



The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton C of E Schools

Love your Neighbour as yourself so we can all aspire, believe and achieve to be the very best that we can be...

Hope - Honesty - Forgiveness - Friendship - Trust - Love



Spring 1 2026 Newsletter

Happy New Year Everyone! *

We hope you all had a wonderful break. We are very excited to welcome the children back for a new term full of learning, creativity, and fun in Early Years. Below is a little snapshot of what we will be exploring this term, linked to the EYFS Prime Areas of Learning.

2026

<h3>~Literacy~</h3> <p>In Literacy, we will continue to develop our phonics skills as we move on to Set 2 sounds . Children will practise recognising, saying, and using these sounds to help them read and write with growing confidence.</p> <p>We will also be practising reading our common exception words — those tricky words that don't always follow the usual phonics rules . Regular practice will help children recognise these words quickly and support fluency when reading.</p> <p>Set 2 Speed Sound Map</p>	<h3>~Mathematics~</h3> <p>In Maths, we will be securing our understanding of number. Children will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What comes first, next, and after • Finding the number in the middle • Understanding 2 more than a number, working confidently within 10 <p>We will then move on to a unit on measure, where children will explore mass and capacity . Through hands-on activities, pouring, filling, weighing, and comparing, the children will develop their understanding using practical equipment and real-life experiences.</p>	<h3>~Communication and Language~</h3> <p>We will be learning lots of new songs and exploring familiar Nursery Rhymes. The children will listen carefully, join in with actions, and talk about why these rhymes were written and what they mean. This supports listening skills, vocabulary development, and confidence in speaking.</p> <h3>~Physical Development~</h3> <p>In PE, we will continue our swimming sessions , helping children build confidence and coordination in the water.</p> <p>Every Thursday, we also enjoy dance sessions with 'Little Movers', led by our wonderful coach Holly — the children absolutely love these energetic and expressive sessions!</p> <p>We will also spend lots of time in our outdoor classroom, where children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test different materials for building and staying dry • Develop strength, balance, and teamwork through active play
<h3>~Expressive Art & Design~</h3> <p>This term, we will get creative using different types of paint and tools to create beautiful artwork inspired by UK animals. Children will explore colour, texture, and pattern while expressing their own ideas.</p>	<h3>~Personal, Social and Emotional Development~</h3> <p>This term, we are learning all about looking after ourselves. We will be talking about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of sleep and rest • Exercise and how it helps our bodies stay strong • Keeping clean and healthy • Different types of foods that give us energy and help us grow <p>Through stories, discussions, and play, children will be encouraged to develop independence, confidence, and an understanding of healthy choices.</p>	<h3>~Understanding the World~</h3> <p>Our topic this term includes an exciting look at the Moon Landing . We will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What an astronaut is • Why astronauts travel to the moon • About some special space missions <p>We will also be planting Spring bulbs and carefully watching them grow, helping children understand change over time and care for living things.</p> <p>In RE, we will explore what it means to be special to different people and families .</p> <p>We will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How babies are welcomed into Christian and Muslim families • How Hindus show love for one another through special festivals