

Dear Families,

*It's the most wonderful time of the year!* 🎄 ✨

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our fabulous Christmas Bazaar last Friday. The Friends truly outdid themselves, transforming the school into a magical Christmas market filled with festive cheer and a fabulous atmosphere. The singing was simply wonderful, and our talented buskers deserve a special mention for their hard work and persistence—they just kept coming back to share their music! Thank you to all the parents, staff, and governors who rolled up their sleeves to hold stalls, lend a hand, and be such incredible role models for our children. You've earned your two-week holiday, no doubt about it!

Visitors to the Bazaar, including some former Little Hadham Primary families and pupils, commented on how much they enjoyed the event and were especially impressed with all the music. It's always a pleasure to welcome back familiar faces and hear about their latest adventures. (Apparently, secondary school is *very* strict—but they're thriving!)

Father Christmas worked his festive magic, spreading joy and leaving everyone feeling grateful—though we're sure he'll need a long nap come January. 🍷🍔 With cakes, hot dogs, crafting activities, and exciting games to keep everyone entertained, it was a truly lovely event.

And if that wasn't enough, we raised an incredible £2,750 for the school! A massive well done and thank you to all who made it possible.

The excitement is truly building as we enter the final ten days of term! After an incredibly hard-working term, it's wonderful to look forward to the festive celebrations ahead. Christmas parties, LHPS Got Talent, enchanting performances, ice skating, and another memorable Golden Morning are all lined up. What a way to finish the year—some of us will certainly need a well-earned rest afterwards! Beech and Ash classes are brimming with enthusiasm as they prepare for their big performances next week. I've had the pleasure of catching a few snippets, and I can promise you that it will be worth the wait! Their dedication and energy are remarkable.

Let the countdown to Christmas begin! 🎁 🎄

Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

## Diary Dates

- 12/12/24 Pantomime- whole school
- 16/12/24 Willow Class Ice Skating to Alexandra Palace
- 17/12/24 KS2 Humanities Quiz
- 18/12/24 Christmas Lunch- Christmas jumpers!
- 18/12/24 Little Hadham's Got Talent
- 19/12/24 Golden Morning
- 20/12/24 Youth Create Christmas Parties
- 06/01/25 Inset- staff only

**More to come...watch this space!**

## Outstanding payments

**All outstanding balances for the Autumn Term for dinner, clubs and trips must be settled before the end of term please. If you need to know how much you owe, please contact the school office.**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> of December is the children's Christmas Lunch day. Children, staff and Governors can come to school wearing their brightest, cheeriest jumper, a Christmas jumper they already own or decorate an existing jumper, there is no need to buy anything

# Rights Respecting Schools

## Anti-Bullying



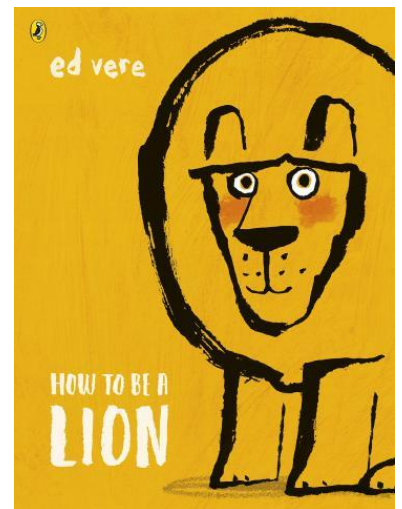
In our Rights Respecting Schools assembly, we talked about how the above Articles link to Anti-Bullying week. Anti-bullying Week is held each year in November and is a time for all of us to think about how we can develop positive relationships in school based on dignity and respect, take a proactive approach to preventing bullying and also support people who have faced or are facing bullying.

Our School Captains read us the story of **'How to Be a Lion'** by Ed Vere. This is the story of Leonard, a lion, and his best friend Marianne, a...duck! Leonard and Marianne have a happy life together - talking, playing, writing poems, and making wishes - until one day a pack of bullies questions whether it's right for a lion and a duck to be friends.

The story provides us with a powerful reminder about the importance of being true to yourself and standing by your friends.

As well as being an empowering tale about connecting with others and choosing kindness over bullying, the story shows us how angry and provocative words can be overcome by empathy and inner courage.

As Leonard says in the book, ***'Let nobody say just one way is true, there are so many ways that you can be you. Why don't you, be you...and I will be I.'***



You can read the story of **'How to be a Lion'** by clicking this link. [How to Be a Lion by Ed Vere](#)

We reflected on how it feels when we experience kindness from others and thought about the different ways in which we can show kindness to others.

Thank you to Bella and Dylan for reading the story so beautifully, and to Abigail and Max for their help in explaining Articles 2, 12, 13 and 19 from the CRC.

**Mrs Tweedale**  
**Rights Respecting Schools Co-ordinator**  
**Deputy Head**



In Early Years, the children have been busy practising their songs for their upcoming Winter Wonderland concert! One of the songs, all about building a snowman, inspired us to get creative with making our own playdough snowmen. We followed instructions about the features we needed to include to make our snowman come to life, and also added extra details of our choosing. As an extra challenge, Ash class wrote labels and sentences about their snowmen, noting one of the features of their creation, such as **She has a pom-pom hat** and **He has no legs!** We thought carefully about the tricky words **he** and **she** within our sentences. The children are very excited to make more snowmen during choosing times, with talk of adding other details such as antlers and bells!



The children have been brimming with excitement in maths this week as we have been learning all about positional language. They have enjoyed following instructions and coming up with their own as they hid their mini mes all over the forest... **in** trees, **under** logs, **on** the leaves... you name it, our mini mes have been there!



We have been closely observing how a cut up apple changes over time, for our Science experiment this week. Last week, we chopped an apple in half and put one half in a plastic bag and left the other out on a plate. The children made predictions about what would happen, such as it would turn brown, go mouldy and get smaller. The children's predictions were right and it has certainly been busy changing colour, consistency and growing mould. Early Years are already making super Scientists.



Beech Class has been brimming with creativity, teamwork, and discovery! The children have been fully immersed in a variety of exciting activities across all subjects, showcasing their hard work and enthusiasm. In dance, the children have been working diligently on their routines for an upcoming dance performance. Through this, they have not only been learning technical skills like rhythm, coordination, and expressive movement but also the



importance of teamwork.

Oh the excitement... we have been hard at work preparing for our performance, combining singing, dancing, and acting. The children have learned how to project their voice confidently to ensure they can be heard clearly during performances. We've also discussed the importance of clear enunciation and expressive delivery to engage an audience. In addition, the children have been practicing their stage presence and learning to balance their movements with the group, whether they are acting, singing, or dancing. The children are loving it all, and we are excited to share their hard work with you soon!



In RE, the children have been exploring the Christmas story, thinking about its meaning and significance. They reflected on the different characters in the Nativity scene and their roles in welcoming baby Jesus. These very thoughtful discussions have been a wonderful way for them to connect the traditional story with modern values of generosity and care for others.



In Science the Year 1 children have been focusing on the season of winter. They observed and discussed the changes that occur during this time, such as shorter days, colder temperatures, and the appearance of frost. We explored the impact of these changes on plants, animals, and people. The children also learned about how

some animals adapt to winter by hibernating or migrating. To bring their learning to life, we went on a “winter walk” around the school grounds to spot seasonal signs and discussed how winter affects our daily lives.

The Year 2 children have been investigating materials suitable for a coat designed for a voyage to Antarctica. They explored why such a coat would need to be waterproof even though Antarctica is technically a dry desert. The children tested a range of materials, observing which were waterproof and which were not. This hands-on experiment taught them about the properties of materials, like absorbency and flexibility, as well as how these properties affect their suitability for extreme conditions. It was a fantastic way to apply scientific thinking to real-world challenges!

In English the Year 1 children have been developing their letter-writing skills by drafting, editing, and publishing their letters to Father Christmas. They worked hard to structure their letters with a clear introduction, body, and closing paragraph, thinking carefully about what they wanted to ask for and expressing gratitude for the past year. Meanwhile, the Year 2 children wrote heartfelt letters to their families. They focused on making their writing personal and reflective, sharing their favourite memories and what they are looking forward to in the holiday season.



Lime Class have been buzzing with creativity this week! After much hard work and dedication, the children have finally finished publishing their pieces of poetry, and it is now proudly on display. Each is full of imagination, showcasing their growing confidence with words. We warmly invite you to stop by after school to admire their work—it's something you won't want to miss! The children are thrilled to share their masterpieces with everyone.

In English, we've been learning about effective story settings, using a stunning text called *How the Stars Came to Be* by Poonam Mistry as our inspiration. We've been innovating the story with our own characters and creative ideas, while still using the structure of the original tale to guide us. The children's imaginations have truly shone as they've brought their own unique twists to the story. It's been a wonderful journey of exploring descriptive language and the magic of storytelling.

Maths has been all about times tables this week, and excitement is sky-high with the launch of the Great KS2 TT Rockstars Battle! Lime Class is beginning to embrace the challenge with enthusiasm, knowing that every minute of practice counts towards our class score. Individual prizes are also up for grabs, which has fuelled some friendly competition among classmates. The determination and enthusiasm in the room are contagious—let's see if Lime Class can top the leaderboard!



In DT, our soft toy projects are coming along beautifully. After completing the research and design stages, we've moved on to creating paper patterns, cutting fabric, and sewing. Skills practice sessions earlier in the term, where we learned to thread needles, stitch, and tie off, have really paid off. The children are not only developing technical skills but are also brimming with ideas about the possibility of turning their toys into thoughtful Christmas gifts. We can't wait to see their final creations! Once they have been completed, admired and evaluated they will be able to come home



Across other subjects, there's been plenty of hands-on learning. In Geography, we explored contour lines by drawing mountains as they might appear on a map and then making plasticine models to match. Our letters and cards to our pen pals in Greece are on their way, and we're eagerly awaiting replies! Science has seen Year 3 sorting Mrs. Courtman-Stock's shopping into food groups (and discovering overlaps), while Year 4 delved into the fascinating world of green energy and electric cars. In PSHE, we reflected on relationships, discussing the differences between friends and acquaintances and how we interact with each. It's been a full and fantastic week in Lime Class!



# Little Hadham Primary School

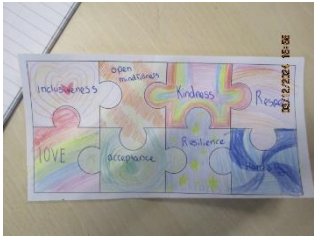
Stortford Road, Little Hadham, Herts SG11 2DX

Tel: 01279 771285 Email: [admin@littleshadham.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@littleshadham.herts.sch.uk)

Head Teacher Ms S Connolly



In English, the pupils focused on identifying the features of an autobiography and discussed how they compare with those of a biography. To deepen their understanding, they shared personal memories and made notes about their early life and family, schooling experiences, talents, passions, awards, and achievements. These notes serve as a foundation for crafting their own autobiographies. They have already started writing them - it is delightful to read their personal stories and see their creativity shine!

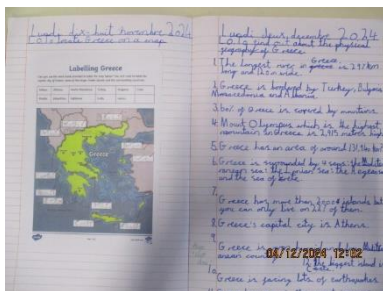


In PSHE, Maple class read and discussed 'The Land of Red People', a thought-provoking story that inspired discussions about diversity and inclusion. The children explored how their school community consists of individuals with unique qualities, different nationalities and faiths, mirroring the diversity of wider society. Through this, the children highlighted the benefits of living in a multicultural society, emphasised the value of mutual respect for different beliefs, and drew puzzles representing the essential qualities for harmonious living. As a Rights Respecting

School, our PSHE lesson on diversity and inclusion aligned with Article 14 (Freedom of Thought, Belief, and Religion) and Article 30 (Children from Minority or Indigenous Groups) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). These articles highlight the right of children to practice their religion, culture, and beliefs, and the importance of respecting diversity within communities. It also connected with the broader principle of Article 2 (Non-Discrimination), which emphasises that all children have rights, regardless of their race, religion, or other status, promoting mutual respect in a multicultural society.



In PE, the children collaborated in groups to design their own dynamic warm-up routines, incorporating a variety of stretches and movements to prepare the body for physical activity. Each group confidently demonstrated their routine to the rest of the class, showcasing creativity and teamwork. In our basketball session, the children focused on improving their communication with teammates, positioning themselves in space, and advancing the ball towards the goal. They also worked on defensive strategies, learning how to effectively mark opponents and recognise key moments to intercept the ball.



In Geography, the children undertook an in-depth study of Greece's physical geography, exploring its climate, towering mountains, and other natural features. Through this exploration, they uncovered the beauty and variety of Greece's landscapes, broadening their understanding of its unique geographical characteristics.



Happy Friday from Willow Class! It has been another fabulous week filled with exploration, creativity, and some big discussions!

This week in Science, we transformed into physicists as we learned all about the colour of white light and the visible spectrum! Armed with glass prisms, we created our own rainbows by splitting the light into the visible spectrum. We loved seeing how light can break into a beautiful array of colours.



Next, we channelled our inner Isaac Newton by using his colour wheel and Theory of Colour to turn those vibrant colours back into stunning white light! It was fun to see how science can turn something as simple as light into a spectacular show! Who knew learning about colours could be so exciting?



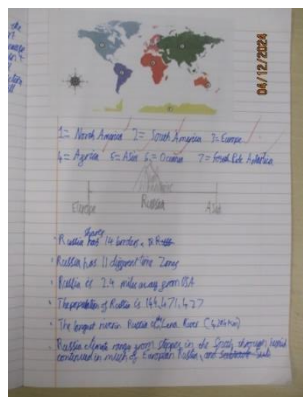
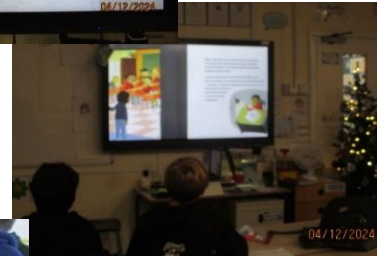
As part of our Advent activities, we are 'opening a door' of the Global Goals Book Club each day. This week, we explored two significant goals. On our journey through Goal 1: No Poverty, we dove into the heartfelt story 'Those Shoes' by Maribeth Boelts. The tale of Jeremy, a boy longing for trendy shoes he can't afford, sparked interesting discussions about poverty's impact and the power of empathy and generosity. We pondered the question: *Does poverty affect children differently than adults?*



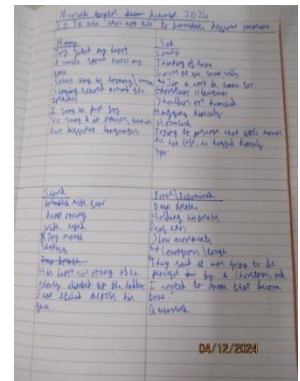
Next, we turned our sights to Goal 2: Gender Equality with the inspiring story 'Razia's Ray of Hope' by Elizabeth Suneby. Razia, a girl in Afghanistan, dreams of going to school despite overwhelming challenges. We were moved by Razia's determination and we discussed the importance of education for girls. The Global Goal Book Club is a fantastic way to learn about the world while fostering empathy and understanding – and it beautifully aligns with our Rights Respecting approach!



In Maths this week, we got our measuring hats on! We have been discussing metric measures and the prefixes kilo-, milli-, and centi-. We have been estimating and measuring with newfound accuracy, as we explored capacity, length and weight! Who knew a ruler and a set of weight scales could be so much fun?



Our Geography lessons took us on an adventure to Russia! We were surprised to learn about the vastness of this incredible country, spanning two continents with the magnificent Ural mountain range as a natural divider. The fact that Russia has 11 different time zones left us wide-eyed! What a country!



In English, we have been stretching our creative muscles by writing inspired by the 'Christmas Day Truce' from the First World War. Using the 'show, don't tell' technique, we have been working hard to convey character emotions and create atmosphere. In RE, we shared the variety of ways people celebrate Christmas and discussed our own traditions for the festive season.

We learnt some new vocabulary – secular and non-secular. We then listened to the story of the birth of Jesus from the bible, *Luke 2: 1-20*. After reflecting on the story, we discussed how various celebrations can be connected to the religious significance of Christmas and also those that are more secular in nature. We designed two Christmas tree baubles, one secular and one non-secular.



As we wrap up another week, we look forward to more adventures ahead in the final two weeks of the term! From Christmas cake baking to talent shows and a times tables tournament, there will be plenty to keep us busy! Have a wonderful weekend!

## Little Hadham Primary School Celebrates a Maths-tastic Achievement! 🏆

We are bursting with pride and excitement to announce that our amazing Year 6 team clinched **third place** in the **HFL Education Year 6 Mathematics Challenge Finals!** 🏆 Out of 320 talented participants from schools across the region, our team proved their brilliance, landing a top spot for the **second year in a row**—what a streak!



The competition wasn't just about crunching numbers. It was a high-energy, brain-bending event that tested their problem-solving skills, mathematical knowledge, and teamwork under the pressure of some seriously tricky questions. The journey to the finals alone was a massive accomplishment, but earning a spot on the podium? That's pure magic!

Mrs. Afenti-Sassis, our ever-enthusiastic Maths Coordinator, shared her joy:

*"Watching the team's focus, resilience, and creativity throughout this challenge has been an inspiration. They showed what Little Hadham pupils can achieve with determination and a love for learning. We couldn't be prouder—well done, superstars!"*

A huge round of applause to our **Year 6 Super Team** for their extraordinary effort and for making us all beam with pride. Let's hear it for teamwork, perseverance, and a passion for problem-solving—proof that maths really can be this exciting! ✨

## Thank You to Our Amazing Community

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible local community for their generosity in donating such brilliant raffle prizes to support our school.

As the saying goes, *"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much."* The collective efforts of our community help enrich the experiences we can offer to our children, and this generosity will directly benefit them in so many ways.

*Here is a list of our amazing prizes*

- The £150 was donated by 3 companies: Mokut Estate and Garden machinery, Architectural-coatings and Ruane Developments
- £100 - little Bee's Nursery
- Selfridges Hamper - F M Suckling
- Signs of the Times tickets- Ruane Developments
- Bottle of Moët - Laurelo Probate
- Pamper set, box of ales, Mr Tubs sauces - Emily Nunes
- Beauty Voucher - Protea Beauticians
- Meal Voucher - The Bull, Much Hadham
- Reflexology Voucher - Chloe Burrows
- Woodland Rangers Voucher - Louise Battle and Nikki Handley
- The Float Retreat Voucher - Irene Ruane

- 1:1 yoga Session - Yvette bYarnold
- Farmers Market Breakfast - Keith Hutt and Farmers Market Team
- Goodger Go Getters Voucher - Kelly Goodger

Thank you once again for your unwavering support.

## Creating a Festive Season That Works for Your Family

**Christmas can be overwhelming for our neurodivergent children and young people because along with the magic it also brings a whirlwind of sensory, social, and emotional challenges.**

Bright lights, loud music, unfamiliar often itchy clothing and busy gatherings can lead to sensory overload, while changes in routine and unpredictable events can heighten anxiety. Social expectations, like seeing friends and relatives or opening presents in front of others, can also feel daunting. For many, the sheer excitement and pace of the season can become exhausting.



The magic of Christmas doesn't have to look the same for everyone. Whether it's simplifying activities or focusing on quieter moments, here are some ideas from Team SPACE to help make Christmas as enjoyable as possible for everyone this year. Click here for their ideas.

<https://spaceherths.org.uk/2024/11/28/your-christmas-your-way/>

There are also some really lovely and interesting events that they organise, like Breakfast with Santa. For more information follow the link. <https://spaceherths.org.uk/events/>

## TT Rockstar Battle of the KS2 Classes has commenced!

We are thrilled to announce that the TT Rockstar Battle of the KS2 Classes is officially underway! This exciting competition began on **Monday, 2nd December** and will run until **Sunday, 20th December**. It's a fantastic opportunity for our children to sharpen their times tables skills while enjoying some healthy competition.

As Nelson Mandela once said:

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."*

Mastering times tables is a cornerstone of mathematical fluency, giving children the tools they need to tackle more complex problem-solving with confidence. Systematic practice helps embed these facts into long-term memory, transforming effortful recall into automaticity—a critical step for success in higher-level mathematics (Hasselbring, Lott, & Zydney, 2005).

We encourage children to dedicate time each day as every little effort adds up, and their speed and accuracy will improve significantly! Remember, **every minute counts!**

Let's see which class will emerge victorious—good luck to all our KS2 rock stars and wins the prize!