

Diary Dates

07/07/26 Maple Trip

09/07/26 Transition Day

15/07/26 Image Theatre

15/07/26 Willow Class Perf 6pm

16/07/26 Sports Day @10am

20/07/26 BBQ Year 6 @6-7:30

21/07/26 Parties

21/07/26 Term ends 1pm and school picnic and the infamous Year 6 football V their Parents @12 noon

Dear Families,

As we move through the final weeks of the school year, the days seem to be disappearing faster than ever! There is still so much to look forward to, and together we are determined to make these last few weeks full of memorable experiences for every child.

Many of you may have heard about the national delay to this year's Key Stage 2 SATs results. Due to a technical issue affecting the publication of results across England, schools have had to wait longer than expected. Naturally, our Year 6 children were disappointed after working so hard and eagerly anticipating their results. As always, we are incredibly proud of their resilience, determination and the progress they have made throughout their time at Little Hadham Primary School. We look forward to celebrating their achievements as soon as the results are released.

We are also delighted to share that our brand-new school website is now live. A huge thank you goes to Stuart from <https://bythescruff.com/>, who worked closely with us throughout the process. From our very first conversations, Stuart listened carefully to our ideas, answered every question with patience and enthusiasm, and transformed our vision into something we are incredibly proud of. We genuinely feel he has captured the heart, warmth and unique spirit of Little Hadham Primary School, and we are so grateful for his creativity, guidance and support.

On Wednesday evening, our EYFS team was delighted to welcome the parents of our new Reception children. It is always one of the most special moments in the school calendar as we prepare to welcome our newest members into the Little Hadham family. Starting school is a huge milestone, filled with excitement, curiosity and a few understandable nerves, and we look forward to supporting every child and family on this wonderful journey.

End-of-year reports will be sent home on **Friday 10th July**. These reflect not only your child's achievements this year but also help ensure a smooth transition into September, giving next year's teachers a clear understanding of each child's strengths and next steps. If you have any questions after reading your child's report, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher. A huge thank you goes to our incredible FRIENDS for another fantastic Colour Run! Mrs Sally Maughan and her wonderful team created an afternoon full of laughter, colour and unforgettable memories. A very special thank you also goes to Sarah Gralton, who has dedicated over 12 years to supporting our PTA. Her commitment, generosity and enthusiasm have helped create happy memories for hundreds of Little Hadham children over the years. We are enormously grateful.

Wishing you all a relaxing and sunny weekend. Good luck to England in Sunday/Monday's match in Mexico—and yes, whatever the result, we'll all be back bright and early, ready for another exciting week of learning!

Have a lovely weekend,
Sinead Connolly. Headteacher

Our Maths Stars Shine Bright!

A huge well done to Charlie, Zachary, Francis, Victor, Pierce, Leo, Marcus and Jack, who proudly represented our school in the Year 3 Herts Maths Challenge and made it all the way to the final!

Both groups demonstrated fantastic teamwork, resilience and enthusiasm throughout the competition. Most importantly, they embraced every mathematical challenge with smiles on their faces and a positive attitude.

Although they didn't bring home the trophy this time, they certainly won our hearts with their determination, sportsmanship and love of learning. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. Well done!



Summer Reading Challenge 2026 – Read to the Beat!

At a recent whole-school assembly, we were delighted to welcome the wonderful team from Ware Library, who introduced our children to this year's **Summer Reading Challenge**. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn all about this exciting annual event and discover how they can continue their reading adventures throughout the summer holidays.

This year's theme is **Read to the Beat**, celebrating the wonderful connection between stories, music and sound. The challenge encourages children to discover how books and reading can spark imagination and creativity, just as music does. From stories about musicians and performers to tales filled with rhythm, adventure and self-expression, there is something to inspire every young reader.



How to Join the Summer Reading Challenge!

Step 1: Visit your local library during the summer holidays.

Step 2: Sign up for the FREE Read to the Beat Summer Reading Challenge from **Saturday 4th July**.

Step 3: Borrow books that you would like to read – stories, fact books, comics, graphic novels, joke books or audiobooks all count!

Step 4: Keep reading throughout the summer and return to the library to collect rewards as you progress.

Step 5: Complete the challenge and receive a certificate and medal from your library to celebrate your fantastic

The Summer Reading Challenge is a wonderful way to keep children's reading skills growing over the long summer break while having lots of fun at the same time. Reading regularly helps children develop their vocabulary, imagination, confidence and creativity, while also supporting learning across every area of the curriculum. Most importantly, it helps nurture a lifelong love of books.

Whether your child enjoys exciting adventures, laugh-out-loud stories, magical worlds, mysteries to solve, fascinating facts or inspiring biographies, there is a book waiting to capture their imagination. There is nothing quite like finding a brilliant book, settling down in the sunshine and becoming completely absorbed in a great story.

We hope that many of our children will take part in this year's **Read to the Beat** Summer Reading Challenge. When we return to school in September, we would love children to bring along their certificates and medals they have earned so that we can celebrate their achievements together during assembly. It will be a wonderful way to share recommendations, celebrate a love of reading and recognise the fantastic commitment our children have shown to reading over the summer holidays.

We wish all our families a happy, relaxing summer and hope it is filled with wonderful stories, exciting adventures and, of course, plenty of fantastic books. Happy reading!

Mrs Tweedale
Deputy Head / English Subject Lead



New Class Structure for 2026/27

At Little Hadham Primary School, we carefully review our class structure each year to ensure every child has the best possible learning experience. As a small school with mixed-age classes, reorganising classes is a normal part of our annual planning. It is, however, far more than simply balancing numbers. Each decision is made thoughtfully, taking into account children's individual needs, alongside the best use of our teaching staff, support staff and learning spaces.

We consider the size of each year group, the balance across the school and the combinations of children that will help every class flourish. Our priority is always to create learning environments where children feel happy, confident and able to achieve their very best.

As in previous years, Year 4 children have been allocated to classes according to their birthdays. This provides a fair and practical approach when organising mixed-age classes and helps us maintain balanced class sizes across the school.

You may also notice some changes to the deployment of our Teaching Assistants. These changes have been carefully planned to ensure that every class benefits from the right blend of skills and experience. Our talented support staff work flexibly across the school, enabling us to provide the highest level of academic, social and emotional support wherever it is needed most.

We understand that any change can naturally lead to questions or uncertainty. Please be assured that every decision has been made with great care and with the children's best interests at its heart. Our commitment remains the same: to provide a nurturing, ambitious and high-quality education where every child can thrive.

Thank you, as always, for your continued trust and support.

If your child is currently in:	New class teacher and Teaching assistant:	New class name:
Saplings	Mrs Lawrence/Mrs Linden-McCarron and Mrs Lammin/Mrs Davies/Ms lane	Ash
Ash	Mrs Goslitski, Mrs Neal/Mrs Dyson Mrs Bland/Ms Goodger and Ms Croft	Beech Year 1
Beech Year 1		Beech Year 2
Beech Year 2	Mrs Courtman-Stock, Mrs Erdogan and Ms Lane	Lime Year 3
Lime Year 3 Birthday after December 31 st		Lime Year 4
Lime Year 3 born between 1 st September and 31 st December	Mrs Sassis and Mrs Dyson Ms Evans/Mrs Silver	Maple Year 4
Lime Year 4		Maple Year 5
Maple Year 4		Maple Year 5
Maple Year 5	Mrs Tweedale, Mrs Mills/Ms Goodger	Willow Year 6

This week, the children kicked off their Art Week with a close inspection of our painting stimulus, *The Muse* by Cosimo Tura. Using the sentence stem "I can see...", the children excitedly discussed what they noticed



about the painting, from the pearls on the dragon throne, to the repeating pattern of jewels behind the muse's head. The children wondered about the identity of the person in the painting, wondering about whether they were one of Henry VIII's wives, a queen or a 'very important person'! We learnt that the person in the painting was a muse called Calliope, an inspirational figure in the world of poetry.



We enjoyed exploring poetry in our classroom poetry books, and were inspired to write our own poems based on poetry written by Michael Rosen. We also enjoyed using different artistic effects to illustrate our poems.



From our inspection of our painting, we noticed that Calliope was wearing a crown. This opened up a whole world of creativity as the children had a go at making their own crowns! In maths, alongside this creative project, we explored symmetry and repeating patterns, and the children (as artists) decided how to include these themes within their designs.

All of the children designed their own crowns, carefully choosing the shape they wanted and thinking about the colours they would use to decorate them. Once they had completed their designs, each child was given a strip of card, which they cut into their chosen shape. They then painted their crowns, adding texture and pattern to make each one unique. To finish their creations, the children selected ten sparkly shapes to decorate their crowns. They used a tens frame to count out exactly ten shapes and to help plan the patterns they wanted to create.

The following day, the children proudly modelled their crowns as we brought the artwork *The Muse* to life! Inspired by the

painting, we created our own throne surrounded by the mythical creatures and animals chosen by the children. They had great fun posing like Calliope, carefully matching her facial expression. We then printed the photographs, and the children designed and made their own photo frames to display them at our art exhibition. We hope you all enjoyed visiting the exhibition and celebrating the children's wonderful artwork.

We wanted to take this opportunity to celebrate the brilliant phonics progress that the children have been able to achieve this year! Ash class are showing lots of confidence in writing sentences independently, using digraphs and trigraphs in their reading and writing, and building consistency in decoding words. Saplings have done brilliantly learning individual sounds and have been orally blending with increasing confidence and consistency. We are very proud of how well the children have applied themselves to their phonics sessions!





What an incredible week it has been in Beech Class! Our biggest highlight was undoubtedly our unforgettable visit to Hedingham Castle. Stepping inside a real Norman castle gave the children the opportunity to immerse themselves in their history learning, exploring how William the Conqueror's victory at the Battle of Hastings shaped England and why castles were built following the Norman invasion. The children asked thoughtful questions, eagerly explored the Great Hall, climbed the winding staircases and even ventured into the dungeons, making connections between their classroom learning and the world around them. They represented our



school beautifully with their curiosity, enthusiasm and exemplary behaviour, and we are so proud of the way they embraced every opportunity throughout the day.

The creativity continued during Art Week, where the children combined art, design and literacy in a wonderful cross-curricular project inspired by *A Muse (Calliope)* by the Italian Renaissance artist Cosimo Tura. They began by carefully observing the painting, discussing the colours, textures and symbolism before creating their own mixed-media interpretations.

The children first sketched detailed self-portraits before adding delicate layers of watercolour to bring their artwork to life. They explored sculpture by creating their own clay beads, developing techniques such as rolling, shaping and adding texture. They then designed striking collage backgrounds, incorporating carefully folded origami fans to recreate the distinctive leaf-like features found in the original artwork. Finally, they thoughtfully assembled each element to produce a unique mixed-media masterpiece that showcased both their artistic skills and creativity.



Alongside their artwork, the children completed a piece of descriptive writing inspired by the painting. Using all five senses, they imagined stepping inside the artwork and crafted rich, imaginative descriptions using ambitious vocabulary, expanded noun phrases and carefully chosen adjectives. It was wonderful to see how confidently they combined their artistic observations with their growing writing skills to produce engaging and expressive pieces of work.

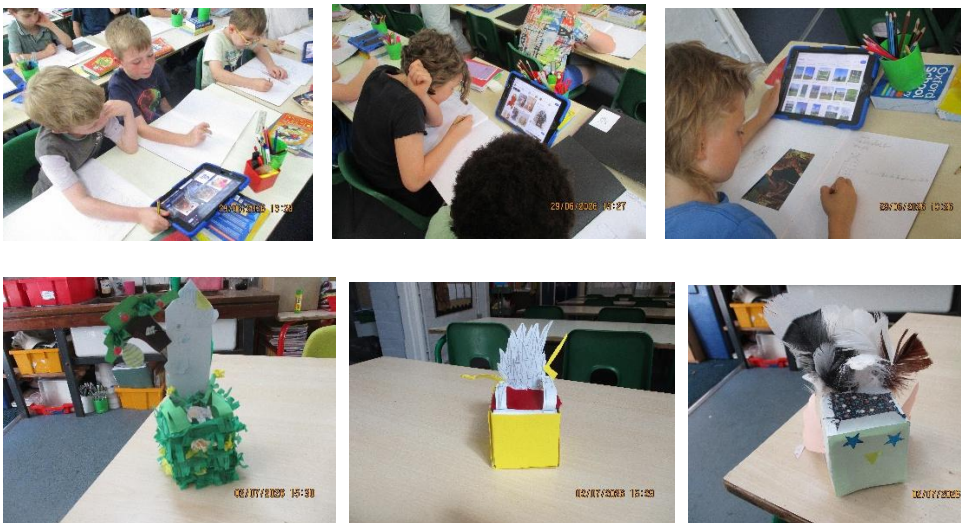


This week in Lime Class, we thoroughly enjoyed our fantastic **Art Week**, with our whole-school focus centred on the beautiful painting *A Muse (Calliope)* by **Cosimo Tura**. The children were immediately captivated by the artwork and loved exploring its many fascinating details. Using information from the National Gallery, we investigated the history of the painting, discovered what a muse is, and learned about Calliope, the Greek muse of epic poetry and eloquence.

The painting inspired some wonderful discussions as we talked about the people, places and experiences that inspire us in our own lives. The children then used rich and ambitious vocabulary to write thoughtful acrostic poems, drawing on the colours, textures and emotions they could see in the artwork. It was wonderful to see their creativity and descriptive language flourish.



Our creative journey continued as each child designed and made their own throne, choosing a theme that reflected something personal and meaningful to them. They began the design process by learning about annotated drawings and bullet points and then used the internet to research thrones and chair designs. The classroom was filled with imaginative ideas, from nature and animals to favourite hobbies and dreams. They then used their designs to work from, adjusting them as they worked. The children took great pride in their unique creations, demonstrating excellent problem-solving skills and attention to detail.



Working together, the class also collaborated to create a stunning underwater scene inspired by the sea creatures and shells featured in the painting. The teamwork, creativity and enthusiasm shown throughout the week were truly impressive. One child's comment summed up the week's success perfectly: *"Why can't we do art every day like we do Maths and English?"* We couldn't have asked for a better reflection on such an inspiring and memorable week of learning!





This week, Maple Class enjoyed a range of creative activities inspired by *A Muse (Calliope)* by Cosimo Tura. The children closely observed the painting before experimenting with watercolours to create sea creatures, painting colourful while exploring tints and shades, developing their drawing and shading skills and learning about complementary colours.



with



beads

Inspired by the artwork, the children wrote first-person monologues as the muse, using rich descriptive language to express thoughts and feelings. They also explored different forms of poetry, including haikus, kennings, cinquains, rhyming poems, narrative poems, and free verse, showcasing their creativity and imagination.



In Design and Technology, the children worked collaboratively in small groups to make bread. They carefully followed a basic recipe and instructions, practised a range of food preparation skills and worked safely and hygienically throughout the process. Once their bread was baked, they evaluated their finished products, discussing what had gone well and what they might improve next time.



Maple Class also took part in an engaging MoneySense lesson, where they explored how to plan a simple budget. The children



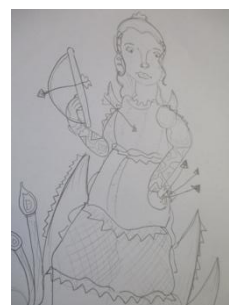
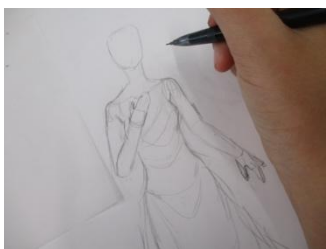
learned about the importance of tracking spending and saving money, interpreted simple financial information and used this knowledge to make sensible budgeting decisions.

In PSHE, children had two lessons that focused on naming body parts, understanding the importance of keeping private body parts private, learning about the physical and emotional changes that occur as humans grow and develop, discussing the importance of good personal hygiene during puberty and developing an age-appropriate understanding of the menstrual cycle.

In Willow Class, like all the classes across the school, we based all our learning around one incredible painting: *A Muse, Calliope* by Cosimo Tura.

Our adventure began by becoming art detectives. We explored the painting and discovered more about the artist, Cosimo Tura, who lived during the Renaissance. We learnt about the wealthy Dukes of northern Italy and how Tura was commissioned to paint a series of the Muses to decorate the studio of the powerful Este family in Ferrara. It was fascinating to discover how art could tell stories, celebrate important people and even hide little secrets.

Looking closely at the painting, we uncovered lots of hidden clues that helped us understand why Calliope is the Muse of epic poetry. But that wasn't all! We were amazed to discover that Tura had cleverly hidden a blacksmith and a hunter within the painting too—little nods to the favourite pastimes of the Este family. It certainly proved that the longer you look at a painting, the more you discover!



Once we had got to know Calliope, we began to wonder what she might really be thinking. We stepped into her shoes and wrote internal monologues, imagining the thoughts running through her mind as she sat inside her beautiful, gilded frame. We then wrote diary entries from Calliope's perspective, exploring the idea that perhaps she longed to follow her own dreams instead of spending eternity inspiring everyone else's.

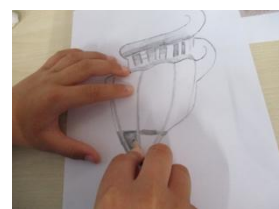
This sparked an even bigger question: ***What if a painting could come to life?*** We imagined Calliope finally breaking free from her frame and setting off on an adventure of her own. To bring this idea to life, we worked together to create an amazing 3D sculpture of Calliope reaching out from her frame. Using chicken wire, plenty of determination and fantastic teamwork, we created a piece of art that certainly turned a few heads!



Our artistic skills didn't stop there. Inspired by the beautiful shell in Tura's painting, we carefully developed our observational drawing skills by creating detailed shell sketches, taking time to notice every curve, ridge and texture and had lots of fun using different sketching pencils. We particularly loved the 'B' pencils for creating shadow and adding tone.

Finally, we became artists ourselves by designing our own Muses. Just like Cosimo Tura, we hid meaningful details within our artwork that reflected our chosen themes, creating paintings full of symbolism and personal touches.

We hope you enjoyed. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate not only everything we created during Art Week but also the fantastic artwork we have produced throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of all the creativity, imagination and teamwork we have shown, and it was lovely to share it with you.



Thank you to everyone who visited our exhibition on Friday afternoon—it made us feel incredibly proud to see people stopping, looking closely, asking questions and admiring all our hard work from art week and across the year. We hope you enjoyed seeing our learning brought to life.

