



Learning Outside the Classroom at Longwick

Grow · Flourish · Fly

At Longwick, learning outside the classroom is a vital part of how we help children grow with curiosity, persevere through challenge and show respect and responsibility as they explore the world around them.

Our outdoor learning offer is designed to help our children show a deep appreciation for the natural world by encouraging them to notice seasonal changes, ask thoughtful questions, persevere with hands-on challenges and act with respect and responsibility as they explore and care for the environment around them.

We are uniquely fortunate to have weekly Forest School sessions, a dedicated outdoor classroom, and a close partnership with Holly Green Farm, which every year group visits twice. These rich experiences allow children to explore, question, collaborate and develop independence in meaningful, hands-on ways.

Holly Green Farm – Learning Rooted in Real Life

Our proximity to Holly Green Dairy Farm gives Longwick pupils an exceptional opportunity to learn through authentic farm experiences. Children walk from school along the farm tracks, noticing seasonal changes, weather patterns and wildlife as part of their learning journey.

At the farm, pupils take part in activities that may be linked to Science, Geography, History, PSHE and Design Technology — from observing life cycles and caring for habitats to exploring food production, machinery, sustainability and rural living. These sessions build responsibility, teamwork and provide opportunities to develop a sense of spirituality.

Forest School

Forest School is a core part of our curriculum. Weekly sessions encourage children to:

- explore nature in all seasons
- develop resilience and problem-solving
- practise bushcraft skills such as fire-lighting, knot-tying and shelter-building
- collaborate, communicate and care for one another
- build confidence through supported risk-taking

These experiences strengthen wellbeing, independence and respect for the environment.

Outdoor Classroom

Our outdoor classroom provides a safe, inspiring space where pupils can investigate, create, reflect and learn beyond the walls of the school building. It is used across subjects to enhance learning through exploration, observation and hands-on discovery.

School Garden & Pond

Our school garden and pond provide rich, hands-on opportunities for children to observe living things closely, understand seasonal change and develop responsibility for caring for their environment. Sessions include:

- Garden habitats including raised beds, flowering plants and vegetable patches
- Pond ecosystems with tadpoles, insects, amphibians and aquatic plants
- Seasonal changes in plant growth, water levels, light and temperature
- Minibeast exploration under logs, stones and leaf litter
- Pollinator observation including bees, butterflies and hoverflies
- Opportunities for stewardship, such as watering, weeding, planting and habitat care
- Eco Committee involvement in maintaining the garden, monitoring pond health and leading biodiversity projects

School Chickens

Our six school chickens play an important role in Longwick's Nature Curriculum. They give children daily opportunities to observe living creatures, understand responsibility and learn how food is produced.

- **Daily care routines** including feeding, watering and checking the coop
- **Cleaning and maintenance** to ensure the chickens remain healthy and safe
- **Observing behaviour**, movement, social interactions and seasonal changes in activity
- **Understanding egg production**, including collecting, storing and selling eggs
- **Learning about life cycles**, feathers, diet and habitats
- **Opportunities for stewardship**, where children help with small tasks under supervision
- **Eco Committee involvement**, supporting sustainable practices such as composting bedding and reducing waste

OPAL – Outdoor Play and Learning that builds community

As part of the OPAL Project, we are committed to providing high-quality outdoor play that supports children's physical, social and emotional development. OPAL encourages:

- imaginative, open-ended play
- collaboration and friendship
- physical activity and gross-motor development
- creativity, problem-solving and independence

Our grounds are continually evolving to offer rich, inclusive play experiences that help children flourish.

Wellbeing, Safety and Inclusion

Learning outside the classroom supports children's physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. Sessions are inclusive and non-competitive, enabling all pupils to participate fully and experience success.

Safety is prioritised through careful risk assessment, while children are supported to take increasing responsibility for their own personal safety and decision-making.

Preparing Children for the Future

Through outdoor learning, we nurture confident, resilient learners who:

- value teamwork and community
- understand their role in caring for creation
- show perseverance and curiosity
- develop practical skills and environmental awareness

These experiences help our children Grow, Flourish and Fly — ready to embrace the world with courage, compassion and joy.