

NEWSLETTER 7.11. 2025

Week 9

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope you all had a lovely half-term break and managed to enjoy some rest, fresh air, and family time. It's been wonderful to see the children return to school this week full of energy, smiles, and enthusiasm for learning. Classrooms have quickly settled back into their calm, focused rhythm, and there's a real buzz of purposeful learning across the school.

While the children were enjoying their half-term break, staff were busy on our INSET day, taking part in a range of training sessions. These included health and safety updates, SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) training, and subject leadership development. This week we also joined colleagues from several local schools for sessions on *Oracy in the Curriculum* and *Reading Fluency* — two areas we're especially excited to develop even further this year. We'll be looking to share some of these approaches with families through workshops in the new year, so you can support these skills at home too.

Looking ahead, there's plenty to look forward to this half term — from inspiring assemblies and enrichment mornings to special project days and festive fun as we move closer to December. We'll continue to keep you up to date through our fortnightly newsletters, website, and school emails.

If you're not currently receiving the newsletter by email, please check with the school office so we can update your contact details.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Here's to another fantastic half term ahead!

Have a wonderful weekend,
Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

Diary Dates

- 10/11/25 Odd Socks Day**
- 10/11/25 School Photos**
- 28/11/25 Friends Christmas Bazaar**
- 10/12/25 EYFS Show 2:30 start in Hall**
- 11/12/25 Pantomime- whole school**
- 16/12/25 Beech Performance 6pm**
- 17/12/25 Christmas Lunch- Christmas jumpers**
- 17/12/25 Little Hadham's Got Talent**
- 18/12/25 KS2 Humanities Quiz!**
- 20/12/24 Youth Create Christmas Parties**

**Learning Together
Morning for this half term**

17/11/25 Beech Class

18/11/25 Willow Class

19/11/25 EYFS Class @2:45pm

20/11/25 Lime Class

21/11/25 Maple Class

Staffing Update: Fond Farewells and Warm Welcomes

Breaking News... at the end of this half term, we are sadly saying goodbye to two much-loved members of staff. Mrs Martin, our SENCo and a key part of Maple Class, and Mrs Webb, who works in our EYFS team, will both be leaving to begin exciting new ventures running their own businesses in different fields. We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to them both for their dedication, care and commitment to Little Hadham Primary. They have each made such a positive difference to the children and families they have worked with, and we wish them every success and happiness in their new chapters.

From January, we are delighted to be welcoming Mrs Faye Linden-McCarron, who will be joining our EYFS team. She brings a wealth of Early Years experience and will be visiting this half term to liaise with Mrs Lawrence before starting officially in January 2026.

We are also very pleased that Mrs Dyson, who has worked with us on supply many times, will be joining the school permanently to work in Maple Class. Her experience and warm approach will be a wonderful addition to the class. She already knows the children well and she is very excited to become a permanent member of the Little Hadham team.

Finally, Mrs Neal will be taking on the role of SENCo. She has already started her SENCo qualification and will work closely with Mrs Martin over the coming weeks to ensure a smooth transition for our children and families.

We are so grateful to all of these staff members — those moving on and those stepping into new roles — for the care, professionalism and enthusiasm they bring to our school community.

An update on English from... Mrs Tweedale

Poetry By Heart Celebration

In the week before the half term break, our school was buzzing with the power of words as every class took part in our very own Poetry By Heart celebration! Each class chose a poem to learn, rehearse, and perform to the rest of the school — and what a fantastic showcase of rhythm, rhyme, and confidence it was.

Learning a poem by heart is a wonderful way for children to explore the beauty of language. It helps develop memory skills, enrich vocabulary, and encourages an appreciation for the patterns and sounds of words. Performing poetry also gives children the chance to use their voices expressively, build confidence in front of an audience, and enjoy the shared joy of storytelling through performance.

In addition to the laughter and excitement, there were a few happy nerves on the day! As part of pupil voice, I asked children across the school what they enjoyed most about Poetry By Heart. Here's what they had to say. Keeley in Beech Class said, *"I like the rhythm and that we got to perform it together. I liked the end of our poem because it was funny and I loved saying 'eletelephony'!"* Robin from Beech Class told me, *"Our poem was a tongue twister! I liked the tangling trunk actions we did when we performed it."*



Jack from Lime Class shared, *"I felt nervous performing, but the actions helped me to learn my poem. It was fun listening to the other poems being performed."* And Louis in Maple Class said, *"I thought the youngest children did a really good job performing 'Miss Polly'. I loved listening to their poem! I thought our class poem was catchy. When you learn things off by heart, you always have them with you."*

I couldn't agree more — the performances were a joy to watch, and the enthusiasm from every class was infectious! It is wonderful to hear how much the children valued both performing and listening to others. They spoke about rhythm, teamwork, performance skills, and the fun of exploring language — exactly what Poetry By Heart is all about!

Recordings of the performances can be found on Tapestry, so do take a look and enjoy the creativity on display.

Our next Poetry By Heart event will take place in the Spring Term, and we can't wait to see what magical words and performances our children will share next!



Mrs Tweedale, English Subject Leader

It has been such a lovely week in EYFS as the children have returned from their half term break with such enthusiasm! Choosing time has been buzzing with child-initiated play themes, from 'MasterChef' role play at the playdough area, to the construction of intricate habitats for all sort of creatures. It is a joy to see the children carrying out their own ideas in play and taking on the ideas of others.

In literacy, we enjoyed listening to our focus poem called Colour by Christina Rossetti. The children in Ash class talked about the rhyming structure of the poem, noticing how certain words sounded similar, such as 'red' and 'bed'. Saplings explored the colour red, naming all the different things that could be red, from hearts to Spiderman! Our classroom is now showcasing a wonderful display full of their writing and colour mixing explorations. It has been lovely to see how Ash are not only using the sounds that they have learnt from phonics in their writing, but that they are also hearing and discovering new digraphs too, such as the 'oo' sound in the word 'blue'.

The children have also been working hard in maths, discovering and playing with different representations of number, from the dots on dice to the fingers on our hands!



During circle time, the children spoke about the different things that made them special, noticing how we all felt that we were special for different reasons. Some children focused on their abilities such as being skilled at forward rolls, whilst others spoke about their family being the reason that they felt special. It was lovely to see how well the children listened to one another and used sentence starters such as 'I am special because...' to help form sentences with their answers.

The children created a fantastic story during our tales toolkit session, which involved an ant called Bella Cutie who managed to save herself from being eaten by a naughty bird! The children are developing wonderful story telling ideas and an understanding of the structure of a story.

Outside, they have been busy sweeping away the leaves that are falling in our garden. We have been talking lots about the colours of the leaves, along with other signs of autumn.



We've had great first week back in Beech Class, full of exciting learning and curiosity! In History, we have started our new topic about Guy Fawkes. The children have been learning who Guy Fawkes was and what the Gunpowder Plot was all about. We talked about why the plotters wanted to blow up the Houses of Parliament and what happened on 5th November 1605 when Guy Fawkes was caught. The children have really enjoyed discussing how we remember this event today through Bonfire Night and fireworks celebrations, and they have been full of thoughtful questions and ideas!



In Art, Year 2 have begun exploring Pointillism and the work of Georges Seurat, learning to evaluate his paintings and understand how small dots of colour can create beautiful images. Year 1 have been studying the work of Paul Klee, evaluating his colourful and imaginative paintings and discussing what they like about his style.



In PSHE, the children have been learning about respecting others. They explored the idea that we are all unique and discussed how everyone is different in their own way. As part of their learning, they completed a paired activity where they looked at ways they are the same and different from each other, helping them understand and celebrate diversity in the class.

In RE, Year 2 have been learning about how they can be everyday superheroes by doing things that help others and the planet, such as recycling, walking instead of using the car, and finding ways to care for the environment. Year 1 have been exploring the question "What makes a gift special?", thinking about the meaning behind giving and receiving gifts and why they are important to people.



This week in Lime Class has been a busy and exciting one for both Year 3 and Year 4. In English, Year 3 explored the features of a fairytale. We read, discussed and even recited a model text, thinking carefully about what makes fairytales special. Using key words and ideas from the story, the children began to rewrite it in paragraphs, using their recall skills to remember and reproduce model phrases and sentences.

In maths, Year 3 were introduced to multiplication, learning to make and talk about groups and arrays through practical activities and games, learning to match these with the correct calculations. Year 4 worked hard on learning their 6 times table and enjoyed practising through games and quick-fire challenges. Both year groups showed excellent focus and enthusiasm as they built their confidence with number patterns. We also all participated in a lesson on oral and mental strategies and a lesson about methods of subtraction.



Science lessons were full of curiosity and investigation. Year 3 began exploring the topic of forces by discussing and identifying pushes and pulls in everyday life. Meanwhile, Year 4 finished off their unit on habitats by learning about biodiversity. Both classes asked thoughtful questions and shared their ideas confidently.

DT saw us starting a unit on structures and we learnt the difference between a shell and a frame structure. We used nets to make cubes as an example of paper shell structures and thought about different types of packaging.



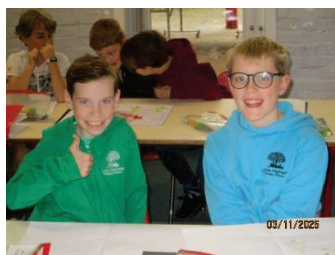


In geography, we were introduced to Scandinavia. We located it on a world map and looked at photos of some of its landscapes and landmarks, thinking about what we already know and what we'd like to find out next. In PE, we started learning basketball skills, though wet weather on Thursday meant we had to move indoors for some energetic aerobic exercises using sports equipment. Music was great fun as we warmed up our voices and began learning a new song called



Fly with the Stars. In French, we started learning the names of different animals, practising pronunciation and enjoying some playful repetition games.

This week, Year 4 have been busy creating their very own *Myths of Wisdom*! Inspired by the story of *The Salmon of Knowledge*, the children imagined brave heroes who travelled through enchanted forests and misty mountains, meeting magical "Animals of Wisdom" along the way. From patient turtles and clever foxes to kind songbirds and brave bears, each creature taught the hero an important life lesson about courage, patience, kindness, or resilience. We were so impressed by their creativity and the thoughtful messages hidden in their stories — true wisdom from our young writers!



This week in Maple Class, the children were introduced to their exciting new class book, *The Secret Lake* by Karen Inglis. The class discussed their first impressions of the book, made predictions about what might happen next and shared their thoughts about the main characters and setting. Everyone is eager to uncover the secrets hidden within the lake as they continue reading.

In English, the Year 5 children identified the key features of a formal letter and practised using coordinating conjunctions and persuasive language to present their arguments effectively. Taking inspiration from the historical learning, they wrote formal letters in role as Tom Oakley in 1939, explaining why he should not be considered to host an evacuee child at his home. Meanwhile, the Year 4 children wrote their own myths, impressing with their powerful openings, vivid descriptions and ambitious vocabulary choices.



In Maths, the Year 4 children worked on knowing and using multiples of 3, 6 and 9, while the Year 5 children explored multiples, common multiples, factor pairs and common factors of numbers. To help strengthen recall and fluency, the children also took part in Times Tables Aerobics, using



fun actions and movements to practise and embed their times tables knowledge. During PE on Tuesday, the children focused on developing their ball movement skills in basketball. They practised different types of passes—shoulder, bounce and chest—and worked collaboratively in groups to improve teamwork and apply their skills effectively in various game situations.



In Design and Technology, the children planned how they will make their own Christmas decorations. They explored and analysed existing products for inspiration, discussing both the function and visual appeal of each design. They evaluated aspects such as size, colour, materials and decoration in preparation for designing and creating their own unique and festive Christmas decorations.



What a productive week it's been in Year 6! Our classroom has been full of creativity, thoughtful discussion, and some impressive learning across all subjects.

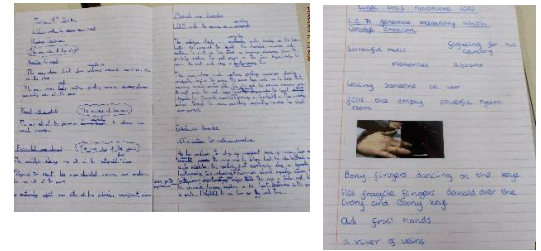
In English, we've been inspired by the short but powerful film *The Piano* by Aidan Gibbons. We have used this beautifully emotive piece to write our own narratives, focusing on expressing deep emotion and creating vivid imagery. Here are just a few examples of our writing this week:

"Paper thin skin covers his hands, delicately wrapping his blue veins and aging bones." — Eason

"As the melody continues, his fingers dance over the keys and a river of nostalgia stirs emotion. Vivid memories from key moments in his life consume him." — Grace

"The aged man steadies himself on the red velvet seat. Slowly, he stretches his tired fingers over the worn, old keys. Sitting at the piano brings back some sad yet wonderful memories." — Seve

"He hunches himself over the ivories and carefully places his arthritic fingers in position. He is ready to face the past. He is ready to fly free once more." — Joe

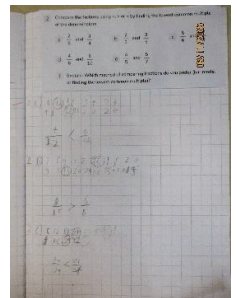


You can watch the short film by clicking this link [The Piano](#)

In Maths, we've had fun exploring fractions, learning to compare and order them with confidence. We have been using some helpful sentence stems to guide our thinking, such as:

"When the denominators are different, start by finding the lowest common multiple to make the denominators the same."

"When the numerators are the same, the smaller the denominator, the larger the fraction."



It's been great to see how much our confidence and understanding have grown as we've used these strategies to tackle tricky problems.

In PSHE, we've been learning about bystander behaviour and how we can take action to become *upstanders*. We discussed the importance of kindness, empathy, and standing up for others in a safe and responsible way. Together, we have explored practical actions that bystanders can take. Our list of actions included:

- Avoid joining in or laughing.
- Walk away (sometimes this is the safest option and allows you to report the incident to an adult).
- Tell the aggressor or aggressors to stop (disapproval can sometimes halt the behaviour).
- Get an adult (discreetly if possible).
- Encourage friends or other nearby children to stand up for the person being targeted.
- Support the person being targeted.
- Show kindness

We had much thoughtful and respectful discussion around this topic.



Finally, we've made a very exciting start on our Christmas tree decorations for the Christmas Bazaar! We have been learning to pin templates to felt, sew pieces together, and then decorate our creations with sequins and bows. We needed plenty of focus, patience, and creativity — and we can already tell that the finished decorations are going to be a wonderful surprise and a very special memory. All the decorations will be available to buy at the Christmas Bazaar, so do come along and see our beautiful handiwork on Friday 28th November.



Next Monday, 10th November, marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week. This year's theme is "Power for Good", and throughout the week we will be exploring what this means and how we can all use our power to make a positive difference.

To launch the week, we will be taking part in Odd Socks Day on Monday. This is a fun way to celebrate our differences and remind everyone that being unique is something to be proud of!

If you can, please come to school wearing odd socks on Monday. You can also enjoy this year's Odd Socks Day song from Andy and the CBBC team using the link provided. [ODD SOCKS DAY](#)

School Council News

Our School Council met this week and they sure haven't been *bursting* with ideas! They've relaunched **Foodbank Friday**, encouraging everyone to keep helping our local community by bringing in donations. In true festive spirit, they've even suggested a special "**Treat Week**" near Christmas — with sweets, treats, crisps and selection boxes! They were very sensible, though, and made sure to remind us that this would just be for one week of Christmas cheer.

They have also come up with a **fruit tuck shop** idea for Key Stage 2! Starting next week, children will be able to buy a piece of fruit for just **20p** on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** at breaktime. What a healthy and refreshing idea!

And that's not all! The School Council has also helped to plan new **playtime activities**. We'll be adding **tag rugby** to our outdoor games (watch out for a few extra muddy knees!) and introducing **board games** at playtime and lunchtime — even when it's not raining!

What a creative, caring and energetic School Council we have — full of great ideas to make our school even better!

Class	Items	Date
Willow	Tin, Jars & Condiments e.g. jams and spreads, ketchup, mayonnaise, cooking oil, salt & pepper	14/11/25
Maple	Toiletries, Toilet rolls, nappies, toothpaste, soap, etc	21/11/25
Lime	Dried goods e.g. cereals, noodles, rice, pasta, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, long-life 100% fruit juice, long life milk	28/11/25
Beech	Cleaning products: bleach, toilet duck, washing up liquid, sponges, detergents	05/12/25
EYFS	Sweets, treats, Crisps, Selection Boxes, Bags for life and strong plastic bags and toilet rolls	12/12/25

Parent Questionnaire from the school governors - results

We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our questionnaire at the parent consultations. It really is important for us to understand parents' views and we thought you might be interested to know some of the outcomes.

72 families completed our questionnaire. 65 of those felt that their child or children had settled in well to their new year, with 7 families saying that their child was mostly settled. 71 families reported that their child or children had a positive relationship with their teacher and that they felt comfortable communicating their needs or feedback to the teacher / head teacher / school, with 1 family answering 'mostly' to those questions. There were also a significant number of families who added lovely comments about how kind, understanding, approachable and helpful they found the teachers and the school.

100% of families who completed the questionnaire felt that the school is inclusive of children of all abilities and backgrounds. This reflects the governors' view of the school, but it is wonderful to hear that feedback from parents.

The majority of families reported that their child has enjoyed using the outdoor polycrub this term, although some of you weren't sure whether your child had been using it. Hopefully, if they haven't they will this half term!

We were also bowled over with the offers of assistance with our library bus project – 45 families said that they were interested in helping. We are incredibly grateful and will be in touch shortly with all those who left their details.

Thank you again for taking the time to answer our questions and we hope you all have a lovely second-half of the term.

Emma Claremont

Acting Chair of Governors