

Dear families

## Welcome Back – What a Week! How are 4 days just as exhausting as 5!

We've had a wonderful start to the summer term, full of energy, excitement and sunshine (well... a little sunshine!). It's been lovely to see the children back, refreshed and ready to learn. Classrooms have been buzzing with curiosity, laughter, and the sounds of new beginnings.

Lime Class have jumped straight into rehearsals for their upcoming performance. There's definitely a buzz in the air—I've had a few sneak peeks and can honestly say it's sounding *fantastic*. The children are working so hard, and their enthusiasm is infectious. We can't wait to welcome you all to watch the final show—get ready for something special!

Outside, the Polycrub project is making steady progress. It's exciting to see this space taking shape, and it won't be long before our children are planting, investigating, and learning in this brilliant new eco hub. Our Green Team have already met this week to talk about how we can use it, and they're brimming with ideas. They're also gearing up to lead next week's whole-school assembly, where they'll be exploring the themes of empathy and the environment—two things we care deeply about at Little Hadham. Watch this space!

All in all, a fabulous first week back, with so much more to look forward to.

Have a lovely weekend,  
Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

## Diary Dates

- 29/04/25 Lime Class performance 6pm
- 30/04/25 Year 4 Maths Challenge
- 05/05/25 Bank Holiday Monday
- 19/05/25 Learning Together Morning Willow
- 20/05/25 Learning Together Morning Lime
- 21/05/25 Learning Together Morning Beech
- 22/05/25 Learning Together Morning Maple
- 23/05/25 Learning Together Morning EYFS
- 23/05/25 Half term begins
- 02/06/25 School Re-opens

## Our new music and art space and a Huge Thank You! 🎵

We're thrilled to share some lovely updates from our music shed – which we know will become a much-loved space, all thanks to the incredible support from our school community.

A huge shout out goes to our parent Mr Gay, who kindly organised a team of builders to help us move the project forward. His ongoing support and grass cutting never go unnoticed – thank you, Mr Gay, for being such a star!

We also want to send our heartfelt thanks to Mr Trundle, our brilliant caretaker, who worked tirelessly over the holidays to bring everything together. His dedication to improving our school, even during his time off, is truly amazing. From lifting and fixing to painting and building, we are so lucky to have someone who puts so much heart into every corner of our school.

And there's more good news – we now have lovely, safe new blinds in our Elm room, making the space even more comfortable and welcoming for our children.

We are so grateful to everyone who works behind the scenes to make our school the warm, safe and vibrant place it is. Thank you!

## News from the classes...

The children have had a wonderful first week back after the Easter holidays and have been enjoying learning about their new key text, Anansi by Gerald McDermott. We have spoken about how the story of Anansi originates from Ghana in Africa and have been enjoying learning a traditional Ghanaian call and response song! The children also really enjoyed creating Anansi collages in the style of the book illustrations, which they proudly displayed in our classroom.



In maths, Ash class have started to delve deeper into the world of teen numbers, exploring how to represent them using different resources. We have focused on starting with ten and then adding on numbers one through nine to explore the composition of these numbers.

Saplings have been building a strong understanding of counting principles, working on their use of resources to subitise, count and compare numbers to five.

The children have also really enjoyed exploring the resources in the outside area! A particular interest in the blossom, floating in the wind has sparked lots of excitement, as well as the mud kitchen where the teachers have been treated to some delicious meals and snacks!



The playground has also come alive with butterflies flying around the garden, as the children enjoy the dress up butterfly wings. This links with our new topic of minibeasts - the children have been enjoying sharing their knowledge of minibeasts and what they would like to learn about over the next few weeks. Ash and Saplings have been really enjoying listening to stories which include minibeasts, they even created their own story in our Tales Toolkit session which included a spider as the main character.

It is lovely to be back in Beech Class after the Easter holidays! We hope you all had a restful break. The children have returned full of energy and ready to learn, and it's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm in the classroom.



In maths, both Year 1 and Year 2 have been focusing on time. Year 1 have been learning to tell the time to the hour and half past, as well as exploring the days of the week and using language like "before" and "after" to sequence events. Year 2 have taken this further by learning to tell the time to the nearest five minutes, including reading clocks showing quarter past and quarter to. We've also incorporated active maths into our lessons, especially with Year 1, using songs and movements to help them count confidently to ten – a fun and engaging way to reinforce number skills.

In English, the children have been writing recounts of their Easter holidays. They've been learning how to structure their writing using time words such as "first", "next", "then", and "finally", while using full sentences and the past tense to describe their experiences. It's been a joy to read about all the exciting things they've been up to over the break.



In geography, we've started our new topic comparing Brazil and England. We began by locating both countries on a map using globes, atlases, and the interactive whiteboard. The children enjoyed exploring where the two countries are in the world, which continents they are part of, and learning about their capital cities. We've also started thinking about the differences in climate, culture, and landscapes between the two.

In art, we've begun researching our new artists. Year 1 have been looking at Vincent Van Gogh and exploring his bold use of colour and swirling brushstrokes, particularly in his famous work *Starry Night*. Meanwhile, Year 2 have been learning about Piet Mondrian, focusing on his use of primary colours and straight lines in abstract pieces like *Composition with Red, Blue and Yellow*. The children have already started creating their own amazing art inspired by these styles. It's been a brilliant start to the term and we're looking forward to everything still to come.

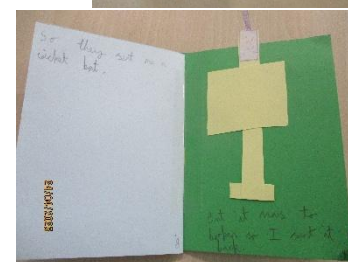
### Welcome Back from Lime Class!

Hello everyone and welcome back to school for the summer term! We're so excited to be starting a new term full of learning, creativity, and (hopefully!) lots of sunny weather for outdoor fun.

This week, Lime Class has been buzzing with excitement as we put the final touches on our class production, "**Romans in Britain.**" The children have been rehearsing with great enthusiasm, especially one catchy song that they *can't wait* for you to hear! Performing is a really important part of our learning. It helps us become confident speakers and listeners, builds our oracy and literacy skills, and gives us a fantastic chance to express ourselves. Plus, we've been practicing our musical talents with singing and dancing too!



Our play also links to our History topic about the **Roman Empire** and how it has shaped life in Britain today. We've even managed to sneak in a bit of **Geography** and **Science** along the way!



In class, we've continued working hard in lots of other subjects. In **Maths**, we've been learning to tell the time using both analogue and digital clocks — a really useful life skill! In **Design and Technology (DT)**, we've been finishing our amazing books with moving parts. We're now evaluating them by thinking about what worked well, what was tricky, and what we might do differently next time. This is a big part of the design process: **research, plan and design, make, then evaluate.**

We've also started a brand new **Geography** topic on **rivers**. We're looking forward to some exciting fieldwork later this term! And in **Science**, our Year 3 topic is **plants**, which links perfectly with rivers and the water cycle — giving us even more chances to explore the outdoors and learn from nature.

We're so proud of all the brilliant learning the children are producing in Lime Class and can't wait to share more with you soon!







In Maple class, in their History and English sessions, the children began exploring the fascinating world of the Shang Dynasty of ancient China and how we know about it today by comparing sources of evidence. They discovered what everyday life was like for ordinary people living during this time and then wrote diary entries from the perspective of someone living in the Shang Dynasty, capturing the experiences and emotions of daily life in the past.



In English, they also focused on identifying the key features of non-chronological reports as part of their preparation for writing their own non-chronological reports next week. They looked at structure, language features, headings, subheadings and factual tone, building



a strong foundation for their upcoming writing task.

The children were also introduced to their new class book, *High-Rise Mystery* by Sharna Jackson. They are already intrigued by the setting, characters and the unfolding mystery and are looking forward to delving deeper into the story in the coming weeks.



In French, the class started their new unit: *At the Tea Room*. They began learning vocabulary related to food and drink and explored how to recognise and use cognates—words that sound or look similar in both English and French. The children enjoyed identifying familiar words and were excited to see how much French they could already understand by making these connections.

In Willow Class we are excited to start the summer term – the final term of our time at primary school! A busy term lies ahead, and we wasted no time this week diving straight into our new topics.

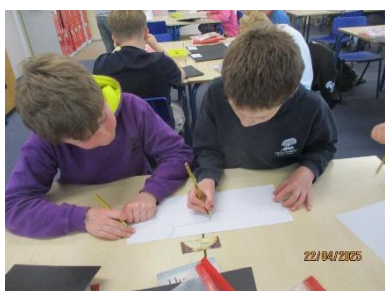
Our Art and History lessons were beautifully intertwined as we worked collaboratively to produce a whole class portrait of Queen Victoria. Discussing Victoria's lengthy reign allowed us to explore significant changes in our country's history. Hence, we posed the thought-provoking questions: "Was it really full steam ahead for the Victorians?" and "Was the Empire really all that great?" These themes will guide our exploration of the Victorian era.



To create our impressive class portrait, we carefully scaled up a copy of a famous painting. This activity required us to work closely together, enlarging each section and colour matching to achieve a unified final piece. We look forward to proudly displaying this imposing portrait of Queen Victoria soon; one can only wonder what she might have thought of our efforts—perhaps she would have quipped, "We are not amused!"

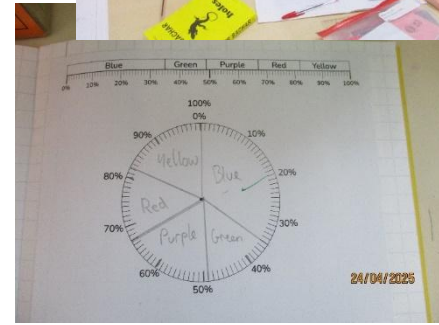


Continuing with the theme of portraits, we had great fun producing our own silhouette portraits, trying to identify each other. Silhouette portraits were all the rage among Victorians, and our creations were a delightful nod to this trend.



In Maths, we completed our unit on statistics by learning to construct pie charts using protractors and calculating mean averages. This offered plentiful opportunities for collaboration, as we discussed strategies and checked each other's calculations—great teamwork!

During our PE lesson, we thoroughly enjoyed working with javelins, honing our aiming skills and learning to record distances accurately.



In English, we annotated a newspaper article, highlighting key features such as formal vocabulary and passive verb forms to prepare for our own article writing.

Finally, in Science, we began our exciting new topic of Evolution and Inheritance, studying how fossils help scientists understand different species. We took the role of paleontologists, forming conclusions and theories based on our findings.

## Forest School Fun with Connor!

What a magical week it's been in the forest! With St George's Day setting the scene, dragons, kings, queens, and heroic tales swept across every class. Lime flew into the fun (literally!) with bamboo broomsticks after being captivated by the tale of George and the Dragon. Laughter echoed through the trees as they zipped around on the rope swing and uncovered creepy crawlies to add to their growing bug hotel. Meanwhile, Willow turned the forest into a royal kingdom, complete with a flowerpot crown, a throne, and a last-minute rescue from a very dramatic sacrifice!



In EYFS, birthday bells rang out for Mrs Silva, who was showered with thoughtful forest treasures—including a dirt cake fit for a queen! Little hands got busy building dens in honour of the school's new polytunnel too. Over in Beech, the tale of St George came to life with some surprise characters (two kings, no less!) and a heroic knight who just couldn't wait to save the day. There was also some serious soup-making and a wild ride through time, thanks to a brand-new time machine! Maple, seasoned storytellers by now, staged their own retelling and squeezed in a forest edition of Britain's Got Talent—complete with buzzer pans! As always, don't forget to check our website each week to see Connor's brilliant blog updates with photos and catch all the action and imagination from our woodland wonders.



## ***An update on PSHE and Wellbeing from... Mrs Lawrence***

With the arrival of Spring, we also note Stress Awareness Month, an event that is observed annually to increase awareness of the causes and cures of stress. This year's theme, *Lead with Love*, encourages us to approach ourselves and others with kindness, compassion, and understanding, no matter the challenges we face.

In today's world, we are confronted with a lot of external noise, resulting in increased stress. One such area is our use of screens and our online presence, for both adults and children. Not only has it been found that screen time can have a negative impact on our mental health, but children in particular are at risk of encountering online harms while using screens. Many of you will have seen or heard about the Netflix show *Adolescence*, that has recently shone a spotlight on discussing online usage with our children. Having discussions about screen use and online activity can be very daunting, but if we approach these discussions with love, empathy and understanding, we give ourselves the best chance of creating positive connections and fostering trust. I have included a guide put together by National Online Safety to help us to protect our loved ones in the digital world.

At Little Hadham, the children have been learning about online safety and its link to wellbeing through their PSHE curriculum, computing lessons and those crucial, reflexive, in-the-moment discussions. Having a variety of sources of support has clearly had a positive impact on the children, with pupil voice indicating understanding about many areas, from the theme of 'influence' online, to the importance of telling a trusted adult if you see something that you don't like.

With such an ever-evolving area, we will continue to adapt our curriculum according to the needs of our children and developing themes that may arise. It is certainly clear that *leading with love* (through open communication, understanding and trust), when navigating life online, is a great place to start.

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