



08 September 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back to school! I hope you were all able to spend some quality time with your children and families this summer.

We have had a great start back and I would like to thank you all for your continued support with the arrangements we have kept in place for drop off and pick up times – this will be reviewed in a couple of weeks and may continue.

Some new and exciting things happening this year at school include:

- **Voice 21** – we will be working with the **National Oracy Charity** over the next 3 years to improve teaching and learning through talk, improve children’s’ articulation, confidence and capacity to learn. [Voice 21 – The national oracy education charity](#)
- **Forest School** – we have had Miss Hunt Forest School trained and she will be implementing these outside learning approaches with children this year, which helps and facilitates more than knowledge-gathering; it helps learners develop socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically and intellectually. [What is Forest School? | Forest School Association](#)
- **iLearning** – we will be continuing to enhance teaching and learning through the use of iPads across PKAT, with training for staff and 1-2-1 iPads in Y5 & Y6 for the children.
- **Our 6Cs Curriculum** – we developed our own 6Cs curriculum last year, based on the work by Michael Fullan et al ([What are the 6Cs and why are they important? - Book Creator app](#)), which staff will implement this year. The 6 Cs are:
 - **Character:** the qualities we need to be good learners in our world, e.g. honesty, empathy, curiosity & resilience.
 - **Critical Thinking:** using tools to evaluate information critically - is it correct / how true is it? Making connections between the different things you find out and making new knowledge / facts.
 - **Creative Thinking:** asking questions to help make new ideas and taking the lead to on make them happen.
 - **Collaboration:** learning with others as a team and part of a team, helping each other learn and learning from them, helping the team work well together, making decisions together. People skills we need to work together.
 - **Communication:** using technology, writing and speaking, effectively, for different audiences - so they can understand what is being explained.
 - **Citizenship:** thinking deeply about our world’s problems and how we can help make it a better place for everyone in it, together.
- **Commando Joe:** is the largest provider of character education in the country and has been awarded funding by the DfE to extend support for schools. [About - Commando Joe's \(commandojoes.co.uk\)](#)
- **STEPS Behaviour:** staff are being trained on these strategies to managing and supporting children’s behaviour to achieve positive outcomes. STEPS is a therapeutic, whole-school approach to positive behaviour management and is already established in many education settings. Training includes theory, analysis tools and planning tools that support whole-school and individual needs.

I have included with this a PDF of my welcome back assembly presentation, which we used to remind the children of what we are about at Longthorpe – PKAT.

Here's to a great year at Longthorpe and we are looking forward to your support and encouragement across the year and working with you to get the best for your children.

Let's Go Longthorpe!

R McLay
Headteacher