



## LADY BANKES PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter No. 1

26<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Tel: 01895 634180

[www.ladybankes.school](http://www.ladybankes.school)

Email: [office@ladybankes.school](mailto:office@ladybankes.school)

Twitter: [@lady\\_bankes](https://twitter.com/lady_bankes)

ambition, togetherness, opportunity, respect, curiosity, happiness



Dear Lady Bankes families,

We have got off to a very busy start here this term. Already our Year 6 House Captains have visited Buckingham Palace, our Year 3's have visited the Chiltern Open Air Museum and our Reception and Year 1 pupils have had pedestrian training. Year 5 have had a wonderful workshop spending the day immersed in all things Greek to start off their key question learning and Year 1 will be having visits to both St Paul's church and Ruislip Baptist church in the next few weeks. All our trips and visitors really enhance the children's learning.

When I walk around the school every day it is hard to believe that our nursery and reception pupils have only been here for a matter of weeks- they are so settled and having such a great time learning. I was showing a visitor around from Hillingdon Education department this week and as we visited classrooms reception children were sitting beautifully on the carpet having their phonics lessons, it was hard to believe that Year 3 were just having their first steel pan lesson as they sounded amazing and Year 4 were playing the glockenspiels as a class perfectly in tune- I was so proud of the school and how every class are doing so well.

Coming up this half term we have our parent consultation meetings before half term. This will be an opportunity for you to meet with your child's teacher more formally and hear how they have settled in and what they will be working on this year. Further details will be sent out in the next few weeks.

FOLBA have lots of great events in the calendar for the children this year. Their first event is the 'Coin Challenge' which starts on Monday so get saving your loose change!

FOLBA have organised a coffee morning for Friday 3rd October. Do drop in and meet them- they are a fantastic group of parents who work tirelessly to raise money for the school and organise wonderful community events. At the coffee morning Mr Hageen and myself will also be there. As the SEND team we will be happy to chat to any families about any SEND queries you might have.

I hope that you have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to seeing all the children safely back to school on Monday.

Mrs K Needs

## GUITAR LESSONS



If your son/daughter is interested in learning the guitar at school there are still a few places available. For more information log onto the [hillington.gov.uk/music](http://hillington.gov.uk/music)



We are very proud of our Clerk to the Governing Body, Amy Doody. Amy won the National Governance Association's 'Outstanding Clerk to a Governing Body' award and was presented with this at the House of Commons last week. Well done Amy, it is thoroughly deserved.

## School Uniform

It was lovely to see all the children looking smart in their school uniform at the beginning of term. Unfortunately, once again our lost property box is getting very full. If you have lost any items of clothing please come and have a look. Please ensure that all uniform is clearly labelled so that it can be returned.

For personalised labels log onto [Mynametags.com](http://Mynametags.com) ID No 20947 by using this service FOLBA will receive a percentage.



## Diary Dates Sept/Oct 2025

### Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept

FOLBA Coin Challenge Week

### Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept

Book Fair Arrives

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct

Culinera America Day Themed Menu

### Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct

FOLBA Coffee Morning

### Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Oct

Year 1 Trip to St Paul's Church

### Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Oct

Open Day for Prospective Parents 9.30 & 1.30

### Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Oct

NSPCC Pants Week

### Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Oct

Year 1 Trip to Ruislip Baptist Church  
Year 2 Great Fire of London Workshop

### Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Oct

5CG Class Assembly @ 9.00am

### Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Oct

Year 6 Trip to RAF Museum

### Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Oct

Tempest Photographer in School

### Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Oct

Tempest Photographer in School  
Parents Evening 3.00 - 7.30pm

### Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct

Tempest Photographer in School  
Year 4 Trip to the Verulamium  
5JN Class Assembly @ 9.00am  
Parents Evening 3.00 - 5.30pm

### Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Oct

Training Day (School Closed)

### Mon 27<sup>th</sup> - Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Oct

Half Term

## YEAR 6 HOUSE CAPTAINS



Our whole school attendance for Sept 2025 is **94.6%** which is lower than last year's percentage of **95.6%**.

**However we can still improve our attendance!**

We hope that this academic year every child will strive to attend school every day.

Going to school regularly is important for your child's future.

Parents are responsible for making sure their children receive full-time education and have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends regularly.

Persistent unauthorised absence, such as term time holidays can lead to:

**Education Penalty Notices (fines)**

**Academic impact:** Even small increases in absence can significantly reduce a child's chances of achieving expected academic standards, especially in primary and secondary school.

**Social and emotional development:** School provides a vital environment for social interaction and well-being, which can be missed through poor attendance.

**Long-term life chances:** Consistent absence can impact a pupil's future, with research indicating a potential decrease in lifetime earnings for persistently absent pupils.

**Mrs Sue Smith, Attendance Officer**

| Year group |      | Current % |
|------------|------|-----------|
| Nursery    | EYFS | 90.2%     |
| Reception  | EYFS | 97.5%     |
| Year 1     | KS1  | 95.3%     |
| Year 2     | KS1  | 94.6%     |
| Year 3     | KS2  | 91.4%     |
| Year 4     | KS2  | 93.5%     |
| Year 5     | KS2  | 92.4%     |
| Year 6     | KS2  | 93.8%     |

Well done to Reception for an amazing start to the new school year!

Our whole school attendance is  
**94.6%**  
Mrs Sue Smith, Attendance Officer

**Attend Today  
Achieve Tomorrow**



## Ruislip Horticultural Show

Lady Banks recently exhibited our gardening skills at Ruislip Central Horticultural Society's Autumn Show at The Barn in Ruislip on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and won the schools award.

For a full report on how we got on follow the link below.

<https://www.ruislipresidents.org.uk/lady-banks-primary-school-wins-prize-at-horticultural-event/>



## Sporting News

The girls' football team have made a great start to the season winning three out of three matches. They beat Breakspear 3-0, Harefield 3-0 and Coteford 6-0. Well done to everyone who took part.



## Falcons Netball Club

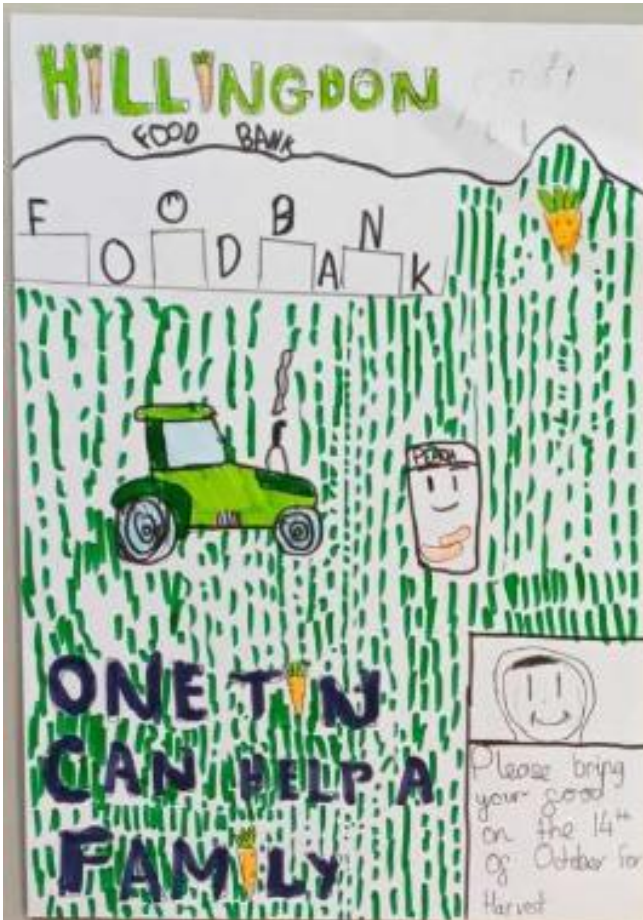
Falcons netball is an established club that has been running for over 20 years. We are passionate about introducing netball to younger players and have just set up a Falconettes group aimed at girls and boys aged 6-9. We hold a session on a Monday 5.30-6.30pm at Orley Farm School in South Harrow. We teach the basic fundamentals of netball so the children are ready when they start playing competitive netball at school. This is all done in a fun nurturing environment with qualified coaches who are all enhanced DBS checked.

Anyone interested should e mail the club- [falconsnetballclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:falconsnetballclub@hotmail.co.uk)



## Harvest Festival

5CG have designed some posters to advertise our Harvest collection for Hillingdon Food Bank. Please send donations in by Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you in advance for supporting this cause.

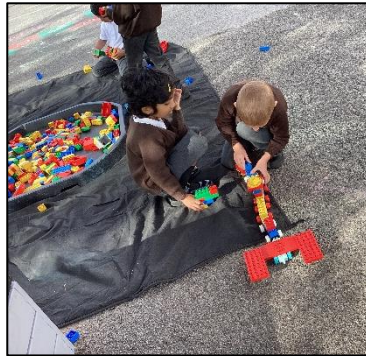




## Reception

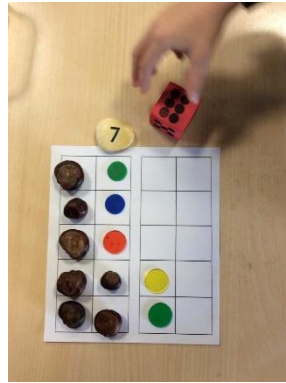
What a fantastic start to the term! The children have settled in brilliantly and are already thriving with their new routines. Phonics has been a daily highlight, with lots of excitement around each new sound, and the children are quickly building their confidence in early reading.

Our topic this half-term is "How Am I Changing?" The children have enjoyed exploring this through activities that highlight their favourite things, as well as engaging in both indoor and outdoor learning. They are showing curiosity, creativity, and a real enthusiasm for school life, and we are so proud of their progress.



## Year 1

We have had a fantastic first few weeks back and have settled really well into the routines of our new year one classes. We have been learning about our senses, we have done some great writing all about ourselves. We've also been taking part in the take one picture project which is ran by the National Gallery. We've been looking at the painting 'A Regatta on the Grand Canal' by Canaletto and have been creating our own boats out of a wide range of materials. We have even created our own canals too! We are excited to keep learning all about our new topics this half term!



## Year 2

In Year 2, we have been exploring our Key Question 'Did the Great Fire make London a better place to live?' So far, we have created timelines, researched Thomas Farinner and discovered the importance of Samuel Pepys! In English, we have been retelling the story of 'The Little Red Hen'; we have been working in groups to change the ending of the story and in Maths, we have been working on refreshing our knowledge of place value! The children have very much settled into Year 2 life and we are proud of their brilliant start ☺



## Year 3

Year 3 had an exciting trip to the Chiltern Open Air Museum where they took part in a special Stone Age workshop. The children were able to step back thousands of years and experience what life was like for some of the earliest settlers.

During the day, they explored how Stone Age people built shelters, hunted for food, and made tools using natural materials. They tried hands-on activities such as grinding grain, striking flints, and weaving with reeds. These practical experiences really helped the children to understand how resourceful early humans had to be to survive.

The workshop linked perfectly with our history topic, allowing pupils to bring their classroom learning to life. Many said their favourite part was handling real artefacts and imagining themselves as Stone Age hunters or gatherers.

It was a memorable trip that deepened their curiosity about the past and sparked lots of discussion back at school.

Thank you for all the parent helpers who made the trip possible.



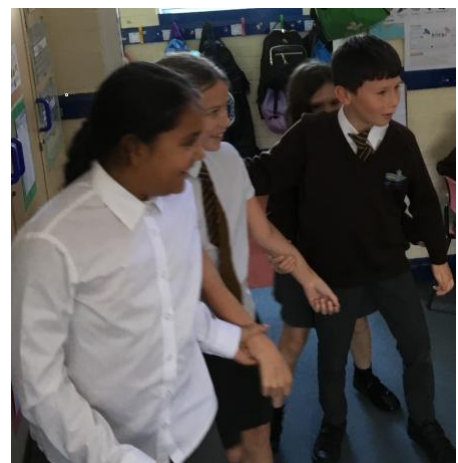
## Year 4

It has been a busy start to the new school year and the children are working incredibly hard. We have already started to think about how we can answer our Topic key question:

### How have the Romans influenced our lives today?

We acted the story of Romulus and Remus and discussed who built Rome. We have also mapped/located the Roman Empire – showing how the Roman Empire grew and why they did not invade particular areas. Did you know the Roman Empire spanned across 3 continents and 50 modern day countries!

In English we have started to read Christophe's Story – the story of a refugee and the struggles he may face. We are enjoying this powerful story and through drama we retold the story, as shown in the accompanying pictures.



Year 4 have been diving into the fascinating world of the **human digestive system**! As part of our science topic, we carried out an exciting investigation to explore how digestion works – from the moment food enters our mouths to the end of its journey through the body.

Using everyday items like bananas, crackers, water, and sandwich bags (along with a bit of imagination!), we recreated the different stages of digestion. The children had great fun squashing, mashing, and mixing to mimic the roles of the teeth, saliva, stomach, and intestines. It was a hands-on, slightly messy, but very memorable way to see digestion in action!

The investigation really helped bring the science to life, and the children asked fantastic questions throughout. We're so proud of their curiosity and enthusiasm for learning!

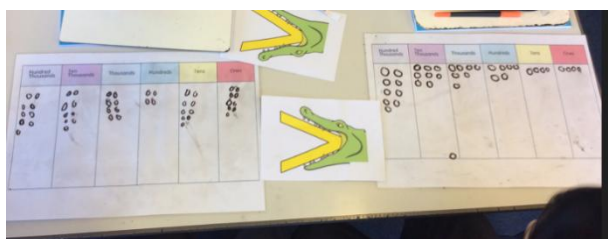
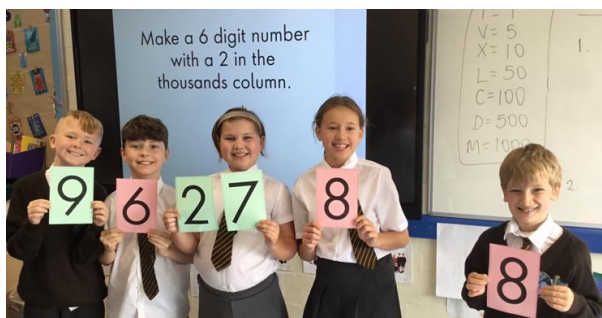
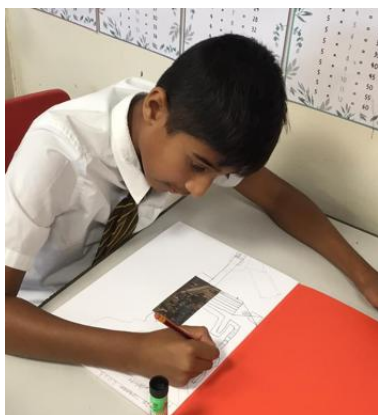
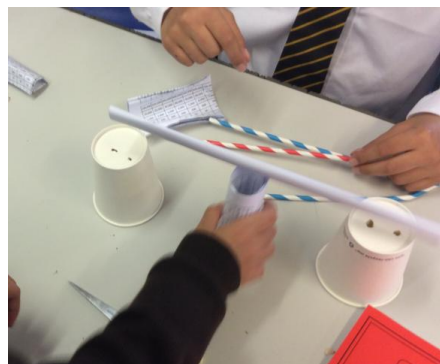
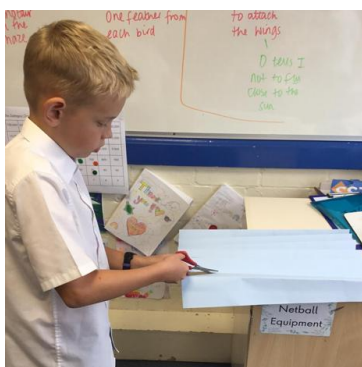


## Year 5

We have settled in really well into life in Year 5. We have already had our Ancient Greece Day where we learnt about life in Ancient Greece, played Petteia and completed Archimedes' puzzle!



We have also been working hard in other lessons too! We have been learning about place value in maths, life cycles in science and studying a piece of art called 'A regatta on the Grand Canal'.



## Year 6

Year 6 have made a fantastic start to the new school year and have all settled in well. We have launched straight into our World War II topic, which the children are thoroughly enjoying, exploring key events and the impact on everyday life. In science, we have been delving into the fascinating world of fossils, learning about the important discoveries made by Mary Anning and the theories of Charles Darwin. A big congratulations to our newly appointed House Captains—we are very proud of you! Well done also to all of the children who put themselves forward; your enthusiasm and courage were impressive.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at our first parents' evening in October. Do not forget to check the Year 6 newsletter for dates and details of all the exciting events we have planned this term.



