

NEWSLETTER 19.09. 2025

Week 3

**Diary Dates**

23/09/25 BMX Wellbeing Y4-Y6  
24/09/25 PTA Secondhand Clothes in Bags  
29/09/25 Learning Together Morning Beech  
30/09/25 Learning Together Morning Willow  
01/10/25 Learning Together Morning Maple  
02/10/25 Learning Together Morning Lime  
03/10/25 Learning Together PM EYFS-2:45  
06/10/25 Flu Jabs  
13/10/25 Willow Class Bletchley park  
21/10/25 Poetry By Heart  
22/10/25 Parents' Evening 1-7pm  
23/10/25 Half-Term begins 3:15  
24/10/25 Inset- staff only  
31/10/25 Year 7 Admission Deadlines  
03/11/25 Back to school

Dear Parents & Carers,

What an action-packed fortnight it has been here at Little Hadham! The whole school has certainly been buzzing with excitement as classes held their elections.

A huge round of applause to our amazing Year 6 pupils, who absolutely shone speaking in front of the whole school! Their confidence, wit, and creativity made their speeches truly memorable—you'd be forgiven for thinking they were real politicians rather than primary school children. We couldn't be prouder of them!

And now... the moment you've all been waiting for... drum roll, please! 🥁

Our brand-new School Captains are: Joe and Otis!

Cheered on by their fantastic Vice-Captains: Grace and Hugo!

Huge congratulations to them all—what a team they'll make. 🎉

But that's not all! We also have our brand-new School Council: Phoebe, Oliver, Libby, Rupert, Billy, Timmy, William and Sophie

And now for our brilliant Green Team: Alice, Seve, Michael, Julian, Olive, Pierce, Riley and Leila. With such a mighty bunch of leaders, I've no doubt we'll all be kept on our toes and be properly bossed around this year!

Now, it's worth saying—every single pupil who stood up to run for a role deserves a huge round of applause. It takes real courage to put yourself forward, and the speeches were full of heart, determination, and a bit of sparkle too. Honestly, I reckon a few politicians could learn a thing or two from our children!

Well done to all—we're in safe hands with such bright young leaders guiding us.

Have a fabulous weekend,

Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

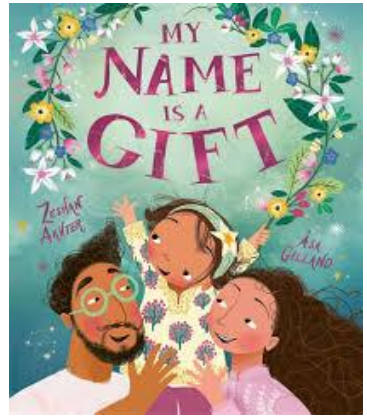
## Empathy Assembly – *My Name is a Gift*

Last week we came together for our first fortnightly Empathy Assembly, where we explored the beautiful book *My Name is a Gift: A heartfelt celebration of the names we're given*.

The assembly was led by four children, who invited everyone to think about the stories behind our names. They asked brilliant questions like:

- Do you know anyone in your family who shares your name?
- If your name had a superpower, what would it be?
- How do you feel when someone says your name kindly?

These reflections really helped us to see that names are much more than just labels – they are part of our identity and something to be proud of.



Later in the week, two of our Year 6 pupils visited the EYFS class to read *My Name is a Gift* with them. The younger children were fascinated and enjoyed talking about the gifts their own names might represent. It was a lovely example of older and younger children learning from each other.

As a Rights Respecting School, we linked this to Article 7 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which says that every child has the right to a name and identity. By respecting and celebrating each other's names, we show kindness and empathy, and we remind ourselves that everyone belongs.

We hope families will continue the conversation at home: *What does your name mean to you, and how does it make you feel when others use it with respect?*

## The Great Green Team Harvest Adventure

Well, you'd have thought it was treasure they were after, the way the Green Team were digging away at the allotment this week! With shouts of excitement, out popped carrots of all shapes and sizes – some long and bendy, some short and stubby – each one greeted like a little surprise. Then came the sweetcorn, peeled back to show its golden kernels, and the peas, hiding snugly in their pods until the children popped them open. And let's not forget the pumpkins – round, heavy, and perfect for autumn and one for each class to decorate!

But the biggest "WOW!" of the day was saved for the *giant sunflower head*. Truly, it was so huge you'd nearly need two people to carry it. The children declared it the "biggest ever" – and I'd be inclined to believe them!

The allotment has given us our most successful harvest yet, and the children's laughter and muddy boots told the whole story. And here's the exciting bit: next year we'll have our very own **polycrub**. That means even more adventures – strawberries earlier, tomatoes for longer, and maybe even a few surprises we've never tried before.

So if this year was magic, just wait until you see what the Green Team will be pulling out of the ground next year!





We have been enjoying getting to know one another in Early Years, and are quickly becoming experts at navigating our new classroom environment and the school routines!

Our focus story, Ruby's Worry by Tim Percival, has helped us to start conversations about worries, thoughts or musings that may be on our minds. It's been lovely to hear children building confidence with speaking and sharing their thoughts and ideas! The children loved creating their own 'Worry Monsters', with Ash class using their newly taught sounds to write captions containing initial sounds.



The children really enjoyed a visit from the Green Team, who shared their knowledge and enthusiasm about the bumper crop that our allotment has produced. The children enjoyed recognising the different produce, including carrots, courgettes, runner beans and pumpkins.



This week in Forest school, Connor brought in a special delivery just for Ash and Saplings – a box filled with conkers! The children enjoyed making patterns and artwork with them, as well as using them as ingredients for mud cakes and soups. The children were so busy in the forest with all their conkers!



We are really proud of how well the children are settling in so early in the term. They've had so many jewels in the jar for brilliant learning behaviours that they have even enjoyed their first jewel jar treat: a cuddle with Snowy and Cookie! The children were so calm and quiet for our furry friends, so much so that Snowy and Cookie began to look quite cosy on their laps!



In Beech Class this week, we have been busy exploring a range of exciting topics, from language and literature to science and geography, all while developing new skills and fostering a love for learning!

In English, the Year 1 children have been exploring adjectives in exciting and interactive ways. They started by playing a game where they described an orange to Mrs Lane who couldn't see it. They used all their adjectives to help her guess what the object was. This activity encouraged the children to

think carefully about how words can describe things and helped expand their vocabulary. Afterwards, the children went on hunts around the classroom to find objects and wrote adjectives to describe them. This allowed them to see how descriptive words work together to paint a clearer picture, reinforcing their understanding of how language works in different contexts. In Year 2, the children have been focusing on openers and conjunctions, particularly through the writing of *Noi's Diary*, a story by Benji Davies. They learned how to use a variety of sentence openers and conjunctions to make their writing more engaging and to help ideas flow smoothly from one sentence to the next.





In Design Technology, Year 2 have been learning about the life and work of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, one of the most important engineers in history. They discussed why his contributions to civil and mechanical engineering are so significant, particularly in the construction of bridges, tunnels, and railways. By studying Brunel's legacy, the children gained an understanding of how innovation and engineering can shape the world around us, and why engineers play such a crucial role in society. The Year 1 children have been

looking at pre-made examples of levers and sliders, investigating how these simple machines work and where they are used in everyday life. They loved this hands-on approach allowed them to explore the practical applications of levers and sliders, helping them understand the role of basic mechanisms in making tasks easier and more efficient. They also had the chance to experiment with making their own levers and sliders, which further reinforced their learning.

In Science, the Year 2 children conducted an experiment to test which materials are absorbent and which are waterproof. This experiment not only helped the children understand the properties of different materials but also taught them how to make predictions, observe results, and record their findings in a scientific manner. They had fun testing materials and discussing which ones would be most suitable for specific tasks based on their absorbency or waterproof qualities. Meanwhile, the Year 1 children have been focusing on mammals, exploring the characteristics that define an animal as a mammal. They learned about the different features that set mammals apart from other types of animals, such as having fur or hair and giving birth to live young. The children enjoyed looking at different examples of mammals and discussing the variety of species that fall under this category.



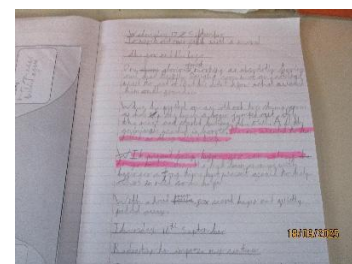
In Geography, the Year 1 children have been using their mapping skills to locate their school on an aerial map. This activity helped them understand how maps are used to represent locations and geographical features, giving them a deeper appreciation for the role maps play in everyday life. The Year 2 children have also been working with aerial maps, identifying physical features such as rivers, mountains, and roads. This not only improved their mapping skills but also helped them understand the difference between various types of maps and the important information they can provide.

This week in Lime Class, the children have continued to work incredibly hard and show great enthusiasm across all areas of their learning.

In maths, we've been stretching our brains with place value, tackling some really big numbers and learning to see how they fit together. Our *Winning with Numbers* sessions are helping the children sharpen their mental maths skills, and it's been wonderful to see them growing more confident as they commit key number facts to memory.

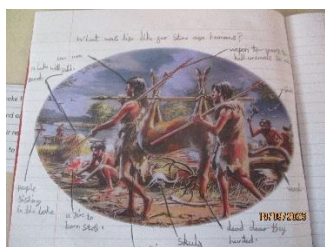


In English, Year 3 have been busy becoming storytellers. They've written their own fables based on tricky situations children might face in real life. It was great fun to see how imaginative they were, coming up with clever tricks and surprising twists for their characters. We also began exploring the important skill of *redrafting* – learning how writers can improve their stories by changing and refining certain parts.



In history, our focus has been on early humans. The children were fascinated (and surprised!) to learn that there were several different species of humans living thousands of years ago. Using artists' impressions, we became "detectives of the past," spotting clues that helped us imagine what life may have been like for hunter-gatherers.

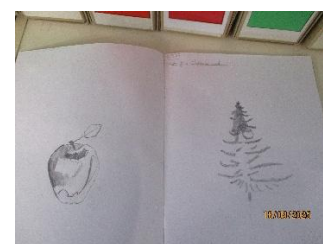




In art, we've been developing our pencil skills, particularly shading and sketching. The children practiced carefully to make apples and trees look three-dimensional – and the results were fantastic!

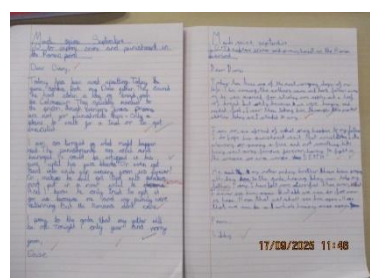
In PE, we've been keeping active and energetic. On the football pitch, the children are building on their skills, while in hockey they enjoyed learning how to “take the ball for a walk” as they practised dribbling.

A big highlight of the week was our **class elections**. Many children put themselves forward, giving speeches filled with passion, confidence, and enthusiasm. We are proud of every single child who stood up and had a go – it takes real courage! Congratulations to our new School Councillors, **Timmy and Billy**, and our new Green Team representatives, **Olive and Pierce**. For those who weren't chosen this time, remember it was a very close call – and there's always next year to try again!



Our Year 4s have their heads well and truly stuck in a book this week – and not just any book, but *Oranges in No Man's Land*. This last couple of weeks they've been absolutely flying, pouring their hearts into diary writing, stepping right into the shoes of the characters.

There's been gasps, giggles and a few very deep thoughts along the way. As one child told me, “It feels like I'm really there – I can see it all in my head!” The effort they're putting in is great and I am loving reading their own ideas- what creative children you have!



In Maple class, in History, the class enthusiastically explored crime and punishment during the Roman period. They examined how strict and sometimes brutal punishments were used to maintain order. The children wrote diary entries imagining what it would have been like to live in those times, reflecting on different crimes and punishments.

In English, Year 5 identified the key features of an

instructional text. They worked on uplevelling instructions by using fronted adverbials as well as adverbs of manner, time and place. The children also revisited noun phrases to make their writing more detailed and precise. As a final task, they wrote their own instructional texts on how to make a Roman curse tablet linked to their history topic and a powerful curse using relative clauses. Year 4 kept on focusing on writing diary entries and letters, carefully using expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials to add detail and structure to their work.



In Maths, in order to strengthen their understanding of place value, the children focused on recognising numbers, partitioning them and developing their skills in ordering and comparing numbers.

In our second hockey lesson, the children applied attacking skills under pressure. They practised moving into space, keeping control of the ball and making effective passes while being challenged by defenders.



In Art, the children experimented and tints to create beautiful using watercolours. They then combined painting, cutting and sticking to design a festive surprise for their Christmas cards!

Last but not least, the children voted democratically for the pupils who will represent the Green Team and School Council. They made speeches with confidence and enthusiasm, exercising their right to have a say in school decisions. This links directly to the Rights Respecting School ethos, particularly Article 12: Children have the right to express their views freely in all matters affecting them.



### ***This week's Willow Class update has been written by Joe, Year 6***

This week we've been learning all about World War Two evacuees and enjoying reading about their experiences in the first three chapters of our class book 'Letters from the Lighthouse'. We answered vocabulary-based questions to help us understand the deeper plot and the characters. During our History lesson read first hand accounts from evacuees during the war to make a decision on whether evacuees were happy or not. We came to the conclusion that evacuees had different experiences depending on who they were staying with and where they were staying.



In English, we have been working on developing our descriptive writing with expanded noun phrases and prepositional phrases to describe an evacuee's new home in the countryside. By using these techniques, we helped to immerse our readers in our writing. Here are some lovely examples from our work this week:

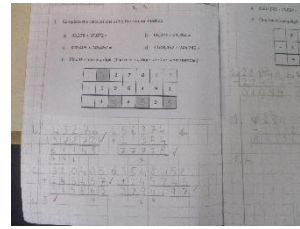
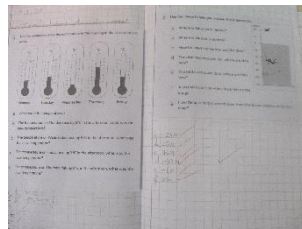
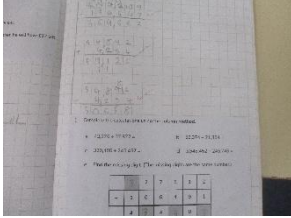
*In the middle of the vast living room, a ginormous grandfather clock stood proudly. (Alice)*

*An old threadbare rug was strewn across the wooden floor, its pattern long gone. (Ernie)*

*My feet were cold against the stone flagged floor. Above me, wooden beams stretched across the ceiling with dried flowers looking down from them. As the lights flickered, the young collie dog stretched and scraped its claws against the heavy wooden door. (Henry)*



In our maths lessons this week we have been revising adding and subtracting integers (whole numbers) and solving problems with negative numbers. We talked about how negative numbers exist in real life for example when recording temperatures and the sea level and going into debt!



This half term in PE we are improving our football skills. We have been practising passing the ball and attacking and defending by playing 2v2. We learnt how to use the inside of the foot to pass because this gives you the most control over where the ball goes.



Our school Green Team shared the fruits of their labour after collecting their harvest from the allotment. We think they have done an amazing job. We would like to use the carrots for our snacks at breaktime. Just look at the size of those pumpkins!



Christmas came early to our class this week as we learnt how to make tints of colours by adding white and how to use primary colours (for example blue and yellow) to mix secondary colours (for example green). Using these skills, we have designed our Christmas cards. We can't wait to see our designs printed and looking fabulous ready for you to purchase and raise money for our school.



In PSHE we talked about the difference between rights and wants and (after a lot of discussion) agreed that a right is essential to live well and be a good citizen and that a want is nice to have but not essential or necessary. We looked at different scenarios and what rights were being ignored in each scenario. We made comic strips with our own Rights Respecting superhero to the rescue to explain which Article needed to be respected and how we could help improve things.



It's been a great start to the year in Willow Class and we have already learnt so much!

Joe, Year 6