



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



Autumn 1 2026 Newsletter

Message from class teacher

Welcome back to a new school year everyone! I hope you are all looking forward to a busy, fantastic year at Longhorsley. This newsletter gives an overview of the children's learning this half term.

The children will need to wear their PE kit on a Tuesday and Thursday. We will also be going swimming on a Thursday this half term, so please help your child have their swimming kit in school on that day.

Homework will be given out weekly on a Wednesday. It is due back in on the following Tuesday, which is when their weekly spelling test will also happen.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Best wishes, Mr Morris

~History~

This half term, we will be travelling back thousands of years to learn about the Indus Valley civilisation, one of the world's earliest civilisations. We will explore where and why the civilisation developed, investigate the ancient cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, and examine artefacts such as seals, jewellery and pottery to discover what they can tell us about the people who lived there.

~English~

Our work in English begins by sharing the book, 'Tar Beach'. This story explores the dreams of a girl who wishes she could fly. The children will base their writing on this story and will write a narrative in the form of a script. This is a good chance for the children to use adverbial phrases and begin thinking carefully about dialogue in their writing.

We will then move onto a story called, 'The Matchbox Diary'. The children's writing focus will shift to non-fiction. The children will carefully consider the structure of their writing and their use of paragraphs.

~Mathematics~

Our Year 3 children will begin this year looking at the place value of numbers up to 1,000. We will represent and partition these numbers in different ways. Following place value, the children will move onto written methods of calculation for addition and subtraction involving 3 digit numbers.

In Year 4, the children will also begin with place value, looking at the value of digits within numbers up to 10,000. They will also be rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. As with Year 3, Year 4 will move onto written methods of addition and subtraction after place value.

~P.E~

In PE this half term, the children will be developing their understanding of football. The children will develop their technique of dribbling, passing and tackling. They will also improve their knowledge of how to properly warm up reading for exercise. The children will also be developing the life skill of swimming at the leisure centre.

~French~

Our French this half term will focus on family and friends. The children will learn some ways to greet each other before moving onto introducing family and friends. We will learn new vocabulary and have lots of opportunities to have short conversations with each other in French.

~Computing~

In computing this half term, we will develop our understanding of the internet and how it connects devices around the world. We will consider how we use devices connected to the internet safely; Finally, we will think about how reliable information might be that we find online.



~PSHE~

In PSHE this half term, we will begin by considering our emotions. The children will think about how to manage their emotions and develop skills to do this in different scenarios. Year 4 will also think about self-esteem and how to be proud of their many qualities!

~Commando Joes~

Our missions will focus on Kira Salak this term. Kira Salak is a writer, adventurer and journalist. She has spent her life conquering her fears and pushing herself to extremes in the name of journalism. At the age of 20, Salak entered Mozambique at the height of a Civil War and here she was kidnapped by soldiers. Luckily, she managed to escape. You'd think this would put her off continuing to travel through dangerous locations - but no.

~Art~

Our work in art this half term will focus on Ancient Egyptian sculpture. The children will look carefully at examples of Egyptian sculpture and consider the purpose of the sculptures. We will then sketch designs for our own sculptures, which will be made of clay. The children will practise techniques, including joining pieces of clay, before creating their own Ancient Egyptian inspired sculpture.

~Science~

Class 4 will be looking at animals including humans this half term. Year 3 will think about the nutrients in food and how we move. Year 4 will be learning all about digestion from beginning to end! They will also look at food chains in various environments.

~Music~

This unit focuses on the song "Sparkle In The Sun", offering opportunities for singing, playing in two or three parts and composing original pieces. Children explore creative expression through performing and composing. We will be using glockenspiels throughout this unit of work.

~R.E~

'What is it like to follow God?' The children will consider people from Bible stories that followed God. We will think about why these people might have been chosen by God. To finish this unit of work, the children will consider what it means to follow God in the present day.