



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 1 with Mr Carr, Mr Gunn, Mrs Birnie and Miss Holmes!

Autumn 1 2026 Newsletter

A very warm welcome to all of our Nursery and Reception children and families! I hope you have had a wonderful summer break. I am really looking forward to welcoming the children into Early Years, getting to know them and beginning an exciting year of learning together. This newsletter gives you an overview of our topics, learning and objectives for Autumn 1. We will also keep you updated through our School 360 online learning journey. All children will receive a reading record and reading book to share at home. Reception books will be changed each Wednesday, while Nursery books will be changed on Monday, Wednesday or Friday depending on which days they attend. Please record any comments in the reading record. PE kits should be worn on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you have any questions, please speak to us or email longhorsleyadmin@fedlongwhaltschools.uk.

~Literacy~

Reception:

- Begin to read individual sounds and blend them to read simple words.
- Enjoy sharing stories, asking questions and learning new vocabulary.
- Develop correct pencil grip, posture and pencil control.
- Practise tracing, patterns and shapes to develop early handwriting skills.
- Begin to identify sounds in words to support early spelling.
- Recognise and begin to write their own name.



Nursery:

- Join in with songs, rhymes and rhythms.
- Listen carefully to and identify different sounds.
- Enjoy sharing books and talk about pictures and stories.
- Begin to recognise their own name.
- Develop the movements, strength and pencil control needed for early writing.
- Make marks and drawings and talk about what they mean.

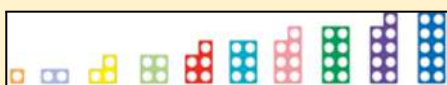
~Mathematics~

Reception:

- Match, sort and compare different amounts.
- Represent, compare and compose numbers.
- Count objects accurately, saying one number for each item.
- Estimate how many objects there might be.
- Understand and use vocabulary including 'more than', 'less than', 'fewer', 'the same as' and 'equal to'.
- Explore and compare size, mass and capacity.
- Recognise, select and manipulate simple 2D shapes.
- Use positional language.

Nursery:

- Join in with counting songs and rhymes.
- Listen to and enjoy stories involving counting.
- Recite numbers beyond 5 and show 'finger numbers' up to 5.
- Count objects, saying one number for each item in order.



~Communication and Language~

We will enjoy a range of stories and non-fiction books during story time and in our reading area. The children will listen to rhymes and songs, learn new vocabulary and take part in discussions throughout the day. Through modelling and support, we will encourage children to share and connect their ideas, developing their confidence and speaking skills.

~Physical Development~

We will focus on developing movement and coordination through a range of activities indoors and outdoors. Children will explore travelling in different ways, using space effectively and learning to stop and start safely.

We will also develop fine motor strength and coordination through activities such as playdough, threading, painting and mark making. These experiences will help children develop the strength, control and dexterity needed for early writing.

Outdoor Learning

Please make sure your child has named wellingtons and waterproofs that can be left in school, as children will be able to access our outdoor space whatever the weather!



~Expressive Art & Design~

During our creative sessions, we will focus on drawing skills as we create self-portraits for our school hall display. Children will use mirrors to look closely at their faces and features, explore emotions through *The Colour Monster*, and experiment with lines, shapes and colours. We will take inspiration from the work of Leonardo da Vinci, exploring portraits and identity. Children will also be encouraged to follow their own ideas and interests within our creative provision. During Music, we will enjoy singing songs and nursery rhymes, moving to music and exploring different sounds, rhythms and instruments. Children will develop their listening skills and confidence, with lots of opportunities to make music and perform together.

~Personal, Social and Emotional Development~

This term, the children will explore "What Makes Me Special?", thinking about what makes them unique, what they enjoy and the people who are important to them. We will also learn about different emotions, using *The Colour Monster* to help children recognise, name and talk about how they are feeling. Through discussions and activities, children will develop their confidence, self-awareness and understanding of themselves and others.

Commando Joe's



~Understanding the World~

We will be learning about ourselves, our bodies and how we have changed since we were babies, using photographs and talking about the past and now.

Through our Senses topic, children will explore sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell through activities including taste testing, listening walks, feely bags and using magnifying glasses. We will also explore different sounds and how they are made.

In Religious Education, we will explore the key question 'Why is the word 'God' so important to Christians?', learning about God and Creation through stories and discussion. All children will also begin to develop an understanding of Harvest and its importance to Christians.