

Dear Families,

*Time flies when you are learning!*

The last couple of weeks have flown by, filled with exciting learning and activities across the school. Winter is certainly making its presence felt, with a noticeable drop in temperatures and even a few snow flurries! Please ensure your children are dressed warmly for school, as they will be enjoying their breaks and lunchtimes outdoors. Hats, gloves, and scarves are all welcome additions to keep them snug, but please make sure they are labelled.

Christmas is Coming! 🎄

The festive season is just around the corner, and our wonderful Friends PTA is hard at work preparing for next Friday's Christmas event. They'd love as much help as you can give, whether it's donating items, volunteering your time, or spreading the word to friends and family. Let's make this another magical event for the children and a great way to bring our community together.

Thank you for your continued support, and have a wonderful weekend.

Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

### Diary Dates

- 29/11/24 Friends Christmas Bazaar
- 03/12/24 FLU Jabs
- 12/12/24 Pantomime- whole school
- 16/12/24 Willow Class Ice Skating to Alexandra Palace
- 17/12/24 KS2 Humanities Quiz
- 18/12/24 Christmas Lunch- Christmas jumpers!
- 18/12/24 Little Hadham's Got Talent
- 19/12/24 Golden Morning
- 20/12/24 Youth Create Christmas Parties
- More to come...watch this space!

### Celebrating Our Year 5 and 6 Tag Rugby Stars! 🏉

A massive well done to our incredible Year 5 and 6 pupils who took part in a local schools' tag rugby competition this week. Not only did they play with heart, teamwork, and skill, but they also didn't lose a single game! That's right—our team was *unstoppable!* 🙌

The children showcased fantastic sportsmanship throughout the day, with swift passes, daring runs, and some impressive tries that wowed the crowd. Their hard work in practice certainly paid off. Could we be seeing future England or Ireland rugby players in the making? Watch this space! We're so proud of all the players who represented our school with pride and determination. You've inspired us all—whether it's on the pitch or cheering from the sidelines. Well done, team and thank you once again to Ms Goodger and Mrs Evans for organising! 🙌

### Tree Planting Adventure at Silver Ieys Polo Club



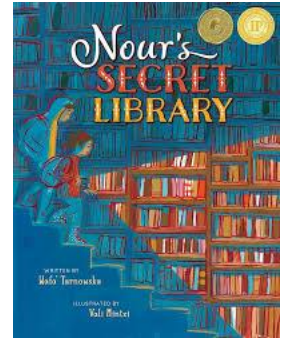
What an incredible day our Year 1 to Year 6 children had, braving the crisp 0-degree weather to take part in tree planting at Silver Ieys Polo Club! This special event allowed the children to contribute to the continued growth of the magnificent Millennium Woods, originally planted by ex-pupils of our school 24 years ago.

The excitement didn't stop at planting trees. The children learned about the importance of woodland ecosystems and will have the chance to enjoy woodland activities in this thriving natural space as it continues to flourish. To top it off, they delighted in meeting the club's horses and ponies, sparking curiosity and wonder about these beautiful animals.

A huge thank you to Martin Slade and his dedicated team for making the day not only educational but also engaging and memorable. It was a wonderful hands-on experience, showing our children how their efforts today will benefit future generations—a true legacy of care and connection to nature.

### **Empathy Assembly: *Nour's Secret Library***

This week, during our empathy assembly, we explored the beautifully inspiring story of *Nour's Secret Library* by Wafa' Tarnowska. The book tells the tale of two young friends, Nour and her neighbor, who live in a war-torn city. Amidst the rubble, they create a secret library, salvaging books to provide hope, imagination, and comfort to their community. The story highlights the power of resilience, friendship, and the strength found in sharing stories, even in the darkest times.



Our children engaged in meaningful discussions about the themes of empathy, courage, and the importance of community. Here are some of their thoughts:

- “It made me think about how books can make you feel like you’re in a different place, even if things around you are hard.”
- “I learned that helping others can make everyone feel a little bit stronger.”

We also posed some reflective questions for the children to consider, and we’d love for you to explore these together as a family:

- How can we show kindness and support to someone who might be feeling alone or scared?
- Have you ever found comfort in a story or book? What did it teach you?
- Why do you think sharing what we have—even something small—can make such a big difference?

As always, our aim with these assemblies is to foster a sense of compassion and understanding, nurturing a safe and inclusive environment where everyone can feel valued and cared for. Thank you for continuing these conversations at home!



Early Years have been really enjoying the chill in the air this week, as we have spent lots of time outside! It was particularly exciting when we noticed the ice arrive midweek... in fact the children were so keen to share their enthusiasm that many asked to take their ice home to show their grown-ups! A few soggy pockets and some watery puddles later, the children started to think about what they could do to preserve the ice. Some put theirs in the shaded areas outside whilst others insisted that it would be best in a bowl in the freezer! The rich discussions and critical thinking that arose from this child initiated activity was lovely to see.

We also enjoyed stirring up some mud in the forest to make out own forest creatures! Using mathematical language of ‘more’ and ‘less’, the children experimented with adding different amounts of water to the mud to make it the right consistency for their projects.



In the warmth of our classroom, we have also been busy, continuing with our literacy learning, playing jokes on one another, just like Charlie did to Lola in our core text! We decided as a group... **"That's not a carrot! That's a dinosaur tooth!"** as the children in both Ash and Saplings helped Mrs Lawrence write the new caption. The children were really excited to use their imaginations to think of lots of different things that our fruits and vegetables could be!



The children's imagination for story telling is really developing through our Tales Toolkit sessions. Each week, there are items for a character, setting, problem and solution. This week, the children created a story about Harold the Giraffe feeling lonely but fortunately an owl swooped into his room and took him to the playground. They even gave the story a title; Harold the Lonely Giraffe.

We've had an exciting and busy week in Beech Class, filled with fun, learning, and memorable experiences! In maths the year 1 children have been working hard on number bonds and number formation up to 20. This learning helps solidify their understanding of the relationships between numbers, which is essential for developing mental maths skills. Practicing number formation ensures they can write numbers clearly and confidently, building a strong foundation for future maths concepts. The focus for Year 2 has been on enhancing arithmetic skills, with an emphasis on division and grouping. By exploring how to divide items into halves and quarters, the children are learning key concepts about equal sharing and fractions, which form an essential part of their mathematical understanding.

In English the Year 1 children had a creative time using adjectives this week. The children began by describing socks in pairs. One sock was hidden, and they used descriptive words to identify its matching pair. This fun activity helped develop their vocabulary and their ability to use descriptive language effectively. Later, the children explored an underwater scene where clothes had transformed into sea creatures! They loved imagining these lively underwater characters and describing them using rich and imaginative language. Year 2 practiced their prediction skills by studying an image from a story. They used visual clues to infer what might happen next, sparking their imaginations and critical thinking skills. This activity not only develops their ability to make logical guesses but also encourages them to think deeply about stories and their elements.



We have had several highlights this week including a Visit to the Polo Club:  
On our trip to the polo club, the children had the unique opportunity to plant their very own oak trees, each dedicated to someone special. This meaningful activity allowed them to connect with nature while thinking of others. They also enjoyed a woodland treasure hunt and met some of the magnificent horses.



Back at school, they put their artistic skills to the test by drawing the horses they had seen. Thank you so much to our wonderful volunteers for helping with this.

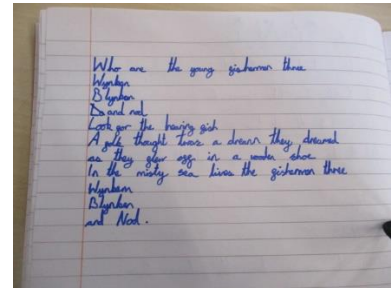




Our second highlight this week was a visit from the Police: The children learned important lessons about staying safe and what to do in an emergency, including who to call. They had so much fun trying on police hats and learning about the roles of our community helpers.



Lime Class has had an action-packed week full of fun and learning! In English, we've been reading a fascinating old poem called Wynken, Blynken and Nod. To make it our own, we created word banks and even started to add our own verse, carefully matching the poem's traditional style. It's been such a creative challenge, and everyone has impressed with their poetic flair!



Maths has been all about sharpening our skills with formal written methods for addition and subtraction. We've mastered terms like "exchange" and "regroup," and have been practicing checking our answers using inverse operations. It's like solving little puzzles!

Watching everyone gain confidence in their calculations has been fantastic.



Our PSHE lesson was both inspiring and thought-provoking as we explored how wonderfully diverse our world is. We had meaningful discussions about tolerance and respect and what they look like in our daily lives.

Wednesday brought a real adventure when we braved the cold and mud for an outdoor afternoon planting trees, orienteering, and even meeting polo ponies! It was tiring but so much fun—we couldn't stop smiling.



In Geography, we got hands-on with an OS map of the local area, we used it to learn about map symbols and then created our own keys. Finding the school and some of our houses was a real highlight!



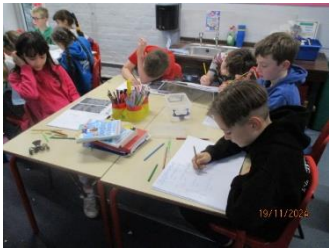
French lessons kept us on our toes as we tackled tricky phonics, but the excitement didn't stop there—Mrs. Sassis shared some thrilling news. Soon, we'll each be paired with a Greek pen pal! We're already bursting with ideas for our Christmas cards and letters. What a brilliant week!



In Maple, our week began with our regular yoga session, which focused on exploring new postures. This week, we introduced mirroring games, a fun and engaging activity where selected children demonstrated yoga postures for the rest of the class to imitate. These games encouraged the children to carefully observe and replicate movements, enhancing their focus, coordination, and physical awareness.



In English, the children immersed themselves in the experiences of the Windrush generation, crafting informal letters that captured the emotional journey of leaving home, life aboard the ship, and the challenges of starting a new life in a foreign land. Their letters were filled with feelings and thoughts, written in an informal, chatty tone and they definitely impressed with their powerful vocabulary choices.



In PSHE, our objective was to understand and identify stereotypes, including those promoted in the media. The lesson started the children drawing a child climbing, a doctor, a baby boy, and someone modelling clothes. Did they draw a male or a female doctor? A male or a female model? What colour was the boy dressed in? Through their drawings, we discussed and identified various stereotypes, including those reinforced by the media.



On Wednesday, we were treated to a truly special afternoon! The children thoroughly enjoyed spending time outdoors, exploring the Millenium wood, stroking the horses—an exciting first-time experience for some, including Mrs. Sassis—indulging in a delightful treat, engaging in a thrilling treasure hunt, planting their own trees, and taking part in a mini laughing yoga session.



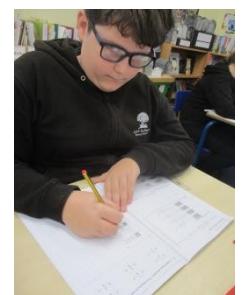
Despite the biting winds and plummeting temperatures this week, in Willow Class we have been busy enjoying our learning.



We have had lots of fun with fractions. From multiplying to dividing fractions, we've learnt different strategies and tried out different ways of proving our thinking. Perhaps our favourite strategy of the week has been using the KCF method – Keep, Change, Flip - when dividing fractions (not to be confused with KFC and the Colonel's chicken!). There were many bursts of glee to be heard around the classroom

when we mastered how to divide fractions. A few quotes from the children...

*"I love using KCF!" "This makes so much sense!"*





*"I think KCF makes finding the answer so much quicker and I know how it works!"  
 'These are my favourite kind of fraction questions so far!"*

In English, we watched the short film 'Wing'. The film follows a solitary, one winged creature called who is harassed by a group of oppressive crows due to being weak and different from them. Wing decides that he wants to overcome his disability and escape from the forest. This powerful short film explores the theme of bullying and we have used it to inspire us to write our own narratives, creating atmosphere and tension for the reader.



*'In the darkness of the forest, where no one dare venture, majestic oak trees towered above the gloomy mist. Displeased owls hooted angrily and frustrated foxes scampered. The trees stood in perfect formation, like soldiers on guard.'* Ralph, Y6



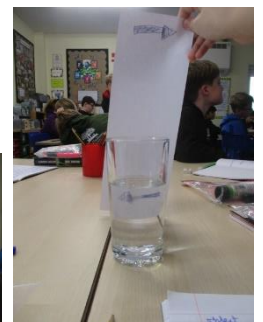
*'Towering spruce trees stood proudly in the mysterious ancient forest. They cast long, large shadows and a single shaft of moonlight lit the forest floor. Consumed by his thoughts, a one-winged boy (Wing) sat playing his hand-carved flute as a dangerous murder of crows swooped ever closer. Without warning, they dived at Wing launching him off his feet.'* Lochlan, Y6

On Wednesday, we wrapped up warm and enjoyed a bracing but beautiful walk up to Silver Leys Polo Club where we took part in several different activities. We each planted an oak tree and dedicated our saplings to a loved one. We learnt about the benefits of spending time in the outdoors and about how important trees are. Did you know that one tree provides enough oxygen for ten people? From tree planting to exploring the woods to drawing horses at the stables, we had a super morning. Being in the outdoors certainly agrees with us as our big smiles and rosy cheeks remained in place all afternoon!



In

Science, we learnt why a straw appears to bend when in a glass of water. We learnt about refracted light and used what we had learnt to change the direction of an arrow without touching the arrow. The arrow looked like it had changed direction because of refraction. We learnt that refraction happens when light passes through one transparent (clear) thing into another, in this case, from air through the glass and water. This is sometimes called the bending of light. The light bends when it enters the water and then bends again when it leaves the water, which is why the arrow or image ends up looking flipped! really is magic that works! Did you know, refraction is why glasses help us to see better? The light refracts through the lenses and into our eye which makes the image more focused.



Science why through

## Rights Respecting Schools

### Article 38

*Governments must not allow children under the age of 15 to take part in war or join the armed forces. Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war and armed conflicts.*

Remembrance unites people of all faiths, cultures and backgrounds in honouring those who defend our democratic freedom and way of life.

The UK has a long tradition of marking Armistice Day, calling to mind the moment when fighting ceased at the end of the First World War, at 11.00am on the 11th of November 1918.



On Sunday 10th November, our School Captains played a key role at the Little Hadham Village Remembrance service as they laid a poppy wreath on behalf of all at Little Hadham Primary School. It was incredibly moving to hear the names read aloud of those individuals from our village who had lost their lives in the Great War.



On Monday 11th November, we led a whole school Remembrance assembly. Our Captains had asked all children across the school to make a poppy to wear for this special assembly. In Willow Class, we made pinwheel poppies. How wonderful to see a sea of poppies of remembrance!



Our Captains shared information about the First World War and the signing of the peace agreement. They told us how at 11 o'clock on the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918 the guns fell silent, and the fighting stopped. Our Captains then shared information about the significance of the poppy and why people wear poppies. We held a two-minute silence and watched a beautiful and evocative video that sees war as experienced by animals in a WWI battlefield. You can click the link here to watch this moving two-minute film. [Poppies](#)

In the afternoon, our Captains read the story of Stubby to our children in the Early Years. The story of Stubby is a true story. Stubby was a brave soldier, a loyal friend... and a dog! From an army training camp to the trenches in France, the book tells the incredible true story of Sergeant Stubby, the dog who served bravely in the First World War, sniffing out gas attacks, catching spies and winning the hearts of his fellow soldiers.



Thank you to Belle, Dylan, Abigail and Max for your planning and delivery of these Remembrance activities.

Mrs Tweedale  
Deputy Head  
Rights Respecting Co-ordinator

