

Ofsted Good Provider

December 2025

Laira Green Primary School
Shaping hearts, minds and futures

BE KIND, *BE* DETERMINED, *BE* PROUD

Dear parents and carers

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on all that we have achieved together as a school community.

One of the highlights of this term has been the incredible generosity shown by our children, families and staff. Through our Children in Need fundraising and other events, we have raised a significant amount of money both for charity and for our own school. This truly demonstrates the strength of our community spirit and the children's understanding of helping others.



In recent months, we have also been proud to support other schools, welcoming many visitors into our building. Without exception, they have commented on the calm, welcoming atmosphere of our school and the exemplary behaviour and manners of our children. This is a credit to the high expectations we hold and to the children themselves, who represent our school so positively.



Our pupils have enjoyed a wide range of trips and educational visitors designed to enhance their learning and bring the curriculum to life. We are delighted that we are still able to offer these experiences free of charge as part of our curriculum offer, ensuring that every child can take part and benefit fully. In addition, the majority of our children are now accessing extra-curricular clubs. This is an incredible achievement and provides our pupils with a rich variety of experiences beyond the classroom.

This term has also seen some changes within our staff team. We said farewell to Mrs Simpson and Mr Gotham, thanking them for their valued contributions to our school, and we were delighted to welcome Mrs Watts to our preschool team.



As we look ahead to next year, there is so much to look forward to, with many exciting trips and visits already planned. We ended this term on a real high with our whole-school pantomime, which was a wonderful treat for everyone, and our Christmas Nativity, Concerts and lunch, which brought the entire school together in a truly festive and joyful way.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish all our families a happy, restful break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting term ahead on Tuesday 6th January.

Mrs Claire Jones



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Dates for your Diary

Tuesday, 6th January

First Day of Term 3

Extra-curricular clubs begin

Friday 9th January

Y2 virtual author event - Just Imagine: Nathanael Lessor

Monday 12th January

Year 1 Visit to Torquay Museum

Thursday 15th January

Parenting Pathway being run in The Dell Centre - Plymouth Family Hub

12:30-2:30pm

Thursday 22nd January

Parenting Pathway being run in The Dell Centre - Plymouth Family Hub

12:30-2:30pm

Tuesday 27th January

Heathy Smiles to apply fluoride varnish to teeth RSC and 1MM

Thursday 29th January

Parenting Pathway being run in The Dell Centre - Plymouth Family Hub

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CLASS UPDATES

Preschool





This month has been full of festive fun and creativity in Preschool! As part of our 'Autumn Adventures' theme the children have continued learning and reciting seasonal rhymes, including Dingle Dangle Scarecrow and I Hear Thunder, which they shared with great enthusiasm. Preschool were fascinated by scarecrows and learnt that they are often made from straw. They took great delight in making their own miniature scarecrows utilising real straw and developed their fine motor skills by using scissors to do this. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in their first Christmas show, Twinkly Nativity, where they sang, signed and danced for a wonderful audience. For our final week in school this term, the children have embraced Christmas and our focus rhyme Twinkle Twinkle Christmas Lights. A highlight of the week was being able to welcome parents into school for our Christmas craft afternoon, where children and adults worked together to make a variety of Christmas creations. Alongside all of the festivities, the children have continued to develop their understanding of number and tuning into sounds. Our oldest children have explored how numbers to 5 can be made in different ways, whilst our younger Preschoolers have focussed on counting in real life contexts, including setting the table in the Home corner for a tea party. During our tuning into sounds sessions, the children's ability to focus and their phonological awareness has developed greatly over this half term and we are very proud of all that the children have achieved. It has been a joyful and memorable end to the term.

Reception





What a busy month it has been in Reception! They have enjoyed some fantastic learning through their Underwater Explorers topic, using Beebots to develop their early coding skills and creating colourful paper plate crabs as part of their creative work. Much of their learning was centred around their class story 'Bright Stanley and the Mermaid's Tale', which inspired lots of excitement and creativity. The children continue to show an exceptional attitude towards their Phonics learning, becoming increasingly confident in both reading and writing. They have also demonstrated a very positive attitude in Maths, developing their number sense and learning how to share objects equally. In Music, the children have enjoyed learning new songs and rhythms and exploring a range of instruments. It has been wonderful to see their progress in PE as they continue to build on their fundamental movement skills. Next term, the children will embark on an exciting new adventure as they become pirates in their 'Ahoy M' Hearties' topic, learning everything they need to know to sail the high seas. The children delivered a delightful performance in the Twinkly Nativity, showing growing confidence and pride in their achievements. The entire Reception team is incredibly proud of each and every child. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

CLASS UPDATES

Year 1

What a wonderfully busy and festive month it has been in Year 1! Despite the excitement of the Christmas countdown, the children have shown fantastic focus and determination across all areas of their learning. We are incredibly proud of their positive attitudes, resilience, and enthusiasm, well done, Year 1! In English, the children have been learning all about instructions. They explored what makes a good set of instructions and identified key features such as bossy verbs, clear steps, and sequencing. They then put their learning into practice by carefully following instructions to bake festive shortbread, create beautiful snowman lanterns, and design Christmas cards. These hands-on activities were a big hit and helped the children see how instructions are used in real life. In Maths, we have been investigating 2D and 3D shapes. The children have enjoyed identifying, naming, and describing shapes, as well as exploring their properties such as sides, corners, faces, and edges. They have shown great curiosity and confidence when sorting and comparing shapes in different ways. Our Geography lessons have focused on understanding key features on a map. The children learned how maps can help us find our way and explored symbols and simple directions. They even followed maps around our school grounds to hunt for clues, which was both exciting and educational. In Science, the children carried out simple tests, exploring different materials, including water. They began developing important scientific skills by making predictions and writing up their results, showing great curiosity and thoughtfulness. Finally, in PE, our focus has been fitness. The children have been working hard to improve their strength, stamina, and coordination while enjoying active and energetic sessions. Thank you for your continued support. We wish you a joyful and restful festive season and look forward to an exciting new term ahead!

Year 2

What a busy month we have had in Year 2! Our learning has been filled with plenty of excitement. The children have really enjoyed our English learning based on 'Man on the Moon', a Christmas advert. It has been great fun to write this story, as well as use 'Baboon on the Moon' to compare the two tales. Another busy part of our December has been preparing for the Christmas Concert. The children did such a fantastic job of learning the songs and rehearsing day in, day out, and I'm sure you'll agree that their performance was wonderful. In DT this month, the children have worked incredibly hard to build strong, stable chairs fit for a bear! We were blown away by the children's determination and effort, as well as their innovative ideas and problem-solving skills. The children were so proud of the products they created. In our Geography lessons, Year 2 have been learning facts about our world, including the seven continents, the five oceans, countries and capital cities, in the United Kingdom and the different climate zones on Earth. Well done for your brilliant hard work this month, Year 2. Merry Christmas!





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CLASS UPDATES

Year 3

Wow! What a Christmas-filled month it has been in Year 3. Thank you so much to all the adults who were able to come along and support our Christmas sing-along. The children always love sharing their learning with you and were so proud to perform. In English, the children have really enjoyed learning from the book and film The Snowman. They produced some fantastic descriptions of the characters and settings, thinking carefully about how the characters move, what they might be saying, and how the story unfolds. In Maths, the children have been working hard to master their times tables to support their multiplication and division learning. We even created a dance for each times table to help build muscle memory. As we came to the end of our French unit, the children loved learning the names of animals and sharing their work with our French partner school. They really enjoyed watching the videos sent to us and we were very impressed with their confident pronunciation. In PE, the children have been developing their understanding of invasion games and applying these skills to our tag rugby unit. They have learned many new skills, with a strong focus on teamwork and cooperation. During Science, the children explored different types of rocks and carried out experiments to compare their properties. They showed great curiosity and enthusiasm as young scientists. We are incredibly proud of all the hard work the children have done this term and are very excited to start a new term of learning after Christmas. Thank you for your continued support – we wish you all a happy and restful holiday!

Year 4

It's been another busy month for Year 4! We began the month with our geography field trip to the city centre, where the children confidently carried out questionnaires with members of the public. They discovered who has lived in Plymouth all their lives, who has moved or is visiting, and the reasons why. When we got back to school, we used the data to create a colourful bar chart to show the reasons people migrate to Plymouth. In DT, we've loved getting creative with paper-mâché to make helmets that are both strong and protective. The children worked in groups of four to design and create their helmets, and they demonstrated fantastic teamwork throughout the whole project. In Science, we have been exploring changing states. We've carried out lots of mini experiments, including investigating pouring solids, measuring the temperature of hot and cold water over time, and acting out how particles behave in different states. It has been wonderful to see the children develop their working scientifically skills. Towards the end of the month, the children completed their Reading and Maths assessments. Every single one of them worked incredibly hard and they've already made fantastic progress. The Year 4 staff would like to wish the children and their families a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Year 5

December has been a wonderfully busy and memorable month for 5LS, filled with learning, celebration and festive fun. We thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas sing-a-long, where everyone joined in with great enthusiasm and festive spirit and it was especially lovely to combine this with Makaton signs. We were also very fortunate to welcome a Muslim visitor, Rania, who spoke to us about Hajj and shared her own personal experiences, giving us a meaningful insight into her faith and journey.

Alongside these enriching experiences, the children worked extremely hard to complete their assessments, showing focus, resilience and pride in their achievements. We also celebrated finishing our Joy of Movement sessions with PAFC, which helped us build confidence, teamwork and enjoyment through physical activity. A real highlight of the month was the visit from the pantomime, Peter Pan, which brought lots of laughter, excitement and festive cheer to everyone. As December comes to an end, we are proud of all that has been achieved and are very much looking forward to the New Year, with fresh opportunities and new challenge

CLASS UPDATES

Year 6

It has been a fantastic December in 6CL. In English, we have enjoyed planning and creating our own fairy tales using the Christmas Tale story cards, developing skills with parentheses, relative clauses and punctuation for speech - all whilst writing engaging stories with ambitious vocabulary! In Maths, the children have made good progress with units of measure and conversions, performed very well in their end-of-term assessments, and started learning about ratio to prepare them for next term. In Reading, we finished Wolf Wilder and loved the ending! We enjoyed discussing the key themes running throughout the text, including the theme of love, belonging and strength, and we also enjoyed completing our REN book quiz to demonstrate our understanding of the book. In DT, the children have continued sewing and creating prototype bags from their design sketches. They have also enjoyed adding their finishing touches to their final product. Next, they need to complete their evaluations to see if their product met the design brief. In PE, 6CL have focused on developing a range of shots to use (in a Badminton game) to keep rallies going, learning to score points, play competitively and serve correctly. We are so impressed with the improvements they have made with serving and rallying successfully! In PSHE, the children explored examples of people with disabilities who lead amazing lives and discussed how differences can be both a source of conflict and a reason for celebration. Well done 6CL for a brilliant term of learning and progress!



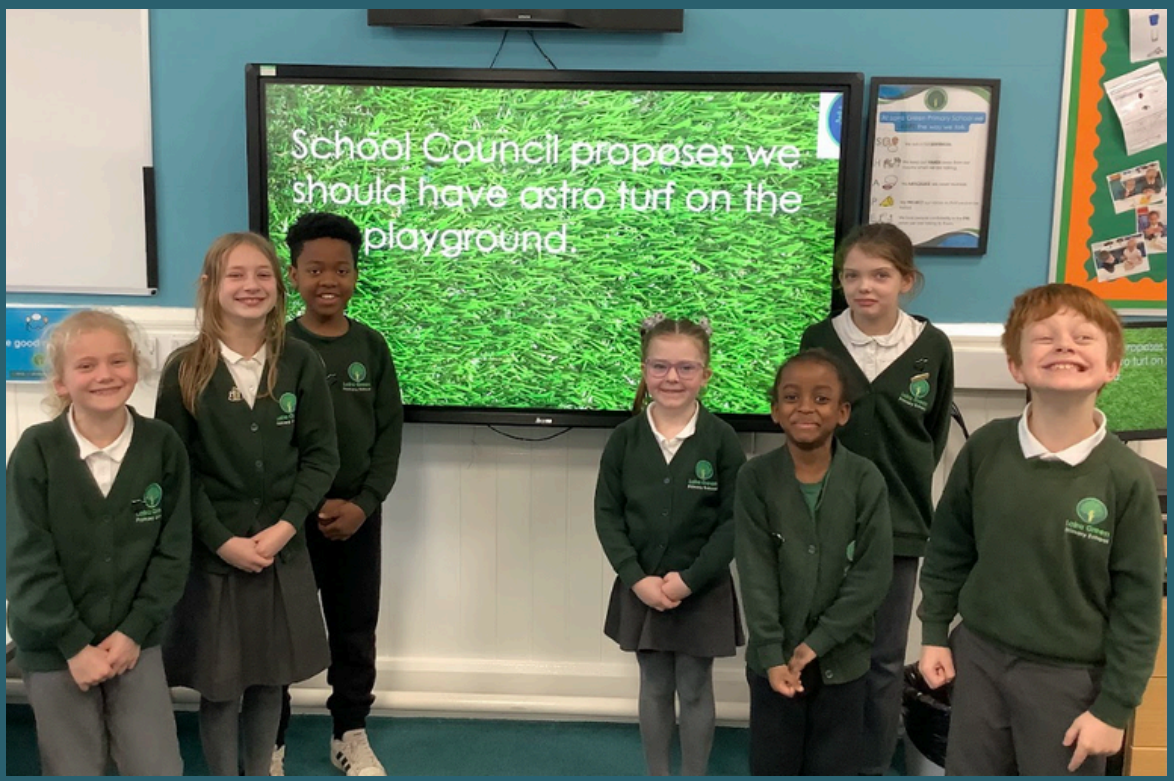
Year 6

What an excellent end to 2025 for 6LG! We are half way through our next class novel, 'Street Child', which follows a young boy on the streets of London during the industrial revolution. It's adding real colour to our previous History learning, and we are all hoping that Jim will find good fortune soon! In both English and Maths all the children worked really hard for their end-of-term assessments - we've now got an excellent foundation to build on! The children have been working hard to write short festive stories suitable for younger children, and are very excited to be sharing these stories with our friends in KS1 before Christmas! In Geography, the children have been working hard to collect, analyse, present and evaluate data about our school environment. They have used tables and bar graphs to present data, and talked about ways to improve the reliability and usefulness of future data collection. Some of these skills have also transferred well into our Science learning, where the children conducted investigations into the extent at which increased voltage would increase the volume of a buzzer - with some surprising results! In both RE and Music there has been a bit of a 'celebration' theme - in RE considering the festival of Christmas, and the different secular and religious ways in which this occasion is marked. In Music, the children have been working together to compose and perform short pieces of celebratory music using a variety of percussion instruments, and are very proud of their progress! We all worked hard to learn and perfect the wide range of songs we shared in the Christmas Singalong, and were delighted to see so many of our family and friends in the audience. We think the children are ready for a well-earned rest now, to prepare them for their final 'new year' at Laira Green!

Laira Green Primary School Council

Our School Council have been busy this month working on a presentation linked to one of their manifesto ideas – exploring the possibility of astro turf on the KS2 playground. They have carefully considered the advantages and disadvantages and are finalising their presentation to share with Mrs Jones and their classes in the New Year. Following this, all pupils will be invited to have their say.

Last year, our School Council were proud to promote and collate evidence from our community to achieve the SuperKind Award for our school, and we are hoping to achieve the award again this year. Our school councillors have begun finding out about SuperKind and how we can show the children of Laira Green Primary School are making a difference in the community through fundraising and positive social impact. Be Kind, Be Determined, Be Proud underpin everything that we do and the award promotes our values through fundraising and positive social impact changes we make as a community. Everything from fundraising, donations, litter picking, making posters and volunteering are all logged to show how through our individual actions, together we can make a difference.



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If you like...

Lottie Brooks

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A Polite Reminder About School Uniforms

As we continue through the school year, we would like to remind families of the importance of following our school uniform expectations. At Laira Green Primary, wearing the correct uniform helps every child feel part of our school community and supports a sense of pride and belonging.

We appreciate your support in making sure your child attends school in the correct Laira Green Primary uniform each day. Working together, we can maintain the positive, welcoming learning environment we value so much.

- **Dark grey pinafore, trousers, shorts or skirt.**
- **Laira Green Primary School jumper or cardigan with our logo.**
- **White Polo Shirts.**
- **Plain black school shoes (not including boots) or plain black trainers.**





A Month in Pictures



















A Month in Pictures

















