Little Hadham Primary School
Stortford Road, Little Hadham, Herts SG11 2DX
Tel: 01279 771285 **Email**: admin@littlehadham.herts.sch.uk
Head Teacher Ms S Connolly

Week 9

NEWSLETTER 16.10.2026

Diary Dates

09/11/26 School Photos
04/12/26 Friends Christmas Bazaar
08/12/26 Beech Performance 6pm
10/12/26 Pantomime- whole school
14/12/26 Year 6 Ice Skating
16/12/26 Christmas Lunch- Christmas jumpers
16/12/26 Little Hadham's Got Talent
17/12/26 Golden Morning
17/12/26 KS2 Humanities Quiz!
18/12/26 Youth Create Christmas Parties
18/12/26 Term ends 1pm

Learning Together Morning for this half term

16/11/26 Maple Class

17/11/26 Willow Class

18/11/26 Beech Class

19/11/26 Lime Class 8:45

19/11/26 EYFS 2:45

Winter Is on Its Way!

As the days become colder and wetter, please remember to send children to school dressed for the great British weather! A warm, waterproof coat is essential, as we want everyone to continue enjoying outdoor learning and play whatever the weather brings.

Please also ensure that coats, hats, gloves and other belongings are clearly named. This makes such a difference in helping lost items find their way home!

Dear All,

We hope you all had a lovely half-term break and enjoyed some well-deserved time to relax, recharge and make special memories with family and friends. It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back this week.

I would like to thank you for your continued support with school attendance. However, our attendance for the academic year currently stands at **94.9%**, which is below our school target of 96% and, importantly, lower than it was at this point last year. While we have seen some improvement in recent weeks, we need to see a more significant and sustained improvement across the school. Regular attendance is vital to children's learning, progress and wider development, and every day missed can mean missing important learning and experiences. We really do need to work together to turn this around and ensure that our children are in school as much as possible. Our expectation is that attendance should be above 96%, and we need everyone's support to help us achieve this.

A Little Bit of Library Bus History!



Well, what a moment for Little Hadham! History was made today as some very lucky children enjoyed their hot chocolate on the Library Bus!



You can imagine the excitement – and that wasn't just coming from me and Mrs Tweedale! What a very special treat and one that was thoroughly deserved. I also had the pleasure of hearing some of the brilliant reasons behind the children's hot chocolate tokens. I have to say, they were very impressive!

It is these little moments that make school life so special. A big well done to our hot chocolate winners – enjoy every sip!

Plenty to Look Forward To!

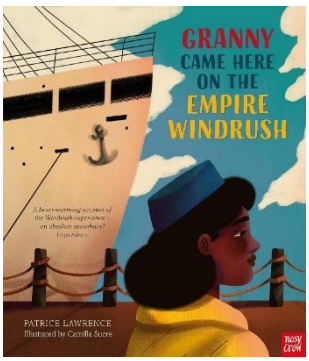
There is so much to look forward to as we head further into this half term. From inspiring assemblies and exciting enrichment mornings to special project days and, of course, some festive fun as we edge closer to December, there will be plenty of opportunities for our children to discover, create, perform and shine.

We love being able to share all the wonderful things happening across Little Hadham, so please keep an eye out for our fortnightly newsletters, website updates and school emails. There is always something worth celebrating!

Have a lovely Remembrance weekend 🌺

Sinead Connolly (Headteacher)

Rights Respecting Schools



As part of our celebration of Black History Month, our recent whole-school assembly explored the theme of **respect, identity and belonging**, taking inspiration from the beautiful picture book *Granny Came Here on the Empire Windrush* by Patrice Lawrence.
Our School Council helped to shape the assembly, thinking carefully about which of the UNCRC Articles connected most closely with the story. Together, they decided to focus particularly on **Article 8 – the right to an identity** and **Article 2 – the right to be treated fairly and without discrimination**.



The story introduces us to Ava, who is searching for an inspirational person to celebrate at school. As her Granny shares stories of remarkable women, including Mary Seacole and Rosa Parks, Ava discovers that the person she most wants to celebrate is much closer to home. Through the precious objects in Granny's old suitcase, we learn about her journey to England on the Empire Windrush, the memories she carried with her and the challenges she faced as she built a new life.

Our School Council encouraged children across the school to put themselves in Granny's shoes by asking a thought-provoking question: **If you had to leave your home and move to another country, what would you take with you?** The children's responses were incredibly touching, with many choosing photographs of family members or a favourite toy. Their answers reminded us that our identity is shaped not only by where we come from, but also by the people we love, the memories we treasure and the things that make us who we are.

The story gave us a wonderful opportunity to think about the experiences of children and families who are forced to leave their homes, helping us to develop empathy and understanding for others. It also reminded us that everyone has a story worth listening to and celebrating, and that sometimes our greatest heroes are those closest to us.

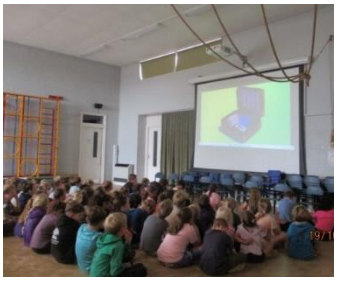
Our assembly left us with a very important message:
Wherever we come from, whatever our story and wherever life takes us, we all have the right to be ourselves, to be treated fairly and to have our identity respected.

The assembly:









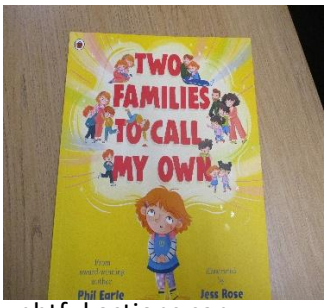
A huge well done to our School Council, *Isabelle, Rafael, Kali, Marcus, Olive, Jules, Freddie, and our School Captains, Libby and Eloise* for their thoughtful contributions and for helping us all to reflect on such an important message.

2025 – 2028
Rights Respecting Schools
UNITED KINGDOM
unicef
Silver
Rights Aware

Mrs Tweedale,
Deputy Head
Rights Respecting Schools Co-ordinator

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Our first assembly of this half term focused on Kindness Month, which takes place throughout November. We began by sharing the story Two Families to Call My Own, which follows a little girl called Florrie as she learns to navigate the relationships within her blended family. Through Florrie's experiences, we explored the importance of kindness, understanding and respect, and how these can help us build happy and positive relationships with the people around us.



Eloise then explained the significance of Kindness Month, reminding us that it is a special opportunity to celebrate kindness and think about how even the smallest thoughtful actions can make a big difference to someone else's day. We discussed how kindness is about much more than simply being nice; it involves showing empathy, compassion, respect and friendship in our everyday lives.

Joshua made an important connection to Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that "You have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body and in mind." We thought about how showing kindness and respect towards others helps everyone to feel safe, valued and included.



Libby shared some lovely ideas for how we could put kindness into action, both at school and at home. These included setting ourselves daily kindness challenges, creating a classroom Kindness Tree, building a Kindness Chain by recording thoughtful actions and becoming Secret Kindness Agents, carrying out little acts of kindness for others without expecting anything in return. Our school councillors took copies of these ideas back to their classrooms so that everyone could get involved and help spread a little more kindness.

Rupert brought our assembly to a thoughtful close with a wonderful reminder:

"Kindness costs nothing, but it can mean everything. A smile, a helping hand, an encouraging word or simply making room for someone else can make someone's day brighter."

A lovely message for us all to take into November and, of course, to remember throughout the year!

This week in EYFS, we have been very excited to dive into our new story, *I Will Not Ever Never Eat a Tomato* by Lauren Child! After our first reading, the children were full of enthusiasm as they shared their favourite foods and discussed the foods they might not be so keen on. During our carpet sessions, the children have been working hard with their talk partners, developing their listening skills, learning to take turns and growing in confidence when sharing their own ideas, thoughts and opinions.

In maths, we have been exploring different ways to represent numbers, including dot patterns on dice, counters, Numicon and our fingers. The children have been developing their understanding of how numbers can be represented in lots of different ways.



We have also loved hearing all about the children's Halloween adventures over half term! A huge thank you to everyone who kindly donated pumpkins. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring these using a range of tools, including hammers and palm drills, to create some wonderful autumn decorations as we welcome the colder months. These experiences have provided fantastic opportunities to develop fine motor skills, coordination and safe tool use.





We have also been exploring some of the different celebrations that take place at this time of year, including Diwali. After listening to the story of Diwali, the children enjoyed getting creative by making their own beautiful Diya lamps using salt dough. Once these had dried, the children used a wonderful selection of bright colours to paint and decorate their creations.





We talked about how Diwali is celebrated and how families come together to enjoy special celebrations, wear beautiful traditional clothing, such as saris, and spend time with loved ones. The children particularly enjoyed exploring the saris, dressing up and using their imaginations to act out their own Diwali celebrations together They also created their own henna/mehndi designs using scratch art.



Outdoors, the children had the opportunity to create their own Rangoli patterns on the playground using brightly coloured chalks. They experimented with different shapes, colours and designs to create some wonderful patterns.



We also explored how Diwali is known as the Festival of Light and discussed how fireworks are sometimes used as part of the celebrations. This led us on to talking about Bonfire Night, another occasion when we enjoy seeing colourful fireworks light up the sky!



The children took part in an exciting science investigation using milk, food colouring and washing-up liquid. They watched with fascination as the colours moved and changed, creating beautiful patterns and shapes that reminded us of fireworks. This sparked lots of interesting conversations as the children shared their ideas about why the liquids were reacting in different ways and what was happening to the colours and patterns.

It has certainly been a fun-filled first week back at school, full of creativity, curiosity and celebrations!



We have had a fantastic start to the new term in Beech Class, with lots of exciting learning taking place across the curriculum. The children have returned with enthusiasm and curiosity, ready to explore new topics, develop their skills and share their ideas. Here is a little look at what we have been getting up to this week!

It has been wonderful to see how the children are beginning to share and record their historical knowledge. Below is a fantastic example of a Year 2 child's writing from their weekly diary entry, where they have independently recalled and explained some of the key facts they have learned about the Gunpowder Plot: We have also started our exciting new History topic all about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. We have been learning about an important event that happened in 1605, a very long time ago! Guy Fawkes was one of a group of men who planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament using barrels of gunpowder. They wanted to get rid of King James I because they were unhappy with how Catholics were being treated. However, their secret plan was discovered before it could happen. Guy Fawkes was caught guarding the gunpowder in the cellars underneath Parliament! We have been thinking about how people must have felt when they discovered the dangerous plot. It is fascinating to learn about what happened in the past and how we remember this event today by celebrating Bonfire Night with fireworks, sparklers and bonfires.



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In Science, we have begun our new topic exploring the seasons and seasonal changes. Our Year 2 children



have been discussing why the days become shorter during the winter months and thinking about how the amount of daylight changes throughout the year. They have been sharing their ideas, asking questions and beginning to explain the patterns they notice. Our Year 1 children have been exploring changes in the natural world, particularly focusing on how trees change throughout the seasons. They have been looking at how leaves change colour, fall from branches and how trees can look very different during the autumn and winter months. The children have been developing their observational skills and using scientific vocabulary to describe the changes they can see around them.

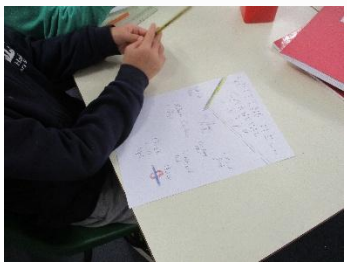
English has been full of excitement this week, with some very mysterious happenings in our classroom! Our Year 1 children were very surprised to discover that a magical creature appears to have come to live in Beech Class! The creature left us a mysterious letter, leaving everyone wondering who or what might be hiding in our classroom. The children have been using their imaginations to think about what the creature might look like, how it might behave and where it might have come from. We have been focusing on using adjectives and verbs to bring their descriptions to life. The children have been exploring how adjectives help us describe appearance and how verbs tell us what someone or something is doing. They have been carefully choosing interesting vocabulary to create imaginative descriptions and sharing their ideas with their friends. We have loved hearing all their wonderful suggestions!

Meanwhile, our Year 2 children have been developing their instructional writing skills. To bring their learning to life, we watched a banana milkshake being made, carefully observing each stage of the process. The children then used this experience to write their own set of instructions, thinking carefully about the order in which the steps needed to happen. We have been focusing on using clear, concise sentences, sequencing words such as *first, next, then* and *finally*, and choosing imperative verbs to tell the reader exactly what to do. The children have been learning why instructions need to be written in the correct order so that someone else can follow them successfully.

It has been lovely to see the children return to school with such positive attitudes and enthusiasm for their learning.

It has been another fantastic week in Lime Class, filled with lots of exciting learning opportunities and fun activities!

On Monday, Year 3 began exploring the wonderful world of fairy tales. The children particularly enjoyed retelling the familiar story of *The Three Little Pigs*, using story language, expression and plenty of enthusiasm to bring the characters to life. In Maths, Year 3 explored number patterns and how recognising these can help us with our calculations, while Year 4 developed their addition and subtraction skills, moving on to formal written methods using four-digit numbers.



In History, we learnt all about the Notting Hill Carnival and its links to the Windrush Generation. We watched video footage of the vibrant celebrations, located Notting Hill on a map and created colourful posters to promote next year's event. This gave us a wonderful opportunity to explore the cultural significance of the carnival and its importance in celebrating Caribbean heritage.



On Tuesday, we were very excited to welcome the library bus for its second visit! The children thoroughly enjoyed browsing the selection of books and choosing new reading adventures to take back to class. We also began exploring how digital animations work. The children discovered how still images can create the illusion of movement by making their very own flick books using Post-it notes. There were some wonderfully creative ideas!



Wednesday saw us focusing on the importance of respect during our PSHE lesson. Linking our learning to Kindness Month, we thought carefully about how small acts of kindness can make a big difference to others. To celebrate this, we created a whole-class chain of kind actions, sharing thoughtful ideas about how we can show kindness and respect every day.



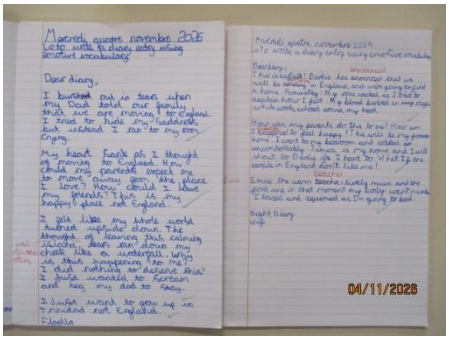




In DT, we began our exciting new textiles unit by researching the history of teddy bears and soft toys. We explored how these much-loved toys have changed over time, beginning to develop our understanding of their design and purpose as we prepare for our own textile creations.

Well done, Lime Class, for another brilliant week of curiosity, creativity and hard work! We are so proud of the enthusiasm you continue to show in all your learning.

In Maple Class this week, we began exploring our new class book, Coming to England by Floella Benjamin. The children were introduced to the story, its themes and the experiences it explores. We discussed how it might feel to move to a different country, leaving behind familiar places, friends and family, encouraging the children to develop empathy and consider the feelings of others.



In English, Year 5 pupils wrote diary entries inspired by the book, using a range of emotive vocabulary to express the characters' feelings and experiences. The Year 4 pupils wrote engaging openings, introduced a problem to their myths and completed their myths with a resolution and a meaningful moral.

In Maths, the children explored different methods for solving subtraction calculations, including choosing the most efficient strategies. They also practised mental methods for addition and subtraction and used inverse operations to check their answers.



Our Design and Technology topic is all about creating a Christmas decoration! This week, the children explored and analysed existing products before designing their very own Christmas stockings.



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In French, linking with our Ancient Greek topic, we began learning vocabulary associated with the Olympic Games.





We also enjoyed our weekly yoga lesson, where the children practised new positions and played games such as Front to Front and Sneaky Trees. We then took time to relax using the Rainstick and enjoyed our Ladybird relaxation activities.



Finally, we had our first Basketball lesson! The children developed different ways of moving the ball and explored how to apply these skills in a variety of situations. They worked collaboratively and practised selecting appropriate passes during different game scenarios.

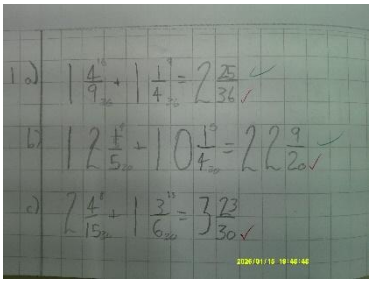


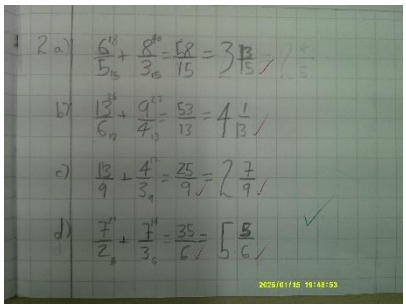
Another fantastic week of learning and new experiences in Maple Class!

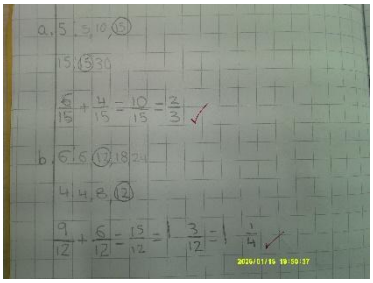


After a whole week of half-term bliss (which, let's face it, went far too quickly!), Willow Class was straight back into the swing of things. There was no easing ourselves in gently – we wasted no time getting stuck into our learning!

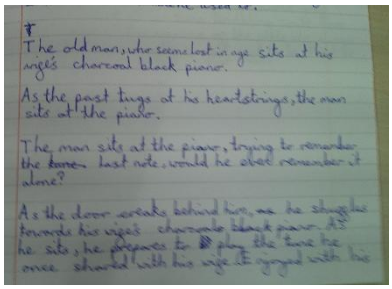
In Maths, we've been fathoming fractions, comparing, adding and subtracting them. At one point, Mrs Tweedale looked as though she was auditioning for *Strictly Come Dancing*, complete with YMCA dance moves! It turns out she was helping us remember to use the LCM (Lowest Common Multiple) to find a common denominator. Who knew maths could be so musical?!







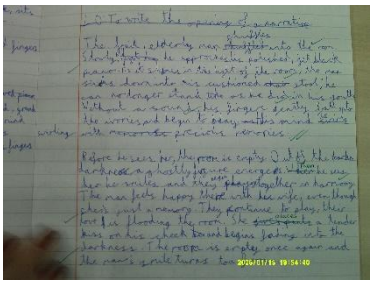
In English, we've been watching the incredibly moving short film *The Piano* to inspire us to write our own short narratives featuring a flashback. We've been experimenting with ambitious vocabulary and figurative language to capture the emotions of the elderly pianist as memories from his past come flooding back. Our writing has been just as powerful as the film itself! *Arthritic fingers danced and glided across the ivories as tangible memories consumed the aged man.* Wow! Not bad for a week's work!


The old man, who seems lost in age sits at his aged charcoal black piano.

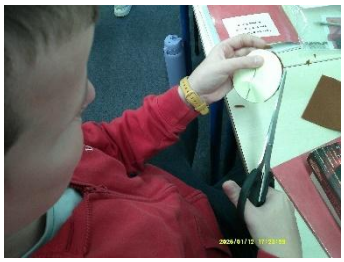
As the past tugs at his heartstrings, the man sits at the piano.

The man sits at the piano, trying to remember the tunes last note, would he ever remember it alone?

As the door creaks behind him, as he struggles towards his aged charcoal black piano. As he sits, he prepares to play the tune he once shared with his wife as synced with his

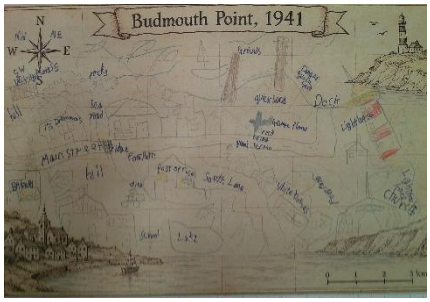


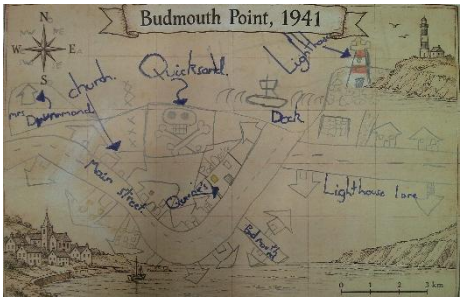
Now, some might say it's far too early to mention Christmas, but we know our much-anticipated Christmas Bazaar is only a few weeks away. We've been busy making beautiful felt Christmas tree decorations to sell and raise money for our school. With embroidery threads, colourful felt and sequins galore, our Christmas pudding decorations are really taking shape. We think they'll look splendid hanging from any Christmas tree!

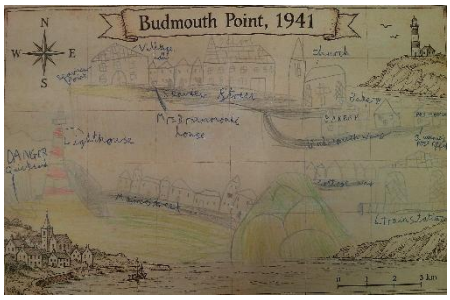




We've also enjoyed reading the next instalment of our class novel, *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll. The mystery continues! We've been putting our retrieval and inference skills to the test, using clues from the text to create our own maps of Budmouth Point, the village where Olive's story unfolds. A little detective work was definitely required!







In PE, we've been dribbling and bouncing our way into action as we continue to develop our basketball skills. We've been practising the protective dribble and V-dribble through some fun games. Watch out, LeBron James – Willow Class is coming for you!





So, all in all, a busy week of learning, creativity and a little bit of dancing (well, mainly from Mrs Tweedale!).

💛 Thank You for Making Our Library Bus Special

Finally, a very special thank you to everyone who has purchased a book for our Library Bus. Your generosity has been fantastic, and we are so grateful for every single contribution.

The lovely owners at Book Nook in Ware commented on just how generous our Little Hadham families are. My response? "Yes, we really, really are lucky!" 💛

They are already looking forward to coming to visit our library, and we cannot wait to welcome them and see our wonderful collection grow.

Every book donated is another opportunity for a child to discover a new favourite story, explore a different world or simply fall in love with reading. What a lovely thing for our school community to come together and make happen! 📖