

NEWSLETTER 03.10. 2025

Week 5

Diary Dates

06/10/25 Flu Jabs

10/10/25 **Wear Yellow for World mental health day**

13/10/25 Willow Class Bletchley park

21/10/25 Poetry By Heart

22/10/25 Parents' Evening 1-7pm

23/10/25 Half-Term begins 3:15

24/10/25 Inset- staff only

31/10/25 Year 7 Admission Deadlines

03/11/25 Back to school

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a fortnight it has been here at Little Hadham!

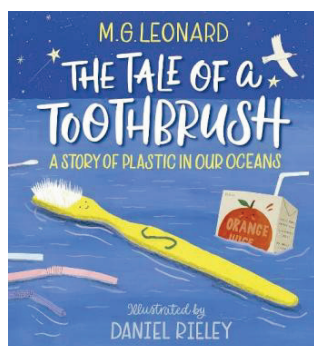
As Headteacher, one of my favourite parts of the day is stepping into lessons and seeing our children learn. And it isn't just about sitting quietly and listening — true engaged learning is something much deeper. Educational research tells us that children learn best when they are active participants: questioning, problem-solving, creating, discussing, and even making mistakes along the way. At Little Hadham, that's exactly what we strive for (and see!)—a learning culture where every child is curious, motivated and inspired to push themselves further.

Adding to our celebrations, our Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Merit has just arrived! This flag recognises the brilliant work our children, staff and families are doing to care for our planet — from recycling and reducing waste, to growing and protecting nature right here on our school grounds. We're now aiming even higher: this year, we're going for the prestigious Green Flag with Distinction! With your continued support — whether it's walking to school, helping with planting, joining Green Team events, or simply encouraging eco-friendly habits at home — we know we can achieve it together. 🌱💚

Just a reminder regular reading is proven to boost literacy, comprehension, and vocabulary. Research indicates that children who read daily develop stronger language skills and perform better academically. In fact, reading just 20 minutes a day can expose children to over a million words per year. [EEF](#) We ask that your child reads at least five times a week and that you record a brief comment in their reading journal. Teachers will review these journals daily to monitor progress. If a child is not engaging with reading at home, they may be asked to read during break times. For more insights on the impact of regular reading, visit the National Literacy Trust's research on reading habits. [National Literacy Trust](#)

Have a fabulous weekend reading a good book, I will!
Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

Rights Respecting Schools



In our recent **Rights Respecting Schools assembly**, we continued learning about respecting our rights – and respecting our planet! We enjoyed listening to an engaging story that got everyone thinking — **The Tale of a Toothbrush by M.G. Leonard**.

This charming picture book follows Sammy the toothbrush, a loyal companion to a young girl named Sofia. When Sammy is thrown away, he embarks on an unexpected journey across the world, meeting lots of other plastic rubbish along the way. As he tries to return home to Sofia, his adventure highlights the very real issue of plastic waste — especially single-use plastics — and the impact it has on our environment.

Why does this matter to children's rights?

We linked this story to two important rights from

the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC):

Article 24 – Every child has the right to the best possible health. This includes clean water and a safe environment.

Article 29 – Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities. It should encourage respect for the environment.

By understanding the story of Sammy, we were encouraged to think about how our choices affect the planet and how we can be part of the solution.

Our 3 top tips (inspired by the story) to help the planet:

Tip 1 – Cut down on plastic use and try a **bamboo toothbrush** instead.

Tip 2 – **Reuse** your old toothbrush as a **paintbrush** for fun art projects.

Tip 3 – Use your old toothbrush for **cleaning hard-to-reach places**, just like Sofia did in the story!

A challenge for home:

Have a look around your house — what plastics can you find?

Can you reuse them in a creative way, instead of throwing them away?

Perhaps make a craft project from old containers, use them for storage, or start a toothbrush upcycling challenge!

Thank you for continuing to support our Rights Respecting journey. Let's work together — at school and at home — to help our children understand their rights and take care of the world they live in.

Mrs Tweedale,

Deputy Head

Rights Respecting Schools Co-ordinator



Celebrating Black History Month 2025: "Standing Firm in Power and Pride"

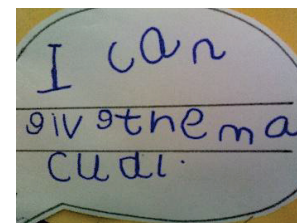
This October, we are proud to mark Black History Month at Little Hadham Primary! While Black history is woven into our curriculum all year, this month offers us a special opportunity to shine a spotlight on the remarkable achievements and contributions of Black Britons past and present. From celebrated authors and scientists to unsung heroes in our local communities, we will be centering stories that inspire, challenge and open minds.

Throughout the month, every class will engage with diverse texts, explore biographies of influential figures, and lead discussions about pivotal moments in history. We'll ask questions like: *Who has shaped the world in ways we don't always see?* and *How can we carry those lessons forward today?* Our goal is to spark curiosity, empathy and deeper understanding among all our learners.

We warmly invite our school community to help bring this work to life. If you would like to share a personal story, read a book, or contribute in any way, please reach out to your child's class teacher or email the office. As poet Maya Angelou once said, "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." Let's learn together. To find out more or to learn more with your child at home take a look at:

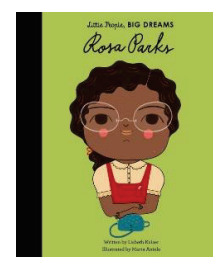
<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>

This week in **Early Years**, we have been continuing working on our focus story, Ruby's Worry by Tim Percival. We have been thinking about how we could help a friend who has a worry. The children have had some lovely thoughts about what they could do: "I could play with them", "I could give them a hug" and "I could talk softly to them" were just a few ideas they came up with. The Ash children wrote their ideas down to add to our display, they listened so carefully to the sounds they needed to write!



In maths the Ash children have been comparing amounts and sizes whilst the Saplings children have been thinking about using shapes for a purpose building things out of natural materials and even a rocket out of boxes. This inspired lots of creations in our junk modelling area!

In our PSED lesson we introduced Black History Month by reading a story about Rosa Parks and talking about how we want life to be fair for everybody.



The children enjoyed their Tales Toolkit session this week, which involved a digger which was struggling to lift the bricks. He was able to solve this problem with the help of his friends. We talked about how important it is to help each other and be kind. The children then shared examples of times when others have helped them. It was wonderful to hear them speaking positively about their classmates.



Ash and Saplings enjoyed their rainy session in the Forest this week, thinking again about the importance of teamwork. They played a whole class game of hide and seek and worked together to find the missing children. This was followed by playing games with their friends, including jumping in muddy puddles, den making and creating conker soups.

Our Learning Together Afternoon made for a wonderful end to the week. The children really enjoyed sharing the activities with their grown-ups. There was plenty of painting, drawing and story-telling to be seen. It's always a special opportunity for the children to share their learning and classroom with their grown ups.

We've had a wonderful and busy week in **Beech Class**, full of exciting learning and new experiences! As part of our geography work, we went on a local walk around our village. Before setting off, we looked carefully at the route on a map, which helped the children understand how maps represent real places. During the walk, they did an amazing job spotting a range of human features such as a working farm, a sturdy bridge, houses, and the village hall. The children behaved beautifully throughout the walk and really enjoyed the chance to learn outside the classroom. It was fantastic to see their curiosity come alive as they connected what we've been learning in class to the real world around them experiences like these truly bring learning to life!

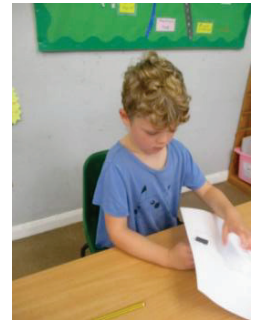




In science, our Year 2 children have been exploring magnetism by drawing mazes on paper and using magnets to guide small magnetic objects through them. This hands-on activity helped them understand how magnets attract certain materials and how magnetic forces work without direct contact. Meanwhile, Year 1 children have been learning about different types of animals based on their diets, comparing carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores. It was great fun exploring these differences and deepening their understanding of the natural world.



In English, the Year 2 children have been enjoying the story of *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch*. They have been practicing using speech marks to show when characters are speaking and working on writing in the first person and present tense, helping to bring their writing to life. Year 1 children have been focusing on writing clear and detailed lists, an important skill for organising ideas and instructions.



This week in PSHE, we talked about what it means to be a good friend and what to do if someone is unkind, using the SCARF scheme. The children discussed ways to show kindness, empathy, and respect towards others, and explored practical steps they can take if they ever feel upset by someone's behaviour. This helps them feel confident in asking for help and standing up for themselves and others in a positive way.

Lime Class have had a wonderfully busy and creative week. In maths, the children have been working with number lines, this time stretching them right into the hundreds and thousands. They have been learning how to place larger numbers accurately and exploring how rounding up and rounding down can help us estimate and solve problems more efficiently. It has been exciting to see their growing confidence in tackling these bigger numbers.



In English, Year 3 have been exploring poetry. After listening to Roger McGough's poem *The Sound Collector*, we set off on our very own sound-collecting walk around the school grounds. The children tuned in carefully to the noises all around them, from footsteps in the corridor to the hum of computers, and used these discoveries as inspiration to write their own poems. They experimented with onomatopoeic words such as "buzz," "clatter," and "crash," and enjoyed bringing their writing to life with sound.

Computing lessons introduced us to the keyboard in more detail. The class began developing typing skills using Dance Mat Typing, which encourages accuracy and speed in a fun and interactive way. These skills will be put to use later as the children start creating their own typed documents.



In history, we travelled far back in time to think about the lives of prehistoric humans. The children discussed how people changed from being hunter-gatherers to early farmers and reflected on what aspects of life were different and what remained the same. They even found time to act out the concepts in class! It was fascinating to compare the challenges and achievements of these early communities with our lives today.



We also welcomed many parents and carers into the classroom for our Learning Together morning. The children were proud to share their learning and to enjoy an ERIC reading session alongside their visitors. These moments help to build a real love and understanding of reading as well as a sense of community spirit within the school.

Finally, in art, the focus was on pencil skills. The children practised sketching and shading overlapping spheres, exploring how light and shadow can make objects appear three-dimensional. This careful work is helping them to refine their drawing techniques and develop confidence with shading.

It has been a week full of energy, creativity and discovery, and we are looking forward to building on this learning in the weeks ahead.

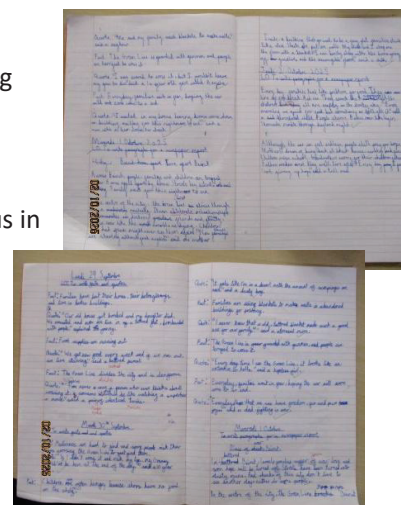


Year 4 English – Hot off the Press!

Year 4 have been busy stepping into the shoes of journalists these past two weeks, writing their very own newspaper reports. And let me tell you, they'd give the *Hertfordshire Mercury* a run for its money!

Our big challenge was direct speech — those fiddly inverted commas can tie the best of us in knots. But the children persevered, practiced, and soon had their characters “speaking” loud and clear across the page. We’ve had headlines that would make you stop in your tracks, and stories that capture the imagination.

It’s been a real joy to see their confidence grow, and I’m delighted to say they’ve made excellent progress. Who knows — we may have a future reporter, editor, or even a bestselling author among them!



In **Maple class**, in English, the Y5 children used their senses to write vivid sentences describing an enchanted forest. They explored how to use a variety of fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases to add detail and atmosphere. They then developed these into impressive setting descriptions, bringing their magical forests to life.

In History, the children explored crime and punishment in the medieval and Tudor periods. They learned about the strict and often harsh laws of the time, such as punishments for poaching, begging or stealing. The children then wrote letters in role as a Norman or Tudor, describing their crime and the severe punishment they received - an activity that encouraged them to show empathy and to think about how people might have felt living under such harsh rules.

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

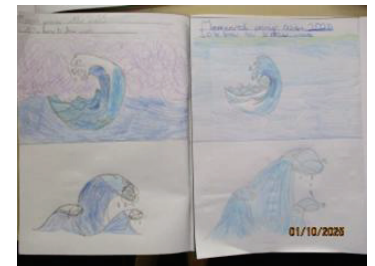


In PE, the children enjoyed their regular sessions of yoga, hockey and tag rugby. In Yoga, they performed the Sun Sequence, practised a range of postures and joined in calming, concentration and listening activities such as the Rainstick game and the Ladybird relaxation games. In Hockey, the children worked on improving their teamwork by communicating with others, moving into space and taking the ball towards goal. They practised selecting the most effective skill in different situations, choosing carefully when to pass and when to dribble. In Tag Rugby, they focused on applying attacking and defensive strategies in game situations.



In PSHE, the children wrote thoughtful letters to their penpals in Greece. They considered their audience carefully, thinking about what their penpals would find interesting to read and making sure their letters were warm, engaging and easy to follow and understand.

In Art, they learnt different techniques to draw waves. They challenged themselves to experiment with new skills, showed creativity in their designs, and persevered to achieve beautiful results.



What another busy, brilliant, and slightly sawdusty week we've had in **Willow**! There's been a real buzz of learning (and hammering!). In History and D&T we have been digging into the past (and nailing it!). We've travelled back to the 1940s to learn all about World War Two air raid shelters, with a particular focus on the Anderson shelter. We found out how these shelters were designed to protect families during air raids – made of corrugated steel, half-buried in gardens, and built to be tough and sturdy. We explored their design, size, and the science behind their stability. Armed with this knowledge, we put on our tool belts (not literally!) and began making our own scale model Anderson shelters. Cue saws, hammers, safety rulers and lots of measuring and sanding! We learnt how to:



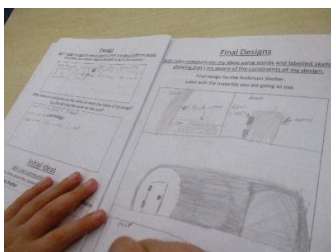
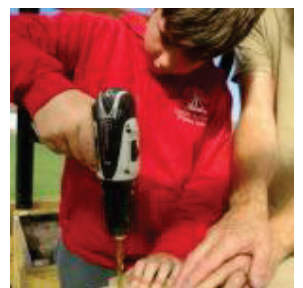
Use a saw safely – “*stand behind the saw and let the saw do the work!*”

Mitre corners for neat joins

Use a safety ruler – “*measure twice, cut once!*”

Sand wood for a smooth finish

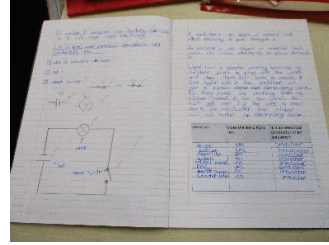
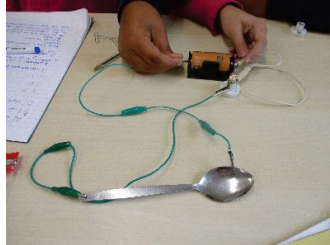
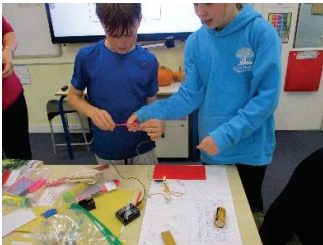
Use a hammer with care (and pride – no thumbs were harmed!)



We owe a huge THANK YOU to Mr Trundle, our fantastic Site Manager, and Mr Hutt, our brilliant Chair of Governors, who have guided us every step of the way with their tools, tips, and tales. Their support has made this project even more special. Next week we'll be adding the doors and roofs to our shelters – watch this space for the big reveal! Article 29 – Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.

In RE, we've been thinking deeply about commitment – particularly how Muslims show their commitment to their faith through the Five Pillars of Islam. From daily prayers to giving to charity, each Pillar offers a unique challenge and purpose. We reflected on which ones we might find easier or more difficult to follow, and discussed how different people's experiences and situations might affect this. Article 14 – Every child has the right to choose their own religion and beliefs.

Over in Science, we've been putting our investigative hats on to explore the conductivity of different materials. We tested a range of items to find out whether they were conductors or insulators, thinking carefully about



how electricity flows (or doesn't!). With this new knowledge, some of us even managed to create our own 'wires' using everyday materials – a real spark of ingenuity to power our simple circuits! Article 28 – Every child has the right to an education.

It was also wonderful to welcome so many of you to our recent Learning Together Morning. Our focus was reading, and we explored a whole range of strategies, from retrieval and inference to summarising and understanding new vocabulary. We enjoyed celebrating the joy and importance of reading with you! Did you know...? A child who reads for pleasure every day will know a **million more words** than their peers by the time they start secondary school! Wow!

Now we're off to enjoy a good book ourselves – happy reading! Article 17 – Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, especially books! Article 5 – Families have the responsibility to help children learn to use their rights.

A note from our Green Team

This is the Green Team writing to you.

This week, our Green Team met to kick off this year's action plan, and the ideas were buzzing! 🐝 We're focusing on three exciting themes: **Water, Biodiversity, and Global Citizenship**. We came up with loads of brilliant ideas—from saving water and protecting wildlife to thinking about how we can make a difference in our wider world.

We can't wait to start turning these ideas into action and seeing our school and community grow greener than ever! 🌍💧🌸

Also, as you know we are lucky to have our very own Polycrub. This week we planted strawberries from the allotment and some lettuce! We were wondering if anyone has any spare plants, fruit trees, seeds, netting and anything else we could grow there. If you have and would like to donate, we would be extremely grateful and you can drop them at the office. Just remember all your donations are going to a good cause.

The Green Team



A Message from the Friends of Little Hadham 🎉

Wow – it's only October and we've already kick-started fundraising for 2025/26!

👕 **Clothes Collection** – A huge thank you for your donations! Together we raised **£132.75** and (hopefully) cleared a few wardrobes in the process. We're planning another collection in the spring, so watch this space.

🎟️ **School Lottery** – Our lottery is live and we've already had winners! If you haven't joined yet, or know someone who might, please spread the word.

🍪 **AGM** – What a brilliant turnout today at our annual Friends AGM. Thank you to everyone who came along, and a special thanks to our Chair, Sally, for the amazing cakes and biscuits. 🍰

📅 **Next PTA Meeting** – Friday 10th October, 9am in the school hall. Everyone's welcome – come along with ideas (and coffee in hand!).

🌟 Dates for Your Diary

- **10th October** – *Hot Chocolate Cones Sale* – 3:15pm, £1 each (dairy-free options available).
- **23rd October** – *Halloween Disco* (Years 1–6) – 4:30pm 🎃
- **28th November** – *Christmas Bazaar* – 3:15pm 🎄 Singing, crafts, Santa, raffle, games, bar, busking and so much more!

Thank you in advance for supporting the Friends – every penny we raise goes straight back into school life, making Little Hadham Primary an even more magical place for our children. 💛

Best wishes,

The Friends of Little Hadham

Parent Helpers for Beech Class Readers

Do you have 15–20 minutes free on a morning? Beech Class would love to have some extra pairs of ears to listen to our wonderful readers!

It's a lovely way to be part of the school day, watch the children grow in confidence, and help us keep the joy of reading alive. If you're able to spare a little time, please let the office know and we'll share more details with you.

Even a short burst of help makes a big difference—thank you! ☀️