

## Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

This week we have welcomed a new addition to our social farm. Meet 'Reggie' the tortoise. He is 7 years old and we are offering him a new home here at Longlands.



The children have been really excited to meet him. He is a brave little thing and loves to be picked up and have the top of his head stroked. The Year 6 pupils researched and found some interesting facts about tortoises such as; they can hold their breath for a long time and smell with their throats. Perhaps you can find some more interesting facts too.

The eco-garden is really flourishing and the children are spending a lot of time tending to the garden and looking after our animals. The children are becoming experts and the animals are becoming really tame. Even the chickens can do tricks!

We are really looking forward to welcoming some more children into school on Monday.

*Mrs Zillah Cope*

**Headteacher**



## Some of our amazing pupils



## Email Protocol - a message to our parents and carers

As we all adapt to the "new normal" it is very important to us that we work closely with parents and carers to ensure the regular communication between home and school remains. In the absence of being able to meet face to face with staff, it might mean an increase in email communication.

### Contacting the school via email:

Supporting the young people in our care and managing the wellbeing and workload of our staff team is paramount. We also want to continue to support our parents and carers by responding to parental queries at the earliest opportunity. Whilst our Headteachers, teachers and associate staff are prioritising the smooth running of our schools and the reintegration of our young people, they may not be in a position to respond to emails straight away. Also, for the wellbeing of our staff, we do not expect staff to check or respond to work emails during their personal/family time.

### Expectations for email communications between parents / carers and our staff:

Emails from parents/carers will be responded to during school working hours (8am-4pm).

Our staff will respond to you as soon as possible and within three working days. This does not include weekends or holidays. Part-time staff may take longer to reply. If an urgent response is required, please contact the school office.

*We will continue to monitor our approach to email communication to improve the process further and welcome any feedback you may have.*

## Trust News

Operation Encompass is now up and running in Shropshire and The Marches Academy Trust is part of this fantastic scheme. The initiative will see West Mercia Police working closely with schools and Shropshire Council to ensure the welfare of children who may have witnessed domestic abuse incidents. Members of school staff will receive special training enabling them to provide emotional and practical support for students experiencing domestic abuse. Full information regarding the initiative can be read in this article compiled by West Mercia Police – [click here](#).

## Competitions & Challenges

**MAT competition:** Do you see yourself as a future leader – an MP, a member of local government or someone with world-shifting ideas that need to be shared? SJT have created a competition, inviting short video submissions from young people across the county on the topic of 'improving the lives of young people in Shropshire'. We want to hear your views. How can we make our county an even better place to be? The competition will be judged by Karen Bradshaw Acting Chief Executive of Shropshire Council. Guidelines:

- Videos should be one to two minutes long so think very carefully about the messages you want to share. Film in landscape if possible.
- We suggest you deliver your speech/presentation in a formal style.
- You could consider issues you are passionate about such as: the environment, education, health or facilities for young people.
- Videos should be emailed to [barnett.c@mmat.co.uk](mailto:barnett.c@mmat.co.uk) and [campbell.c@mmat.co.uk](mailto:campbell.c@mmat.co.uk)

Closing date: Monday 22 June.

**History competition:** The Historical Association are running a 'Write Your Own Historical Fiction Competition 2020'. Winning students will each receive a cash prize, engraved paperweight and a year's free subscription to the Historical Association for their school. Entries close Friday 26 June 2020, click [here](#) for more details.

**Geography competition:** The Royal Geographical Society are running their Young Geographer of the year competition, asking students to submit entries based around the theme of 'the world beyond my window', full competition details can be found [here](#). **The deadline for receipt of all entries is Tuesday 30 June 2020 at 5.00pm.**

**History competition:** Focus Games Ltd are challenging all age groups to create a unique piece of work, drawing, poster, short story, video or artwork in order to celebrate 100 Great Black Britons and their legacy. Entries close 30 September 2020, click [here](#) for more information.

