

Dear Parents & Carers,

A wonderful start to the 2026-27 school year
What a fantastic start we've had to the new academic year! It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back and see our classrooms and playgrounds filled with smiles, laughter, and excitement. The children have settled into their new classes brilliantly, embracing new routines, friendships, and learning with enthusiasm.

A warm welcome to all the new children and families joining Little Hadham this year. Our youngest pupils in Saplings and Ash have made a wonderful start to their school journey, exploring their classrooms, making friends, and enjoying their first school experiences. We are very proud of them and grateful to our dedicated EYFS team for making their first days so special.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for helping the first week run smoothly. We appreciate your patience and consideration, particularly around the busy school run and car park.

Please keep an eye on the class pages of our website and regular class updates for information about learning and upcoming events. If you have any questions or would like to share something your child has enjoyed, please speak to us at drop-off or pick-up, or send us an email.

Thank you for your continued support and for entrusting us with your children. We look forward to a year filled with growth, laughter, learning, and memorable moments. Wishing you all a restful weekend – the first week back is always a busy one!

Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

Diary Dates

- 28/09/26 Learning Together PM EYFS-2:45
- 29/09/26 Learning Together Morning Willow
- 30/09/26 Learning Together Morning Maple
- 01/10/26 Learning Together Morning Lime
- 02/10/26 Learning Together Morning Beech
- 06/10/26 Phonics Meeting EYFS and Year 1
- Parents @9:00
- 13/10/26 Willow Class Bletchley park
- 19/10/26 Flu Jabs
- 20/10/26 Poetry By Heart
- 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!

Hello and welcome!

My name is Mrs Neal, and I am Little Hadham's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO). My role is to support our children with additional needs and to work closely with pupils, parents, teachers and outside professionals to ensure that every child here receives the right support to help them learn and thrive.

I am in this role on Wednesday and Thursday mornings and am always happy to meet with parents to discuss any concerns you may have about your child's learning, development or wellbeing, and to explore what support may be helpful.

Please do get in touch if you would like to. My email address is senco@littlehadham.herts.sch.uk. I look forward to working with you and supporting your child/ren throughout their time at our wonderful school.
Mrs Neal SENCO

Welcome Back!

A warm welcome back to all our families, and a special welcome to those joining the Little Hadham community this year. We hope you had a lovely summer and look forward to an exciting autumn term. Please remember to book your child into **Breakfast or Afterschool Club** in advance through **Arbor**. Sessions can be booked weeks ahead, or for the whole year. If you need a regular place, please book early as some sessions are very popular.

Payment is also made via Arbor, so please ensure your account has sufficient funds before booking. This term, the school office will have administrative cover all day on **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday**.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Best wishes,
Mrs Sillett

What a wonderful start back to school we have had in Ash and Saplings class!

All the children are settling in well and have been finding out about all the fantastic things that we are able to do in school. We enjoyed singing songs and greeting each other with a parachute game, and also listening in to lots of lovely stories.



The children loved exploring the new areas of our learning environment, with a particular favourite being our Jurassic Park small world area outside, and our new water and painting stations! We also spoke about our school rules: be ready, be respectful, be safe. The children generated some lovely discussion here as they shared their knowledge about how listening to their adults (such as the grown ups in their families) helps to keep them safe in lots of different situations (such as near busy roads).



The children also took part in their very first PE lesson with our PE coach Matt. They demonstrated their excellent listening skills following the instructions and being able to join in with the activities.

We have also been very creative this week painting and making self portraits to display in the classroom. The children looked carefully at their faces, noticing their unique features such as their eyes, noses, mouths and hair. Using mirrors and a variety of creative materials, they had lots of fun creating their own portraits and celebrating what makes each of us special.



On Friday, Connor came to introduce himself and joined us for some fun singing! We enjoyed singing hello songs and name songs, which helped us get to know our new friends in the class. We also explored different ways of greeting one another and had lots of fun practising saying "hello" in different ways. The children confidently introduced themselves and shared their names with the group. What a wonderful start to our first week back! We are so proud of how warmly the children have welcomed one another and are excited for all the learning and adventures ahead.

What a wonderful first week back in Beech Class! The children have settled back into school so well after the summer holidays. It has been lovely to see familiar routines returning, friendships being rekindled and the children getting stuck into their learning with such enthusiasm.

The children have been busy getting to know their new routines, working together and showing just how much they have grown and developed already. They should be very proud of themselves!

In Year 1 English, the children have been thinking about how people change and grow from being a baby, to a toddler and then a child. They have been discussing what each might say, think and feel and using their ideas to write simple sentences and speech bubbles. The children have been encouraged to think carefully about their vocabulary and experiment with different ways to begin their sentences.



In Year 2 English, the children have started exploring *The Storm Whale* by Benji Davies. They have been looking closely at the vocabulary used within the story and discussing interesting words and phrases. This is the beginning of their work towards writing a character description, and the children have already been developing some fantastic ideas about how descriptive vocabulary can be used to bring a character to life.

The children have also started getting their reading routines back up and running. They have been reading with adults and enjoying choosing books to share at home. It has been fantastic to see so many children excited about reading again!

In Year 1 Maths, the children have been exploring different ways of representing numbers. They have been matching numerals with practical representations, written number words and place value sentences. They have also begun establishing their regular arithmetic and number routines, helping them to build confidence and become increasingly secure with their mathematical thinking.

In Year 2 Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of regrouping to make 10. They have been exploring numbers practically and thinking carefully about how numbers can be partitioned and recombined. The children have been working hard to explain their mathematical thinking and develop their confidence when working with numbers.

In Music, the children have started their new lessons and have been enjoying singing, rhyming, listening and responding to different musical ideas. They have particularly enjoyed joining in together as a class.

The children have been getting active in child-initiated learning and beginning to develop their teamwork skills through their outdoor learning activities. A big focus this week has been on cooperating, sharing, following group rules, negotiating and working as a team. It has been wonderful to see the children supporting one another, taking turns and learning how to work successfully together.

The children have also spent time talking about their rights and what makes their classroom a happy, safe and respectful place to learn. They created their own handprints and added their names to the class rights charter. This provided a lovely opportunity to talk about kindness, fairness, listening to others and looking after the Beech Class community.

The week finished with some exciting outdoor learning at Forest School. The children enjoyed being outside, exploring and working together while developing their confidence and independence.

The children have made a fantastic start to the year. They have settled beautifully, shown enthusiasm for their learning and demonstrated some wonderful teamwork and kindness towards each other.

Well done, Beech Class, on such a fantastic first week back!

A very warm welcome to all of our new and returning children in Lime Class! We have had a wonderfully exciting first few days of the new school year, settling into our new classroom, getting to know our classmates and becoming familiar with our new routines. It has been lovely to see those first-day nerves quickly disappear as friendships begin to grow and the children relax into life in Lime Class. Our Year 4 children have certainly stepped up to the challenge of being the older members of the class, showing maturity, responsibility and kindness as they help others around them. Meanwhile, our Year 3 children are working incredibly hard and are rightly feeling proud to have officially joined Key Stage 2 at last!



We have wasted no time getting our learning underway! In English, the children have been writing book reviews and learning how to share their thoughts clearly with a reader. We have used helpful sentence stems to structure our ideas, which will also support the children when completing book reviews at home. Our Year 4 pupils have been challenged to take their writing even further by adding interesting details, explaining their opinions and giving reasons for their recommendations. It has been fantastic to hear the children talking so enthusiastically about the books they enjoy and beginning to develop their skills as thoughtful readers and writers.

In Maths, we have dived straight into our first topic: place value. The children have been revisiting the importance of tens and ones and exploring how numbers can be partitioned and recombined in different ways. Understanding the value of each digit is an essential foundation for so much of our future mathematical learning, and the children have been working hard to explain their thinking and use mathematical vocabulary confidently.



We have also enjoyed beginning our Art and Geography learning. In Art, we have been exploring the difference between using a sketching pencil and a writing pencil, learning how artists use different pressures, lines and techniques to create marks and develop their drawings.



Our Geography topic, *What's in a Map?*, has also got off to a fantastic start! We have been thinking carefully about why maps are useful, who creates them and how maps have developed over time. The children have begun to explore the important role that maps play in helping us understand and navigate the world around us, and we are looking forward to discovering much more as the topic continues. It has been a fabulous start to the school year, and Lime Class is already filled with enthusiasm, curiosity and excitement for all the learning and adventures still to come. We cannot wait to see what this year brings!



What a lovely start to the academic year it has been in Maple class! The children have settled wonderfully and have already been busy learning, sharing and getting to know one another.

To begin the year, the children wrote letters to Ms Sassis to introduce themselves after reading her letter to them. They shared their hobbies, interests, strengths and things they are proud of, giving us a wonderful opportunity to learn more about each other.

The children also enjoyed choosing their first reading books of the new academic year and took photos with their chosen books. We hope this will be the first of many wonderful books they discover and enjoy this year!

In French, the children have been revising basic greetings and learning how to ask and answer the question, 'How are you?' in French. They have enjoyed practising these phrases and developing their confidence when speaking in the foreign language.

In Maths, the children have been learning about Roman numerals and developing their understanding of how these numbers are represented.



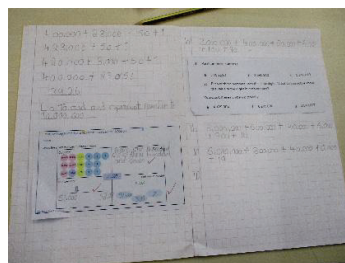
During PSHE, the children explored the importance of support networks. They created their own network hands, identifying the people in school they can turn to for help, advice and support.

It has been a fantastic start to the year, and we are so proud of how positively the children have settled into Maple Class. We are looking forward to all the exciting learning and experiences ahead!



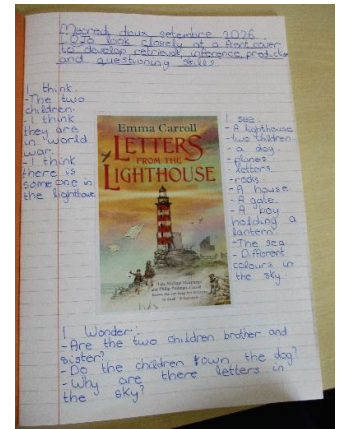
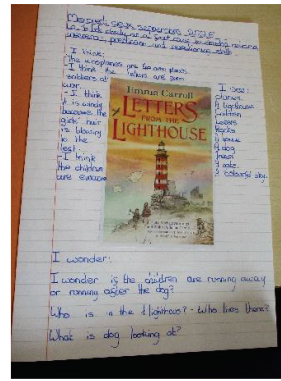
We are officially the new Year 6! Can you believe it? And what a way to begin! We have made a fantastic start to Willow Class this week.

In Maths, we have been exploring place value and tackling numbers all the way up to one million! We have represented numbers in lots of different ways, carefully thinking about the value of each digit depending on which place value column it sits in. We also learnt an important new word: *integer*, which simply means a whole number. So, if you hear us casually dropping the word *integer* into conversation at home this week, you now know why!

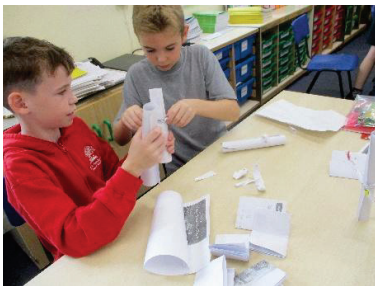


We have also been busy getting to know each other and thinking about the exciting year ahead. We wrote letters of reply to Mrs Tweedale, introducing ourselves and sharing what we are most looking forward to this year. It has been lovely to hear everyone's hopes, ideas and ambitions for our final year of primary school. We think Year 6 is going to be a pretty special one!

Our new class text is *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll, and after just one chapter... we are hooked! We started by putting our reading detective skills to work, exploring the front cover using: "I see..." "I think..." "I wonder..." We used retrieval, inference and prediction skills to look closely at the clues the author has given us. And there are already SO many questions about what is happening to our main character, Olive. We can't wait to find out more!

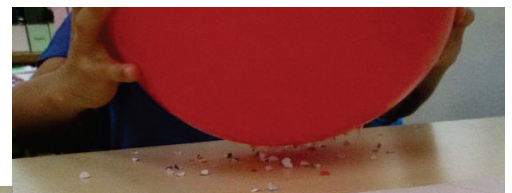


This week in PSHE, we were set a challenge: *build the highest tower you can using just paper!* Sounds easy, right? Well... perhaps not quite! There was one very important rule: NO glue and NO tape! This meant that teamwork, negotiation and compromise were needed in abundance. We learnt more about what these words actually mean and, more importantly, what they look like when we are working together in real life. There were lots of ideas, lots of discussions, a fair amount of trial and error... and, of course, a LOT of fun! We wouldn't say we are a competitive bunch, but... let's just say there was a certain amount of interest in finding out whose tower could reach the highest!



Our electricity project got off to a hair-raising start this week as we began learning about static electricity.

We used balloons to explore what happens when positive and negative particles interact. It was brilliant to see some of the science we were learning about happening right in front of us — and there may have been a few rather impressive hairstyles along the way!



It has been a fantastic first week, with plenty of learning, laughter, teamwork and curiosity.

We are the new Year 6... and we are ready for an amazing year!

Learning Together Mornings – You're Invited!

Our *Learning Together Mornings* are back this half term! These short but special sessions (8:45–9:10) are a chance for you to step into the classroom and share in your child's learning journey.

Sit alongside your child, join in with the activity, and see first-hand what they've been working on – whether it's reading, writing, or something creative. It's a brilliant way to celebrate their progress and enjoy learning together in a relaxed, fun atmosphere.

These mornings aren't just about learning – they're also about connection. They give you precious one-to-one time with your child at school and help strengthen our whole school community.

We'd love to see as many of you as possible joining us – so pop the dates in your diary and come along for some learning fun!

Breakfast and After School Club

Breakfast Club and After school Club are back!

The Breakfast Club is £5.50 per session and starts at 7:45am.

The After School Club has two different session prices available. 3:00-5:15 = £13.00 3:00-6:00 = £15.50

Discounts are offered for siblings attending the other after school activities which finish at 4:15.

Just a few reminders..

Allergies

We have several children in school who are **severely affected** with allergies to nuts. Please do not give your child nuts for snacks or use any products containing nuts or sesame when preparing packed lunches. Also, please remember **crisps and sweets** are not allowed in school lunches and children will be asked not to eat this and to take them home again.

My final reminder is that there should be **no children using the trim trail or the forest area before or after school**, whether they are our learners, younger or older siblings. This is for health and safety reasons due to the lack of supervision from school staff at these times, once again I request that parents and carers are pro-active in ensuring that children follow these expectations so that school staff are not having to ask them.

Leadership at Little Hadham – Democracy in Action!

It's that wonderful time of year again when we get to see our children take centre stage and show us what great young leaders they can be! From our School Captains to members of the School Council and Green Team, we're excited to welcome a new group of children who are ready to share their ideas, represent their classmates and help make a positive difference across our school.

Each class will elect two representatives for both the School Council and Green Team. This year, we're giving our young leaders even more opportunities to have their voices heard. They will meet regularly with myself and members of staff to discuss school life, listen to the views of others, raise issues that matter to them and work together to find imaginative solutions. Their ideas won't just focus on improving our school community – we want to encourage them to think about how their actions can have an impact beyond the school gates too.

The election process will give the children a chance to experience democracy for themselves, reflecting many aspects of the British electoral system. Candidates will prepare and deliver their own campaign speeches, with councillor speeches taking place within classes and School Captain candidates speaking to the whole school in assembly. Once everyone has had the opportunity to hear from the candidates, the children will cast their votes and the results will be announced.

Being elected is a fantastic achievement and one that we hope our children will feel proud of. Our new representatives will be celebrated in their classes and will receive their own lanyards, making it clear who they can approach with ideas, questions or concerns.