

NEWSLETTER 21.11.2025

Dear Parents & Carers,

The past couple of weeks have whizzed by, filled with rich learning and plenty of enthusiasm across the school. Winter has certainly made itself known, with chilly mornings! Please do make sure children come to school wrapped up warm so they can enjoy their outdoor breaks—hats, gloves, and scarves are very welcome, and labelling them really helps.

This week, we were delighted to welcome our School Improvement Advisor into school. She spent the day focusing on oracy across all year groups and was truly impressed with our pupils—their engagement, confidence, behaviour, and the quality of classroom talk stood out. She also praised our teachers for the calm, purposeful learning environments and the strong lessons she observed. It was wonderful to hear such positive feedback about the work happening every day in our classrooms.

Christmas is Coming! 🎄

Our fantastic Friends PTA is busy preparing for next Friday's Christmas event. They would greatly appreciate any support you can offer—whether that's donating items, lending a hand on the day, or spreading the word to friends and family. It promises to be another magical event for the children and a lovely opportunity for our community to come together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas Bazaar very soon!

Have a wonderful weekend,
Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

Diary Dates

- 28/11/25 Friends Christmas Bazaar
- 10/12/25 EYFS Show 2:30 start in Hall
- 11/12/25 Pantomime- whole school
- 16/12/25 Beech Performance 6pm
- 17/12/25 Christmas Lunch- Christmas jumpers
- 17/12/25 Little Hadham's Got Talent
- 18/12/25 KS2 Humanities Quiz!
- 19/12/25 Youth Create Christmas Parties

Celebrating Our Year 5 and 6 Tag Rugby Champions! 🏉 🌟

A huge congratulations to our brilliant Year 5 and 6 pupils who took part in the local schools' tag rugby tournament. They played with courage, unity and real flair—and came away unbeaten, winning **all 7 out of 7 games**. No 6-7 gibberish for us; it was a clean sweep!

Throughout the competition, the team demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship. Their sharp passes, lightning-quick runs and superb tries had everyone watching on their feet. All those training sessions clearly paid off!

We are incredibly proud of each player for representing the school with such positivity and determination. You've lifted the spirits of the whole school community, as we do like a win!

A big thank you to **Ms Goodger** for organising the event and to all the parents who helped with transport and support.

Well done, team! 🎉

In Early Years settings, we are required to take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well. Recently, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) have issued updated advice to support Early Years settings, to ensure that food is prepared in a way that minimises the risk of choking. Children can choke at any age. However, younger children are at greater risk as their narrow airways are more easily blocked.

Since the release of this guidance from the FSA, we have ensured that the EYFS unit, the lunch supervisors and cooks, and the wraparound care staff have been made aware of this advice.

We felt that it was important to provide access to this guidance for parents and carers too, to ensure we are raising awareness and increasing understanding around safe food practices for children under five. Please see the guidance here: https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2021/09/Early-Years-Choking-Hazards-Table_FINAL_21-Sept-2021.pdf

Catherine Lawrence EYFS Lead

Empathy Assembly – *It's Your World Now!*

This week in our fortnightly Empathy Assembly, we explored the beautiful picture book *It's Your World Now!* by Barry Falls. The story celebrates all the wonder, opportunity and excitement waiting for children as they grow, while also reminding them that mistakes, challenges and disappointments are a natural part of life. With warmth and humour, the book encourages children to embrace who they are, face difficulties with courage, and show kindness to others along the way.

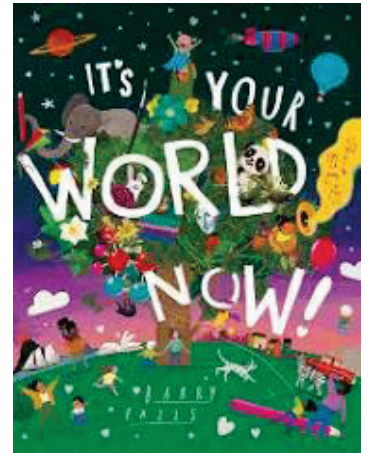
Thank you to Charlie, who asked the thoughtful questions during our discussion and helped everyone reflect more deeply on the message of the story.

Our empathy focus this week was understanding that everyone faces ups and downs, and that showing care—especially when things don't go to plan—can make all the difference. Children shared examples of times they have helped friends through tricky moments, and we talked about how we can support one another with patience, encouragement and kindness.

As always, families may like to continue the conversation at home:

- *What exciting things do you hope your future might include?*
- *When was a time you learned from a mistake?*
- *How can we show empathy when someone is feeling disappointed?*

We continue to be incredibly proud of how thoughtfully our children engage with empathy and with one another.



Rights Respecting Schools

On Monday 11th November, our School Captains led the whole school in a thoughtful and reflective Remembrance Assembly. They shared the beautifully illustrated picture book 'The House by the Lake' by Thomas Harding—a powerful true story of a small lakeside house in Germany and the many families who lived there as war, division, and conflict shaped their lives. Through this moving narrative, our captains helped the children understand how ordinary people, including children, can be affected by war and displacement.



They then guided us in a two-minute silent reflection, giving everyone in school the opportunity to pause, remember, and consider the sacrifices made by so many. It was a moving moment for the whole school community.



Our captains also linked the assembly to our Rights Respecting Schools work. As a Silver-accredited Rights Respecting School, we discussed Article 38 of the UNCRC, which states that children have the right to be protected from the effects of war and armed conflict. Their thoughtful leadership helped us reflect on remembrance not only as a historical event but as a reminder of our ongoing responsibility to promote peace and compassion.

We are also extremely proud of our School Captains, Joe, Otis, Grace and Hugo, for representing our school community at the recent Little Hadham village Remembrance Service, where they laid a poppy wreath on behalf of all of us. They showed great maturity, respect, and empathy—wonderful role models for our whole school.



Mrs Tweedale
Rights Respecting Schools Co-ordinator
Deputy Head



Tickets, please! This, and many other 'bus-themed' narratives have been heard throughout the week in Early Years, thanks to the arrival of the school's new double decker feature! The children really enjoyed going on the bus and talking about what they noticed. With a focus on oracy, the children took the opportunity to practise their sentence stem "I can see..." as they spoke to each other about the features they saw on the bus.

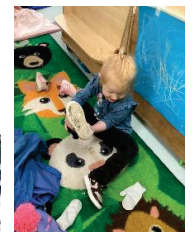


After their bus ride, the children made their way back to the classroom, following all of Mrs Lawrence the Driver's instructions, including 'stop', 'roundabout' and even 'pick up the passengers'! This fun listening game demonstrated just how much the children's ability to follow instructions and

hone their attention has come on in recent weeks. The children then engaged with lots of different linked activities including role play, writing and crafting.



We have also been working hard in maths this week, with Ash exploring the composition of numbers and Saplings using their knowledge to talk about daily routines, such as putting on socks and shoes. Our Learning Together Afternoon celebrated our maths activities that we have been enjoying including playing number games with dice and measuring our favourite toys with cubes. Thank you to all of those who were able to attend our Learning Together Afternoon! We hope that you found the session supportive and enjoyable.



In class, we have started to think about Christmas and have been learning about the First Christmas story, exploring the journey of Mary and Joseph and the birth of baby Jesus. They enjoyed retelling the story through songs and stories. It has been a great start to the festive season!

Forest school was fun and frosty, as the children worked together to create a huge leaf pile. After some great teamwork, Ash and Saplings then thoroughly enjoyed jumping in the pile and kicking the leaves around!



In English this week the Year 1 children have been working hard on their letter-writing skills. This week, they wrote their very own letters to Father Christmas! To challenge their thinking and develop their writing, they learned that a proper letter includes: A greeting, a clear message, a question (so Father Christmas has something to reply to!) and a closing sentence and their name. The children were encouraged to think carefully about what they would genuinely like to ask Father Christmas, such as questions about the reindeer, the North Pole, or how he delivers the presents. This helped them practise writing full sentences and using question marks correctly. Year 2 have been developing their diary writing skills, building on our text "*There's a Tiger in My Garden*." After revisiting the story, the children imagined what it would be like to step into the shoes of one of the characters and write a diary entry describing the events of the day. To make their writing lively and descriptive, we focused on: Expanded noun phrases (e.g., *the enormous stripy tiger, the bright, fluttering butterflies*), writing in the first person, as though they were really the character, using feelings and thoughts to make the diary entry sound personal and recounting events in order. We produced some fantastic diary entries -well done Beech Class.



This week in science, both year groups took part in exciting hands-on learning linked to our topic on seasonal changes and living things. Year 1 went on an Autumn scavenger hunt around the school grounds, where they explored the outdoor environment and looked for signs that the season is changing. They found colourful fallen leaves in reds, oranges and yellows, crunchy brown leaves, pinecones, acorns, bare branches and patches of moss. The children talked about how the weather feels different in autumn and how trees and plants change at this time of year, enjoying

the chance to collect and compare the natural objects they discovered. Meanwhile, Year 2 have been learning about microhabitats and investigated the small, specific environments where minibeasts live. They explored different areas around the school, searching under logs, in leaf piles, on tree bark, in the soil and in shady, damp corners of the garden. The children observed which animals they found in each place and discussed why these creatures choose those environments, thinking about what they need to survive, such as food, shelter and moisture. They recorded their findings carefully and were fascinated by the tiny worlds they uncovered.



In History, the children have been learning about the Gunpowder Plot. They explored who was involved, when it happened and why the plotters planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament. The children enjoyed discussing key figures such as Guy Fawkes and King James I, and they were able to talk about the main events of the plot and how it was finally discovered. This has helped them build a strong understanding of this significant moment in British history. We were delighted to see so many parents join us for our Learning Together Morning. The children had a fantastic time sharing their learning and enjoyed solving maths games and answering tricky maths questions alongside their parents. It was wonderful to see everyone working together, having fun, and celebrating the children's progress.



This week in Year 3 and 4 has been full of lively learning and meaningful discussion. In English, the children explored Anthony Browne's version of *Hansel and Gretel*, discovering how illustrations can enrich a story and offer deeper symbolism and hidden meanings. Their curiosity and thoughtful interpretations led to some wonderful conversations about how pictures can change the way we understand a text.



In Maths, the focus has been on multiplication and division, particularly the 3, 4, 6 and 9 times tables. The children have been building confidence with patterns in number and applying these facts in a range of problems. During our Learning Together morning, we were delighted to welcome parents and carers into the classroom. The children proudly demonstrated their growing knowledge of formal written methods for addition and subtraction, carefully using the correct vocabulary such as regrouping and exchanging. This helped everyone see just how important place value is when setting out calculations.



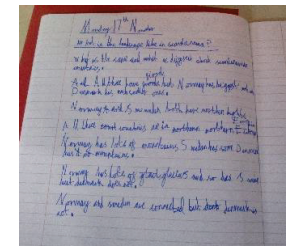
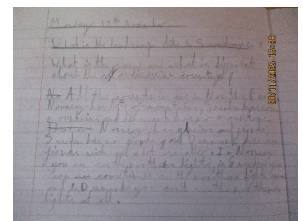
In DT, the classroom has been a hub of creativity as the children designed and made their own Christmas baubles, which will soon be available at the bazaar for just £1. Geography took us on an exciting journey through Norway, Sweden and Denmark as we examined the physical features of Scandinavia and compared and contrasted the landscapes of these three countries with each other by thinking about 'what is the same and what is different'. In French, the children



continued to expand their vocabulary around animals, and in Music they have been enthusiastically practising their "Holly Jolly" Christmas song.



Our PSHE work encouraged thoughtful reflection on unwelcome behaviours and how to treat others with respect, while also understanding that it is important to speak up about anything that makes us feel uncomfortable. In Computing, we learned about online bullying and discussed how to recognise, prevent and respond to cyberbullying in a safe and responsible way. Overall, it has been a rich and productive week, and the children should be very proud of their efforts.



This week in Maple class, the children attended an exciting Maths Innovators online workshop. They explored the work of influential mathematicians from around the world, including Ada Lovelace, Al-Khwarizmi and Charles Napier and learned how these individuals have shaped our understanding of mathematics and calculation. The workshop also introduced the children to different counting systems, the importance of place value and the role of binary numbers in modern computing.

The children then enjoyed making their own binary bracelets. In their maths lessons this week, Year 5 focused on multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000, while Year 4 practised identifying and working with multiples of 3, 6 and 9.



In English, Maple class children wrote diary entries, informal letters and persuasive, formal letters in the roles of Mary Jackson (a mathematician and aerospace engineer) and Margaret E. Knight (an American inventor often called "the female Edison"), two inspirational figures who won court cases and challenged discrimination. In their informal letters, they focused on expressing feelings and empathy, whereas in their formal letters they adopted a professional tone while writing their reasons



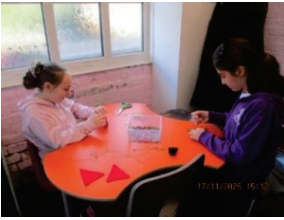
In Geography, the children identified and described the key geographical features of the United Kingdom. They particularly enjoyed exploring maps and locating major cities across the UK.



During their yoga session, the children continued to develop strength, balance and mindfulness. They practised the postures of the Sun

Sequence, explored new postures and took part in a variety of engaging activities, including the Sneaky Trees game with slow-motion actions, the Front-to-front game where they mirrored postures with different partners, the Rainstick game and the calming Ladybird relaxation to finish.





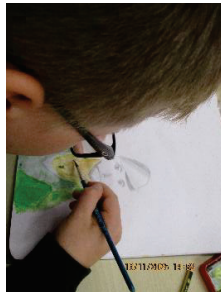
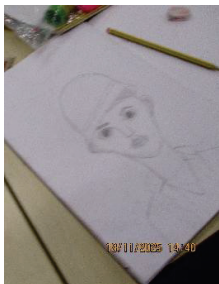
In Design and Technology, the children practised their sewing skills while creating their own Christmas decorations. They carefully added buttons to personalise their festive designs and used running stitches to join pieces of felt.

To finish the week, the children received their first letters from their penpals in Greece and wrote back, sharing information about their homes and answering their penpals' questions.



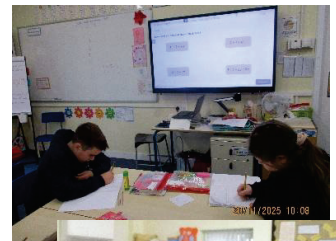
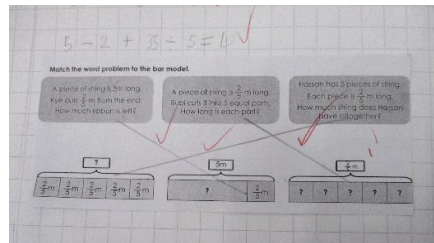
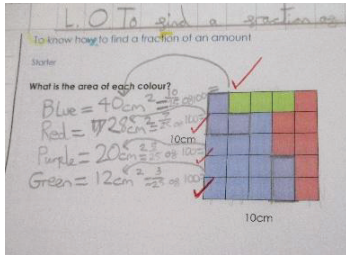
This week in Willow Class we have packed in creativity, problem-solving, languages, science magic, and even a bit of pizza... all in the name of learning.

In Art we have been honing our sketching skills and studying facial proportions with a focus on the striking painting 2000 Yard Stare by Tom Lea, 1944. We explored how an artist can show someone who has been deeply affected by the horrors of war. Using our knowledge of proportion and shading, we produced some truly beautiful and powerful interpretations of this artwork.



In maths we have been finding our feet with fractions—adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing them like absolute pros. We tackled all sorts of fraction challenges and were thrilled to learn a new method for dividing fractions: KCF — Keep me, Change me, Flip me!

One enthusiastic mathematician even exclaimed, “Wow, I love this method—it's a life hack!”



Our Learning Together Morning was also pizza-themed (always a win!). We worked together on fraction pizza problems, using knowledge of times tables, equivalent fractions, and lowest common denominators. It was great to see collaboration, excitement, and shared learning. Thank you to those who joined us for our Learning Together Morning.



In French, we stepped back into the 1940s and wrote letters in role as evacuees during the Second World War. Here's an example of one of the letters we planned:

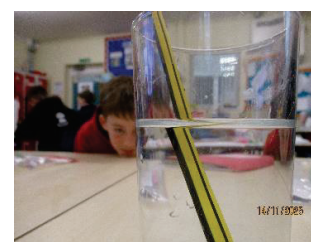
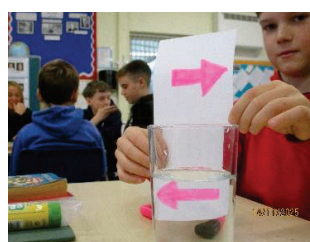
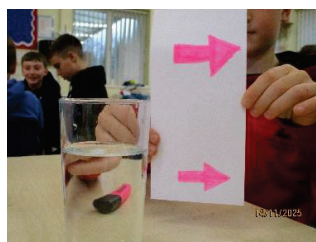
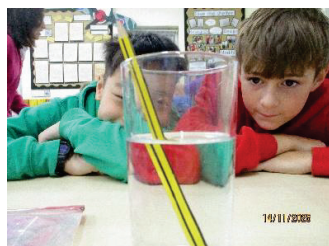
Chère Maman,

Bonjour, ça va? Je suis à la campagne. À la campagne c'est calme et sans danger. J'ai vu des fleurs et des animaux. Grosses bises.

Wow! Très impressionnant!



Science this week had us all gasping with amazement. We learned about refraction and how light changes direction when it passes through a transparent object. Using everyday items like pencils and glasses of water, we watched objects appear to “bend” before our eyes. The highlight was using refraction to ‘magically’ flip the direction of arrows drawn on paper—simply by placing them behind a glass of water! Our very own Hogwarts moment.



Pupil Voice – Focus on Oracy in Maths



This week, children from Beech, Lime, Maple and Willow classes took part in a Pupil Voice session with a focus on oracy in Maths. The children shared with Mrs Afenti-Sassis that they really enjoy talking about their Maths work, as it helps them learn in different ways. They discussed how working with learning partners allows them

to explain their thinking, explore different strategies and identify mistakes or misunderstandings together.

The children said that loud helps them to and to support one recognised that opportunities in and explain their use strategies such as help them structure their responses and express their reasoning clearly. They talked about how repetition and modelling help them to



building confidence and independence when explaining ideas. This gradual release of responsibility supports them in first hearing and seeing how to explain, then practising together and finally doing it on their own.



During the session, children proudly shared representations from their Maths books and spoke confidently using mathematical vocabulary to describe their work and the strategies they used.

Foodbank reminder!

Class	Items	Date
Maple	Toiletries, Toilet rolls, nappies, toothpaste, soap, etc	21/11/25
Lime	Dried goods e.g. cereals, noodles, rice, pasta, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, long-life milk	28/11/25
Beech	Cleaning products: bleach, toilet duck, washing up liquid, sponges, detergents	05/12/25
EYFS	Sweets, treats, Crisps, Selection Boxes, Bags for life and strong plastic bags and toilet rolls	12/12/25