

Dear families

The past two weeks have been full of exciting learning and memorable experiences across the school!

Each class took time to learn about VE Day, exploring the importance of this historic event and the sacrifices made by those during World War II. The children showed real maturity and empathy as they studied the topic, and their understanding was beautifully shared in a whole school assembly. It was moving to see how thoughtfully they presented what they had learned — from the meaning of VE Day to what life was like for families during the war.

Swimming lessons have begun for some of our Year 5 and 6 pupils over in Church End, where they've been using the fantastic facilities provided by Swimology. The pool is warm, welcoming, and expertly run, and the children have made a fantastic start. It's been lovely to see them grow in confidence and skill in just a short amount of time.

Last week, Lime Class wowed us all with their Roman-themed performance. From toe-tapping songs to entertaining facts and dramatic scenes, the children brought history to life. They really shone on stage — confident, enthusiastic, and proud to share all they had learned. A huge well done to everyone involved!

And today, Lime Class had yet another exciting opportunity — a trip to the Lee Valley Discovery Centre. The children spent the day exploring, investigating and learning more about the natural world in a hands-on and engaging way. It was a brilliant extension to their classroom learning, and they returned full of enthusiasm and new knowledge.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It's a joy to see the children so engaged, confident, and proud of their learning

Have a lovely weekend,
Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

Diary Dates

05/05/25 Bank Holiday Monday
12/05/25--/15/05/25 SATS Week Yr6
19/05/25 Learning Together Morning Willow
20/05/25 Learning Together Morning Lime
21/05/25 Learning Together Morning Beech
22/05/25 Learning Together Morning Maple
23/05/25 Learning Together Morning EYFS
23/05/25 Half term begins
02/06/25 School Re-opens

An update on PSHE and Wellbeing from... Mrs Lawrence

Mental Health Awareness Week takes place from 12–18 May 2025. Organised by the Mental Health Foundation, this year's theme, 'Community', focuses on how connection and belonging support mental health and wellbeing. A strong support network can make a real difference to how we feel. Whether at school, at home or in wider social circles, feeling part of a community can provide comfort, encouragement and a sense of purpose.

Talking about mental health with one another can offer huge benefits, though it is often incredibly tricky to get started. This week, the children will be thinking about how to get the conversation going with regards to those big feelings, using the following video as a talking point: https://youtu.be/oz1S66_pYTww. The animation aims to give children an understanding of:

- what mental health is and the difference between every day small feelings and a big feeling*
- consistent and accessible language to talk about mental health*
- an understanding of how to be a good listener*

School Council Visit the Foodbank

This week, I had the pleasure of taking four of our School Council members to the local foodbank for a special workshop — and what an experience it was! The children learned more about how the foodbank works, from what happens when someone turns to it for the first time, to how it supports people over longer periods, the way they are signposted for support or citizens advice. They were fascinated, thoughtful and absolutely full of brilliant questions.

As part of the session, they helped prepare a real food box ready to go out, and spoke with volunteers about how the foodbank operates. The adults running the workshop were incredibly impressed with our children — not just for their insightful questions, but for their compassion and vision about how people in the community can support one another. I couldn’t have been prouder of the way they represented Little Hadham Primary.



agreement!

The children came away energised and full of ideas. They've decided to place reminder lists outside each classroom so that parents can see what items are most needed, and which class is bringing in donations for *Foodbank Friday*. It’s a small idea that could make a big difference — and the foodbank team were really touched by our contributions and enthusiasm.

The children also found out about volunteering opportunities, and if anyone in our school community is interested in helping out, the foodbank would love to hear from you. According to Joe, one of our brilliant councillors, the top skill for the role is “good social skills” — and the others all nodded in

The children had a fantastic time, and it was clear that empathy, kindness and action were at the heart of everything they took part in. Little Hadham pupils doing what they do best — thinking of others and making a difference.

Class	Items	Date
Willow	Bags for life and strong plastic bags and toilet rolls	16/05/25
Maple	Cleaning products: bleach, toilet duck, washing up liquid, sponges, detergents	23/05/25
Lime	Dried goods e.g. cereals, noodles, rice, pasta	06/06/25
Beech	Jars & Condiments e.g. jams and spreads, ketchup, mayonnaise, cooking oil, salt & pepper	13/06/25
EYFS	Tea, coffee, hot chocolate, long-life 100% fruit juice, long life milk	20/05/25

Year 4 Team Reaches Final of HFL Maths Competition!

Little Hadham is celebrating once again a fantastic achievement as one Year 4 team (from Lime and Maple classes) has made it through to the final of the HFL Maths Competition! The competition, known for its challenging and engaging mathematical tasks, tested the pupils' abilities in logic, number patterns, geometry and reasoning. Eloise, Hugh, Michael and Tom and impressed with their problem-solving skills and clear communication, showing a deep understanding of key mathematical concepts.

The final, which will be held on 21st May, promises to be an exciting event and the children are looking forward to showcasing their skills once again. We are all incredibly proud of the team, who have represented our school brilliantly. Congratulations!



News from the classes...



This week, the children in Early Years have been demonstrating their partner work through different learning sessions and play themes. We particularly enjoyed sharing books together to try and identify the sounds we've been learning in phonics, from single letter sounds such as 'g' and 'o' to digraphs and word endings such as 'ai' and 'ed'! Our partner work continued into the outside area as we shared resources with a friend to go on a bug hunt. It was lovely to see the children working together to find different minibeasts whilst reminding one another how best to look after the forest environment and the creatures that live there!



We have also been helping Harold this week, to try and come up with a healthy plate of food that he can have at school that will keep his body healthy and with plenty of energy. We explored food groups and spoke

about how it is important to have a balanced diet. The children then enjoyed writing pieces of advice for Harold to give him 'top tips' on how to eat healthily.



The buzz from our maths learning this week could be heard far and wide as the children used their spatial reasoning to work as a team to fill a 10x10 board with numicon pieces. They quickly discovered that placing pieces in particular orientations changed how we could fill the board in. They noticed the shapes of the pieces and how they would best fit in the gaps on the board, and even explained to Mrs Lawrence why she couldn't use a '7 piece' just because there were

seven spaces... "no Mrs Lawrence, it's not the right shape! The piece is too wide... we have to use three '2 pieces' and a '1 piece'!"



On Thursday, Early Years took part in a special VE Day celebration. They learned about the significance of VE Day, explored Victory Gardens by planting their own fruits and vegetables, and created their own "Dig for Victory" posters. In the afternoon, they discovered how people celebrated the end of the war with music, food, and street parties, making red, white, and blue bunting to decorate the classroom. The day ended with an assembly where the children proudly shared their work to the rest of the school, the grown-ups were so proud of how confident they all were.



In Beech Class, we have had a vibrant and exciting week filled with rich learning experiences across the curriculum. The Year 2 children have been looking at the beautifully illustrated and thought-provoking book *The Proudest Blue* by Ibtihaj Muhammad. Through this story, they have explored themes of identity, pride, and what makes each of us special. The book opened up meaningful discussions about cultural symbols, such as the hijab, and encouraged the children to reflect on items that are important to their own identities. They shared stories about treasured objects from home, family traditions, and personal values, building empathy and respect for one another's differences and similarities. Meanwhile, the Year 1 children have enjoyed getting to know the charming and adventurous Paddington Bear. Through their study of the classic story, they have learned to describe characters and understand plot development. They explored Paddington's personality, his kind and curious nature, and how he often finds himself in unexpected situations. The children enjoyed predicting what might happen next in the story and sequencing key events, developing both their comprehension and storytelling skills.

In maths, the year one children have been focusing on the concepts of position and direction. They have been using language such as "left," "right," "above," "below," "forwards," and "backwards" "left" "right" "quarter turn" "half turn" "full turn" to describe movement and placement. This hands-on topic has seen them directing partners around obstacle courses and using maps to guide each other to different locations, all while strengthening their spatial awareness. Year 2 have been concentrating on the topic of mass. The children explored how to compare and measure the mass of different objects using both non-standard and standard units such as cubes and grams. They investigated which items are heavier or lighter and practiced using scales with increasing accuracy. This learning encouraged them to estimate, record data, and interpret their results, which helped to develop their reasoning skills as well as their understanding of weight in real-world contexts.



One of the most memorable highlights of this half term was our celebration of VE Day. The children enthusiastically embraced the history of the event by making posters that reflected the joy and relief of the end of the war in Europe. We also stepped back in time to explore what life was like during the 1940s by baking traditional recipes using wartime rations. These included delicious rock cakes and cupcakes made using different raising agents. We also learned popular songs and dances from the era,

bringing history to life through movement and music. The celebration culminated in a joyful tea party where the children came together to share food, music, and laughter, creating a truly memorable experience that helped them understand and appreciate the significance of VE Day.



This week in Lime Class, Year 3 and 4 pupils have been exploring the world of playscripts. They began by reading a playscript in groups, identifying its key features such as stage directions, character names, and dialogue. Building on this understanding, they worked together to rewrite the script and later turned a familiar story into a playscript of their own. Although it was a challenge, the children tackled it with enthusiasm and smiles all around.



In maths, the focus has been on multiplying two-digit numbers by one-digit numbers. The class practised using short multiplication and learned how to exchange when necessary. They explored different strategies for solving calculations, with Year 4 pupils especially discussing which methods were the most efficient. The children showed great perseverance and developing confidence in their ability to tackle tricky problems.

Geography lessons this week were filled with excitement as the children continued learning about rivers. They even took their learning outside to demonstrate how a river meanders across the landscape. A highlight of the week was the "Rivers and Lakes Discovery Day," where pupils saw their classroom learning come to life through hands-on activities. The sunny weather added to the enjoyment, making it a memorable day for all.



In art, Lime Class studied the work of Henry Moore and experimented with abstract sculpture. Using both paper and plasticine, they explored joining and moulding techniques to create their own unique pieces. For VE Day, the children stepped back in time by listening to original wartime radio broadcasts and practising their best radio voices. Inspired by Winston Churchill's speeches, they wrote and performed their own speeches, complete with passionate introductions from pretend radio announcers. The children also had the

opportunity to share their work with the rest of the school by reading them out in 1940's style!

Last week, Lime Class gave a truly amazing performance that showcased their talent, confidence, and teamwork. Every child gave their all on stage, impressing the audience with their enthusiasm and hard work. The support from families was incredible, with a wonderful turnout from parents and carers who cheered the children on every step of the way. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event so special—it was a moment to remember for all involved.



In Maple Class, in English this week, the children familiarised themselves with VE Day and made notes in preparation for writing a letter. Their focus was on the celebrations and the emotions associated with this historic event. They then wrote letters from the perspective of a child celebrating VE Day in 1945. Writing as if they were living at the time, the children described the joy, relief and lively atmosphere of the day, while also reflecting on the sadness of losing loved ones on the battlefield. This activity helped them build empathy and deepen their historical understanding of the end of World War II.



In Art, the children learned about Claude Monet and explored his impressionist style. They practised pencil shading techniques, including hatching, cross-hatching, scribbling and pressure control, to develop their drawing skills. The children then applied some of these strategies to draw two trees, focusing on texture and light. This activity helped them build confidence in using different pencil techniques and expressing form through shading. During the lesson, the children also explored the symbolism of trees. Just as trees represent strength, growth and new beginnings, VE Day in 1945 marked the end of a long, difficult period and the start of a hopeful new chapter.



Furthermore, the children have begun working on their play with great enthusiasm—there are so many creative ideas, the challenge is fitting them all in! They have been collaborating effectively to create and perform their drama, learning to listen, build on each other's suggestions and respond appropriately to others in role. It has been wonderful to see their teamwork, imagination and growing confidence on stage. The children have also started learning the songs for their play, adding actions to bring each performance to life. They are developing their ability to sing with accurate pitch and in a style that suits each song. As they rehearse, they are learning to perform with control over their voices and growing awareness of others, ensuring their singing is both expressive and well-coordinated.





In Maths, the Y4 children focused on understanding tenths and hundredths, learning to represent these values on a place value grid. The Y5 children explored thousandths, both as fractions and decimals. The class participated in a Moneysense lesson that examined how payment methods are evolving. They discussed the differences between wants and needs and explored the advantages and disadvantages of various shopping methods, from cash transactions to digital payments. The lesson linked to the UN Convention on the

Rights of the Child (UNCRC), particularly Articles 28 (Right to Education), 17 (Access to Information), 27 (Adequate Standard of Living), 31 (Cultural and Recreational Activities), and 12 (Right to Participate and Express Views).



In Willow Class on Thursday, 8th May, we observed the 80th Anniversary of VE Day in a suitably celebratory manner. Our classroom was adorned in red, white, and blue, embracing the spirit of this important occasion. We began the morning by listening to Churchill's VE Day speech and were moved by his words. *'My dear friends, this your hour... a victory of the great British nation as a whole...'*

We were incredibly lucky to have a special message from a World War Two veteran, now 103 years old! This was definitely a highlight for us! He shared his memories of celebrating VE Day while aboard a ship, joining the RAF at just 19 years old, and serving valiantly in Africa (amongst other places) during the war. Inspired by his stories and recollections, we wrote letters of gratitude to acknowledge the sacrifices made by both those who fought bravely abroad and those who supported the war effort at home. The Veteran's poignant recollections of his brother's bravery and a medal bestowed by King George VI served as a vital reminder of the courageous individuals who shaped our history.

Some extracts from our letters...

Dear Mr. Jones,

I hope this letter finds you in good spirits and that you are well. As we celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day, I would like to express my gratitude for your service in World War Two.

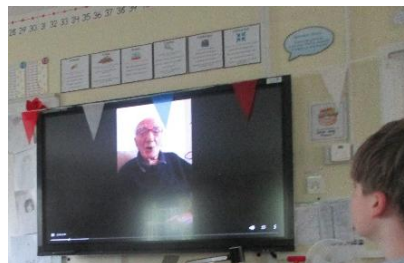
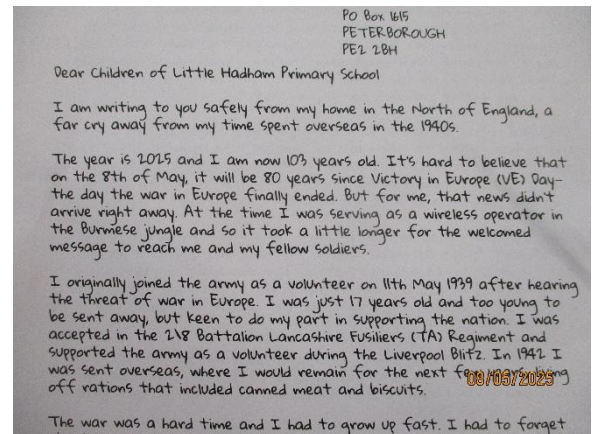
(Jacques)

I can only imagine what it would have been like to forget about home just to not feel homesick. I am very glad that your friend was okay after being chased off a cliff by an elephant. I would love to learn more about your experience in the jungle.

When you married your sweetheart upon your return, Eileen, you must have been filled with such joy!

(Sachin)

I was interested to learn about your time in the Burmese Jungle. It must have been very different and difficult without the comforts of home.



(Ronnie)

At the end of your letter you said, '...be kind and choose peace.' You also said, 'War is not glorious, it is terrible, truly terrible.' As I read this, I thought about the struggles and devastation so many of your generation went through during the war.

(Abigail)

We are truly grateful for the sacrifices you and your fellow soldiers made. It is very important to honour your legacy and for you to know that your bravery has not been forgotten. Thank you for your service.

(Thea)

In English, we embarked on a fascinating exploration of Charles Darwin's expedition to the Galápagos Islands. We have been particularly interested in learning about Darwin's ship, the HMS Beagle. We took to the field to measure the size of the ship (approximately 30 metres long and 8 metres wide) and discovered how it accommodated Darwin and his seventy-five crew members. Initially dazzled by its dimensions, we were struck by the reality that Darwin spent almost five long years aboard!

We began composing diary entries from Darwin's perspective, vividly expressing his excitement upon arriving at the Galápagos Islands. Despite his struggles with seasickness during the journey, we have beautifully captured his sense of wonder and discovery.

Some extracts from our diary entries...

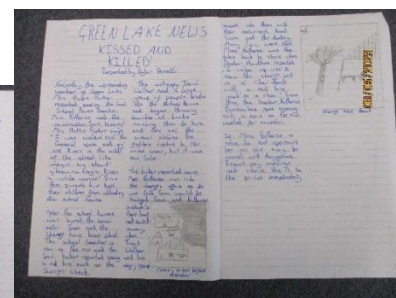
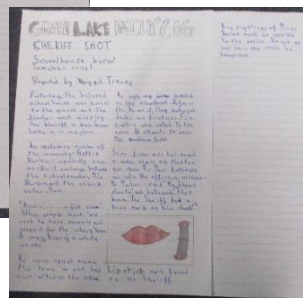
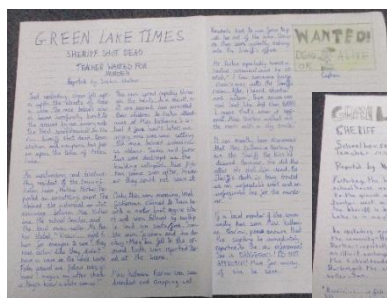
Through the crashing waves, I spotted the rocky shores of the Galapagos Islands. Getting to this point has been rather troublesome though. Nausea has plagued me and my crew and biscuits and raisins were the only thing my stomach would tolerate for days.

(Luke)

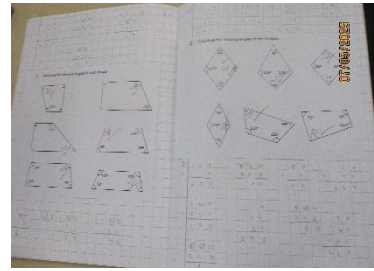
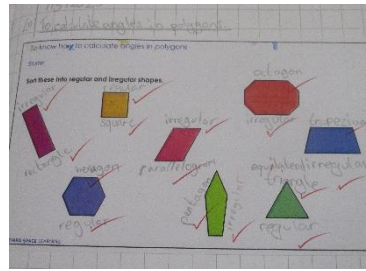
Alas, could it be? The Galapagos Islands! "We're nearly 'ere Captain!" shouted one of my crew mates. The sight unfolding in front of me was astonishing...

(Lochlan)

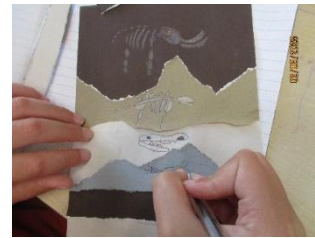
This week we also concluded our newspaper articles inspired by our whole class text 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. We skilfully incorporated different levels of formality, employing direct speech and the distinct voice of a reporter within our reports.



In Maths, our focus has been on angles within polygons. We have been mastering the use of a formula to calculate internal angles and missing angles. Through practical activities, we have gained confidence in identifying and measuring angles.



In Science, our inquiry into evolution and inheritance continued, looking at the significance of fossils. We learnt about sedimentary rock formation, recognising that fossils found in the deepest layers are the oldest and often represent simpler organisms. We created models of sedimentary rock and fossils, to help reinforce our understanding of how organisms have evolved over time toward greater complexity.



Down at the allotment...

We're having a busy half-term down at the allotment. Mr Trundell has very kindly built us some beds so the place is now looking very professional! The carrots and potatoes have gone in and the strawberry bed is really coming along.

The children have been down this week to tackle the ever-growing weeds and we're hoping to get some sweetcorn, courgettes, squash and beans in in the next few weeks. And they even came back with a few potatoes!

If anyone has any spare plants going, we'd be really grateful to receive them after the half-term break.

