

Term 1 Newsletter



Longcause
Community Special School

Key Dates

- Half Term Starts: Friday 24th October
- New Term begins: Wednesday 5th November
- School Photographs: Tuesday 11th November
- Family Project: 5th, 12th, 19th November

Our Attendance for this term is: 92.4%

A Message From The Head

Celebrating a Wonderful Start to the Term at Longcause!

What a fantastic term it has been! We are so happy to welcome all our new pupils and families-it's great to have you as part of our Longcause community.

We've loved launching our first family project of the year, and our youngest pupils' families have been joining us every Wednesday to work with different professionals, including Richard, our OT- it's been a joy to see families involved so actively.

A huge congratulations to our new assistant headteachers, Ella and Grace, on their promotions! We've also welcomed lots of new teaching assistants to the team, and we're excited to have speech and language students from Marjons working in our Explorer classes to help develop early communication skills.

We're thrilled to welcome Adam Fry back as an early careers teacher after completing his teacher training, and Siobhan has joined us as an ECT. Charlie and Vicky have also started their teacher training journeys with us -such exciting beginnings!

We can't wait for our harvest family activities and to see families joining us for our Family Conference this week.

Explorers Pathway News

Nic's Class

This term Nic's class have enjoyed welcoming new pupils and adapting to our new learning area. We have been exploring our 'senses' this term. Investigating flavoured ice, painting hands and feet, going for walks, making music and tasting new foods. What a great start to the school year.



Amber's Class

This term in Amber, Chloe and Vickie's class our topic has been all about 'Me!'. We have been learning to recognise ourselves in photos and explore self portraits by making marks on black and white photos of ourselves in paint. We then combined these pieces to form a beautiful group portrait collage. We love looking at it on the big screen in class to try and find our faces!



Jo & Rachel's Class

It has been a good first term in Rachel and Jo's Class. The pupils have been very busy learning new skills across a range of subjects.

In Catering, we have been exploring different types of carbohydrates, including pasta, couscous, and bread. The pupils especially enjoyed making their own pizzas, practising their measuring skills using measuring cups, and taking responsibility for washing up and putting equipment away in the correct place.

In Online Safety, we have been learning about how to keep a healthy balance between time spent online and time spent doing offline activities to support our mental health and wellbeing. The pupils enjoyed sharing their favourite activities they do offline.

In Geography, the class can now identify some of London's human and physical features. They are also able to locate London on a map, and explain why it is our capital city.

It has been a great start to the year, and we are so proud of how hard everyone has worked. Well done, everyone, for a brilliant first term!



Ella & Vicki's Class

This term in Ella and Vicki's class we have been embedding routines within the class alongside some amazing learning. The class have particularly enjoyed going for walks in community participation and looking at the local church in RE.



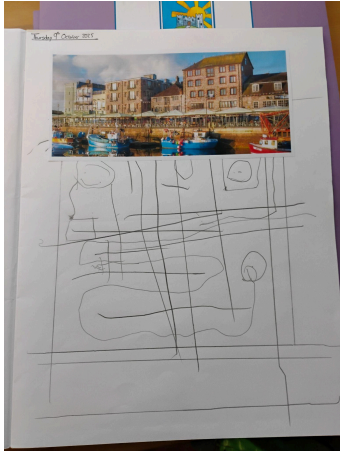
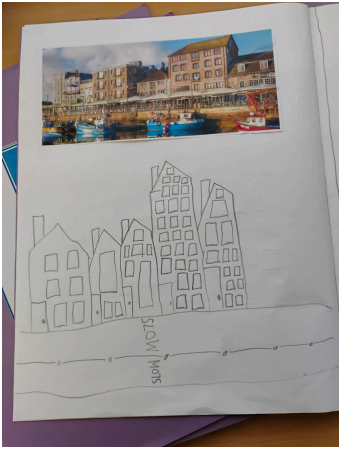
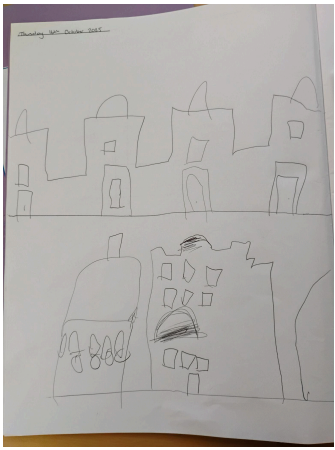
Harriet & Donna's Class

Donna and Harriet's class have been enjoying learning about different carbohydrates in catering, measuring, cooking and tasting rice and pasta. They have all been practising their skills in washing the dishes after cooking. We have seen some fantastic collaboration when the students have been sharing a work space and equipment, especially from our new pupils, who are forming great friendships whilst working together.



Lily's Class

This term in Lily and Adam's class we have been practising our drawing skills. We have been drawing our city scapes, using inspiration from the artist Stephen Wiltshire. The children have enjoyed using their skills to draw different cityscapes in Plymouth. They have paid attention to details such as windows and doors and then incorporated this into their artwork.



Adventurers Pathway News

Adam Class

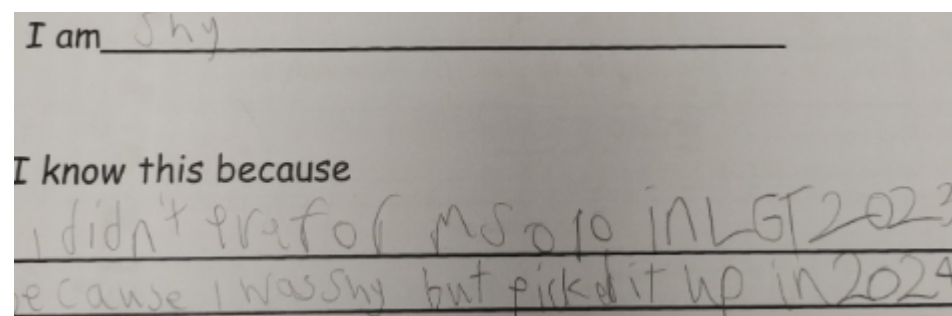
This term in Art, we have been learning about drawing by taking inspiration from Stephen Wiltshire. We have looked closely at the skills of using shapes, drawing to scale, foreground and background and creating different textures with our pencils. We have been drawing Smeatons Tower and using these skills with an aim to create a final piece of a cityscape.

Amanda & Siobhan's Class

This term in Computing we have had a lot of fun creating our own animations. We have looked at different forms of animation and used the ipads to make our own. We have used a storyboard to help us plan our ideas, thought about the background and the characters we would need. We have been able to think of ways to improve them. The end result was really good and has been lovely to see the class share them with others!






Beth & Karla's Class

This term in PR we have been learning about our personalities, qualities, strengths and weaknesses. The pupils have worked very hard on developing their understanding of what a 'personal quality' is and how it is different from a practical skill. Through lots of discussion the pupils now understand that personalities are complicated and everyone has strengths and weaknesses that they would like to improve.



I am shy

I know this because
I didn't prefer MSO10 INLGT2023
because I was shy but picked it up in 2024

Quality	When do I show this quality?
 chatty	When I meet new people
 lazy	When I don't
 shy	When I go on stage
 kind	When I give people presents
 unhelpful	When I sh out at someone

Gail's Class

This term, our class has had an exciting time using VR headsets to bring Geography lessons to life! We began by exploring the sights and landmarks of London, immersing ourselves in the city's rich history and culture. As part of our Weekly Visit sessions, we also travelled virtually to Iceland and Russia. These experiences have sparked curiosity and wonder in our pupils, giving them a unique opportunity to explore different countries and cultures in a truly interactive way. It's been a fantastic way to learn beyond the classroom walls!

Grace & Charlie's Class

This term, our Year 11 students have made an impressive start to their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award journey. They've embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and commitment, in both their volunteering and physical sections.

For their volunteering, students are making a real impact in two key areas. Some are taking part in Enviro Care, heading out into the community to litter-pick and help keep our local spaces clean and welcoming. Others are gaining valuable work experience in the school's Josta Café, where they prepare and serve paninis and soup to staff, learning customer service skills and how to operate the till.

The physical section is also well underway, running until February half term. Students have either done swimming—with a focus on achieving the 25-metre milestone—or multisports, which offers a variety of fun and active sessions. We're also introducing activities that students might not normally access after half term. This term, they've

been trying their hand (and feet!) at dancing, and it's been fantastic to see everyone getting involved with energy and enjoyment.

We're proud of how Year 11 have risen to the challenge and look forward to seeing their progress over the coming months!

Pupils using mobile devices in school

Pupils may bring mobile devices into school, but are not permitted to use them during the school day (unless specifically agreed in consultation with SLT and families). As a rule we encourage pupils to use the school office phones to call home when they require parent/carer support for emotional regulation.

Pupils who do bring their mobile phones in to school can arrange with their teacher to do one of the following to keep their device safe:

- keep the phone in the bottom of their bag, switched off and out of sight
- locked away in a teacher cupboard
- handed to a senior member of staff
- put into a box allocated by the teacher for their class phones

Any use of mobile devices in school by pupils must be in line with the acceptable use agreement.

Reminder of some helpful tools for parents

Google family Link

Who is in charge of my account?

Right now, your parent is in charge of your Google Account. They can use an app called Family Link to help manage your account until you're old enough to manage it yourself.

Your parent can do things like:

- Sign in to your account, change your account password, or delete your account.
- Set limits on when and how much you can use your devices, like phones or tablets.
- See where your phone or tablet is.
- Choose the apps you can use.
- See how long you use your apps.
- Manage content settings for some Google apps and sites, like Google Search, YouTube, or Google Play. These settings can change what you see.
- Manage the Activity Controls for your account, like YouTube History, including blocking you from managing these controls yourself.
- Review permissions for apps on your phone or tablet, like if apps can use your microphone, camera, or contacts.
- See, change, or delete information about your account, like your name, gender, or birth date.
- Approve your downloads and purchases in some Google apps and sites, like Google Play.

Apple family sharing:

<https://www.apple.com/uk/family-sharing/>

Absence Procedure

If your son/daughter is not in school due to illness then please contact the school office by 9.45am. It is ok to leave a message if phoning outside of school hours. If pupils do not require school transport, please ensure you inform them of this by contacting 01752 308770 (Plymouth City Council).





Safeguarding at Longcause Community Special School

If you are concerned about anything you see while you are here at Longcause, please ask to see one of the safeguarding team.

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Safeguarding Team	Safeguarding Team
				
Anne Hutchinson Head Teacher	Faye James Deputy Headteacher	Trudi Skinner Deputy Headteacher	Theresa Baldry-Lee Family Support	Jade Johnson-Sweet Family Support

If you have a concern regarding a member of staff, a volunteer or visitor, please see the Headteacher. If the concern is regarding the Headteacher, please contact our Chair of Governors.

If you have a concern regarding a member of staff, a volunteer or visitor, please see the Headteacher. If the concern is regarding the Headteacher, please contact our Chair of Governors.

Headteacher	Chair of Governors
	
<p data-bbox="416 680 616 707">Anne Hutchinson</p> <p data-bbox="277 712 756 741">ahutchinson@longcause.plymouth.sch.uk</p>	<p data-bbox="1007 680 1150 707">Fred Jenkins</p> <p data-bbox="879 712 1275 741">chair@longcause.plymouth.sch.uk</p>

If you feel there is any conflict of interest in reporting to the Headteacher or Chair of Governors, you can contact the Plymouth Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

<p data-bbox="794 898 863 925">LADO</p>
<p data-bbox="667 958 984 987">Sally Parma - 01752 306340</p>