

Little Hadham Primary School



Little Hadham
Primary School
'Believing and Achieving'

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School Year
2025-2026

Beech Class

Autumn Term 2025

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer holiday and that the children are feeling refreshed and ready to start an exciting Autumn term in Beech Class.

This term promises to be a busy one, with plenty of opportunities for the children to learn new skills, develop their knowledge, and enjoy hands-on experiences. Below you will find an overview of what we will be learning across the curriculum.

Geography - Autumn 1: The United Kingdom and Our Local Area

In Geography this half-term, the children will begin by learning about the United Kingdom. They will explore the four countries that make up the UK, discover their capital cities, and look at the seas and oceans that surround our islands.

We will then bring the focus closer to home by studying our local area. Using maps, the children will learn to recognise simple symbols and identify features such as rivers, roads, fields, houses, and other buildings. They will also develop their map-reading skills and have a go at creating their own maps.

As part of this topic, we will carry out a local fieldwork study. The children will go out and explore the environment around them, noticing both human features (things made by people, such as buildings and roads) and physical features (natural things, such as hills and rivers). They will record what they see and think about how our village fits into the wider picture of the United Kingdom.

History - Autumn 2: The Gunpowder Plot

In the second half of the term, our History work will focus on the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. The children will learn about who Guy Fawkes was, what he and the other plotters were trying to achieve, and how the plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament was discovered and stopped.

They will also find out what happened to Guy Fawkes afterwards and think about why this event is still remembered every year. We will link our learning to Bonfire Night on 5th November, exploring how traditions such as fireworks, bonfires, and effigies are connected to this part of our history.

Through this topic, children will develop their understanding of how historical events can shape traditions and celebrations, and they will begin to think about how and why we continue to remember events from the past.

Design & Technology (DT)

Year 1 - Sliders and Levers: Year 1 children will explore how simple mechanisms can be used to create movement. They will design and make their own Christmas card that includes moving parts, learning how sliders move back and forth and how levers can pivot to create action. Alongside this, they will practise important practical skills such as cutting, gluing, and assembling pieces carefully to ensure their designs work properly.

Year 2 - Freestanding Structures: Year 2 children will focus on building freestanding structures. They will experiment with different materials to see how they can be combined to create stable and balanced models. The children will design, test, and evaluate their creations, thinking carefully about how to improve strength and stability. This project will encourage them to be inventive while also developing problem-solving skills.

Art

Year 1 - Paul Klee: The children in Year 1 will learn about the artist Paul Klee and his unique style of using colour, shape, and line to create abstract pictures. They will experiment with using bright colours and simple shapes to produce their own artwork in a similar style. This project will encourage them to be imaginative and to express their ideas through art.

Year 2 - Georges Seurat: In Year 2, the children will be introduced to Georges Seurat and his pointillism technique, where pictures are created using small dots of colour. They will try this method for themselves, learning how to build up detail and depth in their pictures. This will help them develop patience, precision, and an appreciation of how art can be created in different ways.

English

In English, we will be working with a wide selection of exciting books to spark the children's imagination and love of reading.

Year 2 will begin with *The Storm Whale* by Benji Davies. They will use this story as inspiration for writing descriptive sentences, particularly focusing on describing characters in detail. As the term goes on, they will learn how to make their sentences longer and more interesting by using joining words (subordinating conjunctions).

Year 1 will focus on writing complete sentences. They will practise turning their own experiences and memories into short pieces of writing, helping them to build confidence and accuracy in their sentence structure.

Daily phonics sessions will continue for both year groups:

Year 1 will move on to new sounds in Phase 5.

Year 2 will review Phase 5 before learning new spelling rules, such as adding suffixes and prefixes to root words.

Our overall aim is to strengthen children's literacy skills while nurturing their enjoyment of books, stories, and language.

Maths

In Maths this term, both year groups will build on their understanding of number, calculation, and shape.

Year 1 will work with numbers up to 20, learning about number bonds, ordering and comparing numbers, and using these skills in addition and subtraction. They will also begin to look at shapes, exploring their properties and how they fit together.

Year 2 will extend their place value knowledge up to 100. They will practise partitioning numbers, counting in 2s, 3s, 5s, and 10s, and using their number bonds to help with addition and subtraction. They will also learn about sequences and start to apply their number skills to problem-solving activities.

Science

Year 1:

Autumn 1: Animals including Humans – children will learn about different animals, their diets, and their habitats, as well as the features that help them survive in their environment.

Autumn 2: Seasonal Changes – children will observe the weather and learn about how the

seasons change over the year, noticing how this affects both the environment and living things.

Year 2:

Autumn 1: Everyday Materials - children will investigate the properties of common materials and learn how their uses are linked to their characteristics.

Autumn 2: Living Things and Their Habitats - children will look at different types of habitats and how they support various animals and plants. They will also think about how living things depend on each other.

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)

Autumn 1: Me and My Relationships - the children will learn about themselves and others, think about the importance of rules, and explore what makes a good friend.

Autumn 2: Valuing Differences - the focus will be on recognising and respecting diversity, celebrating the fact that everyone is unique and has something valuable to contribute.

PE

PE will include a variety of activities across the term.

Autumn 1: Forest sessions, ball skills, and creative dance. These will help the children develop coordination, rhythm, and control.

Autumn 2: Forest sessions, invasion games, and gymnastics. These sessions will encourage teamwork, balance, and agility, as well as strategic thinking.

Music

Autumn 1: Rhythm and Beat - children will explore rhythm through clapping, tapping, and using percussion instruments. They will listen to and create simple rhythmic patterns.

Autumn 2: Musical Performance - children will learn songs and dances in preparation for our end-of-term performance. They will practise singing, moving, and performing as part of a group.

Computing

Autumn 1: What is a Computer? - children will learn the names of the main parts of a computer, how they work, and how computers are used in everyday life.

Autumn 2: Animate with Shapes - children will create simple animations using shapes,

introducing them to the basics of coding and creative design on a computer.

Reminders

Please make sure your child has wellies and a clearly labelled set of clothes for outdoor learning and forest school sessions.

Reading books will be changed regularly throughout the week. Please ensure your child has their reading book and diary in their bag every day.

Daily reading at home is really important. Sharing books and stories helps your child to grow in confidence and develop a lifelong love of reading.

Homework and spellings will be shared via Tapestry.

We are very grateful for your continued support in your child's learning. We look forward to an enjoyable term together, filled with curiosity, creativity, and progress. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to come and speak with us.

Warm regards,

The Beech Class Team