



Longlands Primary School

Friday 13th February 2026

A Message from the Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of Spring 1, I just want to say a huge thank you for your continued support this half term. It has been a busy few weeks and the children have worked incredibly hard.

It has been lovely to see their enthusiasm in lessons, their creativity in their work and the way they look after one another and demonstrate our school values around school. From exciting classroom learning to enrichment activities and special events, the children have represented our school brilliantly. We are very proud of them.

Looking ahead to next half term, I also wanted to let you know about an upcoming change to how we communicate and manage payments. In March, we will be moving from Parentmail and Parent Pay to **Bromcom**.

Bromcom has a parent app which you will need to download in order to send and receive messages, make payments, update your details and access key information about your child. We will share more detailed information after half term, including simple instructions on how to download and set up the app. For now, please continue to use Parentmail and Parent Pay as normal until we let you know that the switch has taken place.

Thank you again for your support this half term. We hope you all have a lovely, restful break and we look forward to seeing everyone back for Spring 2.

Kind regards,

Mr Baines

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Head Teacher

EYFS

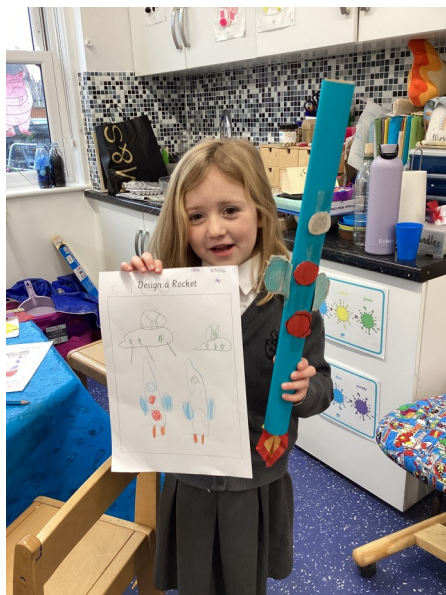
Our Space Adventure!

What an exciting half term we have had in Reception as we blasted off into our **Space** topic!

We have loved sharing some wonderful stories together, including "The Way Back Home", "Whatever Next!", "Aliens Love Underpants" and "Beegu". The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring these imaginative tales and using them as inspiration for our learning.

Our creative area has been very busy! We have:

- Made fantastic **alien pictures**
- Designed our own colourful and imaginative **underpants** (inspired by some alien visitors!)
- Created brilliant **salt dough aliens**, each one completely unique



EYFS continued.....

In **Maths**, we have been exploring **capacity**, learning to describe whether containers are *empty*, *full* or *half full*. The children have also been working hard on their **number bonds to 10**, using practical resources and games to help secure their understanding.

In **Phonics**, we are now well into **Level 3** and are incredibly impressed with the children's developing independent writing skills. They are becoming much more confident at using their sounds to write words and simple sentences all by themselves — we are very proud of their progress!

We have also enjoyed learning about **Lunar New Year**. This year is the **Year of the Horse**, and the children loved hearing the story of the Great Animal Race and discovering how the years were named.

It has been a fantastic half term full of curiosity, creativity and confidence. We are now very much looking forward to next term's exciting topic... **Dinosaurs!**



Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Allen, Ms Sheridan and Mr Murphy

KS1

This term KS1 has been learning all about Africa and its diverse landscapes, countries and cultures throughout Power of Reading text "Anna Hibiscus" and weekly Geography lessons.

Whilst the children learnt that Africa is an expansive continent made up of 54 countries, we focused our learning on the country Nigeria and its capital city Lagos. The children were lucky to have a visit from one of our parents, who shared her own experience of life in Nigeria. We were impressed to learn that Lagos has over 200 million people and that over 500 languages are spoken in Nigeria alone

Later in the term we visited the Horniman Museum where the children participated in a work shop about Africa. During the workshop the children learnt about a variety of things including life in a traditional African market, children's toys made using recycled materials and about the Maasai people and how they live peacefully alongside African wildlife.



As part of their writing journey, the children researched and wrote fact files about Africa, wrote postcards from the perspective of Anna Hibiscus and then wrote their own autobiographies where they shared favourite memories and their hopes for the future. At the end of the term they learnt about Haiku poetry and had a go at writing their own Haikus about Africa

KS1 continued.....

In Art the children explored the colourful fabrics and patterns used to create traditional Nigerian clothes including gele (head tie) and fila (cap). After studying a range of fabrics and prints the children had a go at planning their own patterns which they then used to create a stamp using cardboard, string and buttons. Once their stamps were completed they worked in pairs to create their own beautiful patterned fabrics inspired by those worn in Nigeria.



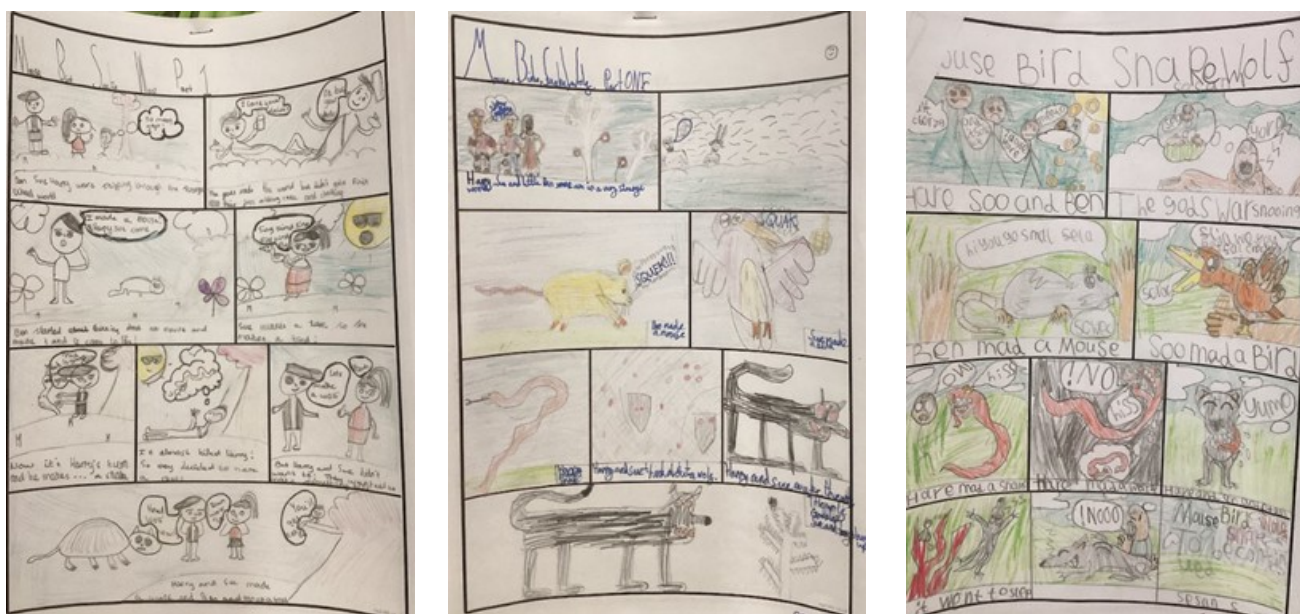
In PE KS1 children have enjoyed learning about Gymnastics. Learning how to safely tumble, cartwheel, headstand, shoulder stand and for some, even a handstand!

Enjoy the half term holiday!

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

Lower Key Stage 2

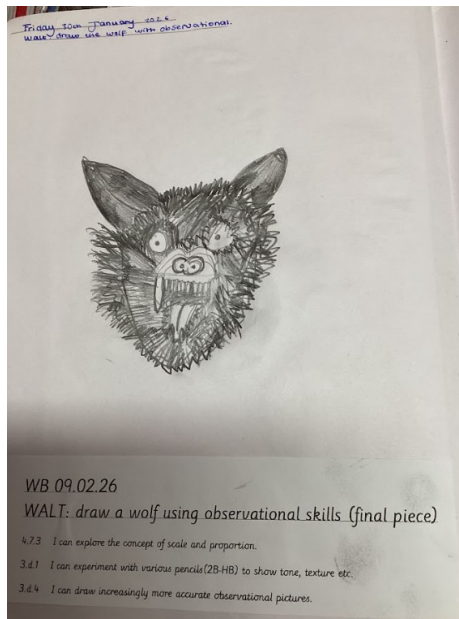
This term in LKS2, we have been reading 'Mouse, Bird, Snake, Wolf' by David Almond. Using this text, the children have written proclamations, letters, balanced arguments, and stories. The children also thoroughly enjoyed creating their own graphic novels complete with detailed pictures and speech and thought bubbles.



In Science, the children have been learning about different types of skeleton and the names of the different bones and muscles in the body. Using the chrome books, the children created their own google slides to demonstrate the three different types of skeleton. They were able to add images and change the colour of the background and the font.

Lower Key Stage 2 continued.....

In art, the children have been working on their sketching skills and they were very excited to try out sketching pencils. They created detailed pictures of the wolf from the story using shading and sketching techniques. The children have also been learning about Andy Goldsworthy and designed sculptures based on his work.



In music, the children have loved learning and singing our song this term: 'I'm like a bird' by Nelly Furtado. They used drums and shakers to keep the beat. The children even did an acapella version of the song.

In PE, the children have been working in groups to create their own dances complete with canon movements and counter balances.

As always, we are very proud of all the hard work that the children have demonstrated this term and we hope you all have a restful half term.

Miss Gayson, Miss Almond, Mrs Payton and Mrs Baines

Upper Key Stage 2

It has been another busy and exciting term in Upper Key Stage 2!



*In English, we have been inspired by *Just So Stories* and *Seasons of Splendour*. The children have produced some excellent pieces of writing, demonstrating creativity and ambitious vocabulary. From imaginative stories in the style of Kipling to hot seating and letter writing, we have been incredibly proud of the effort and quality shown across both year groups.*



In Design and Technology, the children designed and made their own stuffed toy elephants. They carefully practised sewing techniques, learnt how to create templates and considered how to join fabric securely. The finished products look wonderful and show great resilience and attention to detail.

In Maths, Year 6 have been developing their understanding of algebra, confidently solving equations and applying their knowledge to problem-solving tasks. Year 5 have been focusing on multiplication and division, as well as deepening their understanding of fractions. It has been fantastic to see growing confidence and fluency across the classes.

Upper Key Stage 2 continued.....

In Science, we have been learning about forces, including gravity, air resistance and friction. To bring our learning to life, the children designed, made and tested their own parachutes. They investigated how different materials and canopy sizes affected air resistance, recorded their results carefully and evaluated their designs thoughtfully. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm for practical science and scientific enquiry.

In Geography, we have compared the United Kingdom with India, exploring both physical and human geography. The children examined climate, landscape, population, trade and culture, developing a strong understanding of similarities and differences between the two countries.

In History, we have been learning about colonialism. Pupils explored the reasons behind the expansion of the British Empire and considered its impact, discussing both the motivations and the consequences for different countries and communities.

Well done to all of Year 5 and 6 for their hard work, enthusiasm and positive attitudes to learning this term!



Mr Allen, Mrs Harris and Miss Childs

NSPCC Number Day

Thank you to everyone for taking part in Number Day! The costumes were amazing and there was a variety of fun activities taking place across the school. The children thoroughly enjoyed their day whilst also learning about the fundamental work of the NSPCC.

It was very difficult to choose the winners of the Number Day outfits as clearly plenty of effort went into costume designs.

This year, the prizes went to William (EYFS), Ruby (KS1), Rupert (LKS2) and Anais (UKS2).

Happy Number Day from everyone at Longlands!



Dates for the diary 2026

Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February—HALF TERM

Tuesday 24th February—Young Voices

Thursday 5th March—World Book Day

Friday 6th March—UKS2 Science Museum

Friday 6th March—FOLS film night

Monday 9th March—Warhol class assembly

Monday 16th March—Kahlo class assembly

Tuesday 17th March—Rock Steady Easter Concert

Wednesday 18th March—Choir Easter Concert

Friday 20th March—Comic Relief

Friday 20th March—FOLS quiz night

Monday 23rd March—FOLS bunny hop week

Tuesday 24th March—Parents Evening

Thursday 26th March—Parents Evening

Friday 27th March—FOLS cake sale

Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April—Easter Holiday

Monday 13th April—Summer Term begins

Friday 17th April—UKS2 Imperial War Museum



Attendance

Monet	94%
Matisse	98%
Murakami	96%
O'Keeffe	94%
Warhol	93%

Thomas	96%
Kahlo	96%
Basquiat	96%
Malone	96%
Ashevak	92%
Wei Wei	94%