



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 2 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 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. **World book Day is on the 5th of March**- Children are welcome to dress up as their favourite character this day and we will be having a sponsored dance disco to raise money for our global charity- Shared Interest.

~Communication and Language~

We will listen carefully to stories, join in with repeated phrases, and respond to questions and simple instructions. We will answer simple questions, sequence and retell events, talk about characters' feelings, and explain the butterfly life cycle using key vocabulary. We will use full sentences with describing words, create our own patterned story, explore rhyme, recognise healthy and unhealthy foods, and, in Reception, order the days of the week, as well as reflecting on our own routines.

~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:

- demonstrate an understanding of stories by answering simple questions
 - use new vocabulary
- develop phonological awareness, spotting rhymes/rhythms and recognising words with the same initial sound
 - clap out one to three syllable words
 - 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 and compare length, height, capacity and mass
 - talk about, order and sequence time
- recognise, represent and compare numbers
- explore the composition of numbers to 10
- begin to learn my number bonds and double facts within 10
 - explore odd and even numbers
 - recognise and name 3D shapes
 - identify, copy and continue patterns

Nursery:

- join in with counting songs and stories
 - verbally count to 10 with some correspondence with objects
- point to objects and say one number for each
- 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
 - copy simple repeating patterns

~Physical Development~

On Tuesdays, the children will take part in a PE session, focusing on dance skills. We will move with careful control and coordination to copy moves and positions accompanied by music. 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 finger challenges, and Reception will continue to develop their pencil control and handwriting in our daily taught sessions, continuing to focus on curly caterpillar and ladder letter formation families.

Outdoor Learning

We will explore the natural environment through fun, hands-on activities like worm charming and building mini-beast dens. We will learn to use simple tools safely and with purpose, for example when making a cross for the Easter Garden. We will also discover how materials can change through cooking activities, such as making pancakes on the fire pit and observing how the ingredients change when they are heated.

~Expressive Art & Design~

During our creative sessions, we will focus on our sculpture/junk modelling skills, using a variety of tools and techniques such as layering and joining. Reception will use a sequence which includes; analysing, experimenting, developing their ideas and then making. We will also use a similar process in our food and nutrition unit (inspired by The Hungry Caterpillar), when we will make a fruit smoothie.



In class, we will be using the Charanga Music Unit - 'Our World' to continue to explore pulse, rhythm and pitch. In the music area, the children will be encouraged to share and perform!

~Personal, Social and Emotional Development~

This half term, we will be answering the questions: **Who helps me in my community?** **How can adults help me to be safe online?** We will learn about the different people who help us in our daily lives and the important jobs they do. We will also talk about how adults can support us in staying safe online, including who to tell if we feel worried or see anything inappropriate.

Commando Joe's

This term, we will be using the story 'What the Ladybird Heard' to help develop empathy, teamwork, positivity and self-awareness through a range of engaging missions. We will also complete activities linked to the rhyme "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," focusing on cooperation, resilience and working together.

~Understanding the World~

We will be identifying common insects and invertebrates, learning about the habitats where they live, and going on our own mini beast hunt outdoors. We will observe and compare different mini beasts, sort them by simple features, follow simple maps using positional language, and create our own mini beast hunt maps for others to follow.



In Religious Education, Reception will be exploring the question, 'why do some Christians put a cross on their Easter Garden?' In doing so, we will be exploring the Easter story.

