026

Dear Parent/Guardians

We are now at the end of our second full week, and I wanted to take this opportunity to catch up with you all to share some updates and news.

First, I wanted to say how impressed I have been by how quickly the new Year 3 children have settled into life at Long Buckby Junior School. They seem very confident and are quickly adapting to new ways of doing things. Some parents have been telling me how 'grown up' their child seems now, wanting to walk onto the playground on their; leaving their parent at the gate. I look forward to getting to know them all over the next few weeks.

I also wanted an opportunity to remind parents of how we communicate with you and how you can get in touch with us. We use Teachers2Parents as our main way of keeping in touch with you. This is via both text messages and emails when necessary. They will appear on the app but if you don't have this, they will still go to the phone number and email we have the details for.

If you wish to get in touch with your child's class teacher, they each have their own email addresses that you can use:

Mrs Colton – acolton@longbuckbyjuniors.org

Mrs Spiller – lspillar@longbuckbyjuniors.org

Mrs Harrison – lharrison@longbuckbyjuniors.org

Mrs Ward – tward@longbuckbyjuniors.org

Mrs Jennings – tjennings@longbuckbyjuniors.org

Mrs Eltherington – jeltherington@longbuckbyjuniors.org

Mrs Newbery – lnewbery@longbuckbyjuniors.org

The school policy is that you should receive a reply from the teacher within 3 working days. If it is urgent, please phone the school office so we can get a message to your child's teacher to speak to you when they are free. Alternatively, both myself and Mrs Newbery are on the school gate in the mornings, you can speak to one of us.



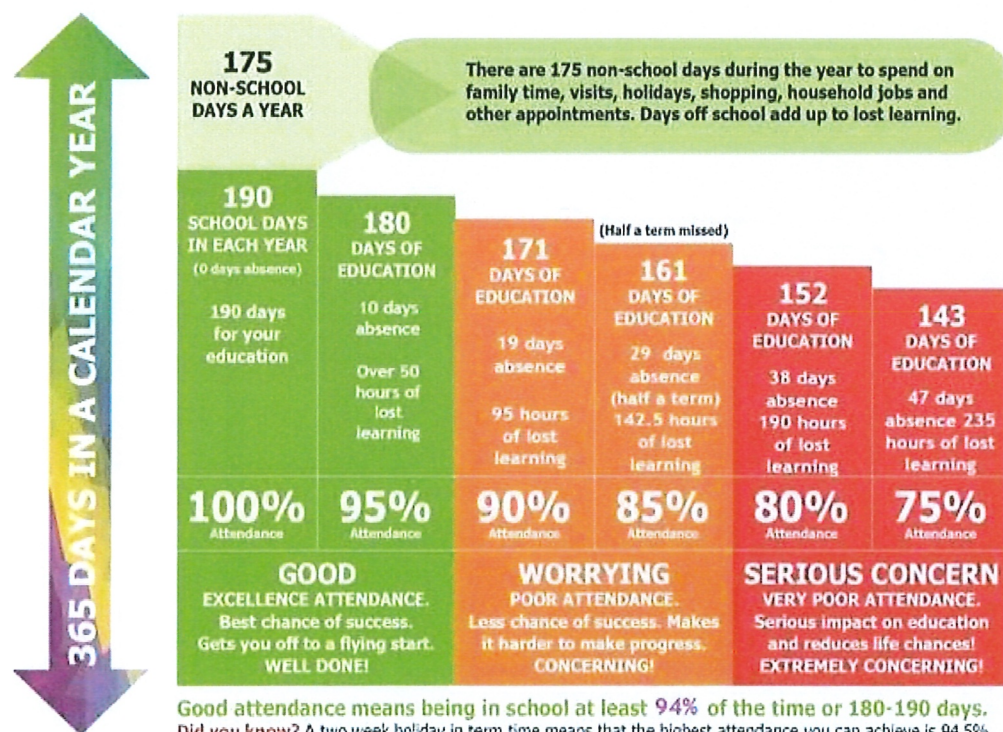
I would like to apologise for the issues with the school's website, we are still in the process of moving to a new provider. Please be patient while we get this finalised.

To notify the school of a child's absence there are two ways this can be done. The most popular method is to leave a message on the answer phone; option 1. Alternatively, you can email the school using absence@longbuckbyjuniors.org. Please do not email the teachers directly about an absence, they do not always get a chance to check their emails before they start teaching in the morning.

Regarding absence, I wanted to share some messages re: attendance with you. Good attendance at school is key to a child's wellbeing and the progress they make. Government figures show that 68% of children with attendance of over 95% achieve the expected standard at the end of Year 6 in Reading, Writing and Maths. This figure drops to 47% for attendance between 85% and 90%; and to 9% for attendance between 45% and 50%. Many parents are not aware how quickly absence rates rise during the school year through missing 1 or 2 days every so often.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Don't miss out on the education you deserve.



The above graphic shows clearly the impact of poor attendance on the progress a child can make. If a child has poor attendance at Junior School, they are likely to have poor attendance at secondary school. If good attendance habits are formed now, they will last a lifetime.

Arriving late at school also disrupts a child's learning because they are missing the start of their day. The children are busy working from 8.50 onwards most mornings, concentrating on their personal 'Goals' set by their teacher. We also use this time to work with our SEND children on their targets. If a child arrives at school after 9.30 without a valid medical reason, they are automatically categorised as having an unauthorised absence. Regarding authorised and unauthorised absences, I would like to remind parents that the school makes the final decision if an absence is authorised or not.

Attendance data is regularly scrutinised and shared with the Local Authority. If the school is concerned about your child's attendance, we will contact you to see how we can work together to improve the situation and support both you and your child.

The school has made some changes to its Behaviour and Belonging Policy and how we teach behaviour across the school. Mrs Eltherington has been leading on these changes and wanted to capture your views as we introduce the changes this year. The survey link will be repeated later in the academic year as one way of the school being able to measure the impact of the changes made. The changes have been made, not because we were concerned with behaviour at school but to bring the school in line with the principles of Therapeutic Thinking. This is an approach to teaching 'behaviours for learning' being introduced across the county by the Local Authority and we are lucky that Mrs Eltherington has been working with them on the introduction of a behaviour curriculum that other schools can then use. Once the initiative has had time to embed, we will run a workshop for parents so that we can share the principles with you.

Some parents have taken the opportunity over the summer to get their children's ears pierced. Please can I ask that the children only wear studs only in school and then only on days that they do not have PE. Hooped earrings should not be worn due to risk they pose at breaktimes. It wouldn't take much for there to be a nasty accident.

We have been approached by some local residents who are concerned about inconsiderate parking during school drop-off and pick up times. Some parents have been blocking driveways, parking on the junction opposite the school and bumping up onto grass verges. The Sports Field car park is open each morning for parents to use and is a much safer place to park.



Finally, I need to make you aware of some staffing changes. Miss Lunn, one of our hardworking Level 4 Teaching Assistants left yesterday to start an exciting new career in social care, working with vulnerable young people. She has worked at the school for many years and will be a great loss to us. As a result I have had to make changes to the timetables whilst we find a replacement. Some PE lessons have already changed, and Mrs Colton's class will be taught by Mr Nikels on a Monday until half term.

Have a good weekend

Yours sincerely



(Tony Cox)

PE Timetable (UNTIL OCTOBER HALF TERM)	
Monday	Mrs Eltherington
Tuesday	Mr Ward
Wednesday	Mrs Jennings
Thursday	Mrs Spiller & Mrs Harrison
Friday	Mrs Newbery Mrs Colton
PE KIT SHOULD CONSIST OF NAVY SHORTS OR JOGGING BOTTOMS, WHITE T SHIRT, BLACK TRAINERS, NAVY SWEATSHIRT OR HOODY. PLEASE REMOVE EARRINGS.	

