



The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton C of E Schools

Love your Neighbour as yourself so we can all aspire, believe and achieve to be the very best that we can be...

Hope - Honesty - Forgiveness - Friendship - Trust - Love



Welcome to Class One with Mrs Robinson, Miss Mattison, Mr Gunn and Mrs Birnie!

Autumn 2 2025 Newsletter

Welcome back to our Nursery and Reception children! This newsletter outlines our topics, including the learning and some of the objectives, for the Autumn 2 half term. We will also keep you up to date through our School 360 online learning journey. Thank you for sharing your child's story/reading books at home. We hope to change these books on a **Wednesday** each week. Please continue to record any comments in their yellow diary and if you are unsure about anything, please ask or email longhorsleyadmin@fedlongwhaltschools.uk. We encourage reception children to read their reading book at least 3 times (recorded by an adult in their yellow diary) before we change it, in order to gain both understanding of what they have read and reading aloud fluency.

~Literacy~

Reception:

- blend sounds into simple words
- write the sounds in my name correctly
- form lowercase letters correctly in handwriting order from Read Write Inc:
- 'Around' letters: c a o d g q
- 'Down' letters: l t b p k h i j m n r u y
- 'Curly' letters: e f s
- 'Zigzag' letters: v w z x
- write lists of what the owls see
- explore Percy's bag to match objects to words from the story
- word/caption writing for One Snowy Night
- Christmas card writing and wish lists

Nursery:

- join in with storybooks, talking about about the characters and events in a story
- recognise my name
- ascribe meaning to the marks made when drawing or painting
- begin to hold a pencil correctly
- begin to trace and copy the first letter of my name
- use magnetic letters to copy my name

~Mathematics~

Reception:

- find, subitise and represent 1-5
- explore the composition of numbers 1-5
- identify 1 more and 1 less
- identify, name and compare circles, triangles, squares and rectangles
- recognise shapes in the environment
- use positional language
- distinguish and talk about the difference between the key events in our daily routines



Nursery:

- join in with counting songs/rhymes/stories
- verbally count to 10 with some correspondence with objects
- say one number for each item in order
- compare small sets of objects by subitising
- enjoy experimenting with symbols, marks and numerals
- add or subtract very small collections
- recognise and name some simple 2D shapes

~Communication and Language~

We will be learning about how characters in different stories show care, kindness, and teamwork. We'll read about the baby owls waiting for their mother, Percy helping animals on a snowy night, and the Christmas Story. Through these stories, we'll use our conversation skills to share ideas, listen to others, and negotiate during adult-led discussions and through play.

~Physical Development~

This term, the children will take part in a PE session on a Tuesday. We will focus our learning on gymnastic skills such as: hopping, jumping, balancing, climbing and rolling. We will also continue to have lots of opportunities in our outdoor provision to advance our gross motor skills.

To further develop our fine motor skills, we will continue to engage in our morning challenges, and focus further on using one-handed tools effectively, including pencils and scissors. The children will also have the opportunity to take part in 'dough disco', which is a fun activity that involves manipulating a small ball of playdough in time to music. Great to improve fine motor control, hand-eye coordination and self-esteem!

Outdoor Learning

We will be using large loose parts to build and create structures that help strengthen our big muscles and core. Please remember that children will **need plenty of warm layers for Fridays**, as we'll be spending most of the day outside — hats, scarves, gloves, and thick socks are essential!

~Expressive Art & Design~

During our creative sessions, we will be focusing on our painting and printing skills, using a variety of tools and techniques to create different effects linked to nocturnal animals and winter scenes. We hope to take inspiration from both key artists Claude Monet and Alma Thomas. As always the children are encouraged to use their own ideas and interests when working freely in our class craft area. Within Inter-Faith Week, we will be creating Diwali-inspired art using blowing and flicking techniques to see how forces move paint and materials. During Music, we will be tuning into different musical sounds and playing games to practise listening and remembering sounds. The children will also have the opportunity to play the musical instruments freely, developing their own performances. We also look forward to learning new songs as part of our EYFS Nativity performance.



~Personal, Social and Emotional Development~

We will be recalling and discussing key ideas from the story 'We Are All Different' to recognise that families and friendships can be unique for everyone. We will be using key vocabulary to talk about and reflect on the special people in our lives, sharing memories, listening, and responding to others as we create our own family tree.

Commando Joe's

We will be developing self-awareness, resilience, empathy, teamwork, and positivity through fun character missions linked to familiar rhymes and stories.

~Understanding the World~

We will be learning about the importance of Remembrance Day, singing a song to remember all those brave soldiers. We will be exploring the concept of force through hands-on activities such as using wind to move ribbons and comparing how different materials respond to pushing and pulling. We will be applying these ideas in creative projects like building owl nests, tipis, and Nativity scenes, using natural materials to observe how forces affect stability and movement outdoors. In Religious Education, Reception will begin the term by looking closely at the Big Frieze by Artist Emma Yarlett. We will be looking at the panels for 'creation' and 'incarnation' to explore some of the key concepts in our Understanding Christianity learning. We will then be exploring the question 'why do many Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?'