



# 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!

## Spring 1 2026 Newsletter

Welcome back to our Nursery and Reception children! This newsletter outlines our topics, including the learning and some of the objectives, for the Spring 1 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](mailto: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.

## ~Communication and Language~

We will develop attentive listening skills through our *Telling Tales* topic. We will explore stories with heroes, baddies and different settings, and will be encouraged to listen carefully and talk about what we hear. Through purposeful play, such as role play and story retelling, the children will build focus, confidence and an enjoyment of stories.

## ~Literacy~

### Reception:

- read common exception words matched to the Read Write Inc Programme
- read simple words, phrases and sentences using known letter-sound correspondences
- re-read books to build up confidence in word reading, fluency and understanding
  - form lower-case correctly
- spell words by identifying the sounds
  - write short captions
- begin to use capital letters and finger spaces when using 'hold a sentence'

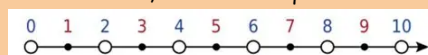
### Nursery:

- show an understanding of the five key concepts of print (meaning, purpose, reading left - right/ top - bottom, parts of a book and page sequencing)
- engage with story books, and in conversation about what has been read
  - use new vocabulary
- develop phonological awareness, spotting rhymes/rhythms and recognising words with the same initial sound
  - recognise and build my name
- begin to hold a pencil correctly to write some of my name (with adult support)
- ascribe meaning to the marks made

## ~Mathematics~

### Reception:

- explore the concept of zero
- find, subitise and represent 0 - 8
- explore the composition of numbers 1- 8
  - identify 1 more and 1 less
  - make pairs; to identify odd and even
  - find and make doubles to 8
- explore and compare length, height, capacity and mass
  - talk about, order and sequence time



### Nursery:

- join in with counting songs and rhymes
  - enjoy stories that involve counting
  - verbally count to 10 with some correspondence with objects
- point to objects and say one number for each item
- compare small sets of objects by subitising (recognising by sight)
- enjoy experimenting with symbols, marks and numerals
  - add or subtract small collections
- explore and compare length, height, capacity and mass
  - talk about order and sequence time.

## ~Physical Development~

On Tuesdays, the children will take part in a multiskills session, focusing on ball skills. We will be travelling confidently and controlling a ball in a range of ways including bouncing, kicking, throwing and catching. We will also continue to have 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 Reception will continue to develop their pencil control and handwriting in our daily taught sessions, focusing on curly caterpillar and ladder letter formation families. Nursery will 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

Please ensure your child brings extra layers of clothing for Forest School sessions on Thursdays. This term, the children will be learning how to keep safe around our fire pit through stories and practical experiences. They will also explore natural materials and take part in planting their own mini-beast grotto in preparation for spring.

## ~Expressive Art & Design~

During our creative sessions, we will focus on our collage skills and joining materials, using a variety of tools and techniques such as glue, tape, staples, split pins and hole punches. We hope to take inspiration from our key artist Eric Carle, using different textured items to paint paper and use within our collages. Reception will also be using these skills to create their own story setting linked to our core storybook. The children are encouraged to use their own ideas and interests when working freely in our class craft area, which will include the new tools we have explored during adult-led sessions. In class, we will be using the Charanga Music Unit - 'Everyone' to explore pulse, rhythm and pitch. We will be using the glockenspiels to accompany our key nursery rhymes. In the music area, the children will be encouraged to share and perform!

## ~Personal, Social and Emotional Development~

We will be focusing on the theme "How can I look after myself?" We will be learning about the importance of healthy sleep and rest, regular exercise, good personal and dental hygiene, balanced nutrition and hydration, and managing daily tasks and routines. These skills support children's physical health, emotional wellbeing, and independence both at school and at home.

### Commando Joe's

We will complete missions for the Smeds and the Smoos linked to the characteristic of Eddie Empathy. We will also take part in exciting quests focusing on Tanisha Teamwork and Parveen Positivity, helping them to develop kindness, cooperation and a positive attitude.

## ~Understanding the World~

We will explore different materials using our senses and talk about how they feel and look.

We will learn new words to describe materials, notice how materials can change, and begin to understand where materials come from, including natural and man-made materials. In history, we will be looking at stories and nursery rhymes from the past.



In Religious Education, Reception will be exploring 'being special' and the question where do we belong? We will reflect upon the things that are special to us and why we value these things. We will also find out about why many Christians believe that children are special to God and learn about the story of Jesus and the children.