

### Diary Dates

**13/04/26 Summer Term begins**

**21/04/26 Class Photographs**

**22/04/26 PTA Recycling**

**Collection**

**29/04/26 The Lion King Trip**

**04/05/26 Bank Holiday**

### Attendance and Term-Time Leave Reminder

We have seen an increase in requests for term-time leave, which is beginning to impact overall attendance across the school- today it's down to 86.2%!

Good attendance is vital for children's learning. Even a short period of absence can mean missed teaching, gaps in understanding, and children finding it difficult to catch up with their peers—particularly when a full week or more of learning is missed.

To put this into context:

- 95% attendance = nearly **10 days of learning missed** across the year
- 90% attendance = around **19 days (almost 4 weeks) missed**

Every day in school really does matter—including the final days of term, which are important for consolidating learning, assessment, and shared experiences with classmates.

In line with Department for Education guidance:

- Schools are **not permitted to authorise term-time holidays**
- Leave of absence can only be granted in **exceptional circumstances**, and this is typically limited to a small number of days

We are therefore **unable to authorise holidays during term time**.

We appreciate that family time is important and thank you for your understanding and support in ensuring your child attends school regularly and makes the most of every learning opportunity.

Dear Families,

This term has been a busy and productive one, filled with a wide range of experiences including special assemblies, a science workshop, trips, art sessions and poetry performances. Alongside these opportunities, there has been a strong focus on day-to-day learning in every classroom. It has been pleasing to see the children engaging so well and continuing to make solid progress across the curriculum.

Thank you to everyone who attended Parents' Evening. These meetings are an important opportunity to share progress, look at the children's work and discuss next steps. It was encouraging to see such positive and purposeful conversations taking place, and we hope you found the time both useful and informative.

Our Friends of Little Hadham team, along with their volunteers, have once again worked hard to organise events that make a real difference to the school. Their efforts help to provide additional opportunities and resources for the children, and we are grateful to everyone who supports these initiatives.

Finally, thank you to all parents and governors for your continued involvement this term. Whether supporting trips, attending Learning Together mornings or contributing in other ways, your engagement plays an important role in the life of the school and is greatly valued.

Have a wonderful, well-deserved break,  
Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

## 🏃 Running Our Socks Off! Cross Country Superstars Shine 🏃

What an incredible day we had at last week's cross country event, our Year 5 and Year 6 children who took part were simply amazing! From start to finish, the energy, determination and team spirit on display made it a day to remember (and we all certainly got our steps in too!).

Every child who took part should feel super proud. The resilience they showed, combined with the encouragement they gave one another along the course, was truly inspiring. There were cheers at every turn, tired legs that kept going, and big smiles at the finish line, everything that makes us so proud to be Little Hadham.

We are delighted to celebrate some superb achievements:

- A huge well done to Elowen and Grace, who finished 1st and 3rd in the Year 6 race
- Congratulations to Eloise in Year 5, who achieved an incredible 1st place in one race and 3rd in another
- Well done to Michael, who secured 3rd place in the Year 5 boys' race
- A fantastic achievement for the Year 5 boys' team, who won overall
- And a brilliant result for the Year 6 girls' team, who also won overall

Days like this remind us what can be achieved with determination and belief. As Paula Radcliffe once said:

*"You have to believe in yourself when no one else does."* Our children showed exactly that belief, and so much more.

A heartfelt thank you to Mrs Goodger and Ms Lane for their support and encouragement, and to all the parents who kindly gave lifts and made the day possible.

Most importantly, well done to every single child who took part, you should feel incredibly proud of yourselves. We certainly are!



# POETRY BY HEART

We are delighted to share with you the success of our recent 'Poetry By Heart' event—an inspiring celebration of language, performance, and creativity across the school.

Every class performed brilliantly. The confidence on display was truly impressive, and it was wonderful to hear such clarity of words and excellent diction from all our children. Each performance reflected not only careful practice but also a genuine enjoyment of poetry.

We were treated to a fantastic collection of poems:

- Early Years children performed *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen
- Beech Class performed *Sea Shanty* by the Shore Whalers
- Lime Class performed *Custard the Dragon* by Ogden Nash
- Maple Class performed *Leisure* by William Henry Davies
- Willow Class performed *Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf* by Roald Dahl

The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed both listening to the poems and watching them come to life through performance. It was a joyful and memorable event for everyone involved.

Performing poetry and learning verses by heart offers so many benefits. It supports language development, builds confidence, and encourages children to have fun with words. Poetry allows language to paint pictures and bring stories vividly to life. As the saying goes, "A poem in your pocket and a poem in your head, and you'll never be alone at night when you're in bed!"—a lovely reminder of how powerful and comforting words can be.

This event also links beautifully to the UNCRRC Rights Respecting Schools agenda, particularly **Article 13 – Sharing Thoughts Freely**, which states that children have the right to express their thoughts, ideas, and feelings in a variety of ways. Our 'Poetry By Heart' performances were a wonderful example of children confidently using their voices and creativity to share meaning with others.

We also gathered some pupil reflections after the event:

*"I liked it when everyone gave us a round of applause."* (Nursery)

*"It made me feel proud of myself and everybody."* (Reception)

*"I liked performing our poem because I liked being fierce."* (Beech Class)

*"When we perform something we've been working on in front of the school, it really feels like it means something."* (Lime Class)

Recordings of the children performing their poems can be found on Tapestry—please do take a look and enjoy!

We are incredibly proud of all the children for their efforts and enthusiasm. Thank you for your continued support in encouraging a love of reading, language, and performance at home.

*Mrs Tweedale*

Deputy Head / English Lead



## 🌟 Golden Morning Magic: Creativity in Full Swing! 🌟

It was that special time of term again – and what a fantastic *Golden Morning* we had! The school was filled with excitement as children immersed themselves in a wide range of exciting activities, including pompom making, K-pop singing and dancing, circus tricks, drama, arts and crafts, sport, gardening, and even stop-motion animation.

Each term, we strive to offer fresh and inspiring opportunities, and this week was no exception. The children were spoilt for choice, embracing new experiences with enthusiasm, confidence, and joy.

What a brilliant showcase of talent across the school! Little Hadham Primary continues to be a culturally rich and creative environment where children are encouraged to grow not just academically, but as well-rounded individuals. Our staff are deeply committed to nurturing the whole child – supporting their minds, hearts, and hands through meaningful and engaging experiences beyond the National Curriculum.

A huge thank you to our dedicated staff and wonderful parent helpers who made the morning possible. Your time, energy, and passion truly enrich our children's lives.

And a gentle reminder – if you have a skill, hobby, or talent you'd be willing to share, we would love to hear from you. We're already looking ahead to our summer term *Golden Morning* and would be delighted to welcome more volunteers!

