



LADY BANKES PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter No. 3

Friday 19th December 2025

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ambition, togetherness, opportunity, respect, curiosity, happiness



Dear Lady Bankes families,

We have had wonderful Christmas shows from our EYFS and KS1 children to bring our first term to a close. The children performed absolutely brilliantly and really got our audiences in the festive mood. Thank you to all the families who came along to see the shows. These performances take such a lot of preparation so a huge thank you to everyone for making them such a great success and the children's enjoyment was so evident.



Thank you to FOLBA for the Panto that all the children enjoyed on Wednesday in addition to the Children's Christmas Fair. They had such a fun-filled day.

This term has been full of enrichment activities for the children as well as the excellent teaching and learning that takes place every day in class. The children have worked so hard and deserve a well-earned rest and definitely a visit from Santa on Christmas Day!

Mrs McCarthy is leaving us today. Mrs McCarthy has been Assistant Head for EYFS at Lady Bankes since 2017 and an integral part of the school. Due to ill health she has not been well enough to be with us for a while and she will now be taking early retirement. We wish her all the very best for the future and thank her for all her dedication to the school and Early Years- she will certainly have made an impact on hundreds of children as they started out on their education.

We will also be saying goodbye today to Mr McNaughton who is moving on. We thank him for looking after the school and wish him all the very best for the future.

We will be welcoming Mrs Lock back from maternity leave in January.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing the children safely back to school on Tuesday 6th January at 8.30am.

Mrs Needs

Family Hubs and Children's Centres

What Do I Do Now?

A Workshop for Parents of Children Under 5
Has your child recently had an initial or final Autism assessment at the Child Development Centre?

Join our supportive workshop designed to help you take the next steps.

- ✳️ Get practical tips and strategies for parenting a child with Social Communication needs and/or Autism.
- 🟢 Discover local services available to you and your family.
- 👉 Connect with others and feel supported on your journey.

Workshops are available both online and in person.

To book your place, please call:

South Ruislip Children's Centre - 01895 558860

Yeading Children's Centre - 01895 260360

Uxbridge Family Hub- 01895 250258



www.hillingdon.gov.uk



Diary Date

Monday 5th January

Staff Training Day (School Closed)

Tuesday 6th January

Term Starts at 8.30am

Wednesday 14th January

Nursery Perform Workshop Lower Hall
Year 6 to Junior Citizens PM

Thursday 15th January

Open Morning for Prospective Parents
Year 1 Virtual Polar Workshop

Friday 16th January

1 Year 6 class to RAF Bunker

Monday 19th January

School Council to Connect Café

Wednesday 21st January

4CF Class Assembly

Friday 23rd January

1 Year 6 class to RAF Bunker
2KB Visiting the Library

Wednesday 28th January

3RG Class Assembly

Friday 30th January

1 Year 6 Class to RAF Bunker

Family Hubs and Children's Centres

SEND BRUSH FOR LIFE

Supporting oral health for children from

first tooth – 8 Years.

... Are you finding toothbrushing difficult?

Many parents struggle with brushing routines

Join our supportive workshop to help make brushing calmer, easier and more successful at home.

- 🗣️ Understanding challenges
- 🪥 Choose the right toothbrush
- 🦷 Visiting the dentist
- 🧠 Understanding sensory needs around brushing and much more

A warm supportive session for all parents and carers. Just come along and learn together.



www.hillingdon.gov.uk



Family Hubs and Children's Centres

SEND Sleep Workshop

Do you have a child who is under 5?
Does your child struggle with settling to sleep or staying asleep?

Join our supportive workshop designed to:

- 👉 Develop your understanding of sleep.
- ✳️ Support you to create the best sleep routine and environment for your child.
- 🟢 Share ideas and experiences with other families.

Workshops are available both online and in person.

To book your place, please call:

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Attendance and Lates December 2025



A big thank you to all our families who have been more aware of the impact that absence has on their child's learning and as a result it has improved. Keep it up!



Best Attendance - KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2)
Ms Barr's class (2KB)



Least Lates - KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2)
Miss O'Sullivan/Mrs Donaghey's class (2OR)

Best Attendance - KS2 (Years 3 to 6)
Mrs Gibson's class (5CG)

Least Lates - KS2 (Years 3 to 6)
Mr Gohil's class (3RG)

Year group		% to date
Nursery	EYFS	85%
Reception	EYFS	93.9%
Year 1	KS1	92.5%
Year 2	KS1	94.3%
Year 3	KS2	93.7%
Year 4	KS2	94.5%
Year 5	KS2	94.4%
Year 6	KS2	95.1%

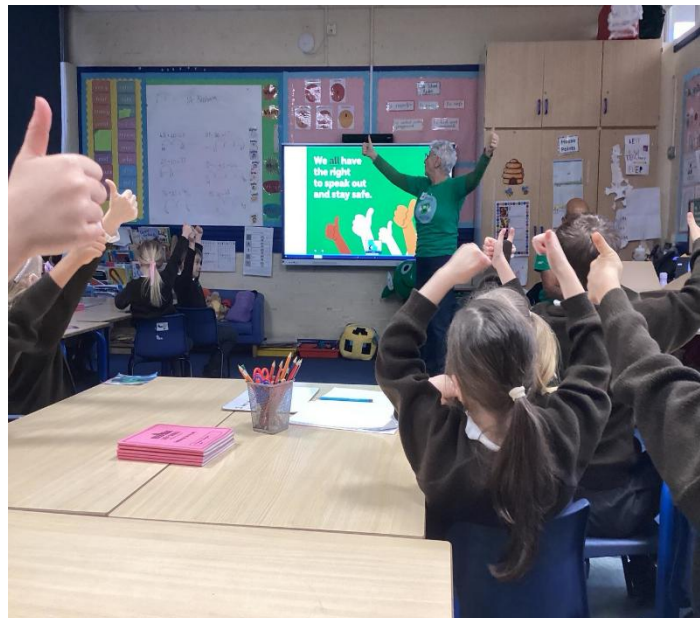
**Attend Today
Achieve Tomorrow**



Our whole school
attendance is
94.1%
Mrs Sue Smith,
Attendance Officer

NSPCC Visits KS1

The children in Year 2 completed workshops organised by the NSPCC. I, (Mrs Cowley) was very proud of how these children sat, listened and participated in answering the questions related to a previous on-line NSPCC assembly with Ant and Dec. The children met 'Buddy' the speech bubble. His message is "Speak out, Stay safe". The discussion was what they had learnt from the assembly reminding children about speaking to a SAFE adult if they are worried about anything. They can talk to 'Childline' or go on laptop and type in 'Buddy Zone'. Please remind your children that 'We ALL have the right to speak out and stay safe'.



KS2 NSPCC Workshop:

Year 5 and Year 6 children took part in the NSPCC workshops related to "SPEAK OUT, STAY SAFE". The children were very mature in the way they were thinking, pair talking and their responses to the questions and scenarios given. Here are a selection of photos related to the workshops.



Sporting News

The netball teams have been playing more matches and cluster competitions in recent weeks. Well done to everyone who took part.



Well done to the boys B team football who played their first match of the season beating Glebe 3-0.



Well done to the boys football team who won their quarter final of the Ruislip and Northwood Cup beating Whiteheath 3-1. They will take on Sacred Heart in the semi-final in January.



Panto

On Wednesday FOLBA treated the children to a Panto in school. The enjoyed Beauty and The Beast from Mance Productions in the morning alongside a visit to the FOLBA Christmas Fair during the day. The total amount raised at this event was an amazing £1200. The school are very grateful for everything that FOLBA do for the children and the school and we look forward to lots more fun next year.



Nursery

The Nursery children have completed their first term at Lady Bankes Primary School. Wow! It has been an amazing time. The nursery team have really got to know your children. They look forward to coming in to our setting wondering what they are going to learn about next. 'Christmas' has been our topic theme over the last few weeks. Most of the children had celebrated Christmas lunch over in the School Dining Room. They loved pulling their crackers! The children had fun learning their Christmas songs, dressing up and doing the actions when performing in the shows. This experience gives the children so much more confidence. The children had to act as detectives to find 'Elfie' the Elf who was always hiding in different places.

The children completed a variety of Christmas activities. They thoroughly enjoyed their 'Movie Day' especially having their own snacks in a bag, which had been provided by FOLBA. A big thank you to FOLBA. We did a fashion parade showing off their Christmas jumpers. FOLBA had kindly organised some Christmas activities where the children could make reindeer food during the Christmas in-house fair day. The nursery team would like to thank you for all your kind cards and gifts. We wish all our nursery parents and children a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



Reception

And just like that, we come to the end of our Autumn term! 🍁 It has been an action-packed few months filled with learning, growth, and wonderful achievements. We are incredibly proud of our Reception children and how much they have accomplished in such a short time. We wish you a very happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming the children back in January.



Year 1 & 2



What a wonderful first term it has been! The children have thoroughly enjoyed the build-up to Christmas in school and all of the festive activities. They were absolutely fantastic in their Nativity performance, and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

As we look ahead to the holidays, we would like to wish you all a very happy and restful Christmas break.



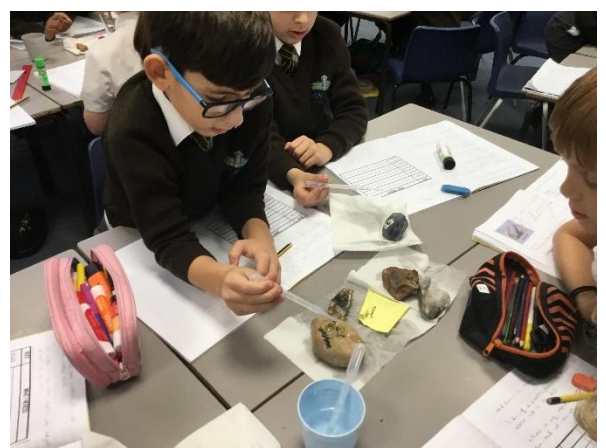
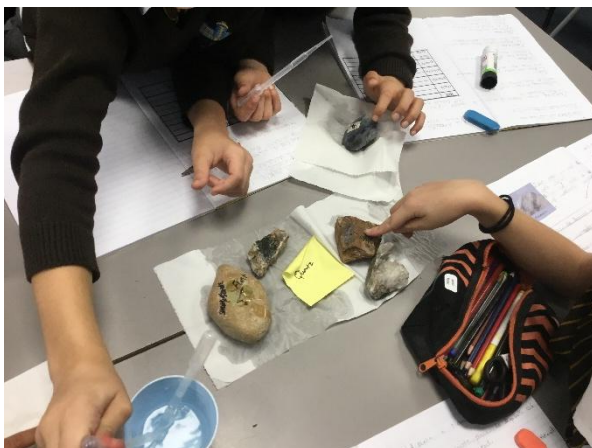
Year 3

Year 3 have had a busy and exciting time in school recently! In History, we have been learning all about the Stone Age. As part of this topic, the children enjoyed making their own Stone Age necklaces. They used natural materials and carefully designed their jewellery, just like people would have done thousands of years ago. The finished necklaces looked fantastic and the children were very proud of their creations.

In Science, we carried out an interesting experiment to investigate permeable and non-permeable rocks. The children made predictions, tested different types of rocks using water, and observed what happened. They learnt which rocks allow water to pass through and which do not, and discussed why this is important in the natural world. Everyone worked carefully and showed great scientific thinking.

We also had lots of fun at the Christmas Fair. The children loved exploring the stalls, playing games, and enjoying the festive atmosphere. It was wonderful to see everyone getting into the Christmas spirit and sharing a happy afternoon together.

Well done, Year 3, for your enthusiasm and hard work. We are very proud of you!



Year 4

What an extremely busy term it has been! We have enjoyed trips to St Albans Verulamium and Cineworld to further our knowledge of the curriculum whilst also welcoming visitors to share experiences and lessons with us.

The children have worked extremely hard to design, make and evaluate their Christmas stockings. They carefully planned their designs, selected appropriate materials, and used a range of skills to create their finished products. Once completed, they reflected on their work, discussing what went well and how they could improve their designs. We are very proud of the creativity, effort, and perseverance they showed throughout the project.



We are so proud of the children's achievements so far this year and are looking forward to see where our learning will take us next in the Spring Term.

We would like to wish all our Lady Bankes families a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year!

Year 5

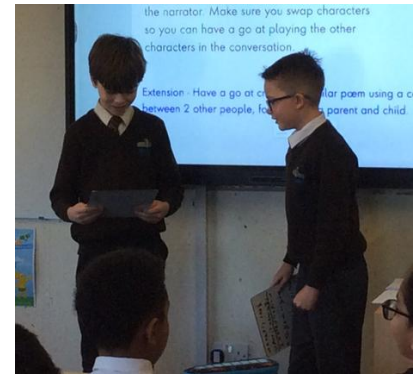
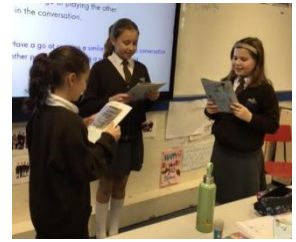
We have had a brilliant first term in Year 5. As we finished our topic on Ancient Greece, we learnt about Greek entertainment and enjoyed acting out some of the Greek myths.



We also enjoyed making Greek salads during our DT lessons!



We have also enjoyed lots of other activities including creating and performing our own free verse poetry in the style of Michael Rosen, planting bulbs in Science, enjoying NSPCC workshops and enjoying a visit to BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Ruislip Manor as part of our learning about Hinduism. We have also been continuing to enhance our Computing skills by creating vector drawings. We've learnt how to copy and paste, order the shapes and change the colours of shapes.



We would like to wish all the children and their families a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone back in January!

Year 6



Merry Christmas from Year 6