Little Hadham Primary School
Stortford Road, Little Hadham, Herts SG11 2DX
Tel: 01279 771285 **Email**: admin@littlehadham.herts.sch.uk
Head Teacher Ms S Connolly

Little Hadham Primary School
'Believing and Achieving'

Week 5

NEWSLETTER 02.10.2026

Diary Dates

06/10/26 Phonics Meeting EYFS and Year 1 Parents @9:00
13/10/26 Willow Class Bletchley park
19/10/26 Flu Jabs
21/10/26 Parents' Evening 1-7pm
22/10/26 Golden Morning
22/10/26 Half-Term begins 3:15
23/10/26 Inset- staff only
31/10/26 Year 7 Admission Deadlines
02/11/26 Back to school
More to come…watch this space!

Dear Parents & Carers,

Learning from Others and Celebrating Our Strengths

What a busy and exciting five weeks we have had at Little Hadham! Last week we had a mathematics peer review, involving three local headteachers from across the Envision family, gave us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our practice, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The reviewers were particularly impressed by how confidently our children talk about their mathematical thinking, the strong use of questioning and mathematical vocabulary, and the enthusiasm, engagement and positive attitudes they show towards learning. They also recognised the thoughtful use of modelling, representations, manipulatives and purposeful mistakes to help children develop their understanding and increasingly become independent mathematicians. As we move forward, we will continue to build on these strengths by further developing pupils' independence and exploring how we can provide even greater opportunities for challenge and deeper mathematical thinking.

Et alors more vistors! This week it was lovely to welcome so many visitors into school recently, all of whom have seen our children learning at their very best. Our governors spent time in classrooms this week and were particularly impressed by how engaged, enthusiastic and happy our children were as they learned. Finally, today, we welcomed our County School Effectiveness Adviser, who was visiting Little Hadham for the first time to look at science, and she was hugely impressed by the quality of learning she saw and the enthusiasm of our children and staff. Visits such as these are such a valuable part of school life; they give us the opportunity to celebrate what we do well, reflect together and continually strengthen our provision.

A huge thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our Learning Together morning. It was so lovely to welcome so many of you into school and see you sharing in your child's learning journey — I hope it wasn't too tricky to keep up!

Finally, a little peek at another exciting development… our new school bus is beginning to look like a place where books will come alive! We are working hard behind the scenes to create something really special for our children, and I cannot wait to see their faces when it is ready. There is still a little way to go, but how exciting to have another space in our school dedicated to developing a love of reading and opening up new worlds for our children.

Have a lovely weekend,
Sinead Connolly

Right Respecting Schools



Our theme for the assembly on 21st September was 'Hope and Refuge', and the School Council enthusiastically helped bring the theme to life.

The children took turns reading the beautiful story *Boundless Sky*, which follows the incredible migratory journey of a swallow across continents. Freddie then told us about the International Day of Peace, explaining its significance and why it is so important. Olive and Rosie explored how this theme links to the UNCRC Articles, helping us to think about the rights and protections that every child should have.

Olive spoke particularly about Article 22, which states that refugee children and children seeking asylum must receive special protection and humanitarian assistance.

Drawing on our theme of hope and refuge, Jules asked the children to think about what makes our school such a welcoming place. Using a thumbs-up vote, everyone had the opportunity to share their thoughts. Marcus then kindly shared some of his own experiences of joining our school after moving from another country. He told us about the things he found particularly welcoming and helpful when he first arrived, giving us a valuable insight into how small acts of kindness can make a big difference.



We finished the assembly by asking for ideas about how we could make Little Hadham even more welcoming. Rafe did a fantastic job of recording everyone's suggestions, which included having more animals around the school, introducing a buddy or guide system for new children, and adding more welcome signs around the school buildings.

It was a thoughtful and inspiring assembly, with the School Council helping us all to reflect on the importance of kindness, belonging, peace and making sure everyone feels welcome.

Mrs Courtman-Stock

Then this week, in our assembly, we celebrated European Day of Languages, celebrating individuality, diversity and the many things that make us unique.

Our School Council representatives presented the Maple Class artwork and invited the children to discuss its symbolism. The artwork featured different folk-art trees, representing a variety of cultures and languages. The children discussed how our backgrounds, traditions and languages may be different, while also exploring the many similarities and things we have in common. Their artwork captured the message that, although we are all unique, there is so much that connects us and brings us together.

The Year 6 School Council also introduced some of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the right to be treated fairly and without discrimination, and the importance of respecting different languages and cultures. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to reflect on the importance of respect, equality, inclusion and celebrating our differences.

Mrs Sassis

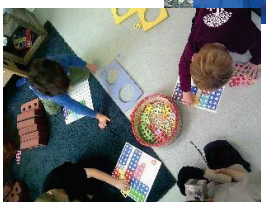
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This week, Early Years welcomed parents and carers into the classroom for our first Learning Together afternoon of the year! It was so lovely to share some of the activities we use to support the children's physical development. From wobble boards to strengthen and develop core muscles, to using scissors to carefully cut leaves into feathers, there were lots of opportunities for learning through hands-on experiences. The children absolutely loved having such special visitors in their classroom and were so proud to share their learning. We hope you found the activities informative and useful!



Our choosing time has been particularly busy this week! After carpet time, we have even heard some enthusiastic little voices chanting "Let's get learning!" before diving into thir play! It has been wonderful to see the children becoming increasingly confident in following their own interests, making choices and initiating their own learning. We have enjoyed some fantastic sensory exploration, including children creating their very own mud clay. We have also been exploring number composition using Numicon, and transforming our tree stumps into magical fairy homes! It has been lovely to see such sustained engagement during choosing times.



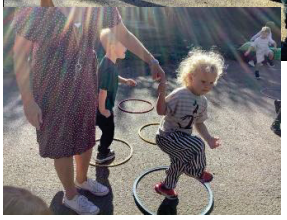


As part of our literacy learning, the children have been enjoying learning more about the author of our focus book, *So Much*, Trish Cooke. We learned about Trish's mission to create high-quality picture books that depict black families. This was particularly meaningful because she did not see many books representing families like her's when she was a child. We enjoyed learning about Dominica, where Trish grew up, and exploring some of the similarities and differences between life in the Caribbean and life here in England.



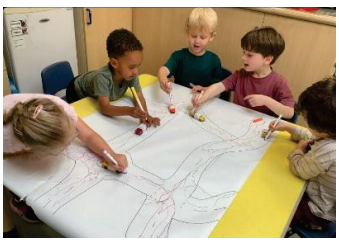
This learning prompted some really important conversations with the children about race and equality, and about the unfair struggles that people have experienced simply because of the colour of their skin. The children listened thoughtfully and shared their own ideas and questions, demonstrating a huge amount of compassion. We shared the story of Rosa Parks and learnt about her important role in the history. Learning about these significant historical events has led to some incredibly thoughtful discussions, and some passionate speeches from our young learners, such as *"Black skin is important, and white skin is important, and every skin is important"* and *"It's not fair, we are all people, it doesn't matter if we look the same or different".*





On Thursday we had a fantastic PE lesson in the sunshine with our PE coach, Matt! The children had lots of fun developing their jumping, hopping and balancing skills, building their coordination, confidence and control.

We then continued to develop our ball skills, practising throwing, catching and kicking. It was wonderful to see the children getting involved, challenging themselves and enjoying being active!



Throughout this term, we have been providing lots of fun and engaging opportunities for the children to develop their fine motor skills**.** The children have really embraced our *Busy Fingers* activities each morning and have enjoyed exploring the different mark-making opportunities available during choosing time.

We have already noticed some wonderful progress! The children are becoming more confident in their pencil grips and are beginning to make firmer, more controlled marks on the paper.



It has been fantastic to see how much progress the children have made in just these first few weeks of our first term. We are so proud of their enthusiasm, perseverance and growing confidence!

What a busy and exciting week it has been in Beech Class! The children have worked incredibly hard and have shown great enthusiasm, curiosity and pride in their learning. It has been wonderful to see their confidence, independence and resilience developing, as well as the way they support and encourage one another.



A real highlight of our week was our Learning Together Morning. It was lovely to welcome so many parents and carers into Beech Class and to share the children's learning with you. A huge thank you to everyone who was able to join us. The children were so proud to share their work and it was wonderful to see them enjoying the opportunity to learn alongside their grown-ups.

During the morning, our Year 2 children were busy writing their Friday letters and diary entries, reflecting on their week and thinking carefully about the events, vocabulary and details they wanted to include. Our Year 1 children wrote postcards about their week before proudly posting them into our very own class post box. It was lovely to see the children writing for a real purpose and audience and developing their confidence as young writers.



We have also enjoyed lots of exciting learning across the curriculum. In Year 2 English, we have started reading The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch. The children have been thinking carefully about the characters and their feelings, making predictions and using clues from the story and illustrations to explain their ideas. In Year 1, the children have been retelling the familiar story of The Gruffalo, focusing on sequencing events, developing their vocabulary and adding descriptive detail to their retellings.

Our Maths learning has been just as busy. Year 2 have been exploring length and capacity, measuring and comparing objects and choosing suitable equipment. They have also been developing their mathematical reasoning by explaining how they know their answers are correct. Year 1 have been learning about doubling and halving, using practical resources and pictures to explore how quantities can be shared equally and how numbers can be doubled. Both year groups have shown fantastic perseverance when tackling something tricky and have enjoyed explaining their mathematical thinking.



We have continued to make the most of our local area in Geography, with a walk around Little Hadham to investigate its key features. The children carefully observed the buildings, roads and other features they could see and enjoyed making connections between what they noticed and what they have been learning in class. It was wonderful to see their curiosity about the community around them and their growing confidence as young geographers.

In Art, the children have begun creating their final pieces. They carefully drew their ideas in pencil before outlining them in black pen, developing their patience, concentration and attention to detail. Next week, we will bring their artwork to life by adding watercolours and pastels. The children will be making thoughtful choices about colour and considering how these choices can change the look and feel of their finished pieces.



Throughout the week, we have continued to focus on the children becoming confident, independent and respectful learners. They have been encouraged to listen to one another, share their ideas, ask questions, persevere when faced with challenges and celebrate each other's successes. This is closely linked to our work as a Rights Respecting School, where we help children understand that their voices matter and that everyone has the right to be

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listened to, respected and included. This week has provided many opportunities to explore Article 12, the right to have our views heard, and Article 28, the right to an education.

We are incredibly proud of the children, not only for what they have achieved in their learning this week, but also for the kind, thoughtful and supportive way they are growing together as a class.

It has been another busy and enjoyable week in Lime Class, with lots of exciting learning taking place across the curriculum. In English, Year 3 have been learning about newspaper reports using a fable as their starting point. They have explored the features of a newspaper report before having fun innovating the original story by introducing their own characters and ideas. This has given them plenty of opportunities to think creatively while also developing their understanding of how to organise information and write for a particular purpose and audience. Meanwhile the year 4 children have been exploring the world of letter writing, writing as characters from their class text and incorporating feelings and emotions.

Maths has involved lots of thinking, estimating and explaining! We have been estimating where numbers belong on number lines, working with numbers up to 100 in Year 3 and extending this to numbers up to 1,000. The children have also been practising partitioning numbers in different ways, helping them to see how numbers can be broken down and recombined. We have also been revising the greater than (>) and less than (<) signs, with plenty of opportunities to compare numbers and explain how we know which is greater or smaller.




In Geography, we have been learning about Ordnance Survey maps and the symbols used to represent different features. The children enjoyed looking closely at a map of our local area and hunting for examples of the symbols they had learned about. In French, we have been focusing on French vowel sounds and improving our pronunciation. This has involved some very interesting attempts at making sounds at the back of our throats and even through our noses! In Music, we listened to the March from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* and responded to the music by drawing pictures to represent what we could hear and imagine.

In art we have continued to develop our skills with soft drawing and sketching pencils, moving on from 3D spheres to attempt a wider range of shapes such as cubes and cylinders.





Science has taken us outdoors this week. Year 3 have been learning about the different food groups and sorting foods according to their nutritional groups, while Year 4 have been classifying trees and flowering plants. The children headed outside into the school grounds to observe plants and look carefully at their features, using these to help with classification. In PE, we have enjoyed football and hockey, developing our passing and dribbling skills and learning how to control the ball while working with others.




Thursday morning was learning together morning and we proudly displayed our reading and comprehension skills when explaining to our parents what we mean by ERIC (no, he is not a person)!





It has been another full week of learning, exploration and plenty of practical activities!



In Maple class this week, In History, the children compared Athens and Sparta, exploring differences in education and ways of life. They then considered which city-state they would have preferred to live in, particularly after learning about the harsh experiences of Spartan children.





In English, Year 5 children used figurative language, including similes and metaphors, to describe characters. They also explored sensory language to create vivid descriptions of settings, drawing inspiration from the myths they have been studying. Year 4 pupils wrote paragraphs for letters and diary entries, applying correct punctuation and independently identifying and correcting misspelled words.

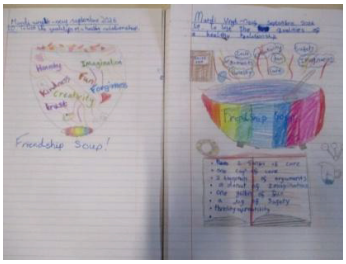




In Maths, the children practised counting in powers of 10 and worked on recognising, continuing and describing ascending and descending sequences.



In Art, the children began developing ideas for an abstract work of art inspired by Kandinsky. They explored some of Kandinsky's later pieces, discussing their feelings and interpretations of what the artist might have been portraying through abstract forms. They experimented with a combination of warm and cool colours, tints and shades, in preparation for creating their own vibrant abstract artwork next week.



In PSHE, the children explored what makes a healthy relationship. The children identified positive qualities such as kindness, trust, respect and communication, as well as recognising unhealthy or unsafe behaviours. They discussed trusted adults and people they could talk to if they needed help. To bring their learning to life, the children created colourful "Friendship Soups", using different ingredients to represent the qualities that help relationships grow and flourish.



The children also enjoyed their usual PE sessions, including yoga, hockey and tag rugby. During yoga, they took part in calming and relaxation games, including Sneaky Trees, to develop their balance, concentration and listening skills. In hockey, the children worked on their communication and teamwork, focusing on moving into space, supporting their teammates and taking the ball towards goal.



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Last but not least, the children enjoyed a special Learning Together Morning, focusing on reading. They shared part of the classbook with their parents and carers and discussed characters, events and ideas in the book.

In Willow Class we've become mini engineers, history detectives, reading experts, division champions and electrical investigators — all while wearing gas masks, listening to very loud whistles and discovering that Rick Astley might just have a place in the Maths classroom!

Our Anderson Shelters Are FINISHED! After lot of measuring, drilling, sanding and sawing, our World War Two Anderson shelters are finally complete! And WOW — we are SO proud of them! They really do look like miniature versions of the real thing. We have learnt some fantastic woodworking skills along the way, carefully using tools and following instructions — all while managing to keep our fingers present and correct! We have definitely discovered that building something from scratch takes patience, precision and a fair amount of teamwork. A HUGE thank you to Mr Trundle for all his support, guidance and expertise. What a star! We certainly couldn't have done it without you. Our shelters aren't quite finished yet, though. Next, we are going to paint them before putting them to the test to see just how strong and durable they really are. Will they survive our testing? There is only one way to find out...

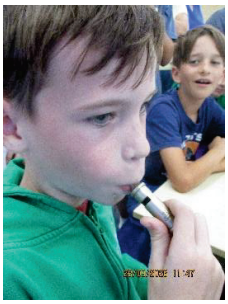








This week we also experienced what it would have been like to wear a gas mask during World War Two. And the verdict from Year 6? Smelly. Hot. Stuffy. Uncomfortable. We think we've made our feelings pretty clear! It certainly gave us a much better understanding of what it might have felt like for people during the war. And, while we were busy experiencing it, we couldn't help noticing what a sight we all looked! Let's just say that gas masks aren't exactly going to be appearing on the next fashion runway...





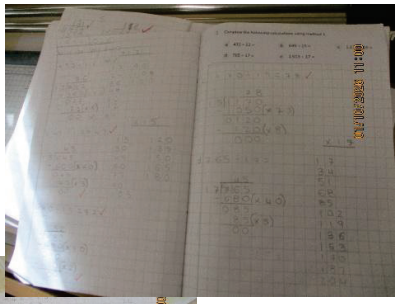
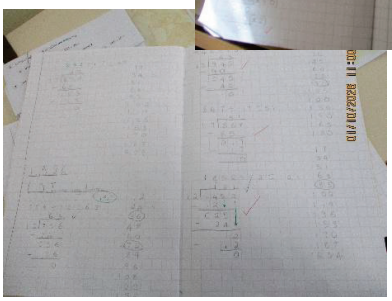
We were incredibly lucky this week to have some very special visitors to our classroom — old newspapers from the Second World War! Shay's grandad is a collector of all sorts of fascinating things from the past, and he kindly shared some of his collection with us. We were able to look at the actual newspaper front pages from the time we are studying and read the headlines for ourselves. It was amazing to see how the events we have been learning about were reported at the time. Shay also brought in an old policeman's whistle. And yes...it was VERY loud! A huge thank you to Shay's grandad for helping us learn about the past by allowing us to handle these amazing objects. Being able to see and touch real items from history really does bring the past to life.

Tuesday morning was a special one because our parents joined us for our first Learning Together Morning of the year. We always love these mornings because we get to show off what we've been learning — and perhaps prove that we really have been paying attention! Together, we honed our reading skills, working on retrieval, inference, vocabulary and summarising as we answered questions about texts set during World War Two. It was lovely to have our grown-ups learning alongside us and seeing just how much we have already learnt this year. Thank you to everyone who came along and joined in!






In Maths this week, we have been grappling with long division. And when we say *grappling*, we mean it! A t first, many of us looked at the method and thought...*"What on earth is going on here?"* But after lots of practise, careful thinking and remembering our steps to success, things are beginning to feel much more familiar. We are feeling increasingly confident and our new methods are starting to become sticky — which is definitely what we want! And then came the discovery that Rick Astley could help us with long division. Yes, really. A little reminder of his famous lyrics — "bring you down" — has helped some of us remember that important moment when we need to bring down the next digit. Who knew that long division and Rick Astley would make such a good team?

In Science, we have been investigating electrical conductors and insulators. We tested different materials to see which ones allow electricity to pass through them and which ones don't. Our investigations led to some interesting discussion— and one discovery in particular surprised quite a few of us: Water is a good conductor of electricity... but pure water isn't! This gave us plenty to think about and reminded us why scientists carry out investigations rather than simply assuming they know what will happen. We made predictions, tested materials, discussed our results and, most importantly, asked lots of questions.





As we begin Black History Month, we have been learning about the incredible life and achievements of Nelson Mandela. We created our own booklets to celebrate his life and explore the changes he helped to bring about in South Africa. His story has given us lots to think about, particularly when we consider the importance of fairness, equality and standing up for what is right. We also made an important link to our learning about Article 2 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child — No Discrimination. Article 2 reminds us that every child has the same rights, regardless of who they are or where they come from. We discussed how this connects to Mandela's work and the fight against discrimination and unfair treatment. It has been a thoughtful start to Black History Month, and we are looking

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forward to continuing to learn about and celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black people throughout history.



