

NEWSLETTER 05.09. 2025

Week 1

Dear Parents & Carers,

Wow—what a brilliant first couple of days back! The children have settled in so well, and the school is buzzing with excitement for the year ahead. It's been fantastic to welcome both familiar faces and lots of new ones into our Little Hadham family. Already, we're seeing children slip into new routines, make new friends, and throw themselves into learning.

A huge thank you to you, our parents and carers, for helping make this such a smooth and positive start. I know the car park has been a little chockablock this week! Thank you for your patience as everyone settles back into the rhythm of the school run. Things will smooth out quickly, and a little calm courtesy goes a long way.

A special shout-out to our Saplings and Ash classes—our youngest children have made a magical start to their school journey. From carrying home their very first book, to sharing their first school lunch with new friends—these are milestone moments we'll never forget. Our wonderful EYFS team have done an incredible job making those first days feel warm, fun, and full of purpose.

We're big believers in keeping communication open, so if you've got a question, a thought, or just want to share something your child has enjoyed, please catch us at drop-off or pick-up—or drop us an email anytime.

Thank you once again for trusting us with your children. We can't wait for a year of growth, laughter, and learning together.

Wishing you all a restful weekend – those first few days back are always a little exhausting!

Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

Diary Dates

- 15/09/25 Journalism Club Year 6
- 23/09/25 BMX Wellbeing Y4-Y6
- 24/09/25 PTA Secondhand Clothes in Bags
- 29/09/25 Learning Together Morning Beech
- 30/09/25 Learning Together Morning Willow
- 01/10/25 Learning Together Morning Maple
- 02/10/25 Learning Together Morning Lime
- 03/10/25 Learning Together PM EYFS-2:45
- 06/10/25 Flu Jabs
- 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
- More to come...watch this space!

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.

A message from Mrs Sillett and Mrs Mills....

Welcome back to all our families and a special hello to those who are new to Little Hadham this year. We are so excited to see what the autumn term has in store.

We have a small plea to ensure our breakfast and afterschool clubs run as smoothly as possible, please can parents ensure that their child is booked in to their required clubs, in advance of their attendance. Bookings are made on Arbor and can be made weeks in advance, you can even book for the whole year if you wish! If you know you will need a specific day each week please book as far in advance as you can, to ensure your child's space, as some sessions are extremely popular. Payments for breakfast club and afterschool club are made via Arbor, in order to book sessions your account must have the available funds.

This term the office will have admin cover all day Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, as well as morning cover on Thursdays.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us.

Best Wishes

Mrs Sillett and Mrs Mills.

News from the classes...

Early Years have had a fantastic start to the school year! It has been wonderful to welcome new children and see familiar faces after the summer break. The children have settled in so well and taken quickly to the school routine. The grown-ups are also very impressed with how well they are looking after all the resources.

All the children have been eager to tell the grown ups about what they have been up to over the summer holidays and we've been busy playing in the sandpit building sandcastles, continuing our thoughts of being at the beach. The teachers have been finding out what the children's interests are and providing opportunities for children to follow this, including dinosaurs, bikes, cars and play doh.

Saplings have loved exploring their new environment, and Ash children have happily showed them the different areas. They have particularly enjoyed making ice cream out of play doh and delicious treats in the mud kitchen!

It has been a super start to an exciting year ahead for Ash and Saplings!



In Beech class we have had a lovely and positive start to the term! Over the past two days, we have spent valuable time learning each other's names and beginning to build friendships. It has been wonderful to see the children engaging so well with one another.

In our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) lesson, we focused on imagining our ideal classroom. The children came up with thoughtful and inspiring ideas, such as having a space where everyone feels listened to and respected, comfortable corners filled with lovely books, and a classroom where kindness and creativity thrive. We have started to explore how we can incorporate these ideas into our daily classroom life, creating a welcoming and supportive environment that everyone can enjoy and feel proud of.



Each child has been given a reading book carefully matched to their individual reading level. We cannot stress enough how important it is for children to read regularly at home. Reading every day even just for a few minutes helps children build fluency, develop vocabulary, and foster a lifelong love of books and learning. Please encourage your child to share their reading with you and enjoy these special moments together.

Our first PE session was a fun-filled experience where the children participated in a range of activities designed to develop their coordination, balance, and teamwork skills. The enthusiasm and energy were fantastic to see! The children have enjoyed spending time in the forest, where they have been exploring nature, building curiosity, and learning through hands-on experiences in the great outdoors.

Additionally, the children's dance sessions will start on Monday. These sessions provide a wonderful opportunity for the children to express themselves through movement, develop rhythm and coordination, and enjoy working creatively with their friends.



What a fantastic start we've had in Lime Class! We were thrilled to welcome our brand-new Year 3s while also greeting our familiar Year 4 faces, all ready with their brilliant smiles.

We jumped straight into our ERIC reading lessons (Explain, Retrieve, Interpret, Choose), where everyone picked an exciting new book to dive into. In writing, we got back into the swing of things with a speedy grammar refresher on sentence types, and in maths, we tested our brains with a fun, fast-paced mental maths quiz.



History began with big curiosity as we introduced our key question and explored what we already know—and what we'd love to find out—about **Prehistoric Britain**. Science was hands-on too: Year 3s turned into *walking skeletons*, labelling their own bones, while Year 4s became expert scientists, classifying and sorting living things. In RE we created groups with names, rules and common ideas in order to understand a bit more about religion.



We even managed to squeeze in our first PE lesson of the year. Despite the showers keeping us indoors, the class made it active and fun!

All in all, it's been a brilliant, energetic start full of learning, laughter, and new beginnings.



Hot off the Press...

*I'm delighted to be teaching English to our brilliant Year 4s four days a week this year. We'll be kicking things off with the moving story *Oranges in No Man's Land* – a tale that will have us on the edge of our seats.*

The children will be stepping into the shoes of brave characters through diary writing, capturing every twist and turn as if they were really there. Then, like true reporters hot off the press, they'll be writing newspaper stories to bring the drama alive for their readers. Along the way, we'll be sharpening our grammar, stretching imaginations, and polishing writing until it shines- I'll be definitely worn out by half-term! Ms Connolly

Maple Class has made a fantastic start to the new school year. It has been lovely to see the children settle quickly into routines and engage so positively with their learning.

In literacy, we began by writing letters about ourselves — a gentle way to warm up our writing brains after the summer and a chance to share a little of who we are with each other. In maths, the children rose to some exciting challenges, using their knowledge of place value and multiplication to solve problems and explain their thinking.

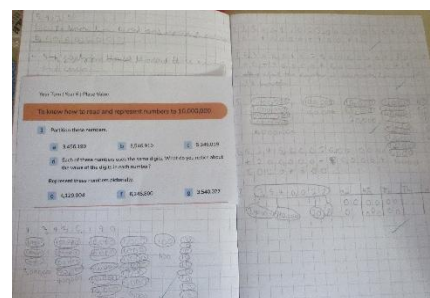
Our new music topic, 'Composing with Colour', has already led to some thoughtful discussion. We listened to four very different pieces of music, each one given a colour title by its composer, and explored whether those colours appeared in our own imaginations as we listened. The children offered some very interesting and creative responses.

We've also begun exploring spelling patterns, with a focus this week on homophones — words that sound the same but have different meanings and spellings. The children enjoyed sorting and using them in context.

We also had our first forest session of the year. After a wet and windy week, we were fortunate to have a dry, sunny day for our time outdoors. The children explored the forest at this turning point between summer and autumn, enjoying the fresh air, spotting early seasonal changes, and working together on activities.



What a wonderful start we've had to our final year at primary school! It's been so lovely to be back together as the new Year 6 Willow class, and we've already settled brilliantly into our new routines. Over our first two days, we've been busy diving into all sorts of exciting learning. In Maths, we explored place value in numbers up to 1,000,000 and had lots of fun representing these in different ways, including using place value charts and Gattegno charts. We also put pen to paper to write letters to Mrs Tweedale, sharing interesting facts about ourselves and our hopes for the year ahead. In Science, things got hair-raising—literally—as we explored static electricity and discovered how particles in materials are disrupted to create electric charges.



Little Hadham Primary School

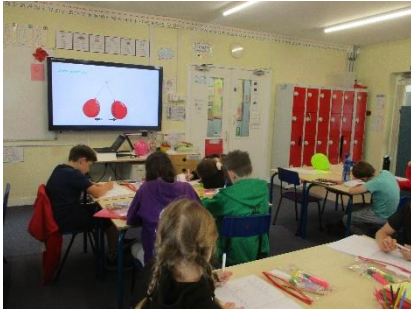
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Head Teacher Ms S Connolly



We can't wait to embark on our new topics, including learning about the Second World War in History. As part of our learning, we are excited to announce we will be visiting Bletchley Park (home to the code breakers of the time) in early October – more details to follow! Next week, we will be preparing our School Captain speeches, ready to perform these to the whole school so our new team can be democratically elected. We will also continue our work in relation to our Rights Respecting Schools award, including furthering our learning for the rights of others.



Looking ahead, we are especially excited to begin our new class novel, *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll, which links closely with our History topic, and we are looking forward to developing our writing skills through a range of engaging tasks. In Science, we'll be exploring the fascinating world of electricity and circuits, which we know will spark lots of curiosity and hands-on learning. There's so much to look forward to this term, and we're all set for a fantastic start to Year 6! Do remember to visit our class page on the school website for fortnightly updates and tales of our learning in Year 6.

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!

Leadership at Little Hadham – Democracy in Action!

It's that exciting time of year again when our children step up to take on leadership roles across the school. From School Captains to our School Council and Green Team, we're handing the microphone over to the next generation of leaders!

Each class will choose two representatives for the School Council and Green Team. These children will meet regularly with myself and Mrs Tweedale to share ideas, raise concerns, and come up with creative solutions that can make a real difference – not just to our school, but to the wider world too.

The whole process mirrors the British electoral system. Children will write and deliver campaign speeches (class-based for councillors, whole-school assembly for captains), before voting takes place. It's democracy in action, and a brilliant way to live out our British Values.

Once elected, our new leaders will be celebrated in class – and receive their very own lanyards so everyone knows who's who! We can't wait to see the fresh ideas, energy and teamwork they'll bring this year, building on the great work of their predecessors.

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.