



Longlands Primary School

Friday 23rd May 2025

A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of yet another busy half term, it's hard to believe that we have just one half term left of this academic year. For me personally, my first year at Longlands has flown by!

This half term there have been a range of fantastic learning opportunities and other exciting enrichment activities for our pupils to enjoy and take part in, some of which you can see in this newsletter.

A huge congratulations to all our amazing Year 6 students for completing their SATs this half term. Your dedication, resilience, and hard work over the past months and years have truly paid off, and we are all incredibly proud of you. No matter the results, the effort you have put in is what truly matters. As you prepare for the exciting transition to secondary school, take a moment to celebrate this milestone and reflect on your achievements. Well done!

A couple of reminders as we move into Summer 2:

- Please ensure that your child/children are in school every day and on time. It is so important for them that they do not miss out on their learning and other opportunities for their development. Please refer to our attendance policy on the website for more information.*
- Please ensure that your child's uniform follows the school uniform policy (this can also be found on the school website).*

We hope you have a great half term break and look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 2nd June.

Kind regards,

Mr Baines

Mr Baines

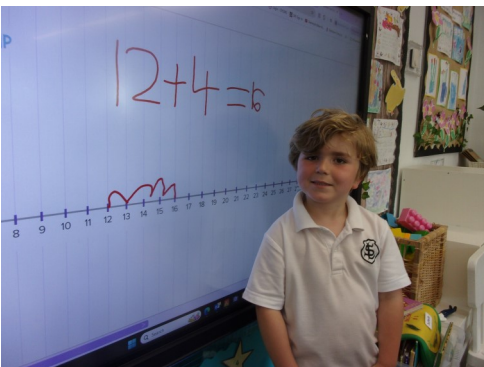
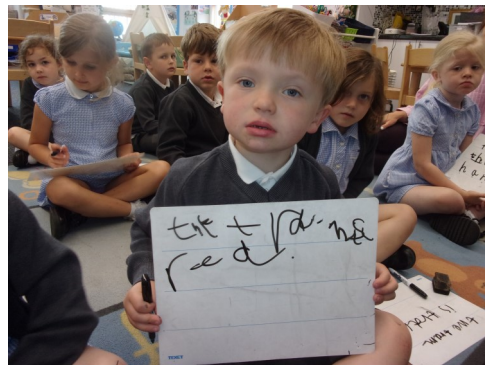
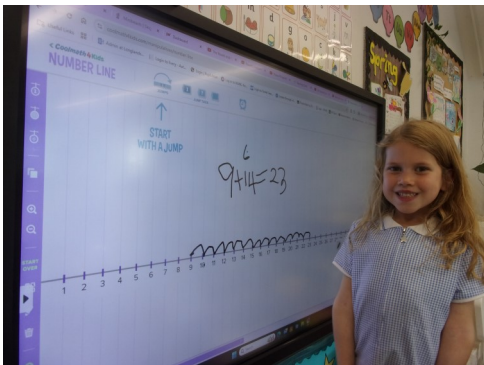
Head Teacher

EYFS

In Reception we have been very busy learning about Mini Beasts and really enjoyed learning about the life cycle of a butterfly. We learned that a butterfly lays an egg, a caterpillar comes out, turns into chrysalis and metamorphosises into a butterfly. We are very excited about our trip to Hall Place after half term to learn more interesting facts.

In Maths we have been learning all about the time and even made our own clocks! We have learned that if the minute hand points to the 12 then it is something o'clock, if the minute hand points to the 6 then it is half past something. We have also been working really hard to ensure that we can put numbers in order and designed and made our own board games which we played in class.

In Phonics we are working on level 4 and are becoming really confident in segmenting and blending words that contain adjacent consonants. Most of the children can now write sentences all by themselves and we are all incredibly proud of them!



Mrs Allen, Ms Sheridan and Mr Murphy

KS1

KS1 have had a busy start to the summer term. We have thoroughly enjoyed our Power of Reading book 'How to Find Gold' by Viviane Schwarz. The children have been developing their writing skills over the term with diary entries, making their own books to retell the story, character descriptions, as well as making a zig-zag book of their own deep sea adventure. They were able to participate in a conscience alley, where they had to debate and persuade others to side with them, when discussing what to do with the gold. It has been lovely to see their creativity shine with the language they are using.

In Geography, the focus has been learning map skills. The children created maps of the school labelling where the different rooms were, labelled a map of the world with the continents, oceans and where gold can be found. They also created their own maps, labelling them with a key and compass points. The children learnt about a compass and the different points on one, as well as why they are used. The children had a pirate workshop, where they learned about the history of pirates and the hierarchy of the crew. It was a wonderful, engaging way to learn!



In DT, they have been learning about pivots and mechanisms. They used this knowledge to make a moving crocodile with linkages. They had to cut the paper strips, attach them using split pins and design a head to ensure it looks like a crocodile. They have really enjoyed completing this project over the half term and are very proud of the different skills they used.



In PE the children have been working on their running skills and developing their stamina. They have also been practising their throwing skills (using javelins) and their hurdling skills, all in preparation for sports day.

In RE, the topic this term was sacred places. We visited the local church, where Reverend Tom Parsons was able to tell us about why a church is sacred and answer our questions.



Miss Brook, Miss Artis, Miss Taylor, Mrs Laughland and Mr Morand

Lower Key Stage 2

We have had a another very busy term in Years 3 and 4.

In English, our learning has been centred around our core book, *Escape from Pompeii* by Christine Balit. In the book, the main character of Tranio lives in Pompeii during Roman times. It follows Tranio and his friend Livia as they live through the devastating eruption of Vesuvius and the destruction of their beautiful town. Inspired by this text, the children have written diary entries, persuasive speeches, descriptions, playscripts and stories.

In History, the children have been learning about Romans in Britain. They learnt about Romulus and Remus and the birth of the Roman Empire. They learnt about the reasons that the Romans wanted to invade Britain and the failed attempts of invasion by Julius Caesar. They learnt that after Emperor Claudius successfully conquered Britain, the Romans left behind useful changes to the lives of the Britons at the time such as roads, bathing houses and irrigation systems. They also learnt about Boudicca and her determination to fight back against the Romans.

In PE, the children have been learning athletic skills. They have been working on their running, long jump, javelin, shotput and hurdle skills.

In DT, the children have designed and created their own Roman mosaic tiles. Inspired by the patterns of Ancient Roman tiles. They created the tiles using clay and then paint to create the patterns.

This term we also had a trip to Kent Life. This was a Roman day, where the children were treated to workshops on Boudicca, Centurions, Roman numerals, Celtic life, Roman life and they were able to create their own talisman. The children learnt lots of facts about Roman life, which has helped with their history studying this term.



Miss Gayson, Miss Almond, Mrs Payton and Mrs Baines

Upper Key Stage 2

This half term has been very busy! Firstly, a huge congratulations to all of Year 6 for completing your SATs—you approached them with maturity, confidence and determination. You truly did yourselves proud, and we couldn't be happier with how you handled the challenge!

Year 5 and 6 classes had the opportunity to take part in the Thames Explorer trip. This was an experience linking our Geography topic on the uses of rivers and our upcoming History topic on the Tudors. As part of the trip, we explored how the River Thames has been used both in the past and present. We also took a walk to uncover clues about Tudor London and compared historic maps with modern-day London. Our topic on rivers has helped us understand how rivers are formed and the many ways they are used around the world. The Thames Explorer trip helped bring our classroom learning to life.



Year 5 have been diving into shape, with a particular focus on angles. They've done brilliantly learning how to use a protractor accurately to measure and draw angles. Year 5 have also covered statistics, including representing data in a line graph and interpreting two-way tables.

In English, we have been reading *Floodland*, a gripping dystopian novel that has really captured the imagination and attention of the children. The story follows the journey of a girl escaping a flood and searching for her family. Inspired by the novel, the children have produced an impressive range of writing, including diary entries, formal letters, persuasive speeches, and balanced arguments.

This half term, we have been studying living things. The children have explored life cycles and reproduction in some plants and animals. One of the highlights was dissecting flowers to label their parts.

Using GarageBand on the iPads, the children composed their own pieces of music to match a dystopian film setting. It was wonderful to see such creativity in action, and the children really enjoyed experimenting with sounds and effects.

As we head into our final half term, we're so proud of all that the children have achieved so far and look forward to all of the learning and extra activities that are coming up.

Mrs Harris, Miss Childs and Mr Allen

Cricket Festival

On Tuesday 20th May, I took 9 children from years 3 and 4 to a cricket festival at Dartfordians Cricket Club. The children were able to take part in matches with other schools and improve their cricket skills. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience with some of the children now wanting to join a cricket club. Well done to those that took part!



Hockey Festival

On Thursday 22nd May, children from year 5 took part in a Hockey festival. At the festival they were able to take part in lots of different skill stations and they were helped by Hurstmere sport leaders. It was great to see the children enjoying a new sport and improving their skills. Well done to all those that took part!



Miss Gayson

AIM High Maths Day

Six children from Years 3 and 4 attended an AIM High Maths challenge day at Days Lane School, hosted by the Mathemagician, Andrew Jeffreys. The children were forced out of their comfort zone to think like a mathematician. It was a fun day with lots of puzzles and games that allowed the children to predict and test theories, problem solve, spot patterns and speed up their mental maths. There were plenty of 'what if...' questions to try and find new strategies or information.

Miss Childs

Bunny Hop

Bunny hop raised £1700 which helps pay towards the climbing frame.

The class that raised the most was Monet, who raised £255. Monet will have £50 to spend on something for the class

MAY '25

AN UPDATE FROM



A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO THOSE OF YOU WHO BOUGHT DISCO TICKETS AND CAME ALONG TONIGHT, WE HAD A GREAT UPTAKE AND ARE HUGEY GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL.
AS ALWAYS A BIG THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

COME & JOIN US FOR OUR
INFLATABLES DAY AT LONGLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
SATURDAY, 21ST JUNE 12-4PM

Events Include
7+ Inflatables, BBQ, Bar, Candy Floss, Ice Creams, Arts & Craft, Face paints, Tattoos, Performers & much more!

WRISTBAND PRICES
UNDER 2'S FREE
ADULTS FREE

FIELD ACCESS ONLY ENTRY £5
ACCESS ALL AREAS ENTRY £10
ALL INFLATABLES WILL BE CHARGED FOR IF FIELD ACCESS ONLY WRISTBAND IS WORN

LETTERS HAVE GONE OUT FOR OUR INFLATABLES DAY 21ST JUNE 2025 12-4 PLEASE PLEASE FILL IN THE VOLUNTEERS DOCUMENT IF YOU CAN SPARE EVEN 30 MINS.

TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE AFTER HALF TERM IN THE PLAYGROUND AND AT SPORTS DAY.

AND IF ANYONE CAN DONATE A PRIZE FOR THE GPD THAT WOULD BE GREAT!

GPD TICKETS WILL BE SENT HOME FIRST WEEK AFTER HALF TERM - PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OPEN FOR THESE.

PRIZES INCLUDE:

£300, £200, £100, £100 VOUCHERS!

DON'T FORGET YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR EASY FUNDRAISING AND THE SCHOOL GETS MONEY DONATED FOR FREE!

WE WILL BE SELLING DRINKS & SNACKS AT SPORTS DAY TOO!

FOLS

Dates for the diary 2025

Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May—Half term

Friday 6th June—UKS2 Tower of London Trip

Monday 9th June—Murakami class assembly

Friday 13th June and Monday 16th June—Year 6 UKSA

Monday 16th June—Monet class assembly

Thursday 19th June—Class photos

Saturday 21st June—FOLS summer fete

Monday 7th July—Matisse class assembly

Tuesday 8th July—Rock Steady Concert

Wednesday 16th July—Year 6 Leavers Service

Thursday 17th July—Year 6 Leavers Production

Friday 18th July—Last day of term for children



Attendance

Monet	91%
Matisse	98%
Murakami	95%
O'Keeffe	94%
Warhol	95%

Thomas	95%
Kahlo	97%
Basquiat	95%
Malone	94%
Ashevak	95%
Wei Wei	99%

Have an enjoyable half term break, from all at Longlands Primary

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesdays guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of digital LEGO, certain game modes include creatures known as mobs that can be scary. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to abnormal in-game combat and other encounters – although the content is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another player's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by wasting hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and achievement.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase, which is typically around £16. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unbranded or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The safest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given the address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Uzay Gonen is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in game media for more than 8 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



The National College