



Longlands Primary School

Monday 21st July 2025

A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the school year draws to a close, I want to thank you for your support during what has been my first year as Headteacher at Longlands Primary School. It's been a real privilege to join this community, and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our pupils, families and staff.

It has been a busy and rewarding year, filled with learning, creativity, teamwork and plenty of memorable moments. Our pupils have achieved so much – not just in the classroom, but in all aspects of school and through the way they've supported one another. I'm incredibly proud of them all!

To Mrs Short and our Year 6 leavers – we wish you every success in your next chapter. You've been a big part of our school, and you'll be missed. Good luck, and remember—you'll always have a place here with us as part of our Longlands family.

Mr Hulf will be taking much deserved early-retirement mid-September, so although Mr Hulf will be starting the new academic year with us, he will be leaving after a couple of weeks.

I'm grateful for the strong partnership between home and school that's continued to grow over the year. Your input, encouragement and involvement make a real difference, and I look forward to building on that in the year ahead.

Wishing you all a safe, happy and restful summer.

See you in September!

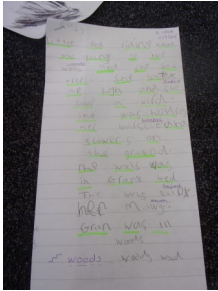
Mr Baines

Mr Baines

Head Teacher

EYFS

This last half term we have been learning about Traditional Tales and we found out that these stories have been told for hundreds of years and have lots of different versions with alternate endings! The children worked really hard to sequence the stories, retell them and write them. Some of them even made up their own different versions and became authors! They really loved the story of Little Red Riding Hood and created beautiful collages of Red Riding Hood in the woods and then wrote all about it. The children also really enjoyed designing a gingerbread person and then decorating one with real icing.



In maths we consolidated our understanding of odds and evens, doubles and halves and number bonds to 10.

We became super scientists and investigated how particles move in solids, liquids and gases and even drew a pictorial representation of this.

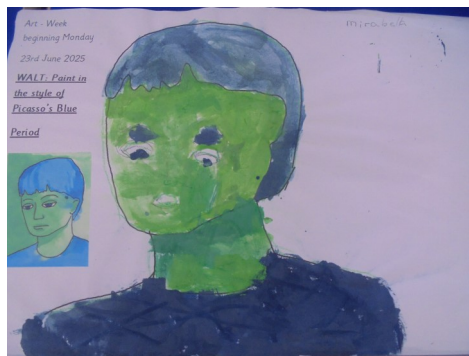
All the teachers are very sad that the children are moving on to year 1 but we know they are ready and we can't wait to watch them as they grow and develop more next year. Have a lovely summer everyone!

Mrs Allen, Ms Sheridan and Mr Murphy

KS1

What a busy end of the year KS1 have had. The children have all continued to work so hard and have made all of the KS1 staff very proud. This term, our book was 'If all the World Were' by Joseph Coelho and Allison Colpoys. The story follows the love between a little girl and her grandad and how, through memories, love can live on. The children have loved engaging with the story and exploring their own memories. The children have written their own stories about tigers, snakes or ships, as well as, creating their own memory books. In the story, one of the illustrations shows a kaleidoscope of memories, so the children worked together to create their own kaleidoscope. They then used this to write their own instructions, using imperative verbs and time adverbials. They have also worked on writing list poems about someone they care about and the memories from the story.

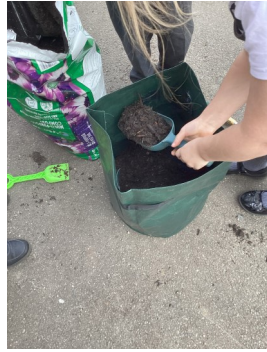
In Art, the children have been inspired by Pablo Picasso's blue period. The children have created portraits using oil pastels and watercolours. They also created self-portrait collages, using blue and green, as these were the colours Picasso used. The children have worked hard on using grid lines to ensure the features of the face were in the correct position and size. They have created beautiful pieces of art and they should be very proud of how their skills have developed.



Our History focus this term was on toys. We focused on learning about and comparing Victorian toys to the toys the children play with nowadays. We looked at how attitudes towards toys and play have changed, as well as how toys are made, what they are made of and the safety of toys. It has been wonderful to see the children's engagement but also how fascinated they were with the Victorian toys as we were able to rent a box of Victorian toys from Hall Place to show the children.

KS1 continued.....

To end the term, the children were able to pick the potatoes they grew. They worked together to wash and chop the potatoes. The children then eagerly waited whilst the potatoes were cooked. The children thoroughly enjoyed tasting the chips with many rating them ten out of ten! It was wonderful to see the children enjoy tasting something that they had grown themselves!



Overall, it has been a fantastic year. Each and every one of the children has made so much progress and has worked incredibly hard. We have loved teaching them this year and seeing their maths, creativity, sports skills and writing develop. We hope you all have a wonderful summer!

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

Lower Key Stage 2

What a fantastic end to this year!

*The children in LKS2 have really enjoyed our core text, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. In these last few weeks, they have worked incredibly hard on further diary extracts and written a narrative.*

As part of their continued studies in geography, the children have identified the oceans of the world and have made a study of the Atlantic Ocean, and also considered what Edward may have experienced as he lay at the bottom of the ocean.

In Science, the children have explored how magnets behave towards each other, forming theories to explain it. They have investigated magnets, to understand that they have 2 poles and that opposite poles attract and like poles repel. The children even created their own magnet games.

In DT, the children have been busy making their own rabbit pop up book. The children were able to share their books with the children from Monet and Matisse class.

All the teachers in LKS2 would like to say a huge well done to everyone for working super hard this year. We hope you all enjoy the summer break and we wish you good luck for the new term!



Miss Gayson, Miss Almond, Mrs Payton and Mrs Baines

Upper Key Stage 2

As we come to the end of a brilliant year, we wanted to take a moment to say how proud we are of our amazing Year 5 and 6 pupils. From the classroom to the playground, from residential trips to topic days, this year has been packed full of hard work, creativity, and laughter – and you've tackled it all with enthusiasm, resilience, and a great sense of fun.

A particular highlight has to be the incredible Year 6 production of *Back to the Future*. You wowed us with your confidence, talent and humour – and the way you brought 1996 to life on stage was nothing short of spectacular! It was a joy to watch you shine and to see just how far you've come.



To our fabulous Year 6s – we are so proud of everything you've achieved this year, and we'll miss you hugely. Good luck as you head off to secondary school – we know you'll be brilliant. Never forget your time here, and remember: the future is what you make it!

To our Year 5s – we can't wait to see what you'll achieve next year as the new leaders of the school. Have a well-earned rest and come back ready for your final year!

Have a wonderful summer everyone – and thank you for being such a fantastic bunch.

Mr Allen, Mrs Harris and Miss Childs

Gardening Club

Thank you to Mrs Svensen for running gardening club again this academic year. With beautiful flowering hanging baskets brightening up the playground, and lots of vegetables that the children have grown and harvested, it has been a popular club with the children. Most weeks we were lucky with the weather and the children were able to enjoy gardening in the fresh air.



Longlands Choir & Musicians

Mrs Harris and the Longlands School Choir have performed many times over this academic year including Young Voices, local care homes, xmas and summer fetes and of course our end of term concerts.

All the children have grown in confidence and the choir is increasing in number and we now have solo singers, pianists and guitarists. We look forward to many more performances in 2025/2026.



OPAL

We need to replenish some of our OPAL toys, if anyone has any of these items in good condition that they no longer need then please donate to the school office:

Spoons and whisks for the mud kitchen, colouring in books, cars/trucks/lorries, 3 wheeled scooters and water toys for the water trays.

Thank you Mrs Allen and Miss Gayson

Sports Day

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who joined us at our annual Sports Day. We were lucky to be blessed with such wonderful weather on the day.

We kicked off sports day with the KS1 and EYFS events. The children worked really hard in all the races. They should all be very proud of all their efforts on the day! It was lovely to hear all the children cheering each other on in their teams. A huge well done to the teams who won the individual events.

Then KS2 children gathered in their teams to take part in the events. The children took part in a variety of different events including long jump, sack races, hurdles and egg and spoon. It was great to see the children working hard in their teams, as they took part in their races. The overall winner for the KS2 events was Red team, so huge congratulations to them. It was wonderful to see so many of the year 6 children take part in the mini marathon. Well done to the winners!

I would also like to say a huge thanks to the Year 6 helpers and Mrs Ward for their support!

Miss Gayson



UKSA

What a lovely action-packed time we had at UKSA!

We were blessed with beautiful weather and we had an amazing time. The children enjoyed kayaking, paddle-boarding, keel boat sailing and raft building. They also enjoyed the slip and slide into the water!

It was brilliant to see all the children try these new activities and to see the enjoyment on their faces all day.

The children impressed me with their can-do attitude and their supportive nature towards each other.

I would like to say a massive thank to Miss Laughland, Mrs Harris and Mr Baines for their support during the trip. Also, a special thank you to Mr Beevers for keeping everyone up to date on our trip through the blog.

Miss Gayson



Dates for the diary 2025

Tuesday 2nd September—Children return to school

Tuesday 9th September—Bexley Selection Test

Wednesday 10th September—EYFS siblings first day at school

Wednesday 10th September—Year 5 ROCK UK meeting

Thursday 11th September—EYFS first day at school

Monday 22nd to Wednesday 24th September —Year 5 ROCK UK residential

Monday 29th September—Individual school photos

Wednesday 8th October—Year 6 UKSA launch meeting

Monday 13th October—Year 6 bikeability week

Monday 13th October—Skills builder week

Tuesday 14th October—Parents Evening

Thursday 16th October—Parents Evening

Monday 20th October to Friday 31st October—Half term



Attendance

Monet	91%
Matisse	97%
Murakami	95%
O'Keeffe	92%
Warhol	95%

Thomas	93%
Kahlo	94%
Basquiat	94%
Malone	94%
Ashevak	93%
Wei Wei	96%

Have a relaxing and fun summer break, from all at Longlands Primary

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday 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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

STAYING SAFE AROUND WATER

Enjoying time in, on, and around water plays a vital role in a young person's overall development, offering a healthy and exhilarating way to have fun. This guide outlines essential safety advice, based on the Royal Life Saving Society UK's Water Safety Code, to help ensure children can enjoy swimming and similar activities safely and responsibly.

1 STICK TO LIFEGUARDED AREAS

It's never advisable to enter unsupervised bodies of water, especially alone. Instead, it's considered best practice to accompany children to places with lifeguards, as they will be trained to respond swiftly in emergencies and provide first aid when needed.



2 LEARN SIGNS AND FLAGS

When going to a new environment, it's important to research the local area and make children aware of safety signage before entering the water. If visiting the seaside, make sure children are always supervised by an adult and that they know what different beach flags mean, so they're knowledgeable of where and when they can enter the sea.



3 STOP AND THINK

Young people should be cautious before entering water, as it's difficult to know what hazards could be underneath. Use the Water Safety Code and encourage children to ask themselves questions such as, "Is the water too deep or too shallow? Are there currents, tides, or underwater objects?" Make sure children know never to enter water from a height, as what lurks below could cause serious injuries.



4 CONSIDER WATER TEMPERATURE

Even on hot days, water can be deceptively cold. Tragedies strike when young people experience cold water shock. Never let children enter water quickly; instead, ensure that they enter slowly and carefully to allow their bodies to adjust to the temperature or exit easily if needed.



5 INFLATABLE SAFETY

Although inflatables may seem like a fun idea when visiting locations like the beach, they can float further out from shore and into more dangerous water. It's advisable only to use inflatables in spaces like appropriately managed swimming pools, where they're used in more controlled and supervised environments.



6 SUPERVISION IS KEY



For young children, and particularly those under the age of five, it's important for them to be supervised at home, outside and at the pool at all times. It's essential for parents and educators to understand that young children can drown quickly and silently; therefore, anyone supervising them must maintain constant watch in case they get into difficulty.

7 DON'T GO TOO FAR



When swimming, especially in open water, it's best to teach children to stay within a safe depth. Share advice with them such as only entering water up to a standing depth, and in the case of visiting the beach, swim parallel to shorelines. This will allow a child to stay in control and get out of the water easily.

8 KEEP POOLS AND TUBS DRAINED



For parents of young children, a simple way to protect them at home is to keep outdoor spaces and bathrooms tidy after playtime. This includes removing water from paddling pools after use and turning them over, returning lids to hot tubs and taking toys out of baths, so all water can be fully drained from the tub.

9 FLOAT AND CALL 999



If a child gets into difficulty in the water, they should try to float on their back, stay calm, and call for help. If a young person sees someone else in trouble, they should dial 999 or 112 immediately, then shout to reassure their friend, encouraging them to float on their back, and letting them know that help is on the way. Children should never enter the water to attempt a rescue or retrieve belongings.

10 TEACH WATER SAFETY



Beyond swimming lessons, children should be educated in school on water safety. Use RLSS UK's accredited programme, 'Water Smart Schools', which offers free lesson plans and resources on how to be safe on, near and around water by following the Water Safety Code.

Meet Our Expert

The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) is a national water safety charity that gives children the chance to enjoy a lifetime of fun in the water, safely. Water safety education provided in schools is vital and, in some instances, could be a child's only opportunity to learn about the water.

