Term 5 Newsletter



Longcause
Community Special School

Our Attendance for this term is:

89.86%

Key Dates

-Half Term Starts: Friday 22nd May 2026
-New Term begins: Monday 1st June 2026
-Explorer Swim Sessions begin: Tuesday 2nd June 2026
-Longcause Has Got Talent: Monday 15th June 2026 1pm
-HPV Immunisations Revisit Year 9,10,11: Wednesday 17th June 2026
-Year 11 Leavers Trip: Tuesday 23rd June 2026
-Year 11 Last Day: Friday 26th June 2026
-Whole School Trip to River Dart: Tuesday 7th July 2026
-Transition to New Classes: Wednesday 13th July 2026
- Summer Holidays Begin: Thursday 23rd July 2026

Half Term Activities

FREE Activities for children with SEND at the YMCA,

SENSATIONAL SPORTS!

Wednesday 4pm-4.45pm | 8-14 years old
Fun and inclusive multi-sport sessions for **SEND** children to enjoy the benefits of participating in sports.

(Parent/Guardian attendance is mandatory)

SENERGY

Thursday 4pm-4.45pm | 11-16 years old

Supervised gym sessions for young people with SEND, helping them to grow in confidence and improve their physical fitness

(Parent/Guardian attendance is mandatory)

SEN IN THE DEN!

Friday 3.30pm-5pm | 0-7 years old
Monitored soft play sessions for **SEND** children to explore and have fun in our Ocean City soft play area

(Parent/Guardian attendance is mandatory)

SEN-BOUNCE!

Saturday 4.30pm-5.30pm | 5-16 years old
Supervised bouncy castle sessions for SEND children to play across 3 inflatables.

(Parent/Guardian attendance is mandatory)

All sessions are led by qualified staff and hosted at/from YMCA Plymouth, Honicknowle Lane, PL5 3NG.

A Message From The Head

What a busy term it has been at Longcause. As many of you will now know, after very, very many years of dedicated service, Theresa Baldry-Lee will be retiring this summer. Theresa has been such a key part of our family team and has supported every family who has walked through our doors- we know she will be greatly missed. This week we interviewed for her successor, and we are delighted to share that Kelly will be joining us in September to continue this important work. We have also appointed Grace as our next Deputy Head, and we are so pleased to welcome her into this new role. Year 11 enjoyed a wonderful residential trip near Windsor, taking in Whipsnade Zoo, Legoland and Windsor Castle, and staying in a cosy lodge in Beaconsfield - the feedback from families has been incredibly touching and reminds us why these experiences matter so much. Looking ahead, we are hopeful to run another whole-school trip to River Dart Country Park next term, and of course we have two favourite fixtures returning: Longcause's Got Talent on 16 June and Sports Day on the final day of term. We can't wait to see our pupils shine, and to welcome families in to share the fun with us once again.



Explorers Pathway News

Jo and Rachel's class have enjoyed learning about the artist John Brickles and learning the skills to make their own sculptures inspired by his work.



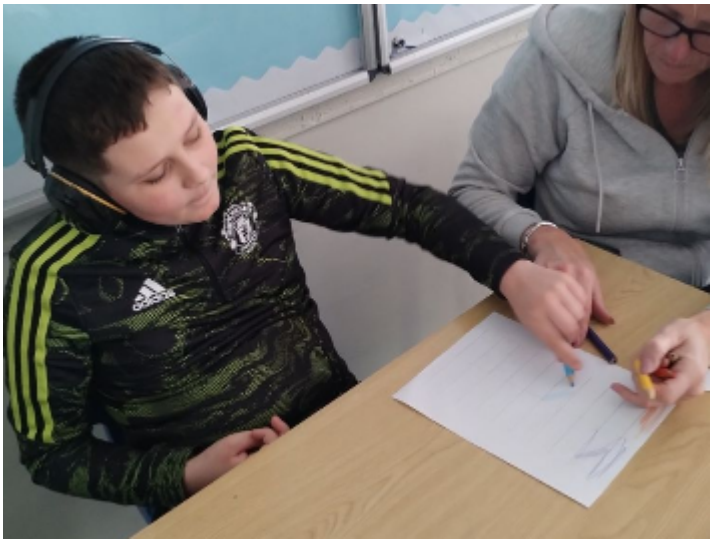


In Harriet and Donna's class we have been exploring clay to make sculptures of buildings after drawing our designs. We have also learnt lots about dental health including brushing our teeth and how plaque can cause tooth decay and cavities. We are also continuing to enjoy PE lessons, developing our skills in riding bikes.




In Ella and Vicki's class pupils have really enjoyed learning all about Ramadan. They tasted hummus, dates and dried fruit which are traditionally eaten at Iftar. They also made lanterns which are used to symbolise the start of Ramadan.





This term in Lauren's class we have been learning how to independently make toast. We are starting to use the toaster, and butter the bread. We are then able to follow our food tolerance skills for using our senses to decide if we like or dislike the food.





This term, we have had lots of fun learning all about our bodies! We have been practising important everyday skills like washing our hands and brushing our teeth, while learning to recognise different parts of our body.

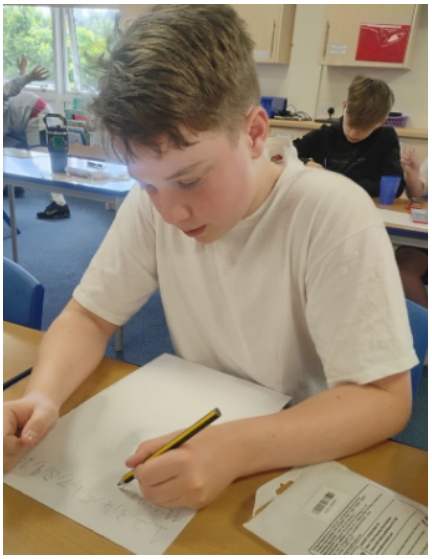
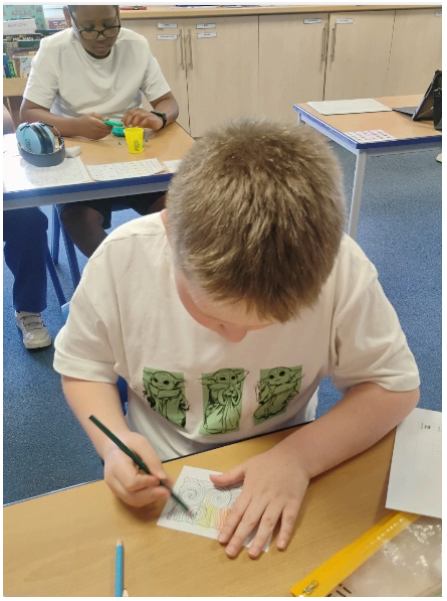
We have especially loved our PE sessions, where we have been using all our different body parts to explore movement, build confidence, and try out lots of exciting activities. It has been wonderful to see everyone joining in, having fun, and developing their skills throughout the term!



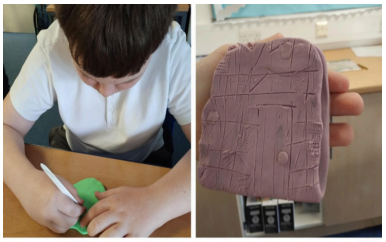


Adventurers Pathway News

In Amanda and Siobhan's class in Positive Relationships we have been thinking about the activities we like to do when we are calm. We have been learning how doing these activities when we start to feel worried or anxious can help us stay calm. We have explored a lot of different activities, and the students have enjoyed creating a calming classroom.

This term in Adam's class we have had fun learning about the sculptor John Brickles and looking at his pieces of work.
The children learnt different joining skills and how to add detail whilst using playdoh to make a building structure before moving on to clay.







Year 11 News

Some of our Year 11 pupils have been taking part in the link programme with Plymouth City College. We have been practising our travelling skills every Friday by catching the bus to and from College and taking part in various activities. They have made a clock, a birdhouse and have recently been improving their cooking skills with pasties and cake!!



Duke of Edinburgh News

Our Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh group successfully completed their two-day expedition this week. Over 20km were covered across the two days, taking in the beautiful natural surroundings of Stover Country Park, followed by a challenging walk from Longcause to Saltram and back. Despite the demands of the expedition, our brilliant pupils showed that with perseverance, teamwork and a positive spirit, great things can be achieved. They demonstrated resilience, determination and real character throughout.

They are a credit to themselves and to our school, and we are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished.





A Huge Thank You!

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Vicky & Richard Lakey of **R L Motor Services** for their incredibly generous fundraising at the recent Autism Awareness Ball. Their support has enabled us to purchase and install brand-new play equipment, creating a more inclusive, joyful, and engaging space for all our pupils.

This contribution will make a lasting difference to our school community, and we are deeply grateful for their commitment to always supporting our children.









Parking on Longcause Road to drop off or collect your child? Please Remember:

- 'School Keep Clear' are clearways, meaning no stopping and definitely no parking, not even to drop off or pick up passengers. These markings are designed to allow a clear view up and down the road for children (and pedestrians) to cross safely.
- Park in a way that doesn't obscure the view of any crossing place – please avoid parking on the stretches of road opposite zigzags, and be conscious of the public footpath that exits on to Longcause where the double yellow lines are on the opposite side of the school drive exit.
- Keep the view around junctions clear so that children and pedestrians can cross safely.
- Be considerate to local residents by avoiding parking across or turning around in driveways.

If you can, please:

- Try to park further away from school. This has several advantages – you may find it easier to find a space and to turn your car around for your return journey. It will also be an opportunity for your children to practise walking safely with you by teaching them pedestrian road safety skills.
- Keep your car off the pavement at all times. No one (especially children, people with a pushchair, in a wheelchair or with reduced mobility) should have to step on the road because of cars parked on the pavement.
- Performing U-turns in junctions is a dangerous manoeuvre and it makes it difficult for other road users (especially children) to understand your intentions.

- Remember that it is much safer for your child to enter and exit your car from the safest side i.e. opposite the side of the road.
- Turn off your engine as soon as your vehicle is parked.



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.

Headteacher	Chair of Governors
	
Anne Hutchinson ahutchinson@longcause.plymouth.sch.uk	**Fred Jenkins** chair@longcause.plymouth.sch.uk

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)

LADO
Sally Parma - 01752 306340