



LADY BANKES PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter No. 2

Thurs 23rd Oct 2025

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ambition, togetherness, opportunity, respect, curiosity, happiness



Dear Lady Bankes families,

Thank you to all our families who attended the first parent consultation meetings for this year. It was lovely to see so many attend so that you could hear how well your child is doing and what they will be working on this year. If you were not able to attend please contact your child's class teacher to arrange an appointment. If your child has an Individual Learning Plan we will be arranging an additional appointment during the school day for you to meet with your child's teacher after half term.

We have had an extremely busy half term. Our children have been on trips including to local churches, Chiltern Open Air Museum, Verulamium and the RAF museum in Hendon. We have had Ancient Greek and Great Fire of London workshops- all to enhance the children's learning.

We have also marked important national events and days. Children have been completing learning relating to Black History Month throughout October, we marked Show Racism the Red Card Day on Friday last week with the children completing activities and attending assemblies and Mrs Cowley has been leading assemblies for PANTS week in conjunction with the NSPCC, to name a few.

It was a pleasure to welcome Sonali Shah, TV presenter, to our school on Friday. She read her delightful book 'The Best Diwali Ever' to all our pupils in Nursery and Reception. We hope that all our families celebrating this week had a wonderful time with family and friends.

It was a pleasure showing prospective parents around the school this half term during our Open Morning. Our pupils are always working so hard in class and love sharing with visitors what they are learning about. We have a further Open Day for prospective parents in November which is already full.

Thank you to the wonderful parents who were collecting for Breast Cancer Awareness month on Friday. I was very happy to have pink items worn by the children as it is my favourite colour! I am sure that they will have raised a lot for this very important charity as a result of everyone's generosity.

We have had wonderful class assemblies from 5CG and 5JN. 5CG's assembly was on the theme of harvest. At the end of the assembly they helped to load a van with all your generous donations to Hillingdon Food Bank- thank you all so much. 5JN shared with us all about Diwali. Both classes presented with great enthusiasm, wonderful singing and dancing. Thank you to all the families who came along- it is always a lovely way to start the day and for the children to share their learning with you.

We hope that you have a lovely half term holiday and look forward to seeing the children safely back to school at 8.30am on Monday 3rd November.

Mrs K Needs

Breast Cancer Fund Raiser

Thank you to the school community who helped to raise an amazing £821.00 last Friday.

Here is an idea of the types of things this money can help breast cancer now to do:

£1,000 COULD...

Help us hold an event in parliament, where we can speak to decision-makers about the improvements needed in diagnosis, treatment and care.

£600 COULD...

Help 20 people affected by breast cancer get vital answers by calling our free and confidential helpline.

£225 COULD...

Pay for 1 day of research. That's a day closer to a world where everyone with breast cancer lives, and lives well.

£100 COULD...

Pay for 1 person to go to Living with Secondary Breast Cancer. These group sessions are a space for people with incurable secondary breast cancer to meet and get expert information.



Poppy Appeal 2025

Once again after half term we will be supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and have several boxes of poppies and other merchandise to sell. Our Year 6 students will be coming round the classes each morning for the whole week commencing 3rd November to sell them.

Other merchandise for sale includes

Poppy Reflectors - £1

Wristbands - £1.50

Snapbands - £2.00



Diary Dates

Wednesday 5th November

5OB Guy Fawkes Assembly @ 9.00am

Friday 7th November

FOLBA Disco (no afterschool clubs)

Monday 10th November

Year 6 Bikeability Week 1

Nursery Individual Photos

Tuesday 11th November

4MB Remembrance Class Assembly @ 9.00am

Year 5 & 6 Cinema Trip (AM)

Friday 14th November

Children in Need & World Diabetes Day

Wear something spotty or blue

Saturday 15th November

Choir singing at Ruislip Manor Christmas Event

Monday 17th November

Bikability Week 2

TT Rockstars Round 1

Anti-bullying week/friend week

Tuesday 18th November

Year 3 & 4 Cinema Trip (AM)

Wednesday 19th November

4KS Anti Bullying/Friendship Assembly @ 9.00am

Year 2 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' workshop

Thursday 20th November

Open Day 9.30am & 2.30pm

Monday 24th November

Flu Vaccines Day

Thursday 27th November

Year 6 Trip to Hercules

Friday 28th November

20 Children to Cinema

FOLBA Christmas Event

Sunday 29th November

Tree Dressing at Eastcote House Gardens

Attendance and Lates October 2025

Attendance and Punctuality Matters!

Lots of people think that missing the odd day at school here and there can't do much harm. But even taking a short amount of time off can mean that your child misses out on aspects of the curriculum that might not be revisited until the next school year. Children who miss school are missing out on the social side of things which might affect their ability to make and keep friends, affect their confidence to attempt new work and work alongside others.

If your child is absent there are different ways you can let us know. You can-

- call 01895 634180/01895 634318,
- email the absence email- absence@ladybankes.school, please DO NOT email the office email
- or text before 9.30am, with your child's name, **class** and reason for absence.

You must contact us every day of your child's absence unless you have advised us of the days they will be away. If we do not receive this information by 11am we may contact you with a home visit as all our children must have a valid reason for their absence.

All children must be absent for 48 hours if they have diarrhoea or sickness.

Year group		% to date
Nursery	EYFS	89.9%
Reception	EYFS	95.9%
Year 1	KS1	94.7
Year 2	KS1	94.7
Year 3	KS2	94.4
Year 4	KS2	94.5
Year 5	KS2	95.3
Year 6	KS2	94.1

Once again, well done to Reception with 95.9%

Best Attendance KS1 (Years 1 & 2)

2OR - Mrs O'Sullivan & Mrs Roy's class

Least Lates - KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2)

2OR - Mrs O'Sullivan & Mrs Roy's class

Best Attendance - KS2 (Years 3 to 6)

3BH - Mr Hageen's class &

5CG - Mrs Gibson's class

Least Lates - KS2 (Years 3 to 6)

5CG - Mrs Gibson's class &

6BM - Miss Mackerness's class

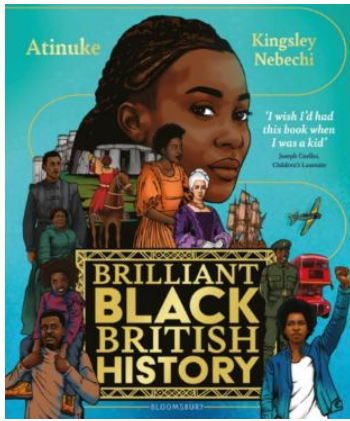
Our current whole school
attendance is 95%.

Mrs Sue Smith,

**Attend Today
Achieve Tomorrow**



Black History Month



October marks the celebration of Black History Month. The 2025 theme, 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride', celebrates the strength and leadership of Black people through history and looks ahead to a future built on pride and unity.

At Lady Bankes, we have already embedded the study of diversity within our History topics, and celebrating BHM gives a chance to enhance this to another level, recognising the importance and sharing the contributions of Black people to society.



We marked the occasion through different assemblies, reading books by Black authors and also listening to different types of music – which we loved!



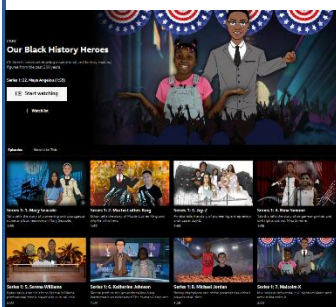
All these activities encouraged pupils and staff to explore the influence of positive role models, consider how racism and inequality can affect mental health and also reflect on how culture, identity and connection support wellbeing.



There is still time to celebrate at home too.

The following sites focus on important Black figures, and give links to stories from Black authors.

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m000wfh/our-black-history-heroes>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82h3PV807lw>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xP2FhYa4hsU>



Sporting News

Well done to the boys football team who won their first round of the school cup. The match against SSW took place at Wealdstone FC and finished 4-0 to Lady Bankes. The team will play against Whiteheath in the next round.

Well done to the two teams of netball players who took part in some matches at Newnham. For many, this was their first ever netball match and it was amazing to see the progress they made.



Nursery



Wow! The Nursery children have completed their first half-term. They are a pleasure to teach! The children are now aware of their carpet rules and learning the school rules. They now know who are the 'Clever Cats' and who are the 'Terrific Turtles'.



The children were introduced to 'Sammy the Squirrel' by Mrs. Smith for good attendance. They enjoyed visiting the Book Fair which was held in the school hall. They met Pantosaurus the puppet and listened to his story and the power of PANTS. They are now learning the song related to this theme.



It was great seeing so many children wearing yellow for Mental Health Well-being Day. The Nursery was transformed in to a class of yellow activities!



We celebrated Diwali in style as we had a famous T.V presenter who is an author come in and read her story of Diwali to the whole of EYFS in the Nursery. Once again, the Nursery environment had a changing room experience, as the role play area became a traditional Indian restaurant and a rangoli pattern was made out of colourful rice! Now there is great excitement for Pyjama Day! The children are having so much fun!



Reception

And just like that, our first half term in Reception has come to an end! We've had a wonderful start, with our topic focusing on How We Are Changing. The children have explored how they are growing and developing, as well as how the seasons change—especially during our recent focus on Autumn.

It's been an exciting few weeks! We took part in a Road Safety session to help the children learn how to stay safe near roads. We also had a very special visit from author Sonali Shah, who shared her book *The Best Diwali Ever* with us—an exciting and inspiring experience for our EYFS children.



In phonics, the children have now learnt all their initial sounds and are beginning to blend—an important and exciting step in their reading journey. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and progress.

Wishing you all a fantastic half-term break—we look forward to seeing the children continue to grow and shine in Autumn 2!



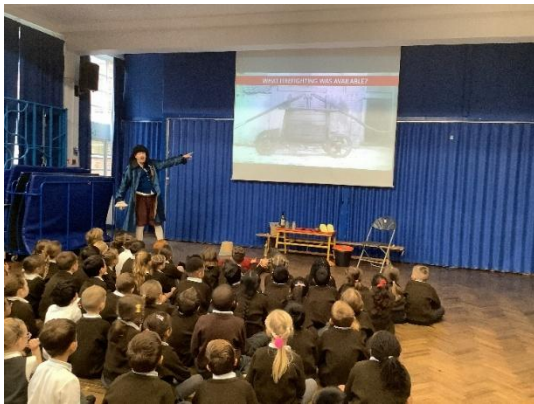
Year 1

The first half term has flown by and the children have been working really hard. We have had two visits to our local churches, St Pauls and Ruislip Baptist Church. We have had a visit from Lady Bankes' very own 'Toy Expert' which the children thoroughly enjoyed. We have some exciting things planned for after our break and we will start practising our Christmas show. Have a lovely half term break and keep safe!



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, discovered what London life was like in the past and explored the importance of Samuel Pepys! Year 2 have also attended a Great Fire of London workshop in school, which they loved! The children were visited by 'Samuel Pepys' who travelled back in time to tell them all about the great fire and what life was like in London back then, which they all found very amusing 😊. The children also dressed up in outfits from the time, practised using quills, learned a dance from the past, searched for Samuel Pepys famous cheese (hidden in the school) and finally created stunning 'Fire Scenes'. Have a look at some of the photos below!



Year 3

To celebrate Black History Month, we explored life in Stone Age Africa, where some of the world's earliest humans lived. We learned how early African communities used natural materials to create tools, clothing, and masks for rituals and storytelling. Inspired by this, students designed and made their own Stone Age-style African masks using clay. Each mask reflects creativity and an appreciation for Africa's rich cultural heritage. This creative activity helped students appreciate the beauty and diversity of African cultures, and sparked meaningful conversations about identity, community, and respect for cultural traditions.

In Science, we've been learning about the human skeleton—how our bones support, protect, and help us move. Students enjoyed naming major bones like the skull, spine, and femur, and even built paper skeletons in teams. We talked about how early humans relied on strong bones and joints to hunt, gather, and survive.

Both activities sparked great discussions about how people lived in the past and how our bodies help us live today.



Year 4

It is hard to believe that we are already half a term into Year 4! We have had such a wonderful time so far with so many wonderful opportunities and learning that has taken place.

We had a fantastic time on our recent trip to the Verulamium Museum in St Albans! The children thoroughly enjoyed stepping back in time to discover what life was like in Roman Britain. They had the exciting opportunity to see and even handle real Roman artefacts, deepening their understanding of history in a hands-on and memorable way.

It was a day full of curiosity, exploration, and learning, and we're so proud of how enthusiastic and engaged all the children were throughout the visit.



In Science we have been investigating the effects different liquids have on our teeth. We explored what would happen to our teeth if we were to drink lots of vinegar, fizzy drinks, orange juice, water and milk. The results surprised us and we learnt lots from this. Here are the results:



Thank you to everyone who came to Parents Meeting this week, if you were unable to make these meetings please speak to your child's class teacher to arrange an appointment after school.

Upcoming dates

4MB Class Assembly: 11th November 2025 at 9am

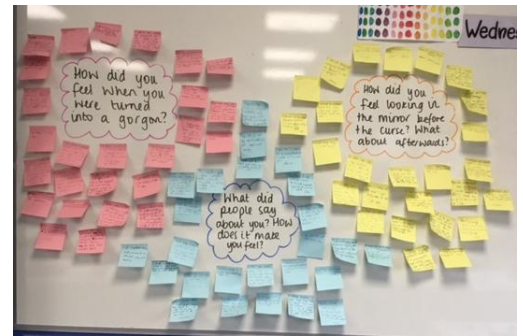
4KS Class Assembly: 19th November 2025 at 9am

4CF Class Assembly: 21st January 2025 at 9am

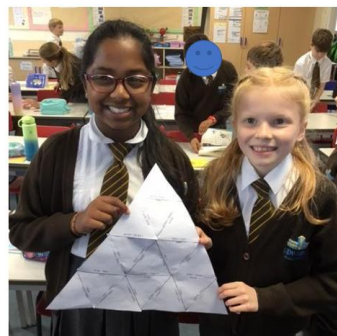
Have a lovely half term!

Year 5

We have been working really hard in Year 5 this half term. We have enjoyed rehearsing and performing our class assemblies, with 5OB performing theirs after half term. In English, we have been reading more Greek myths and looking at the storylines and plots. We have explored how the characters have felt throughout key moments of the myth.



We have also been consolidating our understanding of column addition in maths through completing tarsia puzzles.



Here are some other pictures of our learning in Year 5!



Year 6

We have had a great week learning more about our Key Question: Did World War Two affect every aspect of people's lives in London.

We have been learning about air raid shelters and have built our own structures.



We have been baking using rationed ingredients. Thank you to Mrs Ellmore, Miss Williams, Mrs Brindle and Mr S. for helping us with this.



Linked to this we studied the recipe inspired poem 'The British' by Benjamin Zephaniah. We have written some of our own recipes describing Lady Bankes Primary School. You can read some examples in this newsletter.

Our visit to RAF Hendon was really interesting, as we went back in time, to life in a World War Two classroom.



Lady Bankes Recipe Poem (serves 680 children)

Ingredients:

- One large building
- Classrooms full of eager minds
- Pink pens full of corrections
- ATORCH full of our spectacular school values
- Full children big or small

Equipment:

- Mixing bowl
- Teaspoon
- Grater
- Chopping Board

Method:

- **Take one school building and chop it into 10 pieces.**
- **Put it into mixing bowl, grating Ambition with its friend Respect alongside it.**
- **Sprinkle Opportunity and Happiness. Maybe add some Curiosity to add that sweet flavour.**
- **Use some pink pen corrections and Togetherness to get the job done.**
- **Pick some classrooms with clever minds big or small they are all equal.**

Add special bits:

Add some exceptional work to share with Mrs Needs to get a prize from her prize box.
Every person counts! Treat them the way you want to be treated.



NOTE!!!

Pause right there! Don't leave anyone out! You need to always be kind and not leave anyone out!

By Zak 6LM

Lady Bankes Recipe Poem

Ingredients:

- 1 large school building
- Classroom full of eager minds
- Pink pens and caring teachers
- ATORCH of 6 school values

Equipment:

Mixing bowl
Teaspoon
Grater
Chopping board

Method:

1. Take one large school building full of eager minds.
2. Add a generous helping of **R**espect and caring teachers.
3. Sprinkle in **A**mbition, so everyone has a chance to shine.
4. Pour in **T**ogetherness, enough to fill every corridor and classroom so no one is left out.
5. Stir gently, with a pink pen full of corrections.

Add equal parts:

Trips and competition filled with **O**pportunity.

Curious questions from smart minds.

The feeling of **H**appiness at the school gates at the school gates and laughter echoing down the halls.

Don't forget:

A pinch of hard working students.

A spoonful of next steps and a dash of dreaming big.

ATORCH together we shine bright.

By Bradley 6LM

