

Longlands Primary School

Tuesday 3rd November 2026

A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we look back on the first half of our Autumn Term and move towards the winter months, please can I ask for your support with a few practical reminders:

- **Winter uniform:** Please ensure children come to school dressed appropriately for the colder weather, following our school uniform expectations.
- **Shoes:** Children should wear suitable, comfortable school shoes each day. Please ensure footwear is appropriate for the school day and outdoor play. Trainers are only permitted on PE days.
- **Jumpers and cardigans:** Please make sure all school jumpers and cardigans are clearly labelled with your child's name. We already have a growing collection of unnamed items!
- **Coats:** As the weather becomes increasingly unpredictable, every child should bring a warm, waterproof coat to school each day. We aim to get outside whenever possible, whatever the weather!

A quick reminder that clearly naming all items of clothing, particularly jumpers, cardigans and coats, makes a huge difference in helping us reunite lost belongings with their owners.

Attendance and punctuality

A gentle reminder that **every day really does count** when it comes to children's learning, progress and development. Regular attendance helps children maintain friendships, build confidence and make the most of the learning opportunities available to them. Arriving on time is equally important, ensuring children can settle, feel prepared and start each day positively alongside their classmates. Thank you for your continued support in making sure children are in school, on time and ready to learn.

A message from the Headteacher continued……

Reading at home

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to make time for reading at home. Whether it is sharing a bedtime story, enjoying a favourite book together, listening to your child read or allowing them to explore a book independently, these small moments make a big difference. Reading regularly helps develop vocabulary, imagination, fluency and a lifelong love of books. Most importantly, make it enjoyable and celebrate the progress your child is making!

Online safety

I would also like to remind families about the importance of online safety. Please take an interest in the games, apps and websites your children are accessing, talk to them about staying safe online and ensure that appropriate parental controls and age restrictions are in place. Regular conversations about what children are doing online and who they are communicating with can make a real difference in helping them stay safe.

Keeping in touch – MCAS

Please remember that the MCAS (MyChildAtSchool) app remains our main communication platform for sharing important school information, updates and messages with families. We encourage all parents and carers to check the app regularly to ensure you don't miss key announcements, reminders or information about upcoming events.

If you have any difficulties accessing MCAS or updating your contact details, please get in touch with the school office, who will be happy to help. It is really important that we have up-to-date contact information for all families.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our parents and carers. A strong partnership between home and school makes such a difference to children's happiness, confidence and success, and we appreciate everything you do to support our school community.

Kind regards,



Mr Baines, Head Teacher

EYFS

What a fantastic start to the year we have had in Reception! The children have been working incredibly hard and we are so proud of everything they have achieved already.

We have been busy learning lots of our ***Level 2 phonics sounds*** *and the children are becoming more confident at recognising and using them. We have also been exploring colours, patterns and feelings, thinking about how we can recognise and talk about our own emotions.*

We celebrated ***Diwali****, learning about how and why it is celebrated, and enjoyed creating some beautiful artwork. The children have also been busy making their own* ***snake sock puppets*** *and exploring our Take One Picture inspiration through some fantastic crown pictures.*













EYFS continued……







In our exploration of light, we have been investigating different materials and discovering the difference between ***transparent, translucent and opaque****. The children have loved experimenting and finding out which materials let light through and which ones don't!*






We are so impressed with how quickly the children are settling into their new routines and embracing their learning. They have already remembered one of our most important messages: ***The more you practise, the better you get!*** *It is wonderful to see them developing confidence, resilience and a real love of learning.*

Next, we are looking forward to our new topics, ***Autumn and Night and Day****. There will be lots of exciting opportunities to explore seasonal changes, investigate the world around us and discover more about light and darkness.*

We will also be working really hard over the coming weeks as we begin preparing for our Christmas Concert, ***'The Sad Snowman'****! We are very excited to get started and look forward to sharing all the details with you soon.*

Well done, Reception! You have made an amazing start to the year and we couldn't be prouder of you all!

Mrs Allen, Ms Thomson and Mr Murphy

KS1

We've had a very busy and enjoyable term in Key Stage 1. The children have all settled into the routines of their classrooms and are enjoying their learning.

We started the term with our book called 'Out and About'. We performed poems about the seasons to the class, learning about intonation, rhythm and rhyme. We listened to poems and imagined which pictures we could see, drawing them and showing the class in our own gallery. The children had fun exploring, mud, sand, water and wind using this as inspiration for a poem, using adjectives to make it more interesting.





Later in the month we had a visit from the poet Neil Zetter who performed a series of his poems for us.

Our next book was called 'Winter Sleep', which was all about a little boy visiting Granny Sylvie's house throughout the seasons. We learnt that when winter approached the animals in wood all went into hibernation. We learnt about bats and dormice hibernating, making fact files.

KS1 continued……

During our final week we had Skills Builder and completed the Big Business Challenge. We created a business plan for a Christmas Shop and planned, designed and made our own Christmas decorations to sell in Autumn 2. Stay tuned for further information!

In maths, we have been working hard on number bonds, fact and families and have started our learning on addition and subtraction. We have been using rekenreks for our mastering number learning, as well as cubes, bead strings and counters to bring our learning to life.





For art this year, we started by learning about Andy Goldsworthy. We created patterns using things we found in nature. Following on from this, we did some colourful leaf printing, using colours inspired by the autumn leaves. Finally, we participated in the National Gallery's Take One Picture art competition where we used the mythical creatures in a painting to inspire our own that we planned, designed then made using plasticine.

We are looking forward to starting a new book after half term, as well as our nativity!

Miss Artis, Miss Taylor, Mrs Payton

Lower Key Stage 2

What a busy and exciting term we have had in LKS2! The children have been exploring new topics, developing their skills and enjoying lots of hands-on learning across the curriculum.

Our Power of Reading text this term was Ug. Set in the Stone Age, the story follows Ug, who simply wants to enjoy a more comfortable life! Inspired by the text, the children have produced some fantastic pieces of writing, including diary entries, comic strips, house adverts, mammoth fact files and instructions. We have loved seeing their creativity and imagination shine through!

In DT, the children took on the challenge of designing and creating a more comfortable pair of trousers for Ug. They put their newly developed sewing skills to the test, carefully designing and making their own trousers. To finish off their creations, they added some fashionable patches to give Ug a stylish new look!





We travelled back in time in History, exploring the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. The children learnt about the tools people used and discovered how their lives and ways of living changed throughout these fascinating periods of history.

In Geography, we became experts on volcanoes! We explored how volcanoes are formed and learnt about the different types. We also investigated earthquakes, discovering why they happen and what causes the ground to shake.

Lower Key Stage 2 continued……

Our Science topic has been all about rocks and soils. This learning came to life during our exciting trip to Lesnes Abbey, where the children took part in experiments using different types of soil. We also watched a volcano erupt and went fossil hunting, making some amazing discoveries – including shark teeth! What a fantastic experience!



In PE this term, we have been honing our tennis skills. The children have been developing their techniques and practising their skills through lots of fun activities. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and enthusiasm grow!

It has certainly been a term full of creativity, curiosity and exciting discoveries. Well done, LKS2, for all your hard work and enthusiasm. We are so proud of everything you have achieved!

Miss Gayson, Miss Almond, Miss Laughland and Mr Morand

Upper Key Stage 2

What a fantastic start to the year it has been for Years 5 and 6! The children have all settled in brilliantly, and we have been so impressed with their enthusiasm, positive attitudes and the effort they have put into their learning.

It has been wonderful to see them embracing new challenges, developing their confidence and showing such a great attitude towards their work.

We have certainly packed a lot into our first half-term!

In English, we have been exploring the wonderful adventure story Journey to the River Sea, following Maia's journey to the Amazon.

In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of place value, tackling increasingly challenging numbers and mathematical problems.

Geography has taken us across the Atlantic to Brazil, where we have explored the incredible Amazon rainforest and compared life in Brazil with our own surroundings here in Sidcup.

We have also been busy outside the classroom, enjoying a fantastic trip to the National Gallery as part of the Take One Picture project.



Upper Key Stage 2 continued ……

This provided plenty of inspiration for our own creative work, and the children have produced some truly amazing clay models inspired by the artwork. We have also been developing our basketball skills and learning about our class artists, exploring their work and taking inspiration from their individual styles.





We are incredibly proud of the start everyone has made and would like to thank the children for such a positive and enjoyable first half-term. We hope everyone had a lovely, well-deserved break and look forward to another fantastic half-term filled with learning, new experiences and plenty of fun!

Mr Allen, Mrs Ward, Mrs Sandford and Miss Childs

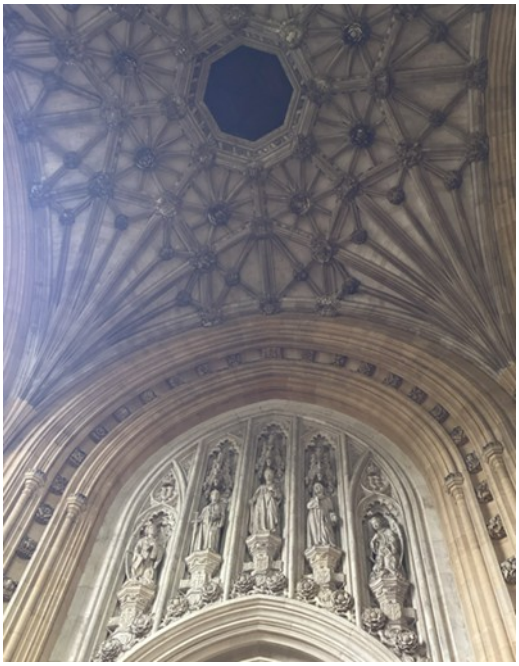
School Council

We have enjoyed two fantastic trips to the Houses of Parliament with last year's representatives and our new representatives for this year. During both visits, the children had a guided tour, where they learnt more about the history and workings of Parliament, before taking part in an engaging workshop. It was a brilliant opportunity for everyone to develop their understanding of democracy, leadership and how decisions are made.









Wrap around care

Please can we remind parents to book their required breakfast club and after school care sessions on MCAS. Please remember to book your sessions at least 8 days in advance.

If you have not used wrap around care before then please contact the office to complete the registration forms so that your child can be added to the register on MCAS.

Reminder of the opening hours:

Breakfast club: 07.30am to 08.45am

After school care: 15.15pm to 18.00pm (unfortunately there are penalty charges for any late collections)

Absence reporting

Any absence should be reported before 08.45am by an adult with parental responsibility via one of the following methods:

MCAS app

Telephone call to school office

Email to school office

Dates for the diary 2026

Monday 9th November—Weiwei class assembly

Tuesday 10th November—KS1 trip to Tower of London

Friday 13th November—Children in Need

Friday 13th November—FOLS disco

Monday 16th November—Kindness week

Monday 23rd November—UK Parliament week

Monday 23rd November—Basquiat class assembly

Monday 30th November—Ashevak class assembly

Wednesday 25th November—EYFS and Year 6 height & weight check

Thursday 3rd December—Rock Steady Concert

Monday 7th December—KS1 Nativity

Tuesday 8th December—KS1 Nativity

Wednesday 9th December—Christmas Choir Concert

Friday 11th December—Christmas Jumper & Dinner

Friday 11th December—Flu immunisation catch up

Thursday 17th December—EYFS Christmas Concert

Friday 18th December—After School Club closed

Friday 18th December—Last day of term!

Attendance

Monet	98%
Matisse	95%
Murakami	96%
O'Keeffe	97%
Warhol	94%

Thomas	98%
Kahlo	96%
Basquiat	98%
Malone	96%
Ashevak	97%
Wei Wei	97%