Longman's Hill Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs J Elcock
Chair of Governors: Mrs S Porter

Longman's Hill Primary School is a NUT FREE School

"GROWING HEARTS AND MINDS TOGETHER"

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of some changes to our Teaching and Learning policy effective from September 2024. These changes will have an impact on how your child learns at Longman's Hill.

We are launching a whole school initiative to challenge ambitious children within lessons across the foundation subjects. In our previous OFSTED report, an area for development in our wider curriculum was identified:

'In the wider curriculum, topic books did not always show greater ambition for the higher attaining pupils. Leaders are replicating the mastery approach throughout the wider curriculum. Some pupils grasp concepts more rapidly than others. However, evidence of deeper learning tasks for these pupils is limited in books. Leaders should ensure that pupils who complete the independent task are further challenged. Leaders can then check the level of ambition for all.' (OFSTED, 2022)

We have spent a long time researching, trialling and designing an effective system to challenge pupils and are pleased to tell you that this will be rolled out this academic year. We have carefully refined a challenge system which involves your child's teacher challenging them to connect knowledge within and across their knowledge bases. Opportunities for this will be carefully provided within the body of your child's work. This way they can still do their main task but as an extra level of challenge, they can connect their new learning to their wider knowledge base. We will be calling these challenges 'Stretch a connection'. All children will have access to these challenges as we want to be as inclusive as possible. Our vision is that in time, children will be able to make interesting connections about the world independently.

The system is based on the neuro-science of learning. We know children make neurological connections when they learn. Our challenge system is based on children making important connections within and beyond their knowledge bases to become a deeper thinker. To find out more about our model of challenge, please visit our school website Curriculum page.

We have had a whole school assembly to launch it to the children and hope to create a buzz around 'Stretch a Connections'. Next, classes will be coached by their teacher, on a weekly basis for the first half term on how to stretch a connection in class. We will be rewarding impressive connections at the end of each half term in a whole school celebration assembly. Teachers will nominate one child from each class who will be awarded the Connector Champion Trophy which they will be allowed to take home and keep for a half term. Their picture and name will be added to the school website too.

We hope you will support the school in rolling out this brilliant initiative by asking your child what connections they may have made at school. You could even start talking about famous inventors and designers who have made brilliant connections that have changed the world!

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Miss Ramsay

Curriculum Lead