

Longparish Primary School

Ofsted Report - February 2009

'The children are enthralled and excited about school and learning... Pupils thrive on stimulating activities provided in lessons... The pupils say they love coming to school because, as one explained, "There's so much to do, you make friends easily and it's great fun."'

These were the comments of the Ofsted inspector who came to assess Longparish CE Primary School in February.

Our inspection was part of a national pilot of a new, revised format of inspection, which Ofsted is rolling out across the UK from September. And, as we discovered, the new inspection process is undergoing some very significant changes: the assessment was far more rigorous in the observation of lessons and the analysis of data than in the past. To add to this, our Ofsted inspector was himself being assessed at the time by an HMI inspector who accompanied him on the visit to validate the new scheme.

During the visit, the HMI inspector made it clear to us that both the judgement criteria and the Ofsted standards had changed. Effectively, the bar has been raised quite high for each Ofsted grading. So we were extremely pleased to learn, during the inspector's debriefing, that despite the raised targets, the school is at the very top of the new 'good' grading and on the cusp of being graded in the new 'outstanding' category.

The inspection itself was a very positive experience for all of us who were involved, teachers and pupils alike and it was great that all the fantastic work going on in the school was recognised in this way.

In his report, the inspector found that:

'Longparish is a good school that is well led and managed. Pupils achieve well and enjoy learning, which is reflected in their good attendance. They reach above average standards by the end of years 2 and 6, and in some subjects reach high standards. Pupils develop a good range of skills in all subjects of the National Curriculum that prepares them well for the next stage of their education.'

The teaching was described by the inspector as:

'...consistently effective, some of it outstanding. Teaching assistants are skilled in supporting those needing one-to-one or group support. Pupils with learning difficulties make good progress because they understand each step towards their learning targets.'

He also noted that teachers at Longparish are particularly good at asking pupils to reflect on their learning:

'Learning targets are clear and pupils have a good understanding of the steps needed to reach them... there are good assessments in place with sharp evaluations. Innovative and improved resources are used very well to encourage all pupils to read widely and this accounts for the high reading standards achieved by both boys and girls.'

The report also highlighted Longparish School's very strong ethos and values. The inspector described the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and the support, care and guidance offered to pupils as 'outstanding'.

He went on to report that:

'Pupils are well behaved, polite and courteous. They show initiative and feel safe, knowing the staff will listen to and respect their views. Older pupils act as good role models to support younger children and schools councillors are very mature.'

The inspector noted that standards in all areas were above average – and high in most of them. He agreed with our own assessment that there are two areas where there could be even further improvement:

Firstly, we want to continue to increase the progress being made by pupils in mathematics: our aim is for even more of our 10 / 11 year olds to achieve the higher level 5 (which is actually the level expected of 13/14 year olds nationally). Last year, the average level achieved by Longparish pupils in Year 6, (across English, Mathematics and Science) was 4.99. While 60% achieved the higher Level 5 in English and 73% in science, 40% achieved level 5 in mathematics. (It's worth noting that all these figures are recognised as either above average or significantly above average when compared to similar schools.)

I am delighted to say that the Inspector agreed that the work we're doing shows we are on course to achieve those aims. His report says:

'Pupils in Years 3 to 6 increasingly tackle complex algebra and calculation work so that they are on course to reach more challenging mathematics targets.'

The second goal for further improvement is to raise achievement in writing, particularly for more able children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. As a result, we want more 7 year olds to reach the higher level 3 at Key Stage 1 (this is the average level expected at age 9). Again, the inspector recognised that, due to the very good foundations being laid in Reception and the 'outstanding' teaching at Key Stage 1, we are on course to achieve this too.

The Inspector went on to say that he was particularly pleased with the progress in the Early Years Foundation Stage since the last inspection. He reported:

'Children achieve well. In the short time since her appointment, the Reception teacher has transformed the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and resources.'

It is interesting in the current environment that the Inspector discovered that Longparish pupils have an excellent understanding of how to eat healthily, and he noted that:

'Many participate in the outstanding range of sports and activities provided after school. Pupils enjoy balanced school meals and eat fruit daily.'

Summing up on the quality of the curriculum at Longparish, the inspector wrote:

'Pupils thrive on the stimulating activities provided in lessons, which are enhanced by visits and visitors. There are opportunities to learn French, as well as a wide range of extra-curricular clubs, sport, music, art and drama. There is also some high-quality ICT work. Longparish pupils have developed very sophisticated ICT skills and even had the confidence to film the inspector using digital video cameras linked to the computer screen without him realising!'

The Chair of the School's Governor's Helen Mehaffey said she was delighted with the school's achievements:

'We are very pleased to have been through this revised, more thorough pilot inspection process and to have received such a very good report. Longparish School has long-standing strengths in the behaviour, maturity and welfare of the children, with a wide range of activities. Plans are already firmly in place to meet the two areas for further development that were raised, and we are delighted the Inspector has recognised the massive steps the Head teacher and her staff have taken to revitalise and improve the school's curriculum. They are all to be congratulated for that.' Alex Foggo

Results of FOLS 100 Club draws

January

1st	No 8	Mrs Nicholson
2nd	No 46	Mrs Gould
3rd	No 75	Ben and Christine Wrey

February

1st	No 16	David and Fiona Gould
2nd	No 131	Ms L G Scott
3rd	No 48	Caroline Firebrace

If there is anyone who has not yet filled in the renewal form but would like to join, please send a cheque for £10 as we have drawn 2 months now.

Thank you.

Maria Drewett

May Fayre Plant Stall

We need plants of all sorts for the Longparish School May Fayre plant stall on Saturday 16 May. So if you have a surplus of bedding or can split herbaceous plants please give some. Seeds and other garden stuff will also be very welcome. Please drop them off at school on the morning of the May Fayre or let me know if you'd like me to collect them beforehand. Thanks very much.

Maggie Barber tel 720459

Size is important ...

But so are looks and flavour. There will be a huge range of courgettes, cucumbers, marrows, pumpkins and squashes on sale at the May Fayre. And the 13th Great Longparish Pumpkin Competition in October will feature classes for decorative and unusual entries of all shapes and sizes as well as huge ones. You can see what's available in the pumpkin area of the village website www.longparish.org.uk/pumpkins.

If you prefer eating to showing we will have cute courgettes and tasty small pumpkins and squashes as well as burpless cucumbers.

NEWS FROM TESTBOURNE

Challenges old and new

Our pupils have been taking on some familiar and some new challenges recently.

A 60-strong team took our entry into this year's Global Rock Challenge competition to Bournemouth, where they presented their 8-minute dance programme to a packed Pavilion Theatre. Their theme of "So you think you know me?" posed questions about the real people behind superficial stereotypes and won high praise from the judges. The team won two awards, one for Community Support – no surprise in light of the massive backing we had from parents – and one for the stage crew, who have been nominated to go forward for a national award.

Our Magistrates Court Mock Trial team repeated their success of two years' ago when they won the Basingstoke area competition. They will be going forward to the regional finals in Southampton in May.

A brand new challenge has been our submission to the Schools' Community Challenge from the Leader of Hampshire County Council, Ken Thornber. Our submission for a local community radio, broadcasting on-line for a few hours a week from Testbourne, has been selected to go forward to a Dragons' Den type final in July. The winners will receive £1000 to put their idea into practice. We will be carrying out surveys in the local community about what you would like to hear on the new channel if we are successful. We think this could be great way to link different parts our community together if we can bring it off. If you look at our website at www.testbourne.hants.sch.uk you could add your views too. We would love to hear from you.

By the time you read this our Year 11 pupils will have just three full weeks left in school before they start their study leave on May 14th. The start of the exams seems to get earlier every year and staff and pupils have been working hard to be as well prepared as possible. Strategies to help support pupils include mentoring for some, extra revision classes in most subjects and a support session each day after school in the Study Zone for a few who still that need that extra bit of encouragement to work as hard as they need to in the school day! I tell them they will thank us for it when they open their results envelope in August and achieve the grades they were hoping for!

All our pupils have talents of different sorts. Year 7 and 8 pupils who are part of the academically gifted programme have had focus days in recent weeks – Year 8 enjoying a study skills workshop to help them make the best of their abilities and Y7 working on innovative cross curricular projects, for example linking History and Maths. Feedback from both has been really positive.

Parents received their offer letters at the beginning of March for places for Year 7 in September. We are pleased to be able to report that we are again oversubscribed with a short waiting list for places. We shall look forward to welcoming the next cohort of Testbourne pupils.

Hilary Jackson Headteacher

Longparish Parish Council

This report covers the March meeting. Minutes of meetings are in the parish council area on the village website www.longparish.org.uk.

Parish Clerk Vacancy

The closing date for applications is 31 March. If you are interested please contact the Acting Clerk, Mary Jo Darrah (tel 720320) urgently.

Open Spaces

The working party at the pocket nature reserve on Southside Common did sterling work on clearing unwanted scrub. Thanks go to Paul Knipe who led the group and the volunteers who helped.

Village Spring Clean

The clean up day will be on Saturday 18 April (see separate article). Please come along and help keep our village looking good.

Communications

The Council thanked Mrs Mary Jo Darrah for completing the new edition of the **Village Directory** which you should receive with this edition of Hill & Valley.

Planning

- There were no new planning applications.
- The Planning Inspectorate has announced its decision on Mr Jackson's appeal about the mobile home at Testwood Trout Farm. The Inspector decided to reject Mr Jackson's appeal and awarded costs against him.

School

The Head Teacher Mrs Alex Foggo and governors, Mrs Helen Mehaffey (Chair) and Oliver Coleman attended the meeting and there was a wide-ranging discussion. Points covered included

- **Inspection.** Mrs Foggo gave a presentation about the Ofsted Inspection in February. The school has been judged Good overall, with no aspect being less than good and some, especially those relating to the care of the children, being Outstanding. The inspector had stressed that the school was at the top of the Good range and is well led and managed. The Council congratulated the school.
- **Admissions Policy.** The council is concerned that the way the system operates denies places at Longparish School to some children who move into the village after the normal admission deadline of November for admission the following September. Mrs Mehaffey said that a committee of Governors would consider the Council's views and that she understood the frustration of parents.
- **Community use of school premises.** Mrs Mehaffey reported that the insurance company had agreed to the toilets at the Community Hall being used by the church and others when the hall was not in use if the security of the hall door was

strengthened. This would be done, and the Council welcomed the fact that the original intentions of the building project would be carried out in this respect.

- **Staff Room.** Mr Coleman presented ideas for a modest extension to the staff room to improve facilities for staff who are very overcrowded at present. The Council welcomed this consultation in advance of a planning application.
- **20 is Plenty Road Signs.** The School would welcome warning signs. Mrs Dryden will find out more and is the Council is also chasing the Highway Authority to get SLOW signs on the road near the school.

The next parish council meeting is on Monday 6 April, a week earlier than usual because of Easter. Meetings are public. Parishioners are welcome to come and can speak by invitation.

Jeremy Barber Chairman. Tel 720459
email jeremy.barber@longparish.org.uk



SPRING CLEAN UP OF VILLAGE STREAM AND PLAYGROUND

SATURDAY 18TH APRIL 2009
10.00 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED to help with the village spring clean

STREAM CLEAR OUT. Please bring your own equipment to clear out the weed and debris in the stream. Gloves & boots or waders are useful. We will also clear the banks of weeds – especially the stinging nettles.

EVERYONE WELCOME TO HELP. Old and new volunteers wanted.

FREE LIGHT LUNCH AT THE PLOUGH FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Please phone Jenny Jolliffe on 720207 if you have any queries.

Please put the date in your diaries - more info next month.

Longparish Community Association would like to invite all members to its

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 3rd June 2009 at 8pm in the Community Hall

Wine and nibbles provided.

LCA - L2SOTM - The Longparish Second Sunday of the Month handicap race



It was a lovely sunny morning though a little blustery for the March race. We began with a silence while we remembered Trevor Elkins, one of our regulars who died a few days before the race. Our condolences go to Penny and their family.

The most improved runners were Liz Mayon-White and Rob Biggs. Well done. Thanks very much to everyone

who helped and to the Cricket Club for the venue. The next race is on Easter Sunday, 12 April, starting earlier than normal at



9.30am at the Cricket Ground. Runners of all standards are welcome as are brisk walkers. It is a handicap race so the slowest have as much chance of winning the cups as the fastest. There will be refreshments afterwards and supporters of all ages are very welcome.

LCA Recycled Teenagers

The Recycled Teenagers' Club is open to all older members of our community and was started by Longparish Community Association in 2007. We organise regular outings and other events using Test Valley Community Service's minibus for transport. We are very grateful to the Longparish Community Association for their continued support as that helps us to keep the cost to participants down.

After a break because of Christmas and the very cold weather we are starting again. Our first outing on Thursday 23rd April will be to the Living Rainforest near Newbury leaving from the shop at 1pm. We will visit Hilliers' Arboretum and Garden Centre near Romsey on 21st May and the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth on 18th June. Seats on all trips need to be booked in advance through Corinne Bowman on 720643.

VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT

The Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee have decided that a refurbishment of the Village Hall should be initiated. Graham Healey, James Field and I have started to scope the work required and a Project Board has been set up by the Committee to oversee the refurbishment.

The main objectives are to ensure that the hall is both weather and draught proof, and that the interior should be warm, welcoming and cosy.

Currently the main activities revolve around establishing the overall scope, layout design (see Village web site www.longparish.org.uk) and procurement policy. So far we have had three local suppliers come and carry out site surveys. We currently await quotes for insulating the roof space and repairs to the roof, particularly the flat roof. The third site survey was a more general one to consider the viability of prime contracting the whole refurbishment to one supplier following a tender process. Overall interest from local suppliers who advertise in the Hill and Valley and who have been approached to establish their business interest in the refurbishment has been disappointing, so if you are reading this and want to be involved please contact me as soon as possible.

We have procured a stand alone container, which is located in the car park, for safe storage of items which are used infrequently, such as those for the Village Fete.



On Saturday the 14th March a number of local people (see photo), particularly regular users of the hall, took part in a clear out of all the storage areas, to enable decisions to be made as to whether items should remain in the hall, be moved to the container or be placed in a skip for disposal. Thanks to all who turned up.

Fully funding both the external and the internal refurbishment will be a challenge so we will have to identify and apply for all the available grants. It is likely that to be successful we will have to formally extend the lease.

For further information please contact John Scott (720018).

KID ZONE

Club nights in March included indoor softball, dodgeball as well as the usual pool.

We were also treated to a Year 11 band practicing for their GCSEs.

Club nights in April

Kidz Zone meets in April on Wednesday 22nd between 7:00 and

9:00p.m. in the Village Hall. New members in Year 6 or above and their friends are welcome to join, just turn up.



LCA Midsummer Murder

Date Saturday 27th June 2009
Time 2pm until late
Price £12.50 for LCA members,
 £15.00 for non-members

More information in the next Hill and Valley.
 Longparish residents please look at the reverse side of this month's diary dates for other details.
 For tickets and information please call
 Alexandria on 07887 845184

LCA Afternoon Tea



Rita Twine is hosting the monthly cuppa on Wednesday 22nd April at her home Lacey Gates. Do come along between 3.00 to 4.30, you are assured of a warm welcome. If you need

a lift give Gloria a call on 720425

Ballroom Dancing

There will be no dancing Thursday 9th and 16th April

Smooth Movers

No class 2nd, 9th and 16th April

New timing from 23rd April 9.15am - 10.15am

Card making workshop

in Andover Library 2-4pm Wednesday 22 April 2009
 Learn new techniques to create your own cards with Georgina Knipe. Two hour workshop includes demonstration and all the materials needed to make your own cards.

Cost: £8 Telephone: 01264 353063 (booking line only)

Longparish Village Welcome Evening

The newest villager attending the welcome evening was only 3 weeks old. Is this a record? 6 new residents came along to meet 34 established villagers on Tuesday 17th March at the Village Hall. The event is organised jointly by the Parish and the Parish Council and although this year there were fewer newcomers than usual everyone enjoyed the drinks and the nibbles (provided by Linda Blundell) and represented groups vied to recruit new members.

The draft plans for the refurbishment of the hall were available and some interesting suggestions were discussed.

Gina Snowden

LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB

TUESDAY 28TH APRIL

Visit to Garden at Wades House, Barton Stacey

(by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. A. Briscoe)

From 6.30 p.m.

(Non-Members £5.00)

Next meeting will be on Tuesday 26th May

Longparish Gardens Visit and Plant Sale at Longmead House and Lower Mill -

(by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. J. Ellicock and Mrs. K-M Dinesen)

Please put in extra seeds or plants while you are gardening to bring for this fun event.

LONGPARISH PLAYGROUP

Registered Charity No. 1001065



**Spring Cleaning?
 Clearing The Shed?
 Need To Make Some Space?
 We Can Help!**

To raise funds for "Longparish Play Group" we are collecting items for us to take to a local car boot sale in May. If you have any good, clean items (books/jewellery/bric a brac/toys etc NO ELECTRICAL GOODS please) that you would like to donate to us please bring along to the Playgroup or I can collect 'locally'. Many Thanks.

Sharon Read 01264 338422



Longparish Cricket Club

Sponsored by Barker, Son & Isherwood, Solicitors

February 100 Club Draw results

1st	£35	No 14	M & R Gibson
2nd	£15	No 33	Mrs K-M Dinesen
3rd	£15	No 175	Tina Tognarelli

Easter Lilies



The Easter Sunday flowers arrangements are always special and contain lots of lilies. If you would like to donate one or more lilies in memory of a loved one, please let me know before April 5th. The cost will be £1 each.

We will be decorating the church on Saturday April 11th at 9.30am. All flower arrangers, please come and help. Anyone who would like to come but is not on the rota will be very welcome.

Eila Chamberlen

Calling ALL Members, Friends and Supporters of St Nicholas' Church!

St Nicholas' Annual Church Meeting is on Sunday 19th April, beginning at 9.30am with a Service in Church and finishing with the Meeting in the School and Community Hall.

It's an opportunity to review Church life over the last year and look to the future. PLEASE do come if you possibly can - we very much value your personal support.

St Nicholas Wives Celebration Service.

Many past and present members of the group that started in 1959 as the Young Wives and later became the St Nicholas Wives gathered in St Nicholas Church on 19th March, together with some husbands and supporters. The service celebrated 50 years of monthly meetings, friendship and service to the community. Daphne Bevan, who only recently retired as President when she left the village, gave a short history of the group. The lesson on the story of Martha and Mary was read by Diana Lane, a founder member, and Canon Martin Coppin, who officiated, took this as the theme of his address which ended with an amusing poem he had written for the occasion. A special kneeler worked by Kathleen Hewlett to commemorate the group was blessed and Gwen Thomas ended the service with a prayer. John Martin played the organ for the occasion.



Afterwards there were lavish refreshments, in the true spirit of the many fête teas produced by the Wives over nearly 50 years, and the church buzzed with reminiscence. The service marked the demise of the current group but its members hope that it will rise again in some form in the future.

Longparish Handbook Directory 2009

The 2009 edition, with an orange cover, will be distributed to all Longparish residents with this magazine, thanks to Phil Harris and his team. A few copies will be left in the school for interested parents. It is sponsored by the Parish Council, and is free to villagers. Mary Snow has again kindly illustrated it with her delightful pencil drawings, and I am grateful to Maggie Barber for her helpful proof reading. Any mistakes are mine, and I would be grateful for any corrections, and notice of any changes as they occur. Up to date information is added to the website, www.longparish.org.uk.

Mary Jo Darrah

Have you thought about stopping Smoking?

Does spending lots of money on smoking worry you?

Quit4Life, the Hampshire-wide NHS stop smoking service runs sessions local to you throughout the week. Our advisers will be able to offer you free, friendly support and advice, discuss with you the available medications, and be able to supply with a one-off prescription fee (if you normally pay for these) NRT patches, gums, lozenges or the inhalator. The service is also able to offer Champix, a drug therapy, through prescription requests to your GP (prescription charges will apply). They will also be there to support you through your quit attempt and be able to offer advice about how to keep any cravings you have under control. You're four times more likely to quit with our support than on your own.

For further information please call Quit4Life on 0845 602 4663, text QUIT to 60123 or visit the new website: www.quit4life.nhs.uk

Friends of Longparish School

May Fayre Saturday 16th May 2009 12 noon – 3pm

We would be grateful for any donations of any of the following:

- Good Quality Books and Toys
- Bottles for the Bottle Tombola
- Cakes, Biscuits and Preserves for the Cakes & Refreshment Stalls
- Quality Recycled/Unwanted Gifts for the Gorgeous Gift Stall

All donations can be left in the collection boxes outside the school reception from 1st May.

Cakes, Biscuits and Preserves can be brought to the Community Hall from 9am on the day of the Fayre.

Our team of volunteers will be out and about the local area in early May collecting bottles for the tombola. You can also make donations of bottles in our collection boxes outside the School.

For information or to arrange collection please contact either Leanne Hollingdale on 01264 369899 or Shirley Carter on 01264 729305.