



## LADY BANKES PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Newsletter No. 3

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

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ambition, togetherness, opportunity, respect, curiosity, happiness



Dear Lady Bankes families,

This half term is in full swing and as busy as always. We have had wonderful class assemblies from 5OB all about the Gunpowder Plot, 4MB all about Remembrance and 4KS celebrating the end of our Friendship week. The children all performed brilliantly and thank you to all the families who came to see the children. We have marked Anti-bullying week through our annual Friendship Week, have completed activities for World Science Day and worn spots and blue to raise money for Children in Need and World Diabetes Day. Thank you for your generous donations.

All our year groups from Year 1 to Year 6 have been to the cinema as part of the Into Film Festival. Year 6 had a fantastic time watching Hercules in the West End yesterday and today 20 of our Year 6 pupils are attending a special screening of Zootropolis 2 in Leicester Square.

Thank you for all your donations today towards Movember. It has been great fun watching the moustaches develop on the male members of staff who have taken part!

Tomorrow many of our children will be joining Miss Mackerness and I at Eastcote House Gardens from 1.30pm for tree dressing. We will be performing a Christmas song and singing carols. This is a lovely community event and everyone is welcome.

We have welcomed both Father Tommy from St Paul's Church and Ruislip Baptist Church with 'Open the Book' assemblies this half term. Our pupils in 6LM have also been busy preparing for St Paul's Church's Christmas Tree Festival. Please do go along to see their tree next weekend.

Thank you to our wonderful FOLBA who had a stall in Ruislip Manor for the Christmas Funday. They also organised a very bright glow disco for the children on the 7th November. Their next events are Christmas Jumper and Movie day on Friday 12th December and the Children's Christmas Fair on 17th December. This takes place during the school day when the children from Reception upwards will also be watching a traditional pantomime- oh yes they will!!

The children in EYFS and KS1 are busily practicing their Christmas Shows which begin on Tuesday 9th December. Thank you to all our families who have reserved seats for these performances. It will certainly get you in the festive mood.

All the children across the school will also be performing 'Carols in the Playground' on Thursday 18th December at 2.15pm (weather permitting). We do hope that you will be able to join us. The school site will be open from 2pm and FOLBA will be selling hot drinks. This will be a lovely school community event.

We had an extremely well-attended Open Day last week for prospective parents. This is the second one we have done and have shown over 200 parents around. Due to demand will be holding another Open Morning in early January.

We send all our love and congratulations to Miss Fraser who had a little girl last week. We look forward to meeting the new addition to her family very soon.

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

Mrs K Needs

## Parking

Can we please ask parents to park carefully and considerately when picking up and dropping off children from school. Don't park over local residents driveways or on the zig zags. The staff car park is for staff only and the Eye Nursery driveway is for parents of Eye Nursery children only. We know that the road outside school gets very congested in the mornings and afterschool, therefore please try to park a few roads away and enjoy a short walk with your children.

## Appointments during the School Day

Can we remind parents not to make routine dental and medical appointment during the school day. Try to arrange these for after school or during the school holidays if possible. We understand that sometimes this may be difficult. Please notify the school in advance if you need to collect your child for an appointment and provide proof for our records.

## Lateness & Attendance

We have a number of children who arrive late on a regular basis, please try to set you alarms for 10 minutes earlier to avoid a late mark. If your child is only 10 minutes late every day of the week, this equates to 50 minutes of learning missed in a week and 3 hours 20 minutes in a month!

**Absence during term time will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances.**

If you choose to take your child out in term time, please complete an exceptional leave form which can be obtained from the main reception and Mrs Needs will be in contact with you by email.

**No holidays during term time will be authorised and in certain circumstances a School Holiday Penalty Fine may be incurred from the Attendance Support Team at the Local Authority.**



## Diary Date

### Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December

Catch up day for Flu Immunisations  
Additional Girls Football 3-4pm

### Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Year 5 Speak out, stay safe workshop  
Additional Year 5 & 6 Boys Football 3-4pm

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Christmas Lunches  
Additional Year 2 Multi-Sports

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Year 6 Speak out, stay safe workshop  
Year 5 Trip to the Ruislip Temple  
6LM Trip to St Paul s Church pm

### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December

Final Year 6 Netball

### Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December

KS1 Christmas Show @ 9.30am

### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

KS1 Christmas Show @ 9.30am

### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December

KS1 Christmas Show @ 9.30am

### Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December

EYFS Christmas Show @ 9.30am  
Christmas Jumper & FOLBA Movie Day

### Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December

EYFS Christmas Show @ 9.30am  
Santa Walk - FOLBA & Round Table

### Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

EYFS Christmas Show (Nursery PM) @ 9.30am

### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

Panto in School & Children's Christmas Fair

### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Carols in the Playground

### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

End of Term at 2.00pm

### Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January

Staff Training Day (School Closed)

### Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

Term Starts at 8.30am

## November 2025



*Every child is entitled to access full time education every day, attendance matters, let's help our children reach their full potential'*

Any absence (illness included), whether authorised or unauthorised, affects a child's attendance percentage. Schools calculate this percentage based on the number of sessions missed compared to the total number of sessions possible, and any day or half-day off will lower this.

We request that, where possible, routine medical and dentist appointments are arranged outside school hours as these appointments will affect your child's percentage attendance.

Tell the school in advance of any medical appointments and these must be accompanied with **a proof of appointment** which you can either send to us by email or bring a letter to the main reception.

When reporting your child's absence, please include their name and class in any email or message. This saves us a lot of time and is much appreciated.

**If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.**

We have noticed an increase in lateness to school this month, school starts at **8.30am**, please be prompt.

### **Best Attendance - KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2)**

2OR Mrs O'Sullivan/Mrs Donaghey's class

### **Least Lates - KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2)**

2OR Mrs O'Sullivan/Mrs Donaghey's class

### **Best Attendance - KS2 (Years 3 to 6)**

5CG Mrs Gibson's class

### **Least Lates - KS2 (Years 3 to 6)**

5CG Mrs Gibson's class

Year group		Current %
Nursery	EYFS	87.3%
Reception	EYFS	94.8%
Year 1	KS1	92.8%
Year 2	KS1	95%
Year 3	KS2	94.1%
Year 4	KS2	94.9%
Year 5	KS2	95%
Year 6	KS2	95%

**Attend Today  
Achieve Tomorrow**

Our whole school  
attendance is  
94.5%  
Mrs Sue Smith,  
Attendance Officer



## Movember at Lady Banks

Thank you for all the kind donations so far we have raised just over £1000!!!

We have been working hard to grow our face furniture to support Men's health (We have also gained some new members to the cause, see if you can spot them!)



If you would like to make a donation, you can scan the barcode.

## LOST PROPERTY

Please check the lost property if you have lost any items of uniform, all lost property will be donated to charity at the end of term. Please ensure that all uniform is clearly labelled so that it can be returned.

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

## ILLNESS

If you are unsure whether your child is well enough to be in school, please call in and someone will be able to advise you.

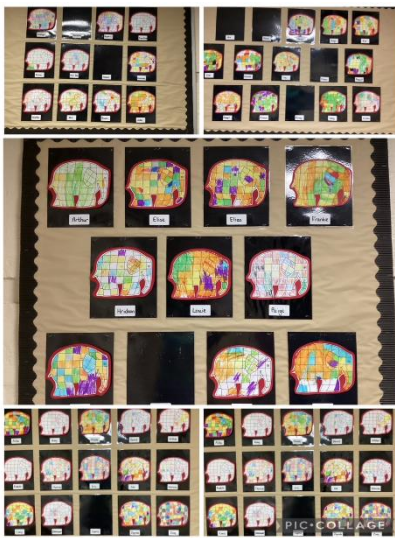
## Sporting News

Congratulations to the athletics team who were crowned champions of Hillingdon last week. Competing against 18 other schools from across the borough, the team won beating Newnham into 2nd place by over 50 points. Children took part in a range of field events including long jump, triple jump and javelin as well as various relay races. We are so proud of the team and look forward to them representing Hillingdon in the West London finals in February.



## Nursery

The Nursery children have started this half term ready to learn and continue to have fun and the best experience in Nursery! Our key question is 'What colours can you see?' The children have learnt about 'Elmer the patch work elephant', 'Rainbow Fish' and colours of different animals as theme days e.g. Tiger theme, Zebra theme, Elephants, Rhinos and Hippos grey theme. We will continue the colour theme focussing on primary colours and mixing colours. In between learning about colours, the children celebrated 'Odd Socks Day' as part of friendship week, Mae Jemison, the first black lady who became an astronaut, as part of 'World Science Day', 'Remembrance Day', 'World Diabetes Day' and 'Children in Need Day'. The children are enjoying exploring the outdoor environment especially the new digging area and our new scooters! Mrs Smith visited our Nursery to introduce 'Tiger Teeth' who reminds the children to wash their teeth twice a day. Wow! Here are a selection of our Nursery memories.



## Reception

Reception has had an exciting and busy few weeks learning about a variety of celebrations throughout the calendar year. So far, we have explored Diwali, Halloween, Fireworks Night, and weddings. The children have loved discovering the traditions behind each celebration and taking part in the themed activities.



We also enjoyed our first snowfall of the year! The children eagerly put on their coats and wellies to head outside and explore the snow together.

We are now beginning our preparations for the Christmas Nativity. The children have been enthusiastically learning new songs and practising their acting and dancing. They cannot wait to share their wonderful performance with you all!



## Year 1

What a busy and exciting month it has been in Year 1!

Time is certainly flying by as the children practise their Christmas performances, and we have enjoyed lots of wonderful activities in class too.

This month, we took a trip to the cinema and welcomed a visiting nurse who came to talk to us about her job. The children were full of questions and really enjoyed learning about how nurses help people every day. We also had great fun in DT, where we created our very own moving pictures—one of our favourite projects so far!

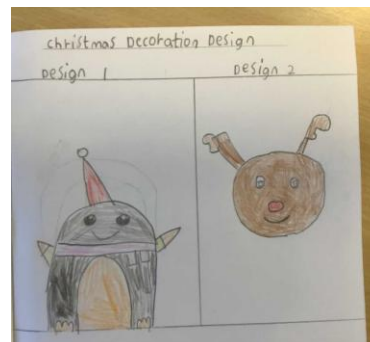
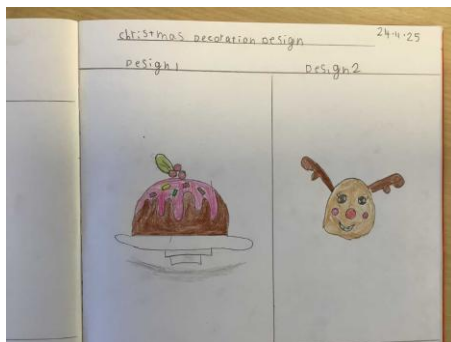
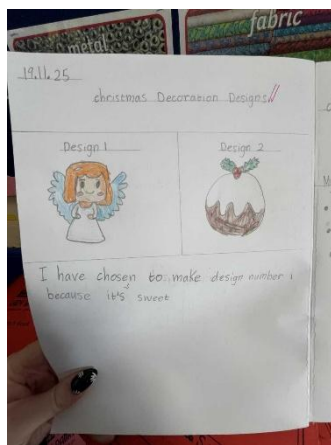
We are now looking forward to sharing our Christmas shows with you all. The children are working very hard in rehearsals, and we can't wait for you to see their fantastic performances.



## Year 2

We have been having a fantastic time writing letters to the Lord Mayor of London in 1666, complaining about how he handled the GfOL at the time! Did you know that the Mayor Thomas Bloodworth delayed the use of firebreaks, which had a devastating impact on the damage to London? Next week the children will be moving on to writing their own versions of 'The Snowman'. This is always a very well loved topic as the music is so moving and really tells a magnificent story.

In DT, the children have been designing our famous Year 2 Christmas decorations! We have been blown away by the quality of the designs and stunning artwork this year. It has been very difficult to help the children decide which one they would like to make, as they are all so good! Watch this space for when the designs turn into beautiful felt decorations very soon 😊



## Year 3

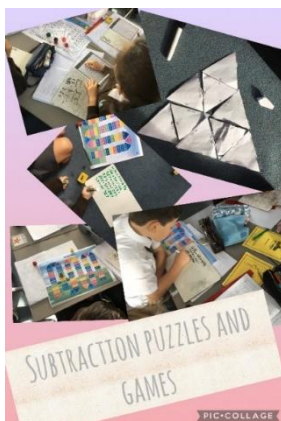
What a busy and exciting few weeks we have had in Year 3! The children have shown fantastic enthusiasm and kindness as we took part in **Friendship Week**. Our focus this year was the theme "Make a Noise About Bullying," and we spent time discussing what bullying looks like, how we can speak up, and the importance of including others. The class created posters, shared thoughtful ideas during circle time, and practised using positive language to build each other up. We were proud of how maturely the children approached such an important topic.

To celebrate **Odd Socks Day**, the classroom was filled with bright colours and lots of smiles. Everyone wore mismatched socks to show that being different is something to be proud of. It was a wonderful reminder that every child is unique and valued.

In **Maths**, we have been stretching our brains with addition and subtraction puzzles. The children have been using number lines, part-whole models, and their own mental strategies to solve problems. We challenged ourselves with missing-number equations and even created our own puzzles to test a partner.

In **English**, Year 3 have enjoyed stepping into character during our role-play sessions. We explored a modern-day version of *Little Red Riding Hood*, imagining how the story might change with mobile phones, supermarkets, and city parks! The children used dialogue, expression, and body language brilliantly.

As we look ahead, the classroom is already buzzing with excitement for **Christmas**. We will soon begin practising songs for our festive celebration and creating seasonal crafts. Thank you for your continued support—Year 3 are shining brightly!



## Year 4

This week, Year 4 stepped back in time to explore the art of Roman mosaics. After learning how the Romans used tiny tiles—called *tesserae*—to decorate their villas, bathhouses, and public buildings, the children designed and created their own mosaic masterpieces.

Using patterns inspired by historical examples, they experimented with colour, symmetry, and geometric shapes. The activity encouraged patience, fine-motor skills, and creativity, and the finished mosaics look fantastic. We're proud of the attention to detail everyone showed!



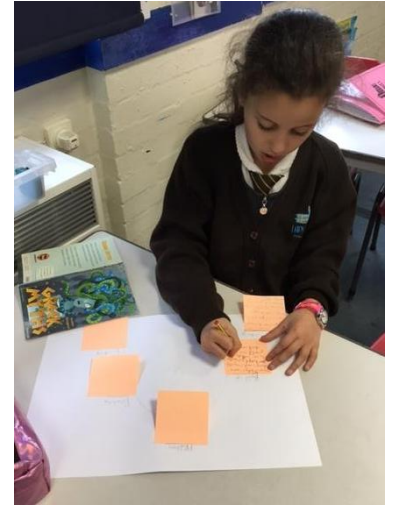
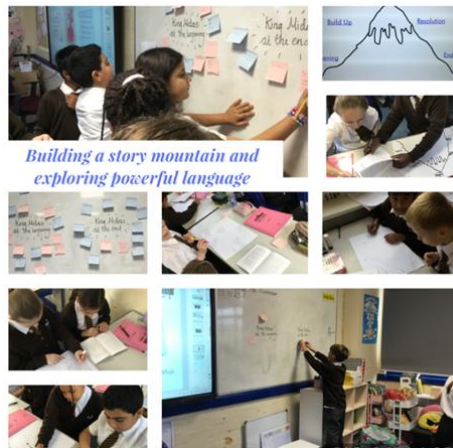
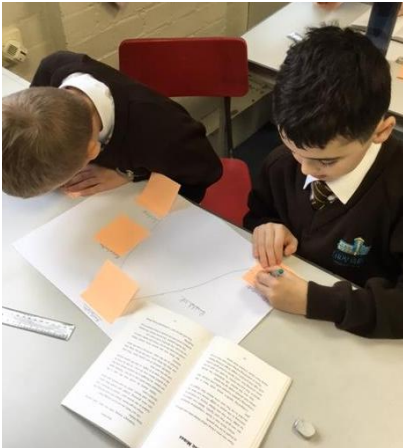
We also enjoyed a wonderful trip to the cinema to see *The Wild Robot*, a heart-warming film that tells the story of Roz, a robot who finds herself stranded on a remote island. Through her encounters with the local wildlife, Roz learns to adapt, survive, and connect with the natural world in unexpected ways.

The children were captivated by the beautiful animation and thoughtful themes of friendship, resilience, and belonging.

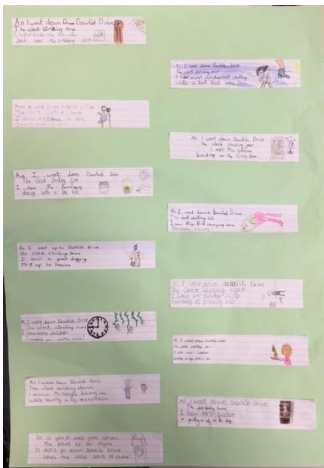


## Year 5

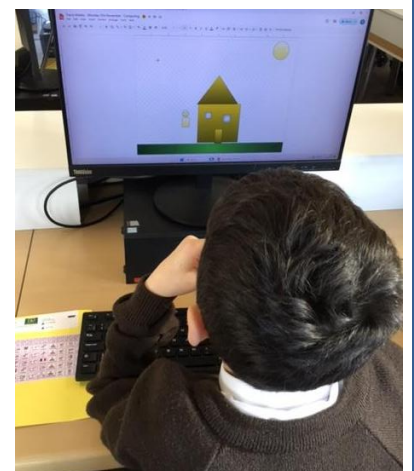
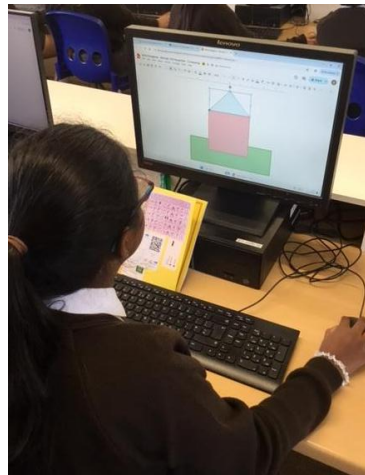
In English, we finished our learning on Greek myths by creating our own characters and writing a myth about them. We thoroughly planned our plot using a story mountain framework.



We have started studying poetry. We have looked at Charles Causley poetry and have written and performed our own versions of 'Jolly Hunter' and 'Zig Zag'.



Here are some other pictures of what we have been getting up to. In maths, we have been comparing and ordering fractions as well as learning how to add and subtract fractions with different denominators. In computing, we have finished our unit on webpages and started exploring Google Drawings and using it to make 2D images.



## Year 6

Year 6 had a lovely time at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane watching Hercules! We really enjoyed the experience and all of the singing and dancing.

