

**Baird & Denise McClellan**

**Tel: 01908 502204**

**Email: baird.mcclellan@googlemail.com**

**"Waelcott House"  
8, Whaddon Hall Mews  
High Street  
Whaddon  
Bucks  
MK17 0NA**

**31 - 03 -2020**

**Dear Sir,**

**I would like to apply for a BCET award for Newton Longville CofE Primary School.**

**The club was started in September 2016 at the instigation of the former Headteacher who felt that chess would be of particular benefit to the less sporty children and provide an area on which they could excel. It has proved to be very popular and members range between 10 and 20 depending on the term.**

**Each Autumn Term an "Introduction to Chess" course is run exclusively for new club members, some of whom may never have played chess before, and for those who think they can play. Children are taught from the very beginning starting with the chess board, the value of each piece and how it moves, chess openings and traps, tactics, simple checkmates and how to behave before, during and after the game. I prefer to keep numbers down to around 10 for this intensive course so that a considerable amount of individual tuition can be given.**

**In the Spring Term children who have enjoyed the "Introduction to Chess" course will stay in the club, but be joined by former more experienced club members who have formerly completed the Introductory Course. The whole group is entered for the U.K. Chess Challenge on a yearly basis.**

**Most chess lessons, which last for 1 ¼ hours, follow a similar pattern. A teaching element with a new idea or tactic is introduced, or perhaps an informative game by a Chess Master will be played through.**

**This is followed by what I describe as a friendly or learning game. "Learning" because any child may ask for help or advice which I will give and who wins or loses is not important. It is an opportunity to try new ideas and see if they work or not.**

**This is followed by a Tournament game where all the formality of correct chess play must be adhered to and play is in silence.**

**At times the above will be disregarded and the whole session will be devoted to an area which has been covered before, but which some children have not fully understood and so needs to be revisited. How to effectively develop your pieces**

during the opening and how to deliver a lawnmower checkmate are two examples. Flexibility is the key to success and it is necessary to respond to the individual needs of each child within the group.

Since September 2016 children have been entered for the Delancey U.K. Chess Challenge and some children have proceeded as far as the Gigafinal. I always support both children and parents in person at the Megafinal as does my wife.

On a termly basis I speak to children at a school assembly awarding certificates and prizes. I also write chess related articles for inclusion in the school newsletter or website. I believe that it is important to give chess as high a profile as possible within the school, as the game is both an enjoyable leisure pursuit and an aid to the development of the intellect.

In support of my application for a BCET award for Newton Longville CofE Primary School I enclose the following:

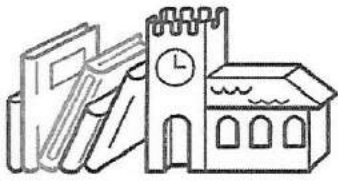
- Letter from the Headteacher
- Three letters from the parents of club members.
- Seven letters from children who are currently in the club
- Three examples of teaching materials used by the club
  - (i) Code of Conduct
  - (ii) The seven rules of the opening
  - (iii) Letters to parents providing information about the Spring Term chess club.

Yours sincerely,



**Baird McClellan**

**ECF coach**



# Newton Longville C of E Primary School

School Drive  
Newton Longville  
Buckinghamshire  
MK17 0BZ

Headteacher: Mrs S J White

Tel: 01908373428

Fax: 01908648416

web: [www.newton-longville-school.co.uk](http://www.newton-longville-school.co.uk)

e-mail: [office@newtonlongville.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@newtonlongville.bucks.sch.uk)

## Chess Club at Newton Longville Church of England Primary School

Mr Baird McClellan established our school Chess Club in September 2016. Children in Years 3,4,5 and 6 are able to join. This was a new opportunity for our children and since it's onset over 40 children have benefitted.

During the autumn term an 'Introduction to chess' course runs exclusively for new members, most of which have never played chess before. Numbers are limited to 10 so that individual tuition can be given. Children thrive under the tuition of Mr McClellan. He has an excellent rapport with them and his patience and skills mean that all of them are keen to stay at the club into the Spring term. In the spring, the autumn starters are joined by children who have already completed the introductory course and numbers rise to approximately 20.

Through the club, under Mr McClellan's guidance, the children have learnt about 'healthy competition'. They understand about winning and losing graciously and even though they are extremely competitive they are also very supportive of each other. All children are entered for the Delancey UK Chess Challenge every year which causes great excitement. Children from school have even got as far as the third stage (the Gigafinal). Both Mr McClellan and his wife support the children who have qualified for the Megafinal through the competition at Wycombe High School and advise them on their game. It is so exciting when they return to school and share with us their various certificates, medals and trophies. The children have achieved so much in a relatively short time.

It has been wonderful to give children the opportunity to learn, compete and become skilled at something they would otherwise not encounter. We have so many clubs at the primary school level for sport, music and art, but there has always been a gap. For us Chess club has filled that and it has made such a positive difference for the children that attend. Shy, nervous reserved children, often with low self-confidence, have blossomed showing increased resilience, confidence and self-esteem.

Newton Longville Church of England School is a relatively small primary school and we are so grateful to Mr McClellan that he is able to give of his time to support our children even when I know he is in demand from larger secondary schools. We truly value the support he gives us.

*S J White*

Mrs S J White  
Headteacher

8<sup>th</sup> March 2020

4 Lower End,  
Newton Longville,  
Milton Keynes,  
Bucks,

MK17 0BE

08 March 2020

Dear Mr McKellan,

Thank you very much for  
teaching Callum chess for the last  
four years at Newton Longville C of E  
School, Newton Longville.

During this time Callum has  
learnt the basic rules of chess,  
developed his ability to compete in  
games and furthered his knowledge  
of strategies for a more advanced  
game. This has been taught in  
a fun way, with badges to win

2

along the way ; as well as more serious matches accumulating points that could lead to winning a trophy.

Callum has enjoyed competing against children across Key Stage 2 and has learnt additional skills such as being a good loser and encouraging beginners to the game. It has improved his concentration and added to his lessons at school.

Callum received his first trophy last year, by having the most points over two terms of matches. This was an extremely special occasion and gave him a great sense of achievement, having watched many other pupils receive trophies for sport.

Callum has competed in the

Delancey U.K. School Chess Challenge  
in 2017 and 2018. Held in a  
secondary school, under exam like  
conditions, with children of various  
ages from many different schools  
really took Callum out of his comfort  
zone, but he rose to the challenge  
and enjoyed the experience. I feel  
this demonstrated how he could cope  
with nerves and succeed with a  
tougher challenge. It also showed  
him what secondary schools are like,  
which will help him when he leaves  
his small, village school at the  
end of this year.

Finally, he loves beating his Dad  
- what can be better than that?!!

Yours sincerely,  
Julie Barton

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Leo is having a wonderful time in Chess. He always look forward to Thursday when he can come in and enhance his knowledge on chess. He has even got us as a family to dust off our chess board and play together. It is good to see his competitive spirit show. His little sister who is 6 years has taken an interest in chess and Leo has taught her everything he learned from you. She is keen to join the club when she is bigger.

I have to say Leo's concentration at school and at home has improved significantly. Instead of playing lots of video games at the weekend he sets up the board and wants to play with someone

Thank you for your wonderful organisation and the effort you put in to make it an enjoyable experience for the kids. I hope you will continue to share your wealth of knowledge with kids' and I am sure they and their families will be grateful to you forever like we do.

Many thanks,



Janet Karechu

(Leo Thimba's mum)

3/17

Dear Mr McClellan,

I just wanted to say a big thank you  
for having sparked Ammar's passion for chess.  
Ammar is eagerly anticipating the Thursday  
Sessions and I never thought we would  
get so excited about following the Chess  
World Championship!

Thank you!

Esther Aslan (Mother)

Yb Boy's PARENTS.

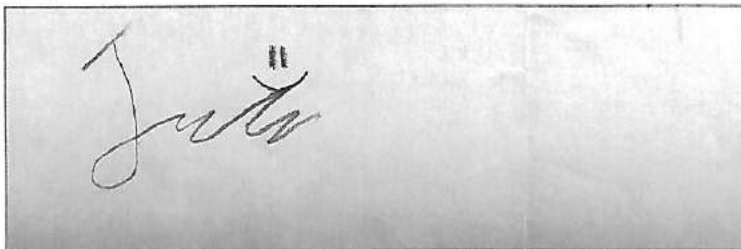


12/3/20

## Why I love chess

The reason why I joined chess is that it will help my thinking build up so if I'm thinking about that maths question I'll know it instantly

Sign here by me Jacob Merrien

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature appears to be 'Jacob Merrien' with a double underline under the 'n'.

Y4 Boy

3/20/2020

## Why I like chess club

- i. It helps with my thinking
  - ii. It is peaceful (which I like)
  - iii. I can socialise with other people
  - iv. I can learn new things
  - v. I can also learn from other people
  - vi. My teacher (MR McClennan) is good at teaching chess.
  - vii. I like the people that I work with.
- I would love for Newton Longville to win this prize.

Rupert 😊😊😊

image1.jpeg


Y5 Boy

20/5/20

Rupert And Hugo's chess letter - baird.mcclellan@gmail.com - Gmail

3 | 20

 Gmail


 Search mail



6 of 934

## Rupert And Hugo's chess letter

Inbox x

 **Sarah Newman** <sarahknewman@hotmail.com>  
to baird.mcclellan@googlemail.com

Hello

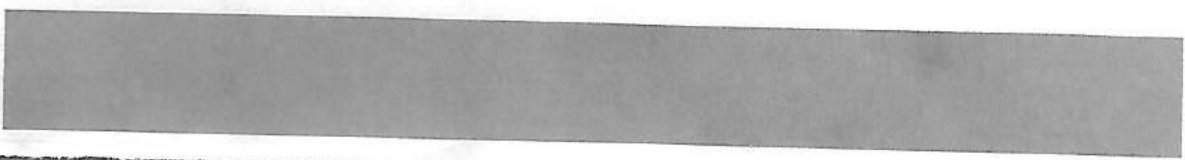
Please see enclosed letters.

My thoughts about chess club.

My boys have really enjoyed learning how to play chess, it's helped them with their thinki  
I think it's made them a better winner plus it's okay to lose too. Both boys always look for

Many thanks

Sarah Newman



8/3/20

I like chess club because Mr McClellan makes sure it is nice and quiet and he will sometimes give us challenges. Also it's fun because it helps me focus more, it's helping to improve my iq and it helps my problem solving. So overall it's my favourite club and I would definitely recommend it to others.

Callum Barton Y6 age: 10

What I Love about chess is the  
quiet atmosphere and it helps my brain  
learn more things and helps me improve  
my maths. I'm loving the chess club and  
would ~~very~~ very much like to stay in  
it

Sing

Josiah

Y4 SEN GIRL

**CHESS CLUB IS AWESOME BECAUSE IT HELPS ME TO  
UNDERSTAND OTHER SUBJECTS LIKE MATHS. IT LETS  
ME TWO SHOW MY COMPETITIVE SKILLS.**

Rushil

Y6 Boy

12/3/20

Y4 Boy.

# Why I like chess!

Chess helps me concentrate, I like playing games so when I come home I can have a game with my family and try not to loose, I like winning prizes, my teacher is a very kind and helpful and he taught me how to play chess and when I see it on TV I jump for joy and it's just good...

...FUN!!!

from Alex Thompson

Y4 Boy. The school champion this term!



### **Chess Code of Conduct**

1. Players should shake the hand of their opponent at the beginning and at the end of each game.
2. Win or lose a player must behave with courtesy towards their opponent.
3. If you touch a piece then you must move it, unless it is an illegal move.
4. If you touch an opponent's piece which can be taken then you must capture that piece, unless it is an illegal move
5. If your opponent makes an illegal move you should quietly point it out to him or her. The move should then be corrected.
6. Should a problem arise raise your hand to attract the attention of the arbiter whose decision on the matter is final.
7. Treat chess pieces and the board with respect. At the end of each session return all pieces to their box. Fold the chess board in half and place the box of chess pieces on top of the board.
8. To learn and play chess a calm and quiet atmosphere is necessary. Some quiet discussion is permitted during learning and friendly games, but complete silence is required during a competition game. Club members who are unable to follow these rules may be withdrawn from the club.

B. McClellan  
ECF Coach



Dear Parents /Carers,

I hope that your son / daughter has enjoyed and benefited from their brief "Introduction to Chess" course.

They have been taught:

- how to set up a chess board
- the name and value of each piece
- how each piece moves and captures
- how to castle
- how to checkmate the King
- what the King must do if in check
- how to develop the pieces effectively during the opening
- how to record the moves made
- how to behave appropriately before, during and after a chess game

The playing of chess helps to build confidence, develop critical thinking and improve concentration. There is much more to learn and I hope that your son/daughter will continue with their chess next term when former members will be rejoining the club.

The best way to improve at chess is to play someone who is a little better than you are and beginners will be provided with that opportunity. They may lose many of their games to begin with, but their standard of play will be getting better. Achieving a draw against a stronger player is a good result and a win is a triumph!

Next term all club members will be entered for the U.K. Schools Chess Challenge and will play a series of 7 competitive games. The player gaining the most points will be awarded a trophy as School Champion.

A child gaining 15 or more points, together with the top boy and girl in each year group, qualify for the Megafinal and the opportunity to compete against players of a similar standard from other schools within the region.

The school will provide further information about how to rejoin next term's chess club.

Further practice during the holiday period of what they have covered this term will be of great benefit to them.

Yours sincerely,



## **The 7 Rules of the Opening**

- 1 Place pawns in the centre. This usually means pawns in front of the King, the Queen or the Queen's Bishop.**
- 2 Move knights and bishops out near the centre.**
- 3 Move each piece once, except when capturing or avoiding capture.**
- 4 Castle your king into safety.**
- 5 Place your queen on the second or third row (sixth or seventh row if black).**
- 6 Clear back rank and connect rooks.**
- 7 Place rooks on open or half open files (you may need to exchange pawns to open files).**

**Also remember the RULE OF EXPOSURE:**

**Do not expose your pieces to attack from lower value pieces**

**AND the RULE OF MATERIAL:**

**Try to keep the material balanced and do not, for example, change a bishop worth 3 points for a pawn worth 1 point!**