

Long Melford Church of England Primary School and Nursery

Weekly Update – Friday 4th September 2026

Upcoming Dates for Week Commencing 7th September

Monday 7th September	Choccy the Reading Dog to visit Year 6 Mr Rowe (Suffolk County Music Team) to visit Year 4
Tuesday 8th September	3.15pm Jenny Pendrill's Dance Class
Wednesday 9th September	
Thursday 10th September	Year 6 swimming 3.15pm Phillippa Gunn's Art Class
Friday 11th September	

Weekly Attendance

to 4/9/26

Reception	100%* 
Year 1	100%*
Year 2	100%*
Year 3	98%
Year 4	98%
Year 5	95%
Year 6	96%

If your child is ill, please ring the school and leave a message **even if your child is in Nursery**. Thank you.

**Reception had no Late marks*

Dinner Menu: Week Commencing 7/9/26

	Core Menu	Allergen Free Menu
Monday	All Day Brunch with Sausage or All Day Veggie Brunch or Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans or Hot Pasta and Tomato Sauce	All Day Brunch or All Day Veggie Brunch or Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans or Hot Pasta and Tomato Sauce
Tuesday	Chicken Pasta Bake or Cheese and Bean Wrap or Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans or Hot Pasta and Tomato Sauce	Chicken Pasta Bake or Veggie Bolognese or Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans or Hot Pasta and Tomato Sauce
Wednesday	Roast Gammon or Roasted Vegetable Crown or Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans or Hot Pasta and Tomato Sauces	Roast Gammon or Roast Veggie Patty or Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans or Hot Pasta and Tomato Sauce
Thursday	Mild Chicken Curry or Spinach and Potato Curry or Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans or Hot Pasta and Tomato Sauces	Mild Chicken Curry or Spinach and Potato Curry or Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans or Hot Pasta and Tomato Sauce
Friday	Fishcake and Chips or Margherita Pizza or Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans or Hot Pasta and Tomato Sauces	Chicken and Chips or Cheesy Onion Potato Cakes and Chips or Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans or Hot Pasta and Tomato Sauce



Our Christian Value is

Perseverance

Letters sent out this week:

The Office did not send out any letters last week.

Welcome Back!

I hope that you all had a great Summer and enjoyed the warm weather.

It has been lovely to see all our children back in school this week. It has been especially good to be able to welcome all our new children in Fox Class and Nursery, as well as across the school. If you are one of the families that are new to our school community, we are pleased to have you join us. If at any point you have any queries about something, please pop-in and see Mrs Brown in the School Office or email office@longmelfordprimaryschool.co.uk

This year we have welcomed a new adult to our staff team, Miss Sarah Alexander. Miss Alexander is a student teacher and will be part of Earhart Class for this term.

We are extremely pleased to welcome back Mrs Jackie Good into school. Mrs Good is now working with Year 4 where she has definitely made herself at home!

If you came past the school during the holidays, you will have seen that there was a lot going on! During the holiday, all the hot and cold water pipework has been replaced. Parts of ceilings were taken down across the school, so that pipes could be moved! To ensure that we have good water pressure in all our taps, a new water tank has been installed in the new green container outside the library windows (in case you were wondering what it was!). The most nerve-wracking moment of the holidays was when they ran a high pressure test to check that there were no leaks in the pipework – but we were fine! No leaks!

This building project was mainly funded through a grant from the DfE as we are an academy. Once again, they turned down our bid to get funding to replace our sixty-plus years old, single-glazed windows, but we will try again this year!

I ran out of time this week and did not get into all classes with my camera. Next week, I hope to get round more classes so that we can share with you what is happening inside school.

Kind regards

Amanda Woolmer

My Child At School app

This week, Mrs Brown will be working to get the My Child At School app invitations out to all our new families.

If in the meantime, you need to book your child into the paid Breakfast Club (7.30am to 8.10am) or into the After School Club, please pop in to see Mrs Brown, email office@longmelfordprimaryschool.co.uk or ring the office on 01787 379929; Mrs Brown will be able to book your child(ren) in for you and you can pay for wrap around care (or school dinners for new families with children in KS2) when the app is set up.

School Clubs

The Club Timetable will come out this week. Staff led clubs will start on Monday 14th September.

This week Jenny Pendrill's Dance Club and Phillippa Gunn's Art Club will run.

If your child would like to join Jenny's Dance Club, please see Mrs Brown in the School Office.

If your child would like to join Phillippa's Art Club, please see the flyer below. To join, complete the form found at <https://phillippagunnart.co.uk/long-melford-primary-school/>

Phillippa Gunn Art

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I will be continuing to run an after-school art club at Long Melford Primary School.

The children will get the opportunity to paint along with me whilst learning different techniques, colour theory and most importantly learning to have fun with art.

It will run on Thursday straight from school for 1hr, starting from Thursday 10th September.

Art club is open for years 1 to year 6 children and is £5 a session. This needs to be booked in advance for the 7 weeks up to half term, totaling £35.

To book your child's place, please go to www.phillippagunnart.co.uk and click on 'After school club' where you will find Long Melford Primary School.

Spaces are limited.

If you have any queries at all, please email me at welcome@phillippagunnart.co.uk

Many thanks,

Phillippa Gunn



TAKING PLACE AT

Phillippa Gunn Art House

LONG MELFORD

ART SCHOOL

AUTUMN TERM

MONDAYS 5.30-6.30PM 8-12 YEARS 7 WEEK COURSE / £70	TUESDAYS 10-11.30AM HOME ED 7 WEEK COURSE / £80
TUESDAYS 5-6PM 5-7 YEARS 7 WEEK COURSE / £70	WEDNESDAYS 5.30-7PM 13-16 YEARS 7 WEEK COURSE / £80

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK WWW.PHILLIPPAGUNNART.CO.UK

Phillippa Gunn Art House LONG MELFORD
ROBINS ROW, HALL STREET, LONG MELFORD, CO10 2XQ

Certificate Winners

Fox Class – Whole Class
Simmonds Class – Whole Class
Jemison Class – Whole Class
Earhart Class – Whole Class
Malala Class – Whole Class
Attenborough Class – Whole Class
Bowie Class – Whole Class

Well Done Everyone!



Benedict's Law

Benedict's Law is new legislation that came into effect on 1st September 2026, making comprehensive allergy training, clear safety policies, and emergency adrenaline pens mandatory for all schools in England. The new law is named in memory of five-year-old Benedict Blythe—who tragically died from an allergic reaction at a school in 2021—this law changes allergy safety from optional guidance into a strict legal requirement.

What the Law Means for Long Melford CE Primary School

- **Training for All Staff:** Every single person working at the school—from teachers and learning support assistants to catering and lunchtime staff—must now be trained to spot the signs of an allergic reaction.
- **Spare Emergency Pens:** Schools are required to keep in-date emergency adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs, or "epi-pens") on the premises in case a child's own device fails or is not nearby.
- **Individual Healthcare Plans:** If your child has a diagnosed allergy, the school must maintain a clear, up-to-date medical plan detailing their specific triggers and emergency steps.
- **Published School Policy:** Every primary school must have a clear, written allergy policy that is accessible to parents.

Within Benedict's Law, parents / carers also have responsibility to support their child's school. It is the parent/carer's responsibility to:

- Inform the school of any allergies. This information should include their medical needs, any dietary requirements, history of anaphylaxis and previous severe allergic reactions and details of all prescribed medication.
- If required, provide their child with 2 in-date adrenaline auto-injectors and any other medication, including inhalers, antihistamine etc., and making sure these are in date and replaced in a timely manner.
- Supply a copy of their child's Allergy Action Plan ([BSACI plans](#) preferred) to school. If they do not currently have an Allergy Action Plan this should be developed as soon as possible in collaboration with a healthcare professional.
- Updating the school on any changes to their child's condition

All parents/carers, including those without allergies are responsible for:

- Being aware of the school's allergy policy
- Being aware of allergens and the risk they may pose to other children
- Carefully considering the food they provide to their child as packed lunches and snacks, and trying to limit the number of allergens included
- Following the school's guidance on food brought in to be shared
- Updating the school on any changes to their child's condition

The School's Allergy Policy can be found on the school's website.

If your child has an allergy, please make sure that you have spoken to Mrs Brown and have completed paperwork for us.

The school has an Allergy Menu. If your child has an allergy (excluding a Nut Allergy), please speak to Mrs Green in the School Kitchen regarding the Allergy Menu. An appointment with Mrs Green can be arranged through Mrs Brown in the School Office.

Free School Meals

Free School Meals have changed from 1st September. From the beginning of this school year, all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to receive a free school meal.

From September, there are two categories of benefits-based Free School Meals:

- **Targeted Free School Meals**
These continue to be based on the existing threshold, covering pupils who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less.
- **Expanded Free School Meals**
A new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted free school meals, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit.

Since 1st April 2018, any pupil who has been eligible for free school meals under the benefits-based criteria have retained their entitlement, even if their household circumstances have changed. Their free school meal eligibility has been protected. This protection ended at the end of July 2026.

From the start of the Autumn Term (September 2026), households must meet the free school meal eligibility criteria from the start to the end of the school year, ie. September 2026 to August 2027.

We know that a number of people have had checks undertaken over the Summer and that the Free School Meals team at Suffolk are swamped and have yet to let school know all the information. We should get another update this week, but, please be assured that if you have already paid for a school dinner this term and we then get notified of your eligibility for free school meals, back-dated to 1st September, we will refund what you have paid.

Attendance

Attending school every day can help children to achieve their full potential. Research suggests that being in school regularly reduces stress and anxiety and boosts confidence. Therefore, our aim is for all children to be in school every day. We recognise that this isn't always possible, but we ask parents to help us to do everything we can together to ensure children attend school.

This year, the Government are once again instructing local authorities to look closely at, and monitor, children's attendance. The Government's expectation is that children should be at school for at least 95% of the school year. If children's attendance falls below 90%, a child is in a group called 'Persistently Absent'. If the child's attendance does not improve, the local authority may decide to take action which can include home visits or fines.

Suffolk Education Welfare Officers visit schools regularly to monitor attendance.

When you are trying to get your child into school we will always support you whenever we can.

If your child is unwell, we can give prescribed medicine if you have completed a permission form. We can also monitor your child and send them home if they are unwell.

I have a well-being team who will work with you and your child to support them in coming into school. If you are concerned about your child's attendance and would like to discuss it with me, please contact the School Office and make an appointment to see me.

Choccy, our Reading Dog

For the last two years, we have delivered the 'Reading2Dog' programme using our trained volunteer, Anna, and her companion dog, Choccy, to help our children to improve their literacy, confidence and communication skills as well as helping them to increase feelings of well-being through a dog therapy visit.

The therapeutic effects of a child reading to a dog appears to produce a more confident child and can help support well-being, self-esteem and school attendance. The dog provides comfort, encourages positive behaviour, motivates speech and inspires children to have fun.

Pupils in school have said:

"I felt excited when I knew he was coming."

"I usually don't like reading but when I'm reading to Choccy it's better"

The programme also offers, where appropriate, informal coaching for children on how to respect and care for companion animals and be less fearful when around unknown dogs.

This experience is an enjoyable opportunity for the children and something they can regularly look forward to. Choccy has had a calming effect on our children due to the fact that he will listen to them read without being judgemental or critical

Anna and Choccy work around the school, with a new class of children each week – this week they are working with Year 6.

Before children are able to work with Anna and Choccy, parents need to sign a permission slip – letters will be sent home this week to those children who do not yet have a signed permission slip.



"Meet the Teacher" Sessions

"Meet the Teacher" meetings are introductory sessions held at the beginning of the academic year to help parents and carers understand classroom expectations, daily routines, and the curriculum ahead.

Key Purposes of the Meeting

- **Understanding routines:** Teachers explain daily timetables, drop-off and pick-up procedures, and expectations for school uniform and equipment.
- **Outlining the curriculum:** Parents learn what subjects, topics, and key milestones their children will cover during the year.
- **Explaining homework routines:** Schools clarify how homework is set, how often it is collected, and how parents can best help at home.
- **Building a connection:** Families get a chance to put a face to a name, see the physical classroom environment, and establish a positive home-school relationship.

Monday 14th September @ 2.30pm: Years 5 and 6
Tuesday 15th September @ 2.30pm: Years 1 and 2
Wednesday 16th September @ 2.30pm: Years 3 and 4

Please do not worry if you are unable to come to the meetings, we will send a copy of the information home.

Facebook

Our school has a Secret Facebook Group. If you would like to join the group, please give the school office the email address that is linked to your Facebook account. We will then send you a link that you can click on. The link should take you to the About page, where you can request to join. We will then administer your application.

On our Facebook Page we put notices as well as photos.

Gymnastic Sessions at Sudbury Gymnastics Centre – Year 5

On Tuesday 15th September, Attenborough Class will start their six weeks Gymnastics sessions at the Sudbury Gymnastics Centre. Each Tuesday, they will travel to the Gym at Ballingdon Hill, will be taught by the Gymnastic coaches and will use all the gymnastic resources. They will return to school by 2.30pm.

Please ensure that your child has their water bottle in school.

Swimming – Year 6

On Thursday morning, Bowie Class will start swimming lessons at the Kingfisher Pool. Lessons will be once a week for the entire term.

Please ensure that your child brings a swimming costume and towel into school on that day in a waterproof bag. Goggles may be worn if your child usually swims with goggles. Swimming hats should be worn by all children and can be purchased from the school office (please see the My Child At School app). There are only a very limited number of hats available from school.

No jewellery may be worn; please ensure that your child can remove his/her earrings if they are wearing them.

Year 6 children can bring snack with them to the pool and can eat the snack after they have dried and changed back into their uniform.

The children will be transported to and from the Kingfisher Pool by coach and will be back in school in time for lunch.

Parking

Please make sure that you park considerately within the local area when dropping your children off or picking them up from school.

Please ensure that you do not:

Park in marked disabled bays

Park across people's driveways

Park on a junction

Park on the kerb / footpath so that people are unable to walk on the path past your car

When dropping / picking up your child at school, including from Breakfast or After School Clubs, if bringing your vehicle on-site, please drop off and then leave – we have a minimum number of parking bays that parents can use and that disabled people, or people with children with disabilities can use, please do not block these spaces by chatting!

Long Melford Heritage Trust

heritage open days

SILENT WITNESS: THE 1940 WEEKEND

An Exploration of Landscape, War and Memory

EXHIBITION

Long Melford Old School



FREE EVENT
19-20 SEPT

Sat 10am - 4pm
Sun 10am - 3pm

- Pillbox Projection
- Mick Cant Photography
- Captain Mainwaring's HQ
- Village Memories
- 10th Battalion Suffolk HG
- WWII Vehicles
- 'NAAFI' Tearoom

Join the fun - WWII costumes are strongly encouraged!

Bacton
Logistics



pure energy

NETHERGATE

Suffolk
County Council

indigo
ross



Mumfit Suffolk

presents

Good quality second hand clothing,
toys, baby items, maternity wear
and much more! Find brands such
as Next, Zara, H&M & Joules



Pre-loved Toy & Clothing Market

Long Melford Village Hall

Sunday 13th September

10am - 12pm

FREE
ENTRY



07982996422



@mumfitsuffolk

<https://bookwhen.com/mumfitsuffolk>



A Hoodie reminder for Year 6 Parents

Before the holidays you were sent information about ordering the Year 6 Hoodies.

This is a reminder that the Hoodie Shop will close on 16th September.

If you have mislaid the information about how to get onto the shop portal, please email the school office and we will try and get it to you.

Masking Awareness

FREE



FREE

Free online talk for parents

24 September 7pm - 8pm

Book online

facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Parent - Live Talks page

