Longlands monthly newsletter

OCTOBER 2026 - ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

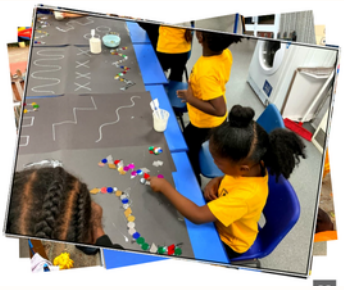
The first half of the Autumn Term has flown by. Pupils have settled exceptionally well into their new year groups and have worked incredibly hard. We are very proud of all they have achieved so far. Below is a snapshot of the exciting learning opportunities, achievements and extra-curricular activities that have taken place this term.

Nursery

We are extremely proud of our youngest learners. Nursery have been taking part in Dough Disco sessions to strengthen the muscles in their hands and develop the fine motor skills needed for early writing. The children thoroughly enjoy moving and manipulating the dough in different ways, helping to build hand strength, coordination and control.

In PSHE, Nursery have been learning the importance of taking turns, sharing and working as a team. They enjoyed helping to improve our outdoor environment by planting hebe plants in the garden.





Reception

Reception have settled extremely well into school life and have fully embraced the wide range of learning opportunities available within the Early Years environment. They have been developing their fine motor skills through a variety of practical activities, helping to strengthen the muscles needed for writing. Pupils have also enjoyed lots of opportunities for mark-making, building confidence in their early writing skills. In mathematics, Reception have been working hard on their counting skills, exploring numbers through practical, hands-on activities and developing a secure understanding of number recognition and counting. We are incredibly proud of how well they have adapted to their new routines and are becoming increasingly independent learners.

Year 1

Year 1 have been developing their geographical enquiry skills by taking part in a walk around the school grounds to identify examples of physical and human geography.

As they explored the school environment, pupils looked for natural features such as trees and plants, which are examples of physical geography, alongside human-made features such as buildings, fences and playground equipment.

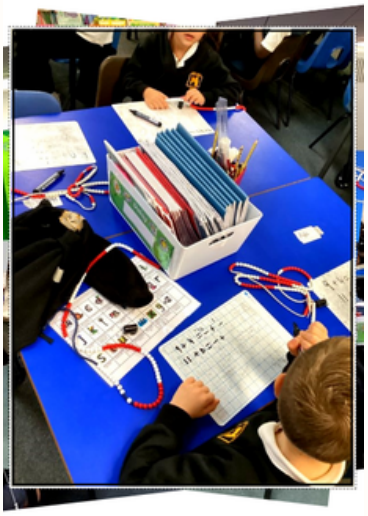
The children enjoyed becoming geography detectives, observing their surroundings carefully and discussing what they could see.



Year 2

Year 2 have been working hard in Maths to secure their understanding of place value and to develop confidence when adding numbers up to 100.

They always have lots of practical resources on the table, such as bead strings and counters, to help develop their mathematical understanding.







Year 3

Year 3 have been learning about different types of bridges in Design and Technology. They explored how each type is designed to support weight and provide strength, discovering how engineers use different structures to overcome different challenges. Using this knowledge, pupils designed and created their own bridges. They began by researching and sketching ideas before building prototype models to test their designs. Pupils explored a range of materials, evaluating their strengths and suitability for bridge construction. They then used their findings to refine their ideas and create a final bridge, demonstrating excellent problem-solving skills, creativity and resilience throughout the design process.

Year 4

Year 4 have been learning about mosaics in Art. As part of their learning, pupils explored different mosaic techniques before designing and creating their own modern mosaics. They carefully selected colours and considered patterns to create unique pieces of artwork.







Year 5

Year 5 have been learning about space in Science, exploring the planets within our solar system and developing their understanding of the features that make each one unique. They have enjoyed investigating how planets differ in size and appearance, while developing their scientific knowledge of our place in the universe.

Pupils have linked this learning to their Art lessons, where they have been exploring the use of textiles to create their own planets. Using a range of sewing skills and experimenting with different techniques including tie-dye techniques to create vibrant and interesting patterns on fabric before incorporating these into their final designs.



Year 6

Year 6 have been investigating light as part of their Science learning. Pupils explored how light travels in straight lines and how we see objects when light is reflected into our eyes. They carried out a range of practical investigations to explore reflection, refraction and the formation of shadows, making predictions and recording their findings carefully.

In Design and Technology, Year 6 have been applying their sewing skills to create functional textile products, including phone cases and pencil cases. Pupils practised a range of sewing techniques, such as running stitch, back stitch and fastening methods, to ensure their products were both durable and attractive.

Black History Month



Across October, pupils at Longlands have been marking Black History Month. This year's theme, 'Honouring Our Communities', celebrates the achievements, contributions and lasting impact of Black individuals, families and communities on society.

Throughout the month, pupils have been learning, celebrating and exploring the many ways in which Black history, culture and communities have shaped our world. Through whole-school assemblies an African drumming workshop and classroom learning, children have developed their understanding of inspirational Black figures from both the past and present.

Pupils have explored the lives and achievements of individuals such as Baroness Floella Benjamin, whose work as author and campaigner has inspired generations, and Garrett A. Morgan, the inventor responsible for important innovations including the three-position traffic signal.

We had a special assembly with a pupil's grandma who was a Nigerian Princess.



CHEXS COMMUNITY enrichment

Pupils participating in the CHEXs Growth Programme recently took part in a community enrichment session focused on enhancing opportunities for wildlife around the school grounds. Despite the challenging weather conditions, they showed great determination and resilience, persevering in the rain to complete a range of meaningful tasks.

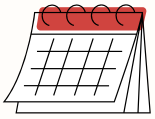
Throughout the session, pupils worked collaboratively alongside secondary school students, demonstrating excellent teamwork, enthusiasm and a positive attitude. All involved should be very proud of the way they represented both themselves and the school.

Football

The Longlands football team have played two matches and won both of them,
showing excellent teamwork, determination and resilience throughout. The players
represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating great sportsmanship and a positive
attitude in both games. We look forward to seeing the team continue to build on this
success. Well done, and a big thank you to the staff and parents who have supported
them.

The results were
Longlands 4 - 2 Downfield
Longlands 3 - 1 St Joseph's





Remember to keep up to date with what is going on in school by checking the diary dates. http://longlands.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/diary-dates/

Golden Book

Each week, teachers nominate two Stars of the Week. These are pupils whose work and/or behaviour has been outstanding and they have exemplified one of our school values, which are: teamwork, resilience, motivation, ambition and kindness. Well done to September and October's stars:

14.09.26 - Isla, Israel, Edie, Anya, Talia, Harper, Luke, Stanley, Zeynab, Amy, Asi, Illias

21.09.26 - Hudson, Victoria, Ela, Lexi, Finn, Ismin, Alfie, Milly, Aabish, Bianka, the whole of Y6

28.09.26 - Mason, Emelia, Vera, Melis, Ari, Hayden, Lillie, Jessica, Darla, Ameera, Anashe, Serzan

5.10.26 - Sara, Josiyah, Preston, Jessie, Rosa, Alfie, Miray, Pheobe, Zana, Elif, Aurora, Mikaella

12.10.26 - Seb, Rebecca, Leia, Emre, Marnie, Lara, Shalom, Mirac, Sadie, Zevon, Marcel, Deniz

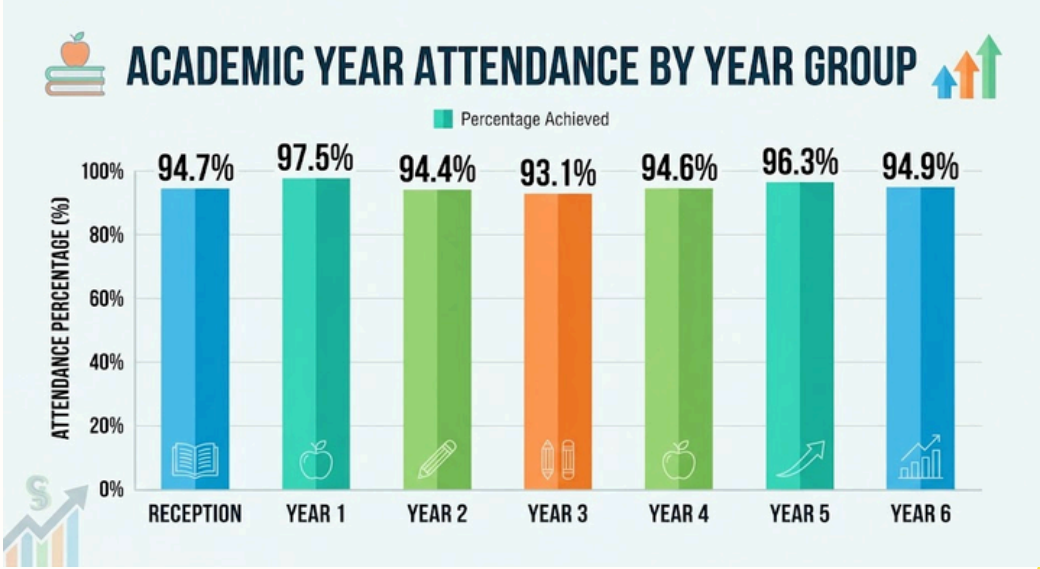
19.19.26 - Skyler, Kaan, Jan, Honey, Ayana, Eloy, Elara, Rachel, Tayland, Cindy, Su, Niamh





Attendance matters! It is important that your child gets to school on time and aim for 100% attendance!

Whole school attendance is currently 95.07%. Our whole school attendance target is
96% or above. Currently only Year 1 and Year 5 are achieving this, well done! Let's
continue work together to improve whole school attendance.





PTA

Our PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Wednesday 4th November at 9.15am in the school hall. We warmly invite all parents and carers to attend and find out more about the PTA's plans for the year ahead and the many ways you can get involved. Whether you can volunteer regularly or support occasional events, every contribution is valued and greatly appreciated. The funds raised by the PTA have a positive impact on the school and directly benefit all of our children.

The PTA is also busy preparing for our annual Christmas Fair, which will be held after school on Friday 11th December from 4.00pm to 6.00pm.

We would be very grateful for any support with setting up, running stalls or helping to ensure the event runs smoothly. We hope to see as many families as possible there and look forward to an enjoyable afternoon of festive fun for children and adults alike. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school and the PTA.