

Little Hadham Primary School



Little Hadham
Primary School
'Believing and Achieving'

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Headteacher : Ms S Connolly

School Year
2026-2027

Beech Class

Autumn Term 2026

Dear Parents,

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

We have lots of exciting learning planned this term. Below is an overview of what we will be learning, along with some important information about our routines.

Geography - Autumn 1

Our Local Area - Little Hadham and Hertfordshire

This half-term, we will explore Little Hadham and the wider county of Hertfordshire. We will learn about the difference between physical features, such as fields, rivers, trees and hills, and human features, such as houses, roads, farms and other buildings.

Year 1 will learn about different types of settlement, including hamlets, villages, towns and cities, and identify Little Hadham as a village. They will explore the physical and human features of our local area and use simple maps and geographical vocabulary.

Year 2 will build on this by exploring Hertfordshire as a county, locating it within England and developing their understanding of different settlements. They will also consider how people use and change their environment and the impact this can have on the natural world.

Both year groups will take part in local fieldwork, observing and recording the geographical features around Little Hadham.

History - Autumn 2

The Great Fire of London

Next half-term, we will find out how and why the Great Fire of London started and spread.

Year 1 will learn about the key events of the fire, what London was like in 1666 and how the fire was eventually stopped. They will sequence events and begin to use historical sources to find out about the past.

Year 2 will explore the causes and consequences of the fire in greater depth. They will consider why the fire spread so quickly, how people tried to stop it and how the fire led to changes in London.

Design & Technology – Moving Christmas Cards

Next half term both year groups will design and make a Christmas card containing a moving mechanism.

Year 1 will explore simple sliders and levers, developing their cutting, joining and assembling skills.

Year 2 will investigate mechanisms in greater depth and make more independent decisions about their designs. They will aim to create a more complex moving element and test and improve their designs.

Both year groups will design, make, test and evaluate their products.

Art – Paul Klee

This half of term the children will explore the work of Paul Klee, focusing on colour, line and shape.

Year 1 will experiment with simple shapes, lines and colour to create artwork inspired by Klee.

Year 2 will extend this by making more deliberate choices about composition, colour, pattern and the effect they want their artwork to create. They will also evaluate and refine their work.

English

In English, we will use a range of exciting books to develop the children's reading, writing, vocabulary and communication skills.

Year 1 will focus on writing complete sentences, using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. They will develop their vocabulary and begin to join ideas using conjunctions such as and, but and because.

Year 2 will begin with *The Storm Whale* by Benji Davies and use it as inspiration for descriptive and character writing. They will develop their use of expanded noun phrases, conjunctions, different sentence types, commas, apostrophes, suffixes and prefixes, as well as securing their spelling and punctuation.

Year 2 will also develop their ability to proofread, edit and improve their own writing.

Daily phonics will continue, with Year 1 developing their Phase 5 knowledge and Year 2 consolidating phonics and developing their spelling knowledge.

We will continue to encourage a love of reading across both year groups.

Maths

Year 1 will work with numbers to 20, developing their understanding of number bonds, ordering, comparing, addition and subtraction. They will also explore the properties of common shapes.

Year 2 will develop their place value knowledge to 100, including partitioning numbers and counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s. They will develop their addition and subtraction skills and apply their knowledge to problem-solving.

Both year groups will develop their fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Science

Science will focus on animals, habitats and seasonal change.

Year 1 will identify and name common animals, explore what they eat and investigate different habitats. They will also observe seasonal changes as we move from autumn into winter.

Year 2 will build on this by exploring how habitats meet the needs of living things, classifying animals and investigating simple food chains. They will also consider how seasonal changes affect plants, animals and their environments.

Both year groups will develop their scientific enquiry skills through observing, questioning, sorting, comparing and recording.

PSHE

Autumn 1 - Me and My Relationships

We will explore friendships, relationships, emotions, rules and how we can work positively with others.

Autumn 2 - Valuing Differences

We will celebrate what makes each of us unique and develop our understanding of respect, diversity and inclusion.

Music

Year 1 - Rhyming in Time

Year 1 will develop their ability to move, sing and chant in time with a steady beat, responding to different tempos and following simple musical cues.

Year 2 - Questions and Answers

Year 2 will explore timbre and identify percussion instruments by their sounds. They will also improvise musical question-and-answer phrases using untuned percussion.

Computing

Autumn 1 - Computing systems and networks - IT around us

The children will learn about the main parts of a computer and how computers are used in everyday life.

The children will take simple digital photographs and upload them into a slide show.

PE, Dance and Forest School

Our weekly sessions will be:

- **Dance - Monday**
- **PE - Thursday**
- **Forest School - Friday morning**

PE will be taught by Matt and Forest School will be led by Connor.

For Forest School, please provide wellies and a clearly labelled set of spare clothes. Children should wear long sleeves and long trousers to help protect them while taking part in outdoor activities.

Reading

Reading is a very important part of our daily routine. Every child will read to an adult in school every day, so their reading book and diary must be in school each day.

Books will be changed on Tuesdays and Fridays. On Fridays, children will also receive a library book to share at home.

As their reading develops, Year 2 children will begin reading chapter books. These help to develop reading stamina, vocabulary and comprehension, as children follow longer stories and characters across several chapters.

Please read regularly at home and sign your child's reading diary so that we can work together to support their progress.

Homework and Spellings

Year 1

- Spellings are set on **Monday** and tested the following Monday.
- Homework is set on **Friday** and due the following Friday.
- Homework and spellings will be shared through **Tapestry**.

Year 2

- Individual spellings are set and tested on **Tuesday**.
- Each child will have a **blue spelling book** containing words they need to practise. This **must be returned every Tuesday** for testing.
- Homework is set on **Friday** and due the following Friday.

Year 2 spellings will be individualised according to the words each child needs to practise, based on the **DfE spelling expectations and their own writing**.

The Beech Class Team

To help you understand the structure of the week, Miss Goslitski will be teaching Beech Class every day, apart from first thing on Thursday morning.

Mrs Dyson and Mrs Neal will each teach two mornings a week. Ms Bland will support in the classroom on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, while Ms Goodger will support on Wednesday mornings.

We are very fortunate to have a team of adults working together to support the children throughout the week.

Arriving and Leaving School

The children will enter and leave school through the Beech Class side gate. We feel that this will provide a calmer and less daunting start to the day than entering through the main hall doors.

The children have new lockers outside the classroom, clearly labelled with their name and photograph. They will use these independently for their belongings.

Once they have their reading diaries, these should be placed in the basket next to the lockers each morning. The children will also be encouraged to self-register and choose their lunch.

We ask parents to say goodbye to their children next to the steps. This will help us establish a calm morning routine and encourage the children to develop independence. A member of staff will be waiting at the steps each morning to greet the children and provide support where needed.

We are very grateful for your continued support. We are looking forward to a happy and exciting term together, filled with curiosity, creativity, discovery and progress.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to come and speak to us.

Warm regards,

The Beech Class Team