

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the final half term of the year! It's hard to believe we've reached this point already—where has the time gone? The children are ready for new challenges, and we're excited about the wonderful opportunities ahead, despite the unpredictable weather.

This term, our focus will be on the theme of 'Growing and Changing.' We will take the time to discuss transitions with your children, preparing them for the changes that come with the end of the academic year. Some transitions will be more formal, with workshops planned for the children, and they will also spend time in their new year groups with their new teachers on the 11th of July.

Congratulations to our Year 4 children who completed the Multiplication Check last week! This week certainly has all been about high achievement and working hard! We're also incredibly proud of our Year 1 children and some Year 2 children who took their phonics screening check this week. All of the children tried very hard, and we are thrilled with their efforts. A special thank you to our dedicated teachers who have worked tirelessly to help the children develop and improve their phonic skills. As Walt Disney once said, "There's more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island."

Our little green space in the village is beginning to grow beautifully, and we are looking forward to the many learning opportunities it will provide for our children. To make our allotment even more successful, we need your help and support. We are also seeking donations of plants and herbs to diversify our garden. Any contributions would be most welcome!

Eid Mubarak to our families celebrating Eid this weekend! We hope you have a wonderful time with your family and friends.

We wish all the dads a Happy Father's Day! We hope the children let you put your feet up and enjoy a fabulous weekend.

Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

### Diary Dates

- 28/06/28 Willow Class Puppet Workshop- Little Angel Theatre
- 03/07/24 Willow Residential Gilwell Park
- 05/07/24 Willow Class return
- 05/07/24 Beech Class Trip to Knebworth
- 08/07/24 Art and D&T week
- 11/07/24 Transition Day
- 12/07/24 Whole School Art Exhibition @2:30pm
- 16/07/24 Image Theatre- Selfish Giant Whole School
- 16/07/24 Willow Class Leavers performance @6pm
- 18/07/24 Sports Day@ 10am-12noon
- 18/07/24 BBQ Willow Class children only @6pm- 7:45pm
- 19/07/24 Youth Create Parties
- 19/07/23 Last day of Term School Whole school picnic-12 noon Willow Class Versus their Parents @Football School Finishes @1pm

### A Big Thank You and Goodbye!

We would like to say goodbye and good luck to Mrs Chamberlain who will be retiring at the end of this academic year. She is a valuable member of our school community, who has been with us for over 30 years. Throughout her time here, she has provided or whole school community with unwavering support to children, parents, and staff alike.

Mrs. Chamberlain's commitment, hard work and exceptional organisational skills, have made a huge difference in the lives of countless individuals.

As she embarks on this new chapter of her life, we extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to her. The contributions she has made to our school have been immeasurable, and she will be greatly missed. We hope that her retirement is filled with joy, relaxation, and many wonderful new adventures.

Last week, the children at Little Hadham Primary celebrated Empathy Day on 6 June 2024, learning how to boost their empathy superpowers. Some of you had the chance to see this in action during our Learning Together Morning, and we are excited to share more about this wonderful day.



Through stories, discussions, and various activities, the children explored the importance of understanding the feelings of others. The key elements they focused on were READ, ACT, and CONNECT. These three components are essential in developing empathy:

- **READ:** Encouraging children to read books that help them see the world from different perspectives.
- **ACT:** Teaching them to take empathetic actions and show kindness in their daily lives.
- **CONNECT:** Helping them build connections with others through understanding and compassion.



We want Empathy to be a core value at Little Hadham Primary. We believe that fostering empathy in our children helps them become kind and compassionate citizens of our world. Empathy enables us to understand and respond appropriately to others' feelings, leading to more helping behaviour and positive social interactions.

Empathy Day highlighted the crucial role of books in developing empathy and inspired our children to learn more about empathy and put it into action. The feedback from our pupils was overwhelmingly positive, and they were eager to share what they learned.



Here are a couple of soundbites from the day:

- "You should always put yourself in other people's shoes before you judge them."
- "Be kind and listen when other people are saying something."

We are so proud of our children for embracing these values and look forward to seeing them continue to grow as empathetic individuals.

### **Did you know that students who read just 20 minutes a day during the summer can prevent significant learning loss?**

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming 30-minute reading workshop on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 9:30 AM. During this session, we will share valuable ideas and tips to help your child maintain their enthusiasm for reading throughout the summer holidays.

The summer holidays are a wonderful time for relaxation and fun, but it's also crucial to keep our young readers engaged. Research shows that pupils who don't read during the summer experience a phenomenon called 'summer slide'. This refers to the loss of academic progress that can occur when reading skills aren't practised regularly.

Discover strategies to make reading enjoyable for your child, seamlessly incorporate it into everyday activities, explore age-appropriate book recommendations, and connect with fellow parents who share your passion for literacy. Let's nurture a love for reading in your child together! We look forward to seeing you at the workshop.

To help tailor the session to your needs, please complete a short questionnaire.

<https://forms.office.com/r/DASBhb8GsR>

Let's keep those pages turning!

Ash and Saplings had a very successful Handa's Surprise themed learning together morning this week. Activities included fruit print painting and still life drawing of fruit from the story. Other children worked together to complete a very detailed picture of the African Savannah on a large piece of paper. In other corners of the room, children were busy matching animal patterns to animals whilst some children were working out the weight of fruit using tangerines as measuring scales! We also saw some wonderful creations of Handa's village, using the loose parts. We are very grateful to the parents for joining in with these sessions, the children always enjoying sharing their learning with their adults.



In maths, we have been learning about odd and even numbers. The children were able to recognise the difference between an odd number of Numicon shapes and an even number. We noticed that there is one left over when there is an odd number.

We have been continuing to think about different shapes and balances in gymnastics this week. We re-enacted the story of Jack and The Beanstalk, using shapes and balances to act it out, such as a pike shape for the trunks and leaves of the beanstalk, and a tuck shape for the magic beans. The children were very good at using different parts of their body to balance on as well.



The children have also been thinking about what makes a pet and what we need to do to look after it. They had to explain this clearly to Mrs Webb as she thought a kettle would make a great classroom pet. Thank goodness the children were on hand and able to explain why we couldn't have it as a class pet! Mrs Webb was very grateful for the posters some of the children made, explaining how to look

after a pet.

This week in English, Beech Class focused on traditional tales and created their own endings for various mixed-up stories. The children used storytelling techniques like 'Talk for Writing' to plan and draft their stories. We explored extended noun phrases, which helped us make our writing more descriptive and engaging. Additionally, the children practiced using conjunctions, adjectives, and adverbs to enhance our storytelling. The children found this exercise very rewarding as it allowed them to use their imagination and creativity, resulting in unique and entertaining stories.

This week, the children engaged in paired reading sessions, where they took turns reading aloud to each other. After each reading, they used empathy questions to delve deeper into the characters and events of their books. These questions encouraged them to consider how the characters might feel, why they made certain choices, and how different scenarios could affect the story's outcome. This exercise not only improved their reading comprehension and verbal communication skills but also fostered a deeper understanding and empathy towards the characters. By discussing their thoughts and perspectives, the children developed a richer appreciation for the stories and strengthened their collaborative learning skills.



In Maths this week, the Year 1 children focused on understanding the concepts of weight and mass. They engaged in hands-on activities such as comparing the weight of different objects using balance scales and estimating and measuring mass using standard and non-standard units. These practical experiences helped them grasp the idea of heavier and lighter, and how to measure weight accurately. Meanwhile, the Year 2 children concentrated on capacity and measurement. They explored the concept of volume by using a variety of containers to measure liquids. Activities included estimating and measuring the capacity of different containers in millilitres and litres, comparing and ordering capacities, and solving real-life problems involving volume. They also learned to read different scales on measuring instruments, enhancing their precision and understanding of measurement units.



In DT This week, we have been looking at bridges, exploring different types and their unique features. Through interactive lessons and visual aids, they learned about various bridge designs such as arch, beam, suspension, and truss bridges. They examined how each type distributes weight and withstands forces like tension and compression. Hands-on activities included constructing model bridges using everyday materials, which allowed them to apply their understanding of structural principles in a practical setting. The children gained a deeper appreciation for civil engineering and how these structures contribute to transportation and infrastructure around the world.



Lime Class have had an incredibly busy and enriching time in Lime class over the past couple of weeks, filled with exciting learning experiences and activities.



Last week, Lime class had the opportunity to visit the West Stow Anglo-Saxon village. They wowed the historians with their insightful and knowledgeable questions, making us all feel very proud. Upon returning to school, we concluded our topic by creating a balanced argument to answer the question, "The Anglo-Saxon times are sometimes called the Dark Ages – How dark were they?"

This week, we have begun our new Geography topic, "What happens when land meets sea?" We have been exploring the coastal areas of the British Isles, learning about the difference between erosional and depositional landforms. The children have shown great curiosity and engagement with this new topic.



In Science, we got all electrical during our Learning Together Morning with the parents. We discussed where electricity comes from and its various uses. The highlight was building circuits using bulbs, wires, and batteries, which the children found both fun and educational.

**Maths: MoneySense**

Our Maths lessons this week have focused on financial literacy. We've been learning about different bank accounts, understanding what interest is, and exploring the differences between credit and debit cards. The children have been developing valuable money management skills that will serve them well in the future.

In English, we were introduced to our UK poet for our poet study, Ruth Awolola. So far, we have read two of her poems: "Pockets" and "Talking to Tomorrow." We have enjoyed delving into her work and discussing the themes and language used in her poetry.



We had an absolute treat on Tuesday when Saracens arrived for our Tackling Health workshops. The children learned all about nutrition and got to practice their rugby skills. It was a fantastic experience that combined physical activity with important lessons about healthy living.



This week, we had our first session with the Saracens Foundation team. The children were introduced to the elements of the Eatwell Guide and they were educated on the importance of maintaining a healthy, balanced lifestyle in everyday life. They then played games, while



focusing on skill development, game understanding but most importantly having fun!



In Maths, we worked on our times tables and arithmetic skills. We also had a 'moneysense' lesson in which we discussed the links between jobs and money. We explored the ways in which jobs and money are connected, and how choices affect future goals. In our session, pupils described different jobs that they might do to earn money in the future, understood that some jobs pay more than others and that money is one factor in choosing a job and discussed that the choices they will make about work and money might affect their lives.

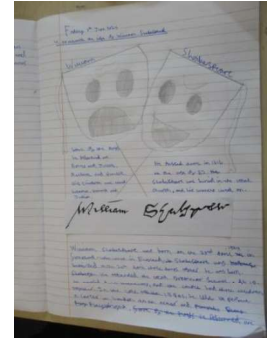
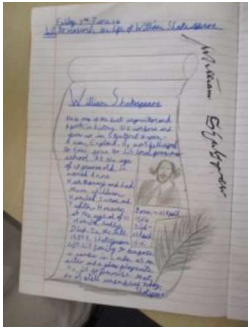


In Geography, we described the journey of the River Nile from source to mouth, while using the vocabulary associated with the journey of a river. Children shared interesting facts about the River Nile and worked in groups to order the sentences to describe the journey of the Nile.



In D.T. we had our first lesson (a 'delicious' lesson) on bread products. In our lesson, we investigated and evaluated bread products, by using our senses. Children were provided with a variety of different breads to taste and recorded adjectives which described the appearance, smell, taste or texture of each. What an exciting lesson!

In Willow Class, we have been learning about the life and work of William Shakespeare. We researched his life and were surprised by how much of Shakespeare's phrases and sayings are still used today. "A wild goose chase", "I have been in such a pickle", "I must be cruel, only to be kind", "Laugh oneself into stitches", "For goodness' sake" and "Neither here nor there" are just some of the phrases from Shakespeare we still hear today! We have been learning about his comedy play 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', getting to know the characters and the plot.



We've had fun trying to keep track of which characters were to be married and which characters were in love, not to mention the chaos caused by Puck and his magic potion! As Lysander tells Hermia in Act 1, Scene 1 'The course of true love never did run smooth'. We can't think of a better quote to sum up this play!

In maths, we've been learning about different currencies and exchange rates. We looked at the cost of the same item being sold in different countries around the world and calculated the cost in British pounds using the exchange rates. We then thought about the reasons why certain products might be sold at different prices in different countries and how important it is to understand and be able to calculate the cost of items using the exchange rate.



We discussed different bank accounts and interest rates and then used our learning to create TV adverts for our own bank accounts! The interest rates being offered were extremely generous!



In History and D&T, we learnt about Victorian samplers. We learnt that during Victorian times, sewing was only taught to girls after 1870 when drawing was considered to be more suitable for boys. It was considered an important subject as few people could afford sewing machines and girls were expected to make clothes for their families in the future. A sampler is a 'sample' of the different stitches a girl could do and demonstrates her skill. Girls would practise different stitches, sewing on buttons, hemming, gathering, eyelet holes, pleats, patching and other sewing skills. We produced our own samplers in preparation for sewing clothes for our puppets.



On Wednesday, we had a super online session with the Natural History Museum exploring evolution. We travelled back some 2500 million years looking for signs of life. We learnt that grass is 18 million years old! We explored some of the causes of evolution and looked at the difference between direct and indirect causes of changes to different environments.

On Thursday, we listened to a moving talk given by Chris Lubbe, the former bodyguard to Nelson Mandela. He spoke about apartheid in South Africa and his work with Nelson Mandela. He recounted some events from his childhood that led him to speak out against racism. Chris Lubbe's talk was both thought-provoking and inspiring. 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world' (Nelson Mandela).

## Attendance UPDATE

As we draw closer to the end of this school year, I have had requests for leave of absence during term time from families. Please note, schools are not permitted to authorise any leave during term time unless when a child is ill or for exceptional circumstances. Please note, family holidays are not classed as exceptional circumstances. Every school day counts and evidence suggests that regular school attendance is crucial to support children's educational, economic and social outcomes.

From August 2024, the new national framework for attendance will come into force. Under the new framework, all schools will be required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons.

- The fine for absence will be £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days, or £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days.
- Fines will be capped to two fines within any 3 year period (the second fine will be £160 per parent per child with no reduction for early payment) and once this limit has been reached, further action may be considered such as a parenting order or prosecution.
- Prosecution could result in a fine of up to £2,500.