

## **Diary Dates**

- 22/04/25 School reopens
- 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

Dear families

Easter break has arrived!

This term has been filled to the brim with energy, enthusiasm, and exceptional learning, with standout moments such as special assemblies, science workshops, educational outings, and art workshops. We've also seen inspiring poetry performances that showcased our pupils' creativity and expression. These experiences have enriched our curriculum and provided ample opportunities for growth, both academically and personally.

We recently welcomed our school improvement partner for a visit, and we are delighted to share the positive feedback. She observed purposeful and focused learning across the school, with children in Early Years fully engaged in phonics lessons. Pupils in Key Stage 1 demonstrated strong recall of historical knowledge and spoke confidently about their progress, attributing it to the helpful guidance from their teachers. The support systems in place were praised, with pupils mentioning the tailored adaptations they receive and their confidence in asking for help. The visit also highlighted the strength of our school team and the effective, consistent strategies that support our pupils' success. The key message from the visit was clear: Keep doing what you are doing! This is a fantastic target for us as we head into the Summer Term.

A special thank you to all those who attended Parents' Evening. It was wonderful to see such a strong turnout, and we hope you found the opportunity to engage with your child's learning both enlightening and enjoyable. The conversations held with teachers were full of positivity, highlighting the hard work and progress being made by our pupils across all areas.

Golden Morning returned with a burst of excitement and discovery as our children leapt into a joyful mix of eggciting and formative experiences—from energetic sessions of sports and boxercise (yes, there were tyres being dragged!) to culinary creations, expressive arts and crafts, dramatic performances, circus tricks, and green-thumbed planting in the garden. These mornings are more than just fun; they are a celebration of our children's creativity, curiosity, and courage to try something new. As you know at Little Hadham primary, we believe in educating the whole child—mind, heart, and hands—and Golden Morning is a vibrant example of this philosophy in action. We are so thankful to our brilliantly creative staff and wonderful volunteers who make these rich learning moments possible. And if you've got a talent or passion you'd love to share, we'd be delighted to hear from you—our door is always open! Have a look at the website to see the photos!

A huge thank you to our brilliant Friends for all their hard work and fundraising efforts over the past few weeks. From organising the delightful Mother's Day shop—where the children carefully selected gifts with so much pride and excitement—to the Easter Egg trail, which was made all the more special by the glorious weather, and of course, the cake sale—thank you to everyone who donated bakes, time, and energy to make it such a success. Every little bit helps, and it truly takes a community to support the school. The children had a fantastic time, and your generosity continues to make such a difference.

As we wrap up the term, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all our parents, governors, and volunteers. Your unwavering support makes a world of difference to our school community. From joining us on school trips to assisting with events, your contributions are always appreciated.

Have a wonderful break and hopefully the sun will stay shining for us- see you all bright and early on Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April!

Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

# POETRY BY HEART

On Tuesday morning, we held our whole school Poetry By Heart event, where students from Early Years to Year 6 showcased their poetic talents. Each class embraced the challenge of learning and performing a poem by heart, and the results were nothing short of enchanting. Each class embraced the challenge of learning and performing a poem by heart, and the results were nothing short of enchanting.



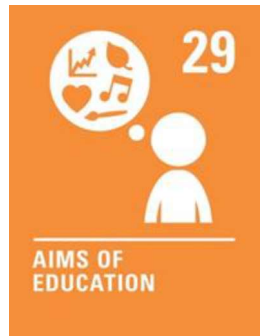
Early Years captivated us with their lively rendition of 'There's a Shark in the Park' by Nick Sharratt. Beech Class brought a delightful charm to the stage with 'There Was an Old Woman Who Swallowed a Fly' by Burl Ives. Lime Class transported us to a whimsical world with 'The Land of Counterpane' by Robert Louis Stevenson, while Maple Class mesmerised the audience with 'The Night Mail,' also by Stevenson. Finally, the children in Willow Class presented 'Matilda, Who Told Lies' from Hilaire Belloc's beloved Cautionary Tales for Children.



What a pleasure it was to listen to each poem! Learning a poem off by heart is not just a memorable experience; it enhances vocabulary, boosts confidence, and fosters a deep appreciation for language and rhythm. We applaud all our children for their hard work in learning their chosen poem, and we look forward to many more poetic adventures together!

**Mrs Tweedale**

**Deputy Head / English Subject Lead**



The children in Early Years were full of excitement at the beginning of the week as our Poetry by Heart performance drew ever closer! Their hard work definitely paid off as they wowed their audience with their clear delivery of Shark in the Park by Nick Sharratt.



We have also been getting ready for Easter, writing cards for our loved ones and families. This activity prompted lots of children to continue with their own mark making projects into their choosing time, with lots of the Saplings children looking to practice writing their own names! It is lovely to see increased engagement in writing and mark making activities as we enter into the Summer term. Ash class have also been showing an eagerness to write, as they have been challenging themselves to include digraphs within their writing.



The children had a wonderful time during their golden morning. They enjoyed activities such as baking Easter egg nests, crafting Easter wreaths and chicks, while others immersed themselves in gardening and drama. The classroom was filled with happy children afterwards as they eagerly shared their creations and experiences.

Our Tales Toolkit session took on an Easter theme this week. The children were very imaginative and created a super story which involved the Easter Bunny having a disco in the forest with an Easter Egg Discoball! It's always wonderful to see their creativity flow.

It was lovely to speak to so many of you during parent consultations, to celebrate how much progress the children have been making. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak with us.



This week in Beech Class, the children have been embracing the joy of Easter with a variety of creative and exciting activities. From arts and crafts to poetry and sports, it has been a fun-filled time of learning and expression!

The children have been busy making a variety of different Easter eggs, each one unique and beautifully decorated. Using watercolours, they created stunning Easter egg

designs to form a vibrant spring garden display. Their creativity and attention to detail have truly brought the season to life in our classroom!



In English, the children explored acrostic poetry, using the letters of 'EASTER' to inspire their writing. They worked hard to craft thoughtful and imaginative poems that reflected the joy and meaning of the season. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm for poetry and their growing confidence in writing.

In Maths, both Year 1 and Year 2 have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes. The children have been identifying and naming different shapes, discussing their properties, and sorting them based on characteristics such as sides, edges, and vertices. They have also been investigating how 2D shapes can be combined to create 3D structures, deepening their understanding through hands-on activities.

As part of their creative journey, the children took time to evaluate their final pieces in art. They reflected on their work, discussing what they liked best about their designs and what they might change or improve next time. It was wonderful to see them thinking critically and appreciating their artistic progress.

Our Golden Morning was packed with excitement! The children participated in a range of activities, from drama and Easter crafts to sports. They explored different ways to express themselves through movement, storytelling, and teamwork, making the morning a fantastic blend of creativity and energy.

It has been a fantastic week, and we are so proud of the children's hard work and enthusiasm. We look forward to even more exciting learning adventures after the Easter break!





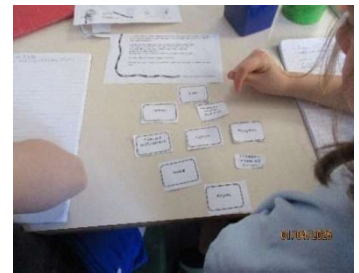
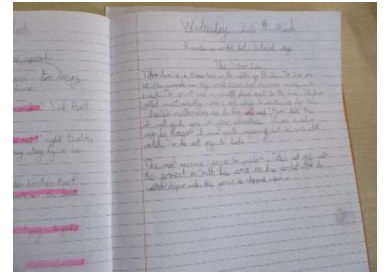
The sunshine has finally arrived, and Lime Class have been making the most of it! In Science, we took our learning outside into the forest and onto the field, where Year 3 children collected soil samples. We were amazed at the variety of soils found in different areas of the school grounds, sparking lots of discussion about how soil forms and why it varies. Exploring nature up close has been a fantastic way to bring our learning to life.

In English, we have been busy writing and editing our historical stories about a silver coin, sharpening our storytelling skills along the way. Alongside this, we have

been learning a Robert Louis Stevenson poem by heart and beginning to memorize lines for our exciting spring performance about the Romans. With so many words in our heads, it has been a challenge, but the children have embraced it with enthusiasm!

Our Design and Technology lessons have been filled with creativity as we put the finishing touches on our books with moving parts. Soon, we will share them with each other and evaluate our work, reflecting on what went well and what we could improve. In PSHE, we tackled a big topic—taxes! We explored what they are, why they exist, and what they pay for, creating a Diamond 9 to decide which services we think are most important. It led to some fantastic conversations about the world around us.

It was wonderful to welcome so many parents for consultations and to hear how much the children are enjoying their learning. Golden Morning was a great success, with members of Lime Class getting involved in a wide range of activities, from planting seeds to taking apart a computer! A huge well done to all the children for their hard work this term. Wishing everyone a joyful and restful Easter!



This week in Maple class, the children practiced performing poetry with expression and clarity. They proudly and confidently performed *The Night Mail* (abridged) as part of *Poetry by Heart*, focusing on articulation, rhythm and intonation and adding their own synchronised actions to bring the poem to life.

In English, the children wrote letters to the author of *Cosmic*, expressing how much they enjoyed the class book. They reflected on their favourite moments, discussing the humorous and exciting parts of the story that captured their imagination. They shared their thoughts on the main characters and asked thoughtful questions about the inspiration behind the book and the writing process.

In PSHE, Maple class explored ways to stay mentally and physically healthy and safe. They discussed the importance of eating a balanced diet, staying hydrated, exercising regularly and getting enough sleep to support their physical well-being. They also highlighted the value of good hygiene, managing stress and avoiding harmful substances like smoking and alcohol. Additionally, the children discussed about staying safe online, following safety rules and surrounding themselves with positive people.

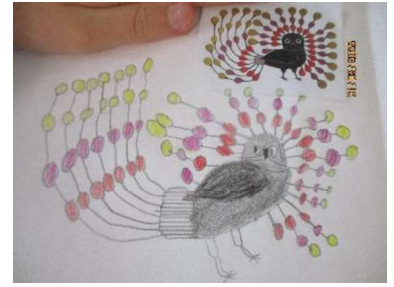


In DT, the children explored how to design a torch for a specific purpose, ensuring it met key design criteria. They learned about electrical systems and applied their knowledge by constructing a simple series circuit, identifying and naming its key components. The hands-on experience of building their torches was challenging, engaging and educational, reinforcing their understanding of how circuits function in real-world applications.

Additionally, they made delicious Chocolate Rocky Roads to take home, linking their work to the KS2 Design and Technology food objectives. They learned about food preparation, combining ingredients and considering taste, texture and presentation. The children also explored the importance of hygiene and safety when handling food, developing key practical skills while creating their delicious treats.



In Willow Class, we began our week by diving into the vibrant world of Inuit art, focusing on the remarkable prints and paintings of the artist Ashevak. Her work, which often draws inspiration from the animals that inhabit her surroundings, sparked our creativity. We examined various pieces of her artwork, discussing the techniques she used and the emotions her pieces convey. Encouraged by Ashevak's stunning representations, we were inspired to create our own Inuit-style paintings, capturing the essence of birds and fish in our artwork. The results were both imaginative and beautifully executed.



In our Maths lessons, the focus shifted to statistics, where we were introduced to different methods of presenting data. We explored line graphs, dual bar charts, and pie charts, and answered questions about the data shown. We also wrote our own questions about the data for our learning partners to answer.

As the sun continued to shine this week, we took our PE lesson outdoors for a mini volleyball tournament on the field. Excellent 'dig' and 'set' shots were on display as we showcased superb teamwork.



In RE, we engaged in a thought-provoking debate surrounding the question, "Is Christianity still a strong religion 2000 years after Jesus?" Through researching various Christian charities such as Christian Aid and The Samaritans, we were able to present compelling arguments both for and against the issue. We expressed our viewpoints clearly and showed our critical thinking skills.



In our Poetry By Heart event on Tuesday, we showcased our talents by reciting 'Matilda, Who Told Lies' from Hilaire Belloc's beloved *Cautionary Tales for Children*. It was a joy to listen to the other classes perform their chosen poems, and we had a wonderful time sharing our own. Learning poetry by heart is not only a valuable skill but also enriches memory, enhances language abilities, and fosters creativity.



This week's Parent Consultation meetings on Wednesday were a wonderful opportunity to share our progress and lovely work we have accomplished this term. Thank you, parents, for your participation; your engagement is invaluable to us, and we truly enjoy sharing our learning journey with you.

On Thursday, we celebrated with a 'Golden Morning' of enrichment activities. From Boxercise to Circus Skills, and even taking apart computers to explore their inner workings, we revelled in the chance to learn new skills alongside friends from across the school. On Friday, we also indulged in a Humanities Quiz, which allowed us to showcase our knowledge and, of course, have a bit of fun along the way.

Willow Class would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter and a restful break.



### ***An update on French Language Learning and International Collaboration from Ms Sassis***

Last week, we held a meeting to discuss the teaching of French and the benefits of international collaboration within our school. Children across all classes expressed a genuine enjoyment of learning French and proudly shared their work in their folders. The folders contained a range of resources such as knowledge organisers, vocabulary lists, worksheets and songs, which the children find useful for supporting their learning. The use of a structured scheme was also noted as a strength. Additionally, children benefit from lessons focused on phonics and grammar, as well as meaningful cross-curricular links, particularly with History. These engaging and varied activities help to build both confidence and competence in learning a new language.

Children also reflected positively on the school's international collaboration efforts. They discussed the benefits of having penpals from Germany and Greece, enjoying the chance to learn about others' hobbies, interests, and everyday life in different countries. This communication not only helps them understand similarities and differences between cultures but also gives them the chance to make new friends and write for a real audience. UKS2 pupils are proud to support their international peers in learning English. These experiences promote respect for cultural diversity and help to strengthen children's social and communication skills, while also enhancing their understanding of global citizenship.

### **Bishop's Stortford Pupil Voice Network Event**

Last Thursday, representatives from our School Captain team, our School Council and our Green Team participated in the Bishop's Stortford Pupil Voice Network event, where children from eight local schools gathered to engage in meaningful dialogue about community involvement. Hosted by Bishop's Stortford College, the theme of the event, 'Every Voice Matters', provided a perfect backdrop for our children to showcase their initiatives and learn from one another. The event was attended by the Mayor of Bishop's Stortford, who our children chatted happily with, further enriching their experience and emphasising the importance of community involvement.





Our very own representatives—Sachin, Jacques, Dylan, Belle, Joe, and Hugh—made us immensely proud as they spoke beautifully, eloquently, and with great confidence about some of the fantastic projects we have undertaken at our school. They highlighted our Foodbank Friday initiative, where we have taken steps to support families in need, and the successful tree planting at Millennium Wood earlier this year, which aligns with our commitment to creating a greener future.

Throughout the event, our children had the opportunity to connect with children from the other participating schools, fostering a sense of camaraderie and collaboration. They shared their thoughts on how we can support people in their local community, and discussions flourished around the crucial topic of diversity and the shared responsibility we all have to empower others.

As part of the afternoon’s activities, each child crafted a personal pledge and created a friendship bracelet, symbolising their commitments to fostering kindness and collaboration within their community. These tangible mementoes will serve to remind them of the friendships formed and the important lessons learned.

Of course, no gathering would be complete without some delightful sustenance, and we are pleased to report that the buffet lunch was a resounding success—much to the delight of our young attendees! The scrumptious afternoon tea and cake were absolute highlights, rounding off a special afternoon.



## KS2 Humanities Quiz

Who doesn't love a good old-fashioned table quiz? At Little Hadham, we believe in starting them young—and with our unbeatable competitive spirit, every quiz becomes an adventure packed with laughter, learning, and well maybe just a few friendly grumbles along the way! This morning, our KS2 students took on the Spring Term 25 Humanities Quiz, diving into geography and history as they battled it out in teams, drawing on everything they've learned this term and beyond. The atmosphere was electric, the questions were challenging, and the competition was fierce, but huge congratulations go to Team 11 for emerging victorious—their teamwork was, rumour has it, “egg-stremely egg-ceptional”! A big thank you to Mrs. Courtman-Stock for organising another brilliant event and giving our children a fabulous opportunity to shine.

