

Ofsted Good Provider

January 2026

Laira Green Primary School
Shaping hearts, minds and futures

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

Dear parents and carers

Welcome back to a New Term. It is hard to believe that Christmas already feels like a distant memory, but it has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school and see the children settling so quickly into the new term. Thank you, as always, for your continued support in ensuring children arrive at school every day and on time. Good attendance and a strong daily routine play such an important role in helping children feel secure, confident and ready to learn, and we really appreciate the commitment shown by our families.



Our Year 6 pupils have begun their preparation for SATs, and we could not be prouder of the mature and positive way they are approaching this important stage of their learning. Their focus, resilience and determination have been fantastic to see.



It has also been lovely to see so many children taking part in our extra-curricular clubs. We remain incredibly proud to be able to offer such a wide and varied range of activities at no cost to families, ensuring every child has the opportunity to explore new interests and develop their talents.

We are very excited that work on the new astro turf has now begun. We know this will be an amazing addition to our school and will benefit children for many years to come. A huge thank you goes to our School Council, whose hard work and dedication helped make this project a reality.



I would also like to raise an ongoing concern regarding dog mess around the school site and surrounding areas. We are currently speaking with local councillors about this issue, but we kindly ask parents and carers to report any incidents you see, particularly around school entrances and pathways. Reports can be made online at:
www.gov.uk/report-dog-fouling

Finally, we are very much looking forward to our upcoming children's progress meetings. There is still time to book your appointment online or via the school office, and we are excited to share how much progress the children have made so far this year.



Thank you, as always for your continued support.

Mrs Jones

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Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 3rd February

Y2 trip to Efford Valley

Wednesday 4th February

5LS Trip to Synagogue

Thursday 5th February

Parenting Pathway being run in The Dell Centre 12:30 - 2:30pm

Monday 9th February - Friday 13th February

Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 9th February - Friday 13th February

Wonky Week

Monday 9th February

3MT Trip to Piety – Plymouth Islamic Education Trust

Monday 9th February - Friday 13th February

No extra-curricular Clubs all week

Monday 9th February, Tuesday 10th February and Wednesday 11th February

Children's Progress Meetings

Tuesday 10th February

Safer Internet Day

Thursday 12th February

Inclusion Parent Drop in 9am - 10am- The Dell Centre

Thursday 12th February

Parenting Pathway being run in The Dell Centre 12:30 - 2:30pm

Friday 13th February

6CL Virtual Author Event

Friday 13th February

Last Day of Term 3

Monday 23rd February

First Day of Term 4

Monday 23rd February

Sonopera Interactive Concert - Whole School

Wednesday 25th February

Year 5 visit to Buckland Abbey

Thursday 26th February

Parents Attendance Drop In session

Thursday 26th February

Parenting Pathway being run in The Dell Centre 12:30 - 2:30pm

Friday 27th February

Preschool Virtual Author Event

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CLASS UPDATES

Preschool





Preschool settled straight back into school life when they returned from the Christmas holidays and we welcomed several new friends with warmth, kindness and lots of smiles! The children have shown excellent engagement with our new theme of 'Helping hands' and have especially enjoyed dressing up and taking on the roles of everyday heroes. We have seen firefighters, doctors, hairdressers, police officers, chefs and bus drivers busy at work in our preschool classroom this month! The children have enjoyed revisiting some familiar nursery rhymes such as 'Miss Polly Had a Dolly' and 'The Wheels on the Bus' as well as learning new ones including 'London Bridge is Falling Down' and 'This is the Way We (Brush Our Teeth). The children were fascinated by the role of a doctor and by using books, as well as our own experiences, they learnt all about the different ways that doctors and nurses help us. In our home corner, a doctor's surgery was set up and the children learnt how to use real bandages. As part of their independent learning time, the children have been exploring pictures of bridges and worked collaboratively to create their own. They especially relished the opportunity to use magnetic shapes to create some elaborate designs. In our number sessions, our oldest children have been exploring the new numbers six and seven, whilst our younger preschoolers have focussed on developing their counting skills for small amounts of objects in a variety of contexts. During our tuning into sounds sessions, the children have encountered the new phonemes-d, g, o and c. One of our favourite games to play in these sessions is 'name play' where we make up funny, alliterative phrases with the children's names. What an amazing start to 2026 preschool. Well done!

Reception





The Reception children have made a fantastic start to the year and are fully immersed in their exciting new topic, 'Ahoy Me Hearties!'. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and focus in all aspects of their learning. So far, the children have explored what it takes to become a pirate, followed instructions to create pirate flags and pirate hats, and designed their very own treasure maps. They have also enjoyed designing and building pirate ships using recycled materials, before testing them in water to see whether they float or sink. In Phonics, the children are applying their knowledge confidently to read and spell words. They are beginning to develop the confidence to write simple sentences, using their Phonics skills effectively. Please continue to support your child's reading by recording their reading on the BoomReader app - thank you! In Maths, the children have demonstrated a strong understanding of how numbers can be made up of two or more smaller numbers and are beginning to develop their understanding of number bonds to 10. PE lessons have been super, with the children developing their ball control during our Ball Skills unit. They have been practising throwing and catching, and developing their hand–eye coordination. Well done, RSC!

CLASS UPDATES

Year 1



This term, Year 1 have been busy learning across the curriculum! In Computing, the children have been learning how to programme robots to follow directions, developing their problem-solving and logical thinking skills. In PSHE, we have been thinking about our dreams and goals and discussing how we can achieve them by taking small, manageable steps.

In Maths, the children have been comparing numbers to 20, using practical resources and number lines to support their understanding. In English, they have enjoyed inventing their own versions of Don't Spill the Milk, creating imaginative journeys for their characters and sharing their ideas through writing. Our Science learning has focused on the seasons. The children have also been looking closely at plants, identifying and labelling their different parts. In History, we thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Torquay Museum, where we learned about the Ancient Egyptians. Back in class, we have explored the River Nile and discussed why it was so important, as well as the different jobs people did in Ancient Egyptian society. In Art, the children have been exploring primary colours and experimenting with mixing and creating their own artwork. Well done, Year 1, for your enthusiasm and hard work!







Year 2

What an exciting start to the new year we've had in Year 2! The children have thrown themselves into their learning with enthusiasm and determination. In Maths, we've been exploring the world of money. The children have been learning to recognise different coins and notes, count amounts and even work out change. Our English learning has been based on the fantastic book 'The Day Louis Got Eaten'. We were captivated by this imaginative story and have produced some brilliant creative writing. In PE, we've been focusing on gymnastics. Year 2 have been developing their balance, coordination, and control as they've learned different shapes and balances. Computing this month has seen the children learning about taking good photographs. They've explored how to frame shots and capture interesting subjects. Our History learning has taken us back to 1666 to learn about The Great Fire of London. The children have been fascinated by this significant event and have learned about how the fire started, how it spread and the impact it had on London. They've shown great historical thinking skills as they've compared life then and now. Well done for all your hard work this month, Year 2. You've made a fantastic start to 2026!

CLASS UPDATES

Year 3

This month in Year 3, the children have thrown themselves enthusiastically into their new learning for the year. One of our favourite subjects has been French, where we are exploring French musical instruments and confidently using songs to help us memorise key vocabulary. We especially enjoy sending videos to our French partner school, who regularly comment on how fantastic our pronunciation is! In maths, we have been learning about different units of measurement, including comparing and converting. The children have loved measuring objects around the classroom, measuring each other and even seeing how far they can jump! Our history learning has captured everyone's interest as we begin our new topic on the Shang Dynasty. We have been fascinated by how historians know about the past and have linked this learning to our English non-fiction unit, Why did the Shang write on turtles? By making these connections, the children are using their history knowledge to write fluently and confidently in English. In gymnastics, the children have secured their understanding of shapes, jumps and rolls and are now beginning to combine these movements to create sequences and routines. They are showing great skill, technique and motivation as they work together and challenge themselves. Year 3 have made a fantastic start to the year, and we are very proud of their enthusiasm and progress across the curriculum.









Year 5

5LS have had a great start to their learning in 2026! In maths, the children have been working incredibly hard to master column multiplication and short division, showing real determination as they build confidence with these important written methods. In English, we have enjoyed exploring the short animation *Paraphernalia*, using it as inspiration to write our own narratives whilst developing dialogue to show character and move the action forward. Art lessons have been a real highlight. The class has been practising pencil-drawing techniques and learning how to show emotion and movement through line, shading, and posture. The progress in their sketchbooks has been impressive. In RE, we have been learning about Judaism, focusing on the Torah and why it is so important to Jewish people. We are especially excited about visiting the synagogue next week to deepen our understanding. History has taken the children back to medieval Britain, exploring how the country changed under different monarchs and how their decisions shaped society; it has been really interesting to learn about the power that kings and queens held in those times!

BE KIND BE DETERMINED, BE PROUD

CLASS UPDATES

Year 6- 6LG

The children of 6LG have shown great determination and focus to start 2026, and we are so proud of how hard they have been working! The children have demonstrated resilience, positivity and an excellent attitude to learning as we have begun our SATs preparations, and are already rightly proud of the progress they are making! Our increased focus on reading comprehension and arithmetic has helped children identify and correct their own errors in learning, which is wonderful to see. In maths, children have enjoyed getting to grips with ratio, making excellent links to their fractions learning and also appreciating how many real-life applications there are for this area of maths, including drawing and reading maps, making scale models, and following recipes! The children have thoroughly enjoyed opportunities in English this month to create 'twisted' fairy tales, inspired by the collection 'Straw into Gold'. Our own versions of Little Red Riding Hood challenged the view of a wolf as a 'beast', and some had a far from happy ending. The children thought carefully about characterisation, the purpose of each part of their story and the impact on the reader, creating characters which you cannot help to love or hate! In PE this term, the children have demonstrated excellent team work, concentration and control, further developing their gymnastics skills. We have been combining a range of jumps and rolls with partner balances, requiring keen communication skills! 6LG have also thoroughly enjoyed our Science learning this term - they were fascinated to learn how our eyes work to enable us to see, and are now planning their own scientific enquiries to learn more about light and shadows. Our History topic has been of huge interest to our class, who were both amazed and appalled to learn about the policies of segregation in the USA as late as the 1950's. Children have reflected on the etiquette, laws and opportunities which created this environment, and have learned about the bravery and determination of the activists who fought for change. They all agreed that they were very grateful to live in a country where our civil rights are protected! Keep up the great work 6LG, you've got this!







Year 4

What a busy start to the new year for 4SM! In English, we have loved writing a 'changing tale' based on a wonderful fictional story 'The Paperbag Prince'. It has been so lovely to see the children so passionate and engaged in their writing. In Art, we began a brilliant unit on painting and mixing, where we have had lots of opportunities to develop our colour mixing skills. We explored how to create a wide variety of shades and tints before using our new skills and colourful palettes to paint vibrant fruit artwork. In PE, we have thoroughly enjoyed our gymnastics unit, which has been full of laughter, especially when attempting straddle rolls! As always, the children have worked extremely hard and shown great determination. Well done Year 4!





CLASS UPDATES

Year 6- 6CL

We have had a very successful start back after the Christmas holidays and Year 6 have really impressed us with their determination, positive attitude and overall maturity as we start our preparations for the SATs. In addition to focusing on the development of our reading comprehension, arithmetic and reasoning skills, we have thoroughly enjoyed beginning a variety of new topics across the curriculum. 6CL have demonstrated both confidence and skill when learning about ratio, including working with ratios of amounts in the context of recipes. In English, they have read Straw into Gold, a retelling of the traditional tale Rumpelstiltskin, and we have been impressed with the creation of their own twisted traditional tale ideas, linked to Little Red Riding Hood. We are looking forward to reading their final pieces, with lots of varying sentence lengths, correctly punctuated speech and ambitious vocabulary working together to create an effective atmosphere and setting. We are loving Street Child and have just reached the part where Jim has made a plan to escape. We answered inference-related questions about this section of the text to help the children understand why Jim's dreaming about his life outside of the workhouse was a significant moment in the story and in his journey. In Art this month, 6CL have been learning to use scale and proportion effectively in drawings and to apply one-point perspective in artwork inspired by street art. They have produced some excellent work, considering how different shading techniques can help to develop texture, tone and form. We are looking forward to next week's lesson, where they will build on all of the learning completed in this unit so far to design a street-art-inspired piece, carefully following a design brief. Lastly, 6CL have been incredibly passionate about their History topic, Civil Rights, this term. This month, they have learnt about life for people in America during the 1950s, developed a deeper understanding of the Jim Crow laws on segregation, and most recently, learnt about the bravery of Rosa Parks and how this was a pivotal turning point in Black Americans' fight for equal rights. To demonstrate their learning, 6CL have been keen to write extensively, including writing a fantastic biography about Rosa Parks, where they shared details of her early life before discussing the 'bus incident' and the impact this had, including the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Well done, 6CL, for a fabulous month of learning. We are so proud of what you have achieved!







BE KIND *BE* DETERMINED, *BE* PROUD

We are very excited to announce that we have now become a Satellite Family Hub working in partnership with Banardo's.

A little bit about Family Hubs...

Family Hubs provide early help support for families from antenatal to 19 years (25 year with SEND). Supporting the overall health and wellbeing of children, young people and their families while narrowing the gap for the most vulnerable children and young people in the community. The Family Hub provides a safe and secure place with the opportunity to meet other families, people from the community and access support from volunteers and practitioners from a wide variety of backgrounds. They work across the city to support families with children under 5 years old with their individual needs. They support in many areas including:

- Families who have experienced domestic abuse
- Debt/ Benefit Advice
- Parenting tips/advice/strategies, support on managing children's behaviour, routines and boundaries
- Families experiencing social isolation
- Healthy lifestyles advice
- SEN (Special Educational Needs) support.

We will be having an official launch in the Spring but for now, look out for courses and sessions running in our Dell Centre.

Changing childhoods. Changing lives.

Find out what we're doing HERE

Scan the QR code for information from your local Family Hub- there is lots of support available

Inclusion Update

If you have any questions or worries about your child, we are always here to listen. Please speak with the class teacher or call/email to arrange a time to come for a chat with Mrs Trembath

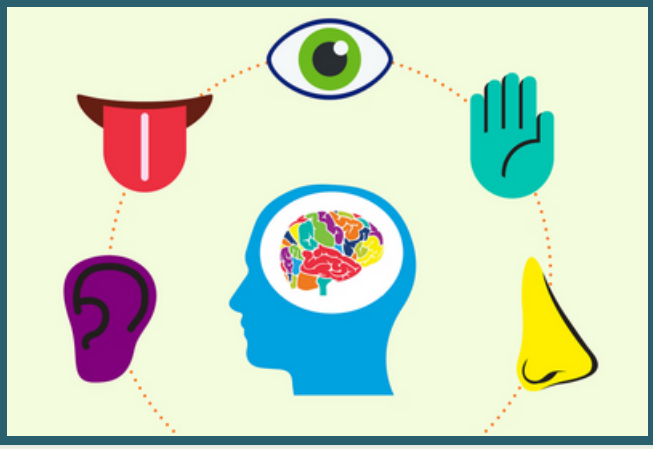
SENSORY PROCESSING

Sensory processing is all about how a person's nervous system receives sensory messages and turns them into a response. Senses include: sight, sound, touch, taste, body position and movement. Sometimes, people can experience sensory input differently to other people. They may be very sensitive, or under responsive to sensory input. There are lots of different ways to calm our sensory systems, but everyone is different and there is no one fits all.

For more information about sensory processing please follow the QR code below

Sensory tools to try at home

- Calming breathing (blowing bubbles)
- Something to squeeze like a squeezy ball
- Some practical play (lego, building blocks, colouring)
- Exploring different textures (materials, sand, water, playdoh)
- Deep pressure and movement (jumping onto a pile of cushions, bouncing, swinging or rolling)
- Crunchy snacks
- Connect and play
- Moving heavy objects (no more than 10% of body weight!)



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Inclusion SUPPORT

Laira Green Primary School

Drop in

Mrs Trembath is on hand to offer friendly support, information and advice.
You are very welcome to drop in for an informal chat.

Thursday 12th February	9-10am	The Dell Centre



inclusion@lairagreen.plymouth.sch.uk

Attendance Update

Attendance - appointments

We understand that medical appointments are an important part of caring for your child's health, and that sometimes these are unavoidable.

Where possible, we kindly ask families to try to make appointments outside of school hours to help minimise disruption to learning and opportunities to connect with peers.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

ABSENCE CONCERNS

If you have any concerns or questions about your child's attendance please come and speak to us. Mrs Trembath is available to talk things through- we really are here to help and listen, and we can work with you to overcome any difficulties together.

PARENT AND CARERS

Coffee and Chat

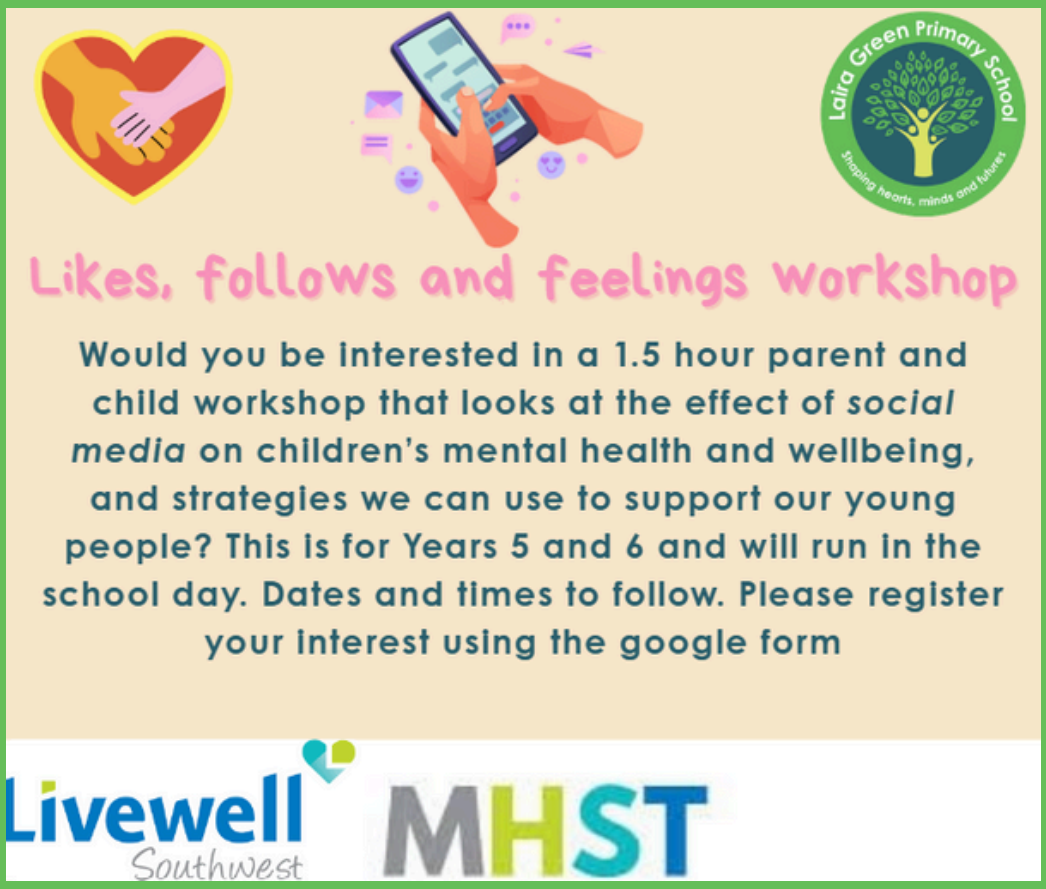
DISCUSS ALL THINGS ATTENDANCE!

Thursday 26h February
9am-10am
The Dell Centre

Mrs Trembath will be hosting a drop in session to talk about supporting children with attendance, and to answer any questions you may have.



inclusion@lairagreen.plymouth.sch.uk



Google form for 'Likes, follows and feelings' workshop



Laira Green Primary School Council

This month, the School Council has been working hard on an exciting campaign to have Astroturf fitted in the KS2 playground. This was one of the ideas the children put forward in their manifestos when they were elected as councillors and has been an idea previous School Council members have raised too.

Our councillors created a presentation to highlight both the advantages and disadvantages of having Astroturf installed. Each councillor confidently presented their ideas to their class, after which classes discussed the proposal carefully before pupils cast their vote.

Across the whole school from preschool to Year 6, an impressive 90% of pupils voted in favour of the idea. Those who were unsure raised sensible concerns about the use of plastic and whether the surface might be slippery, showing just how thoughtful the discussions were.

School Council then met with Mrs Jones to share the results and explained that the overwhelming majority of the school supported the proposal.

Pupils agreed that astroturf would provide a more inviting environment for them to use for play and learning. They felt it would offer a better surface for games, reduce the risk of injuries, and make the playground a more attractive and enjoyable space for everyone. Children were excited by the idea of playing games on it, relaxing at lunch and break times, and using it as part of their PE lessons too.

We are delighted to say that Mrs Jones considered the proposal and agreed the plan could go ahead. The decision was announced in our Celebration Assembly and the children are so excited to see how the KS2 playground will transform!

We are incredibly proud of our School Councillors, for their confidence in presenting to their classes, and for speaking so clearly and maturely when sharing their ideas. Their teamwork and leadership has been exemplary and we are very proud of them.





Suitable Drinks for Young Children

Encourage children to drink regularly throughout the day. Plain water & milk are the best options.



Water quenches thirst without harming teeth.

Under 2's should have full fat milk. Those over 2 can be given semi-skimmed if they are eating and growing well.





Fruit juices and smoothies are not suitable for children under 1 year of age. For children under 5, dilute 1 part juice to 10 parts water. Offer a small cup at a mealtime to protect teeth.

Speak to your Health Visitor or Community Nursery Nurse for more information.
Reviewed January 2021

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES | Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro | Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

Dechrau'n Deg Flying Start

Nutrition Skills for Life™ | Sgiliau Maeth am Oes

Cardiff Caerdydd

A Quick Guide to Healthy Snacks for Young Children





Children need healthy snacks between meals. They provide energy and important nutrients needed to help them grow, develop and learn.





Here are some top tips for super snacks!

- Include a starchy carbohydrate such as breadsticks, toast & chapatti.
- Include some fruit or vegetables in each snack.
- Snacks can include a dairy option such as yoghurt, milk or cheese.
- Snacks can include a protein option such as fish, meat & beans.
- Offer plain milk or water at each snack.
- Best snack options are those low in sugar and salt.
- Get children involved in preparing snacks.
- Keep dried fruit to mealtimes to protect teeth.
- Make snack time social and eat together













A Little More Time Healthy Snack Ideas

Try to offer your child a variety of snacks that include plenty of fruit & vegetables.

Here are a couple of ideas to get you started.

Chapatti & Carrot Sticks with Natural Yoghurt for Dipping







Wheat Bisks with Milk and Sliced Strawberries

Cream Crackers with Cream Cheese and Cucumber Sticks





Pitta Bread with Cottage Cheese & Apple Slices

Breadsticks with Humus and Pepper Sticks



On The Go! Healthy Snack Ideas

Having snacks ready for when you are out and about with your child is a great cost saver.

Here are a couple of quick, transportable nutritious snack ideas you could try.

Small Banana





Plain Breadsticks with Grapes Sliced Lengthways

Pineapple slices tinned in Natural Juice with Cheese







Rice cakes with Smooth Peanut Butter & Celery

Tangerine or Satsuma



NUVO DENTIST PLYMOUTH ARE OFFERING NHS APPOINTMENTS FOR CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS OLD.

CALL 01752 559387 OR VISIT THEIR WEBSITE

https://www.nuvodental.co.uk/



BENEFITS OF GOOD ORAL CARE HABITS

PRIMARY TEETH PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HOW CHILDREN LEARN TO CHEW, SMILE, AND TALK.

HAVING HEALTHY TEETH HELPS WITH CONFIDENCE AND PARTICIPATION IN THEIR EDUCATION AND SOCIAL LIFE.

A Month in Pictures



















A Month in Pictures

















