Little Hadham Primary School
Stortford Road, Little Hadham, Herts SG11 2DX
Tel: 01279 771285 **Email**: admin@littlehadham.herts.sch.uk
Head Teacher Ms S Connolly

Little Hadham Primary School
'Believing and Achieving'

NEWSLETTER 16.10.2026

Week 7

Diary Dates

19/10/26 Flu Jabs
21/10/26 Parents' Evening 1-7pm
22/10/26 Golden Morning
22/10/26 Half-Term begins 3:15
23/10/26 Inset- staff only
31/10/26 Year 7 Admission Deadlines
02/11/26 Back to school
More to come…watch this space!

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a couple of weeks it's been! But this week was definitely one to remember. It began with scrambling and BMX tricks — and no, I wasn't just watching! I don't remember signing up for stunts when I applied for this job. On reflection, I'm fairly certain some of the job description was written in invisible ink!

And then, just as we caught our breath, came the grand opening of our library bus.

Wow. There is something truly special about watching an idea grow into something real, then seeing it handed over to the children who will fill it with life, stories and adventure.

Perhaps this is why the bus means so much to me. As a child at a village school, I remember a library bus visiting our village. We were allowed to leave school and choose new books, which felt like a small adventure in itself. I often wondered why the bus couldn't simply stay at our school. Well, now, our children have a library bus of their very own — and I couldn't be happier.

A famous writer once wrote about *a room of one's own*. I'd like to think there is something equally powerful about a library of one's own: a little space where imaginations can wander, adventures begin and whole new worlds open up. As our school captains put it so beautifully at the opening: "There's a whole world waiting inside a book." And now, that world is parked right beside our forest!

It was wonderful to celebrate with so many members of our local community, including our local MP, Chris Hinchliff, and the many people whose generosity, time and hard work helped bring the project to life. A huge thank you to Tecs, Mr Rutty, Amelia and George's grandmother, Mrs Hannon for her support and Mrs Erdogan and Mrs Davies for all their artwork. We are also incredibly fortunate to have Mr Trundle, who has a remarkable talent for filling the gaps, sorting out the little things before they become big things, and making seemingly impossible jobs happen. We really are lucky to have him.

Our brilliant PTA, FRIENDS, deserve enormous thanks for raising the money, as do all the families and supporters who donated and helped us reach our target. The initial cost may have seemed a little daunting, but our community did what it does best: it came together, rolled up its sleeves and turned a dream into reality. What a reminder of what can happen when people believe in something and work together to make it happen.

And then there were our school captains. They absolutely blew us away with their energy, confidence and enthusiasm, leading the whole celebration with such pride. They can truly say, "Been there, done that" — and wear the T-shirt in style! They also wrote a wonderful story featuring the bus characters and read it to every class. What an inspiration to our younger children. Mrs Courtman-Stock has been encouraging the young writers in her class to keep going, and who knows? Perhaps we'll soon be making room on the bus bookshelves for stories written by Little Hadham's very own authors. We may need a bigger bus!

Thank you, too, to Mrs Maughan for adding to the celebrations with some lovely treats, and to everyone who helped make the day so memorable. The children were also delighted with their very own bus bookmarks — a little reminder of the adventures waiting to be discovered.

From next week, children will be able to borrow books from the bus, and over the coming half-term we'll invite families in at different times to see for themselves what your generosity has made possible. We can't wait for you to see how your money, so generously raised and donated, has turned a vision into something wonderful.

Have a wonderful restful weekend and see you all for Parents' Evening on Wednesday.

Sinead Connolly (Headteacher)

Green Team Assembly: What Makes Our Community Special?



Our Green Team led a lovely assembly exploring the theme *"In Every House, On Every Street What Makes Our Community Special?"*

The children celebrated all the little and big things that make our community such a special place to live, learn and grow. Our six Green Team members introduced different aspects of community life, including our homes, schools, parks, families, teachers and local people, reminding us that it is the people around us who help make a community feel safe, happy and welcoming.



With World Teachers' Day in mind, the children also took the opportunity to recognise and thank the teachers and school staff for all they do to support, encourage and inspire us every day. It was a lovely reminder of how much kindness, care and dedication contribute to our school community.

The assembly also introduced Articles 27 and 29 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, exploring children's rights to enjoy cultural and creative activities and the importance of education in helping every child discover their talents and reach their full potential. The children celebrated the many ways we can express ourselves through creativity, including art, music, poetry and drama.



We then turned our attention to caring for the world around us. The Green Team spoke about the impact of litter and how we can all help to keep our shared spaces clean, safe and beautiful. They reminded us that even the smallest actions, such as putting rubbish in the correct bin and taking pride in our school environment, can make a real difference.

To finish, our six Green Team members shared some important words for us all to remember: *kindness, respect, creativity, teamwork* and *responsibility*. Their message was a wonderful reminder that every one of us has something valuable to contribute and that, by working together, we can make our community an even better place.

The assembly ended with a simple but powerful message that we hope everyone will carry with them:

"Because in every house, on every street, we can all make a difference."





This week, the children in Early Years have been enjoying a range of outdoor activities! From collaborative building to imaginative role play with road signs and bikes, the children have been working together, sharing ideas and developing their creativity through play.

In Ash, we have been focusing on initial sounds as we helped Mrs Lawrence get the words right in our song Five Speckled Frogs! We listened carefully to identify the initial sounds and had a go at writing the correct lyrics to help her remember the words. Meanwhile, Saplings did a fantastic job bouncing and stretching out initial sounds, helping to develop their phonological awareness.

In maths, we have been exploring repeating patterns using natural materials and discovering patterns all around us. The children have enjoyed looking closely at the world around them, spotting patterns in the bark of trees, the veins of leaves and other natural objects.

In PSED this week, we have been thinking about the importance of listening. We discussed how careful listening helps us to follow instructions, grow our brains and appreciate the sounds around us, such as the gentle rustling of autumn leaves as we walk. During choosing time, the children enjoyed making their own listening ears and putting them to the test to discover what sounds they could hear!

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During our Understanding of the World session, we explored natural materials and discussed how these are items that come from nature rather than being made by people. We looked closely at a variety of natural objects, carefully observing their shapes, textures and details to inspire our own nature sketches. To extend our learning, we ventured into the forest to discover more natural materials in our school. The children enjoyed observing and sketching a range of items, including: leaves, conkers, pine cones, flowers and acorns.







We ended the week with the fabulous opening celebrations of our Library Bus! The children did a wonderful job performing *'Five Little Speckled Frogs'* in front of the school, and we were so proud of their confidence and enthusiasm. They also enjoyed watching the other classes perform their poems during the assembly. Afterwards, the children had their very first opportunity to explore the Library Bus and discover some of the wonderful books inside. We are so excited for many more visits to the Library Bus and all the reading adventures that await us!

It has been another busy and exciting time in Beech Class, with the children working hard across the curriculum and showing great enthusiasm for their learning. Here is a little look at what we have been up to!



In Geography, Year 1 and Year 2 have been learning about compass points and how these help us describe direction and find our way around. The children have been introduced to the four main compass points: North, East, South and West, and have explored how to use them to describe the location of places and objects. Through practical activities, they have been developing their understanding of direction, following instructions and using positional language to explain where things are. They have also been building their map-reading skills, learning how compass points can help us understand maps and navigate the world around us. These activities have encouraged the children to observe carefully, use geographical vocabulary and apply their learning in real-life situations.

In Science, the children have been learning about the basic needs of animals and what they need to survive. They explored how animals need food, water, air and suitable conditions to live and stay healthy. The children discussed how these needs may differ depending on the animal and its habitat, helping them to understand the importance of caring for living things. Through class discussions and sharing their ideas, they have been developing their scientific vocabulary and beginning to explain why these basic needs are essential for survival. This learning has encouraged the children to think carefully about the natural world and how we can help to protect and care for animals.



The children have also been working incredibly hard to learn and perform *Hand on the Bridge* by Michael Rosen, ready for our Poetry by Heart performance today! They have been practising the poem carefully, focusing on remembering the words, speaking clearly and using expression, actions and intonation to bring the poem to life. The children have been developing their confidence as performers, listening to one another and exploring how a poet's words can be brought to life through voice and movement. We are so proud of the effort and enthusiasm they have shown, and we look forward to seeing them share their hard work in today's performance!



In Art, the children have been exploring the work of Paul Klee and using his style to inspire their own artwork. They have now evaluated their final pieces,

reflecting on the techniques they used, the colours and shapes they chose, and how their work was influenced by Klee's distinctive style. The children have been encouraged to talk about what they are proud of, identify what they feel went well and consider what they might do differently next time. This has helped them to develop their artistic vocabulary, express their opinions and think more deeply about their own creative choices.

We are so proud of the children's hard work and enthusiasm this week and look forward to seeing them continue to grow in confidence and flourish in their learning!

What an exciting and action-packed week we have had in Lime Class! We were thrilled to welcome a BMX champion to school, who led an inspiring assembly and amazed us with an incredible demonstration of BMX tricks. We watched in awe as he showed us what can be achieved through practice, determination and a positive attitude. Our Year 4 children were lucky enough to take part in a special workshop, where they explored the importance of having a growth mindset. We thought about how challenges help us learn, why mistakes are an important part of improving and how a little perseverance can help us achieve things we once thought were impossible. It was a fantastic reminder that we should never be afraid to have a go!





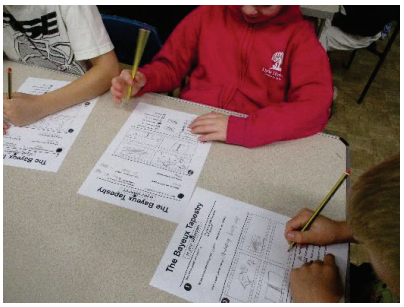
In maths, both year groups have been busy developing their number skills. Year 4 have been rounding numbers up and down to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000, thinking carefully about which numbers are closer to each multiple and using their understanding of place value to make sensible decisions. Meanwhile, Year 3 have been strengthening their knowledge of number bonds within 10 and discovering how these facts can help them work out number bonds to 100. By spotting patterns and making connections between smaller and larger numbers, the children are building the mental maths skills they will use in lots of different calculations.

Our history learning took us back to Roman Britain, where we investigated evidence that Black people lived in Britain during Roman times. We considered the clues that historians use to find out about people who lived long ago, including objects, pictures and written records, and discussed what these can tell us about the past. This led us to think about migration: why people move from one place to another and how people have travelled, settled and built communities in Britain throughout history. It was fascinating to discover that Britain has been home to people from different backgrounds for much longer than we might have imagined! In PSHE, we explored the meaning of the word dare. We shared our ideas about why people sometimes dare others to do things and discussed how to recognise the difference between a positive challenge and an unwise one. We agreed that if a dare feels scary, dangerous or naughty, it is not something we should feel pressured to do. Knowing when to say no and making sensible choices are important skills for keeping ourselves and others safe.

In computing, we turned our attention to the networks that help us communicate and share information. The children explored our school's computer network and drew diagrams to show how different devices connect and work together. We then compared our school network with the internet, identifying similarities and differences and considering how a network within one school is different from a much larger network connecting computers and devices around the world. On Wednesday, we enjoyed an exciting online workshop run by the British Museum, which introduced us to the famous Bayeux Tapestry. We discovered how this remarkable embroidered artwork tells the story of the Norman Conquest and thought about how historians use historical sources to learn about important events. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring our history learning to life!

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Art this week was all about drawing faces. We watched a video of a real artist drawing and shading a face and then used what we had learnt to have a go ourselves – the results were stunning!









We finished the week on a real high on Friday when we performed our poem with pride at the grand opening of the library bus. The children worked hard to learn their words, speak clearly and perform confidently for our audience. It was lovely to see them sharing their learning and celebrating such an exciting addition to our school community. A video of the performance will be uploaded to Tapestry for parents to enjoy, so you will be able to see the children in action! From daring BMX tricks and developing a growth mindset to exploring Roman Britain, investigating computer networks and celebrating poetry, it has been a week full of curiosity, discovery and achievement in Lime Class. We are very proud of the enthusiasm and effort the children have shown across all their learning.



In Maple Class, the children were introduced to the performance poem 'Jabberwocky' by Lewis Carroll. They explored the poem's imagery and atmosphere, identified key poetic features such as repetition and rhyming words and investigated its structure and language. Working in groups, the children developed actions to accompany the poem and practised performing it with enthusiasm, clarity and expression.



In Maths, the children focused on adding numbers using written methods. They developed their calculation skills and strengthened their understanding of the addition process, building confidence and accuracy when solving calculations.





In History, children researched ancient Greek scholars and philosophers, working together with their learning partners to discover their ideas, achievements and contributions to the world.



In PSHE, the children discussed why people might behave in unkind ways and where pressure to make unsafe or risky choices can come from, including friends and social situations. The children explored strategies for responding to bullying, including what they could say or do to keep themselves and others safe. They also considered how to seek help for themselves or others from a trusted adult. This learning linked to our Rights Respecting Schools work, particularly Article 19, which states that children have the right to be protected from being hurt, mistreated or harmed. The children reflected on how everyone can help create a safe, respectful and supportive school environment where bullying and unkind behaviour are not accepted and everyone feels protected and valued.





One highlight of the week was definitely the BMX workshop, where the children developed their cycling skills, built confidence and challenged themselves by trying something new. They showed great enthusiasm, perseverance and determination throughout the session. It was wonderful to see them stepping outside their comfort zones and enjoying such an exciting experience!

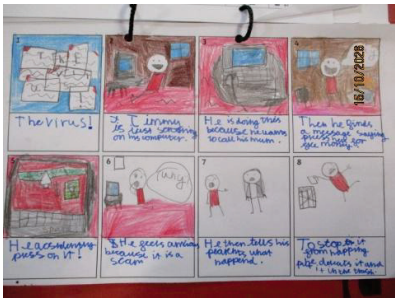


Another highlight was the British Museum's live schools' broadcast, The Bayeux Tapestry, which brought history to life and deepened the children's understanding of this fascinating historical artefact. Working in groups, the children shared their ideas and developed their historical understanding collaboratively.





As part of our Computing unit on Online Safety, Maple Class explored important issues such as spam messages, altered images, the importance of citing sources and creating strong passwords. To put their learning into practice, the children designed their own cautionary comic strips to educate others about staying safe and making responsible choices online. They used creative storytelling, illustrations and important safety messages to highlight potential online dangers and encourage others to think carefully before sharing information or trusting what they see on the internet.









What a week we have had in Willow Class! We've been whizzing around on BMX bikes, cracking secret codes, travelling back to 1066 and getting ready to share our favourite poems. There's certainly never a dull moment in Willow Class!

We started the week with an amazing BMX workshop led by Mike Mullen, where we learnt some seriously cool tricks! Mike reminded us that making mistakes is an important part of learning and that we can champion our peers by encouraging and supporting one another. We certainly put that advice into practice as we cheered each other on and had a go at new challenges. Who knew mistakes could be so useful – or BMX bikes so much fun?!



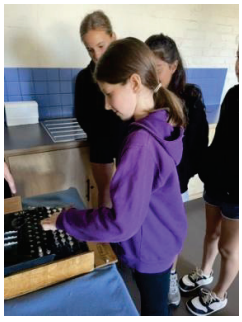
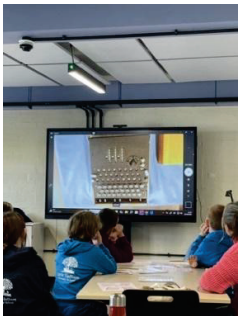






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On Tuesday, we became codebreakers for the day at Bletchley Park. We explored the historic site, used a real Enigma machine and visited Alan Turing's office in Hut 8. One particularly memorable discovery was that he chained his mug to a radiator to stop anyone else borrowing it! We also saw a replica Bombe machine and learnt more about the extraordinary work of the codebreakers who helped Britain during the Second World War. We think Alan Turing would have been proud of our codebreaking efforts!

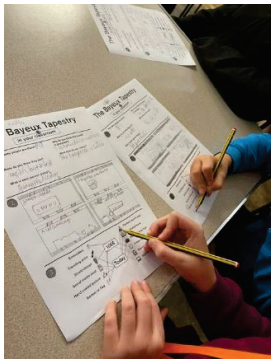


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Wednesday, we travelled back in time with a fantastic online exploration of the Bayeux Tapestry led by the British Museum. Our session took place on 14th October, a particularly fitting date as it was exactly 960 years ago, on 14th October 1066, that Duke William defeated King Harold at the Battle of Hastings, where Harold was killed! We discovered how the tapestry's intricate embroidered figures tell the story of the Norman invasion and help us understand how England came to be ruled by a new king. Who knew that a giant piece of embroidery could reveal so much about our country's history?

Thursday saw excitement building as we put the finishing touches to our poems **for Poetry By Heart**. We were incredibly proud of our efforts to learn Alfred Noyes' *The Highwayman* – such a long and challenging poem to commit to memory – but WOW, what a super job we did! Pistol butts were polished, horses' hooves went *"tlot-tlot, tlot-tlot!"* and rapier hilts twinkled as the Highwayman came riding… riding… riding! We worked hard to bring the poem to life with expression, dramatic voices and carefully timed delivery, and we couldn't wait to share our performance. If you'd like a peek, you can watch a recording of our dress rehearsal on Tapestry.





This year's Poetry By Heart celebration was extra special as it coincided with the **grand opening of our very own library bus!** Our fabulous School Captains led a wonderful opening ceremony, and we were delighted that Chris Hinchliff MP had the honour of cutting the red ribbon. It was a brilliant way to celebrate our love of books, reading and poetry, and we can't wait to enjoy many happy hours exploring our fantastic new library space!













Poetry, Performance and Our Super-Dooper Library Bus!

What a fantastic celebration of words, poetry and our beautiful language! From our Early Years children's delightful rendition of *Five Little Speckled Frogs*, through Beech Class' performance of *Hand on the Bridge* by Michael Rosen, Lime Class' *Don't Go into the* Library by Alberto Rios, Maple Class' magical take on *Jabberwocky* by Lewis Carroll and Willow Class' dramatic performance of Alfred Noyes' classic *The Highwayman*, every class did a fabulous job. We were so proud of all the children, who performed with such enthusiasm, confidence and expression. What a joy to see our love of poetry shining through!

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And what finer way to celebrate our Poetry By Heart event than with the grand opening of our super-dooper library bus! We are absolutely thrilled to have such a fantastic resource and beautiful space in which to nurture our passion for books and reading.





A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped turn this dream into reality. From fundraising and cake baking to peeling sticky-back plastic, sorting books, building shelves and decorating the interior, so many people have given their time, energy and creativity to make our library bus truly special. Every little (and not-so-little!) job has made a difference, and together you have helped to make the next generation of bookworms extremely happy. We can't wait to see the adventures, discoveries and stories that begin on our very own library bus!






Mrs Tweedale

Deputy Head / English Subject Lead