

Ofsted Good Provider

November 2025

Laira Green Primary School
Shaping hearts, minds and futures

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

Dear parents and carers

It has been a truly wonderful month in school, filled with opportunities for learning. I would like to begin by saying how incredibly proud I am of all our children during this year's Remembrance events. Their maturity, respect, and thoughtful participation showed a deep understanding of the importance of the occasion, and they represented our school with great dignity.



Alongside this, the past few weeks have seen a wide variety of trips and experiences across different year groups. Staff have repeatedly commented on how engaged the children have been, and it has been especially heart-warming to hear members of the public remark on how polite, well-mannered, and considerate our pupils are when out in the community. They consistently demonstrate the values we strive to instil, and they are a real credit to both you and our school.



As we approach the festive season, there is a wonderful sense of excitement building throughout the school. Classrooms are full of rehearsals, singing, and creativity as the children prepare for the Christmas concerts and celebrations. We are very much looking forward to welcoming families into school to enjoy these special events and to share in the children's hard work and joy.

We also have our Read With Us sessions continuing this term. These sessions are such an important part of supporting children's love of reading, and we are always delighted to see so many families taking part. Your involvement makes a difference, and we encourage as many of you as possible to join us.



In addition, we have our Christmas raffle and our much-loved Santa's Grotto to look forward to. These events always bring a magical atmosphere to the school and help raise valuable funds that directly benefit our children.

We are also delighted to share that the whole school will soon be attending a pantomime performance of Peter Pan, generously funded by our wonderful PTA. We are incredibly grateful for the PTA's hard work, dedication, and ongoing support for our school community.



As always, thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Claire Jones

BE KIND *BE* DETERMINED, *BE* PROUD

Dates for your Diary

Monday 1st December

Christmas Raffle and Grotto Tickets go on sale

Wednesday 3rd December

Y4 Geography trip to Plymouth Hoe and Barbican

Thursday 4th December

Parenting Pathway 'Craft and Cuppa' session- Dell centre, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Argyle Christmas Concert- 6:00-7:30pm

Friday 5th December

Reception and Preschool Nativity Play- 9:15-10:00am

Performing Arts Club to sing at Plymouth Christmas Market 4:30-5:30pm

Monday 8th December

Year 1 and 2 Christmas Sing-a-Long Concert 2:15-3:00pm

Tuesday 9th December

Year 3 and 4 Christmas Sing-a-Long Concert 2:15-3:00pm

Wednesday 10th December

Outside the Box Theatre Company to perform Peter Pan to the whole school

Year 5 and 6 Christmas Sing-a-Long Concert 2:15-3:00pm

Friday 12th December

Santa's Grotto

Year 5 to have a talk from a Muslim Faith speaker

Monday 15th December

Read with Us- Year - Year 5 and 6

Christmas Raffle- Facebook Live 1:30-2:00pm

No extra-curricular clubs

Tuesday 16th December

Read with Us- Year - Year 3 and 4

Preschool Christmas craft with parents- 2:15-3:15pm

No extra-curricular clubs

Wednesday 17th December

Read with Us- Year - Year 1 and 2

No extra-curricular clubs

Thursday 18th December

Read with Us- Preschool and Reception

Christmas Lunch

No extra-curricular clubs

Friday 19th December

No extra-curricular clubs

Last Day of Term

Tuesday 6th January

1st Day of Term

CLASS UPDATES

Preschool





This month, the preschool children have fully embraced our autumn adventures topic. The children have explored a wide range of autumn-inspired activities, using natural materials such as pumpkins, conkers and pinecones to support their imaginative play, sorting and counting skills.

We have also been learning about animals in the autumn and found out all about hedgehogs and their fascinating hibernation habits. The children have enjoyed discovering where hedgehogs sleep, what they eat, and how they prepare for the colder months. The children's hedgehog playdough sculptures and creative art were amazing! The children enjoyed reading Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert and decided they would like to make their own leaf people. Using leaves and twigs, the children created imaginative characters and colourful scenes. Their creativity was fantastic and it was wonderful to see how proudly they shared their designs. Music and rhyme have been a big part of our autumn learning too. Our focus rhymes this month include "Five Little Pumpkins," "Autumn Leaves Are Falling Down," "Rain, Rain, Go Away," and "Wind the Bobbin Up." The children are becoming so confident singing together and enjoy putting signs and actions to the rhymes. We also really enjoyed taking part in World Rhyme Week. The children loved learning new rhymes, performing their favourites. It was a fantastic way to boost language skills and confidence. It's been a wonderful season of curiosity and creativity. We look forward to even more autumn adventures ahead!

Reception





What a busy and exciting month it has been in Reception! The children have shown great enthusiasm for our Underwater Explorers topic, demonstrating curiosity, creativity, and a real love of learning. A highlight of the month was our very first Reception school trip. The children had a fantastic time at the aquarium, where they observed sea creatures up close and developed their understanding of underwater habitats. They were very proud of the wonderful habitat hats they created afterwards. Throughout the topic, the children have been busy discovering interesting facts about sea creatures and producing beautiful under-the-sea artwork. It has also been lovely to see their imaginations come alive in our Aquarium role-play area. We have been incredibly impressed with the children's determination in their Phonics learning. Their reading and writing skills continue to flourish. We were so proud when they showcased their Phonics skills parents and carers. In Maths, the children have shown a positive attitude, building their confidence and deepening their understanding of numbers. Their progress has been fantastic, and we are very proud of all they have achieved so far. Well done, Reception, for a brilliant month!

CLASS UPDATES





Year 1

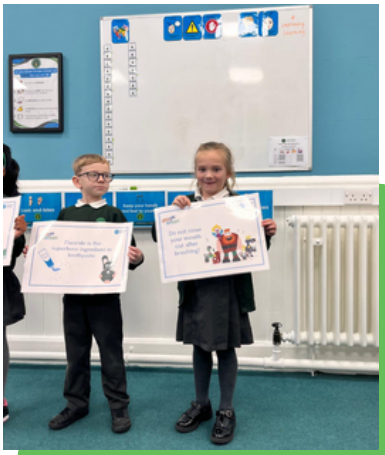
In Maths, the children have been developing their confidence with addition and subtraction within 20. They have explored a wide range of strategies, including number lines, part-whole models, ten frames and practical equipment. It has been wonderful to see them growing in independence and becoming more confident in explaining their methods and reasoning to others. In English, the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning, innovating and inventing their own versions of Oi Frog. They explored how rhyme, rhythm and humour can bring a story to life and entertain the reader. Their imaginative ideas, creative characters and playful language choices have made for some brilliant retellings and new versions of the story. In Science, the children investigated different materials and their properties. Through simple tests, observations and scientific questioning, they began to understand why certain materials are chosen for particular purposes. Our Phonics learning continues to focus on new Phase 5 sounds and tricky words, and the children are becoming fantastic at spotting these in books and around the classroom. Thank you for your continued support with reading at home, it truly makes such a difference. In Design & Technology, the children explored what makes structures stable or unstable and then applied this understanding to design an appealing, durable and stable pencil pot using specific success criteria. In PE, our focus has been fitness, building stamina, strength and coordination through enjoyable, energetic activities.

Year 2

Year 2 have enjoyed another fantastic month of learning. In our English lessons, we had great fun rewriting fairy tales back to front! The children should be very proud of the lovely writing they have produced. In our Science lessons, we have been learning about different materials and their uses. We have conducted lots of investigations about the properties of various materials and used lots of scientific knowledge to explain what we have found out. Year 2 have also been busy in our Music lessons. We have been learning some traditional British folk songs as well as how to add texture using a drone. Another highlight for everyone was our fantastic visit to Efford Library. The children were so well behaved and loved exploring all of the different books. We are looking forward to reading the books we have borrowed over the next few weeks. Well done for another brilliant month of learning, Year 2!







CLASS UPDATES

Year 3

Year 3 have had a wonderful month of learning, both inside and outside the classroom! The children have shown great enthusiasm in every subject and have particularly enjoyed taking their learning out into the community on our recent school trips. This term, the children have been working incredibly hard on their story writing. They have been practising expanded noun phrases, adverbial phrases, and using speech accurately. Their creativity has really shone through, and they have produced some fantastic pieces of writing. They are becoming confident in choosing exciting adjectives-why not ask them to share some of their favourites at home? In Maths, we have been exploring multiplication and division. The children have embraced the challenge and have been applying their times tables knowledge brilliantly-even tackling the 8 times table with confidence! It has been wonderful to see their growing independence and enthusiasm during this unit. Our Geography fieldwork has been a real highlight. The children thoroughly enjoyed visiting Tavistock and Horrabridge. They were able to compare the city where we live with the town of Tavistock and the village of Horrabridge, noticing the different features of each location. Their curiosity and observational skills were fantastic to see during the trip. In PE, the children have been learning how to play tag rugby. They have focused on understanding invasion games, developing teamwork, and showing positive sportsmanship. It has been lovely to see them supporting one another and building confidence on the pitch. Well done, Year 3, for a brilliant month of hard work, teamwork, and enthusiasm. We can't wait to see what next month brings!

Year 4

What another wonderfully busy month it's been for 4SM! The children have been getting into the festive spirit with their Steel Pan lessons, focusing on Christmas songs. Their music tutor has been so impressed with their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. In DT, we have been designing and making helmets-cue several very messy papier-mâché lessons! The children have worked hard to strengthen their creations using a range of techniques, and they are now ready for the fun part: decorating them. Science has been just as exciting. We have been exploring Solids, Liquids, and Gases through lots of hands-on experiments, from investigating how different solids pour to observing how the temperature of water changes over time. In English, the children have absolutely loved creating their own versions of Lemony Snicket's '13 Words'. We have been blown away by their growing confidence and impressive vocabulary. As always, the children are an absolute delight to teach and we are looking forward to getting stuck into the festivities over the upcoming weeks.

Year 5

What a fun-packed November we have had in 5LS! The highlight of our week has been our visit from George and Beth from Plymouth Argyle for our 'Joy of Moving' sessions. We have learnt about heathy eating, healthy sleep, nutritious diets and so much more. At the end of every session, we head outside to play some fast-paced games together. These have brough smiles to all our faces and a lot of laughter too! In Design Technology we have continued to develop our Wobble Bots for a variety of purposes. We are ready to build our final model soon and very much enjoying the process. Within English, we are writing setting descriptions and learning to 'show not tell' how a character is feeling. We have seen so many superb compositions - and the children have loved the inspiration for our work: Kensuke's Kingdom. Science has been another topic that we are getting our teeth stuck into. This week we have made a model of the planets in our solar system using playdough. Each planet was carefully formed so that they were to scale with each other. We had many moments with the children announcing surprise at how big Jupiter and Saturn are compared to the others - it really was a great learning moment.

CLASS UPDATES

Year 6

It has been a busy November in 6CL. We have thoroughly enjoyed our learning in French this month. Last week, we learnt a range of weekend activity phrases and practised asking and answering questions about them. Next, we will focus on combining our knowledge of time with our new weekend activity language. In Music, 6CL explored traditional Bhangra music, learning about its origins, instruments and rhythmic features. They then applied this knowledge by performing the chaal on classroom dhols, using two-handed techniques to play high, low and combined sounds in sequence as part of a class ensemble - using classroom objects as their instruments! In Geography, we discovered how geographers collect data by completing some field work around the school. The children enjoyed completing a field sketch of the playground and conducting surveys to help them answer their enquiry questions. We were really proud of the work that they produced! They will next learn to present their findings in different ways, drawing on their Maths skills to help them. In Science this week, 6CL planned a detailed investigation to find out whether the volume of a buzzer is louder if the voltage within a circuit increases. We were really impressed with their detailed predictions, using lots of key vocabulary. In R.E., we studied the seven expectations from Micah and Isaiah about Jesus and spent time reading and understanding Bible texts that link to these. In our next lesson, the children will draw on this knowledge to help them write a newspaper report claiming that the Messiah has arrived and he is Jesus. Our spooky stories have almost been completed in English! We have been developing our skills as writers, using a wide range of vocabulary, short sentences for effect and speech to push the story forward. Keep a lookout for these on our Facebook page! We have enjoyed Maths this month as we have been learning to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions. Although we have found some learning tricky, including using bar models to find the fraction of an amount, we have continued to persevere and have made lots of progress! Well done 6CL!

Year 6





What a busy November we have had in 6LG! In English, we have enjoyed flexing our skills as suspense writers, creating spooky and unsettling stories designed to build trepidation in our readers! We finished our class reader, 'Wolf Wilder', and were so excited to find out what finally happened when our young heroine took on the Russian soldiers. In DT, we have been putting our sewing skills to the test, first finding out how tote bags are constructed to ensure that they are strong and lightweight, then using our pattern cutting and stitching skills to make pouches. We are looking forward to making our own bags next! In maths, we have worked so hard on calculating with fractions, and are using our times tables knowledge every day - adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators, multiplying fractions and even dividing them! We're so proud of the progress that everyone has made. We have shown real determination in our PE lessons, learning different badminton skills, and have been delighted to see our rallies get longer and our aim more accurate as the weeks have gone by! Our PSHE lessons have really complemented the Children in Need and Anti-Bullying themes this month, and we have been thinking carefully about how we can build an inclusive environment and take active roles in ensuring bullying doesn't happen. Great work 6LG!

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

WORRY

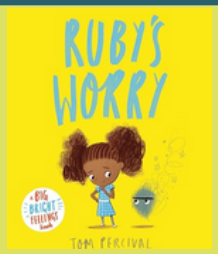
Everyone has feelings of worry at some point in their life and this is a very normal feeling. Worry can make us feel anxious. Anxiety is part of our body's natural alarm system telling us when to stand up and fight, or when to run away. Signs of worry may be tight muscles, increased breathing rate, headache, and increased heart rate. Worry can be linked to an intolerance to uncertainty. Worry behaviours that may happen can be: seeking frequent reassurance, over preparing, and procrastination.

Ways of supporting children to manage worry:

- Thinking about things that children love and are important to them can be helpful
- Keeping a 'feelings' diary or writing a worry down and putting it into a jar or worry monster
- Thinking about whether something can be done about the worry right now? - can it be solved?
- Having an allocated 'worry time' (not before bed!)
- Mindfulness activities and physical exercise

A lovely book for discussing childhood worries and anxieties, no matter how big or small they may be.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION!



Ruby's Worry by Tom Percival



Attendance - punctuality

Arriving at school on time helps your child start the day calm, confident, and ready to learn. Even a few minutes late can mean missing key instructions and feeling rushed. A good morning routine sets them up for success.

Please help your child by arriving between 8:25am-8:50am each day through the playground doors. Staff are ready to greet the children, and breakfast is available for the children, to give them a calm and settled beginning to their day.

Thank you for helping to ensure a smooth start to the day by being on time.

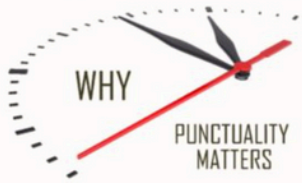
ABSENCE CONCERNS

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.

inclusion@lairagreen.plymouth.sch.uk

Attendance

PUNCTUALITY MATTERS



5 minutes late =	10 minutes late =	15 minutes late =
3	6	10
Days Lost	Days Lost	Days Lost
15 hours	30 hours	50 hours

WHY ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY ARE IMPORTANT



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Missing school can mean missing out on key learning, friendships, and routines,

BEING ON TIME SETS THE TONE

Arriving late can disrupt your child's learning and the class.

GOOD HABITS START EARLY

Regular attendance and punctuality help build responsibility and resilience.

DID YOU KNOW?

A child who misses just **ONE DAY A WEEK** loses over **6 WEEKS** of learning in a school year.

Being 10 **MINUTES LATE** every day adds up to over **30 HOURS** of lost learning each year.



inclusion@lairagreen.plymouth.sch.uk

PLYMOUTH FAMILY HUBS

If You Are Waiting, Have You Tried...

Family Hubs

Website

Timetable

Our Family Hubs offer a range of support services for families in Plymouth – both in person and online.
Family Hubs support families from pregnancy, through childhood, and up to age 19 (or 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities).

NHS University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust

Autism post-diagnosis information:

ADHD for Children

ADHD for Teens

ADHD

Anxiety

Sleep

Children's Occupational Therapy Team

Activities of Daily Living

Livewell Southwest

Health Visiting

Public health nursing 0-19 offer
This is an integrated service consisting of Health Visitors & School Nurses. Health visitors and school nurses are specialist community public health nurses (SCPHN). Health visitors work with families with a child aged 0-5 promoting health preventing ill health and reducing inequalities and delivering the healthy child programme across the city. School nurses work with CYP aged 4 – 19 in schools' communities and with families supporting with for example physical health, sexual health emotional well-being

Speech and Language

While you are waiting for your appointment, please check out the links and services to support speech, language and communication.
Phone: 01752 43844

CAMHS

Information advice and guidance, while you wait can be accessed though this QR code. There is also a CAMHS early help advice & support line 01752 432623
If you are in crisis support can be accessed through NHS 111 and select the mental health option

Neurodiversity Wellbeing Team

A confidential free advice line open to all CYP and their families who are on the neurodiversity pathway within Plymouth.
Telephone 01752 435404

Mental Health Support Team (MHST)

Young people and families can access useful tips and recourses through the Padlet via QR code or email livewell.mhst@nhs.et or by phone 01752 435401

Parent information for transitions to adulthood

Take a look at the support for children and young people with SEND across the partnership at universal, targeted and specialist levels.

Plymouth GATI
Graduated Approach to Inclusion

YOUNG DEVON

We know reaching out isn't always easy, but you're not alone. Whether you're a young person looking for help, or a parent, carer or GP looking for more information, we are here to listen and support you. Our Wellbeing service and has been running for over 20 years. Our team are experienced, will listen, offer information and talk about some options with you.

SUPPORT FOR YOUR EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Families First

When families need more help and when there are concerns about a child being at risk of significant harm the Families First – Children's Services team brings together information to ensure children and families receive the right response.

Plymouth Family Hubs working in partnership with...

Plymouth Family Hubs · Plymouth City Council · Barnardo's · LARK · Action for Children · Best Start in Life · Family Hubs · Livewell Southwest

Laira Green Primary School Council

Our School Council has been exceptionally busy this term. Councillors proudly attended the local Efford Remembrance Service, where they met ex-servicemen and represented the school with outstanding respect and maturity. They were a real credit to Laira Green Primary School and each councillor felt incredibly proud to be part of such an important event.

The School Council also helped to organise a wide range of exciting Children in Need challenges, encouraging the whole school to get involved. We were so excited to take part in this year's Pudsey Challenge Yourself to 25 fundraising event! Throughout the week, children completed a whole host of fun and energetic activities, all linked to the number 25.The celebrations culminated on Appeal Day with our 25 Dance Step Challenge and a lively Country Dance Challenge with Mrs Garland, which everyone threw themselves into with great enthusiasm!

Thanks to the generosity of our school community we raised an amazing £1326.20 for this wonderful cause.

Well done to our School Council for their leadership, enthusiasm and commitment to making a difference!





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.**





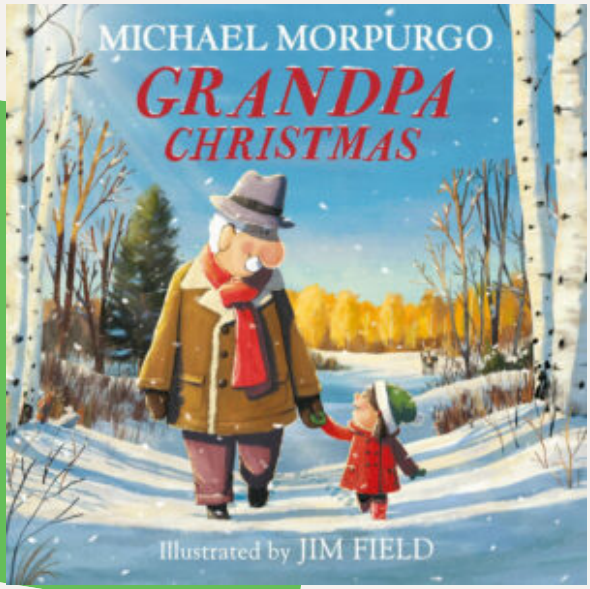
Christmas Reads



Julia Donaldson and Lydia Monks.
In a big old house, the ladybird is visiting her friend the spider for the festive season. But those two bad men, Hefty Hugh and Lanky Len, are up to no good again. They have a devious plan – to steal the children's Christmas presents from their stockings! It's a good thing that the clever little ladybird has overheard their awful plotting, and she has a cunning plan to make sure they don't get away with it.

Alex. Smith
Winston is a little mouse who finds himself caught up in a special adventure with a festive theme. When Winston stumbles across a lost letter addressed to Father Christmas, he makes it his mission to deliver the letter to the North Pole in time for Christmas. It's not an easy expedition, but along the way Winston is helped by a cast of generous friends and helpful strangers. This is a heart-warming story that celebrates simple acts of kindness towards other people and together with the craft activities it makes a wonderful book for families, groups or school classes to enjoy exploring together in the run-up to Christmas.





Jim Field & Michael Morpurgo
Every year at Christmas time, Mia and her family have a tradition to read out a letter that her Grandpa once wrote to her. In the letter, Grandpa fondly reminisces about the lovely activities they used to enjoy together, such as looking for frogs in the garden or planting flower seeds. At the same time, Grandpa expresses his worries about the world and his heartfelt wishes for it to be a better place for Mia to live her life in. The natural world is in danger, Grandpa muses, and it is up to people like Mia to look after our beautiful planet and make sure we protect our environment as much as we can.

A Month in Pictures



















A Month in Pictures

















