



Longwick Outdoor Learning Curriculum

Grow · Flourish · Fly

Intent

Longwick's Outdoor Learning Curriculum sits alongside our Science and Enrichment curriculums and is built on the belief that children thrive when they are given time, space and encouragement to explore the natural world with curiosity and confidence. Our approach blends weekly Forest School sessions, regular visits to Holly Green Farm, rich outdoor play through OPAL, care for our chickens, garden and pond and purposeful learning in our outdoor classroom. Together, these experiences help children develop a lifelong appreciation for nature and a strong sense of responsibility for the world around them.

The Outdoor Learning Curriculum gives children regular, meaningful opportunities to explore the outdoors, notice the world around them and develop confidence through hands-on experiences. Our approach brings together a wide range of outdoor learning experiences through interacting with and observing nature at its best.

These strands help children for caring for their environment.

Our Aims – to live our school values of **curiosity**, **perseverance**, **respect** and **responsibility** by

- observing seasonal change, asking thoughtful questions and exploring natural patterns
- develop perseverance through practical tasks, problem-solving and supported risk-taking
- practise respect for habitats, wildlife and the wider environment
- take responsibility for their actions, safety and stewardship of nature

These values shape every outdoor session and help children grow into thoughtful, resilient learners.

Implementation

Seasonal Nature Study

Across the year, children explore themes linked to the changing seasons. Each half term includes:

- observing natural changes in the local area
- simple scientific enquiry and recording
- creative responses such as drawing, mapping or model-making
- opportunities for reflection and noticing detail
- links to the science and geography curriculum

Themes are chosen to complement classroom learning while giving children freedom to explore nature in meaningful, age-appropriate ways.

Holly Green Farm

Every class visits Holly Green Farm each half term, giving children direct experience of rural life on a dairy farm. Sessions may include:

- learning about dairy farming — understanding milk production, cattle care, animal rearing and how farmers look after calves and cows throughout the year.
- exploring crops, soil and seasonal farm work
- observing wildlife, habitats and biodiversity
- learning about food production and sustainability
- hands-on activities such as planting, harvesting or investigating natural materials

These visits help children understand how people work with the land and encourage responsibility for the environment. They also help children recognise where food really comes from so they can make informed, responsible choices about what they eat.

Forest School

Forest School is a core part of our Nature Curriculum. Weekly sessions help children:

- explore woodland tools and natural materials
- build shelters and create natural art
- develop bushcraft skills such as fire-lighting and knot-tying
- collaborate and solve problems outdoors
- learn to manage their own safety through supported risk-taking

Forest School strengthens wellbeing, independence and confidence.

School Garden and Pond

Sessions throughout the year in our school garden and pond provide a place to observe:

- changes in garden and pond habitats
- changes in ecosystems
- seasonal changes in plant growth, water levels, light and temperature
- minibeast exploration
- pollinator

These sessions help children build a deep understanding of how local habitats change across the year and how living things depend on their environment.

School Chickens

Our six school chickens provide children with dedicated time for:

- daily care routines
- cleaning and maintenance
- observing behaviour
- understanding egg production
- learning about life cycles

Time with the chickens teaches children responsibility, care for animals and insight into real life cycles and food production.

Outdoor Classroom

Our outdoor classroom provides a dedicated space for:

- small-group teaching
- nature journaling
- art and design inspired by the natural world
- science investigations
- quiet reflection and prayer

In the outdoor classroom, learning across the curriculum can be enriched through hands-on discovery and observation in a different environment.

OPAL Outdoor Play

Through the OPAL project, children enjoy rich outdoor play that supports:

- observation of changes in the outdoor environment in our spacious school grounds
- imaginative, open-ended exploration
- social development and teamwork
- physical activity and gross-motor skills
- creative problem-solving using natural and loose-parts materials

OPAL ensures that outdoor learning continues beyond structured sessions and becomes part of everyday school life.

Impact

By the time children leave Longwick, they will:

- understand seasonal change and local habitats
- show curiosity and confidence outdoors
- demonstrate perseverance in practical tasks
- act with respect and responsibility towards nature
- value teamwork, wellbeing and stewardship
- recognise their role in caring for God's creation