Autumn Term 2026
Curriculum Newsletter

Early Years Foundation Stage

Welcome to Longlands Primary School and Nursery. We hope that you have had a great summer and are looking forward to the exciting year ahead. We are looking forward to settling the children into a school routine and life in reception!

Learning in the Foundation Stage

The first half term the children will be spending time getting to know each other, learning the rules and finding out about their new surroundings. We use our fantastic outside area as much as possible so please ensure your child has a waterproof coat and wellies in school.

This term our topics in Foundation Stage will be 'All about me" and 'Dinosaur Detectives, digging into the past'.

During the topic ***'It's ok to be different'***, the children will find out about their new friends, talk about their own families and get to know the different people who make up the 'Longlands family', as well as what makes them special. They will share their ideas by painting and drawing, talking and asking questions.

The second half terms topic will be ***'Dinosaur Detectives, digging into the past***, the children will find out about all the different dinosaurs and how life has changed through the ages, focusing on their diet, habitat and key features of the dinosaurs, including fossils and evidence left behind.

The children in the Foundation Stage will be focusing on their understanding of **Personal, Social and Emotional Development.** They will develop independence by learning to collect and look after the resources and their learning environment as well as making their own choices for lunch and practising using their knives and forks. The children will develop their social and interaction skills as they learn.

The children will have the opportunity to take part in role-play as they play in the home corner. They will use the inside and the outside areas as much possible to further support this learning.

In **Communication and Language** the children will be learning to develop their speaking and listening skills as well as learning letters and sounds. Children will enjoy singing by learning new rhymes and songs. The children will also be encouraged to read as much as possible and to recognise and write their names.

In the area of **Mathematics** the children will be learning basic number skills through exciting games and activities. As in all the areas of the Early Years curriculum the children will be reinforcing and extending their learning during their child initiated play with the support of the adults in the Early Years unit. The children in Reception class will be taught following the NCETM scheme.

To develop the children's **Literacy** skills we will encourage all children to read sounds and words and help them to develop a love of reading by having daily story sessions. We will check their understanding by questioning what has happened in the story they have listened to, as well as making predictions about what might happen next.
We will also link focus books to our topics to engage the children further in their learning. Our reading area has a wide variety of books that are available to the children at all points in the day.
The children in Reception class will also be brining books home with them within the first 2 weeks of being at school for you to enjoy at home with them, please fill out the orange reading diaries when you have read with your child.

During **Understanding the World** sessions the children will be learning about their families and friends, themselves and their bodies, as well as what they eat and drink and other ways they can keep healthy. They will also learn about the people around them and the roles they play and how they help society both now and in the past. The children will be using interactive whiteboards and iPads to support their

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learning in all areas of the curriculum. We will enjoy activities that develop spreading, chopping and cutting skills. The children will have lots of fun using all their senses to learn about different foods. The children will also learn about the natural world observing and drawing different animals.

Expressive Arts and Design will support the children in the development of roles play as well as arts and craft activities. We will learn some familiar songs that's relate to ourselves and will support this with the use of musical instruments in both our indoor and outdoor learning areas. The children will be encouraged to think creatively in response to their experiences and use a range of tools and resources with care and safety.

Physical development will see the children strengthen their gross motor skills through directed PE times and in child initiated learning, with opportunities to use the large climbing equipment as well as bikes and scooters. The children will also develop their fine motor skills through daily funky fingers activities such as tap tap, construction and bead threading.

Phonics

At Longlands School we follow the 'Little Wandle' phonics scheme.
In Nursery, the children will be learning to discriminate and identify sounds around them, and find out about rhythm, rhyme and alliteration through daily fun activities and games. The children in Reception will begin to learn letter sounds and how to blend them together to read words and sentences. Please support your child by practising the sounds at home, Reception children will receive a Phonics pack to take home with them, please work through this with your child at home and return to school weekly.

PE

The children in Reception class will have 2 directed PE lessons every week, these will take place on a Monday and a Friday, your child will need to come to school in their PE kits on these days. Mondays session will be taught by a sports coach from GC coaching and Fridays session will be taught by Mrs Lacle.

Reminders

- Please name all uniform, coats, shoes and water bottles.
- Please check the Longlands App for important dates and events.
- Please inform a member of the Early Years team or the School Office if somebody different will be collecting your child.

If you have any questions please speak to a member of the Early Years team at drop off or collection.

Mrs Lacle, Mrs Hennell, Mrs Ray, Miss Herbert, Mrs Yelogru and Miss Cann