



Grow, Flourish, Fly

Intent

Longwick's Nature Curriculum and Learning Outside the Classroom offer are designed to give children regular, meaningful experiences outdoors so they develop curiosity about the natural world, persevere through practical challenges, and show respect and responsibility for their environment. We want our children to understand how their actions affect the world around them and to develop a strong sense of environmental responsibility, supported by the Eco Committee within our School Parliament.

Through weekly Forest School, frequent visits to Holly Green Farm, rich outdoor play through OPAL and purposeful learning in our outdoor classroom, children learn to observe closely, think deeply and act thoughtfully. Our intent is to help our children build strong foundations in scientific understanding, sustainability, creativity and personal wellbeing, rooted in our school values and Christian ethos.

Implementation

- **Weekly Forest School** All classes take part in weekly Forest School sessions led by trained staff or outdoor sessions within Forest School led by class teachers. These sessions develop practical outdoor skills, teamwork and supported risk-taking. Activities include tool use, shelter-building, fire safety, knot-tying and habitat creation.
- **Holly Green Farm** - Each year group visits Holly Green Farm twice each half term, giving our children direct experience of animals, crops, soil, machinery, wildlife and sustainable farming practices. These visits provide real-world links to science, geography and environmental understanding.
- **Outdoor Classroom learning** Our outdoor classroom is used throughout the year for small-group teaching, art inspired by the natural world, scientific enquiry and quiet reflection. Teachers plan purposeful sessions that extend classroom learning into the outdoors.
- **Outdoor learning in the garden** Teachers use the school garden for plant identification, seasonal observation, soil exploration and hands-on growing activities. Children learn how plants develop, what they need to thrive and how to care for living things responsibly.
- **Outdoor learning by the pond** The pond provides opportunities for observing life cycles, comparing habitats and carrying out simple scientific investigations. Our children notice changes in water clarity, plant growth, amphibian development and insect activity across the year.
- **School Chickens** Our 6 school chickens play an important role in children's understanding of caring for animals and animal lifecycle. Children notice changes in care and routines, behaviour, egg production, life cycles and have opportunities for stewardship through cleaning, feeding and gathering.
- **Seasonal Nature Curriculum** Children follow a seasonal sequence of nature study that supports observation, enquiry and creativity. Themes are chosen to complement the science curriculum and give our children opportunities to explore natural patterns, weather, habitats and change across the year.
- **Environmental understanding and sustainability** Children learn how human choices affect the environment through practical activities such as composting, habitat care, reducing waste and reusing materials. Sustainable farming practices observed at Holly Green Farm help our children understand food production, land management and environmental impact.
- **Eco Committee leadership** Our Eco Committee, part of our School Parliament, leads whole-school projects including recycling, biodiversity improvements, litter reduction and energy awareness. Committee members gather pupil voice and help shape sustainable choices across the school.
- **OPAL Outdoor Play** OPAL ensures that outdoor learning continues throughout the school day. Children engage in imaginative, open-ended play using natural and loose-parts materials, developing social skills, creativity and problem-solving.
- **Progressive bushcraft skills** Bushcraft skills are taught in small groups with clear progression across year groups. Rigorous risk assessments and safety procedures ensure our children learn to manage tools, fire and natural materials responsibly and confidently.
- **Cross-curricular connections** Teachers plan links to wider curriculum areas where appropriate, enabling children to make meaningful connections between outdoor learning, classroom subjects and real-world experiences through hands-on experiences.

Impact

By the time children leave Longwick, they will:

- demonstrate curiosity through careful observation, questioning and exploration
- show perseverance when tackling practical challenges outdoors
- act with respect and responsibility towards nature, wildlife and their community
- understand seasonal change, local habitats and key scientific concepts
- apply DT skills to real-world problems using natural materials and purposeful design
- express ideas creatively through art inspired by the natural world
- understand how human choices affect the environment and contribute to sustainability
- take an active role in environmental stewardship through the Eco Committee and wider school initiatives
- work collaboratively, communicate clearly and manage their own safety
- recognise their role in caring for God's creation and contributing positively to the world around them

Children grow into confident, thoughtful learners who are grounded in their environment, connected to their community and ready to Grow, Flourish and Fly.