



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!

Summer 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 Summer 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. 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. On **Friday**, Reception books will be changed if needed as well.

~Communication and Language~

Nursery:

Listen to stories, join in with simple sound patterns, and talk about what we notice in small groups and within play.

Reception:

Respond to stories with our own ideas, using longer sentences and following 2 and 3 step instructions.

~Literacy~

Nursery:

We will identify initial sounds in spoken words through fun phonics games, and begin to hold a pencil to copy sounds from my name and draw pictures from stories.

Reception:

We will continue our Read Write Inc. journey and we will be going on exciting imaginary adventures with our chosen animals, describing where we go and what we see. We will begin to write simple, sequenced sentences to tell our own stories, and develop fluent handwriting by practising curly and tall letters, one-armed robot letters, and numbers 1-10.

Our Core texts this term are:

'On the Way Home' by Jill Murphy and 'Rain before Rainbows' by Smriti Halls.



~Mathematics~

Nursery:

This term, we will count to 5 accurately using 1:1 correspondence and make small collections of objects to match sets. We will begin to recognise numerals that are important to us and share small amounts fairly between two people, as well as explore adding more and taking away. We will name simple 2D shapes and use them in different ways, and in our outdoor learning, we will match, count, and sort natural objects such as leaves and sticks, as well as create our own 2D pictures using these materials.

Reception:

This term, we will build and continue number patterns beyond 10 and develop confidence counting beyond 20. We will explore adding and taking away to answer "how many now?" and deepen our understanding of shape by selecting, rotating, and manipulating 2D shapes, as well as identifying them within 3D shapes. In Forest School, we will apply these skills creatively by making our own 2D and 3D structures.

~Physical Development~

On **Tuesdays**, the children will take part in a PE session, focusing on their athletic skills. We will concentrate on running, jumping and throwing through games such as tickle monsters, coconut shy and beat the cone. We will also continue to have opportunities in our outdoor provision to advance our gross motor skills.

On Thursday afternoons, **Reception** will visit the sports hall in Morpeth for PE sessions with specialist coaches. The bus journey also helps prepare them for swimming lessons at the same leisure centre after the May school holidays, helping the children become familiar with the route so swimming feels less of a big step when it begins.

Outdoor Learning

We will be having lots of fun taking part in activities such as rope team challenges, slip and slide down our hill banks, tree yoga workouts, and exploring puddles in different ways.

~Expressive Art & Design~

During our creative sessions, we will focus on our spirited art project. The theme this year is a 'secret sacred garden', and we will take inspiration from the work of Henri Rousseau.



Within Design Technology, Reception will also use our key story 'On the Way Home' as a stimulus to create their own part of the story with moving parts. I wonder how they hurt their knee!

In class, we will be using the Charanga Music Unit - 'Big Bear Funk' 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~

Our key question is 'How can I be safe at home and school?' We will be learning how to keep ourselves safe at home and at school by identifying safe and unsafe items and places. We will sort and talk about our choices, recap important safety rules, and learn how adults help keep us safe, including road safety using the Green Cross Code.



Commando Joe's

In our character development sessions we will be focusing on Elliott Excellence to complete missions on the journey to the South Pole. These are based on the story Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers.

~Understanding the World~

We will explore weather and seasons through hands-on activities, helping children to observe and talk about changes in the environment. We will investigate wind, rain, and seasonal features in a fun and engaging way, and alongside this we will create tribal-inspired artwork.



In RE, Reception will be exploring the question, 'which places are special and why?' In doing so, we will talk about places which are important to us and how these places make us feel. We will then consider both churches and mosques, thinking about why these buildings are special to different people.