

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Long Lane, we take pride in creating a school culture where every child and family feels a strong sense of *belonging*. We do this not only by offering pupils and parents a voice and the opportunity to be part of the community, but also through the way we carry ourselves—with kindness, responsibility, and a culture of safety.

Belong with Us!

We have a sharp focus on helping every child feel like they *belong*. Together, we are raising young citizens who care about each other and the world around them. Research and experience tell us that children who feel they belong are more likely to feel safe and are more inclined to act in prosocial ways.

To support this, we have already:

- Embedded the “No Outsiders” programme across the school
- Prioritised safeguarding and conflict resolution through a therapeutic approach
- Promoted belonging through regular "Happy and Safe" assemblies
- Encouraged trust and responsibility through shared play equipment use
- Offered autonomy and leadership opportunities for children

Part of belonging is also being *responsible*—for ourselves and our things. We’ve noticed that lost or broken belongings can cause real upset and even lead to disagreements. That’s why we are putting structures in place to support both personal and shared responsibility.

Already in action:

- Lost property has been relocated near the entrance for easier parent access
- KS2 cloakroom storage has been expanded to manage extra belongings
- Lunch trolleys have been introduced to reduce cloakroom clutter and streamline lunchtimes
- Cloakroom monitors are being trained in each class and will remind classmates to tidy their area if needed

Engagement and Independence

We know that when children are engaged in learning, they feel safer and more confident to take risks and work independently. Independence is a crucial skill for lifelong learning and overall wellbeing. We are committed to continuously improving our classroom environments and routines to support this.

What we’ve implemented so far:

- Calmer classrooms with minimal, purposeful displays
- Front-facing desks (which remain flexible for group work)
- Simplified desk spaces with independent resource stations

- Movement breaks as part of the curriculum for all pupils and active curriculum elements like the 'track time'

How You Can Help

To further support responsibility, independence, and a sense of calm in our learning spaces, we ask that you follow our *Guidance for Belongings*, which is outlined in the attached document.

We appreciate your continued support in helping us create a school environment where children thrive—feeling safe, responsible, and connected.

Warm regards,

Mrs Allison

Headteacher, Long Lane Primary School

Long Lane Guidance: What Children Can Bring to School (September 2025)

To maintain calm, organised cloakroom spaces and to support children's independence and responsibility, please follow the guidance below:

Foundation Stage & Key Stage 1 (FS–Year 2)

- **Book Bag** – *One identifiable key ring only*
- **Change of Clothes** – In case of accidents
- **Small Rucksack** – For clubs only (must fit in cloakroom)
- **PE Bag** – Separate drawstring bag
- **Lunch Box** – If needed
- **Water Bottle** – Water only
- **✗ No pencil cases or stationery**

Year 3

- **Rucksack** – One identifiable key ring only. To include all additional items for clubs.
- **PE Bag** – Separate drawstring
- **Lunch Box** – If necessary
- **Water Bottle** – Water only
- **Healthy Snack** – Separate from lunch
- **✗ No pencil cases** – School provides all stationery

Year 4–6

- **Rucksack** – One identifiable key ring only. To include all additional items for clubs.
- **PE Bag** – Separate drawstring
- **Lunch Box** – If necessary
- **Water Bottle** – Water only
- **Healthy Snack** – Separate from lunch
- *One small pencil case* – Must fit in tray
- **✗ No additional items**

Snack Guidance

Allowed:

- Fruit and vegetables

- Crackers, breadsticks
- Healthy cereal bars

✘ Not Allowed:

- Chocolate, crisps, cakes, sweets
- *No nuts* (due to allergies)

Other Items

- **✘** No toys, trading cards, or extra items
- Concentration aids by teacher arrangement only

Exceptions

As an inclusive school, we understand that some children may have individual needs that require flexibility. In these cases, we kindly ask that parents discuss any exceptions with the class teacher or SENDCo. Agreements will be made on a case-by-case basis and approved by the Senior Leadership Team.

Together, we can ensure that our children grow into confident, caring, and capable individuals.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.