



## LADY BANKES PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter No. 4

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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ambition, togetherness, opportunity, respect, curiosity, happiness



Dear Lady Bankes families,

This term has started off as busily as ever with enrichment activities including Year 2 classes visiting Ruislip Manor library, Year 6 The Battle of Britain Bunker, Open the Book assembly to KS1 from Ruislip Baptist Church and Year 1 workshops from the Polar Museum, part of the University of Cambridge, to name just a few that have taken place.

Last week the school had an email from the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, informing us that the school's performance places us among the very best nationally for our outcomes for our disadvantaged pupils. This is an incredible achievement and demonstrates the hard work of all our pupils and staff.

On Wednesday 4th February Year 4-6 choir will be singing in the Young Voices concert along with about 4000 other children- the choir have been practising hard and will be brilliant. Our Sportshall athletics team will also be representing Hillingdon at the West London Youth Games that day- we wish them the best of luck. Do follow the school's X account to see how the children are doing at both these events.

At the start of this term we welcomed Ms Lock back from maternity leave and Miss Day back to Lady Bankes- they are taking RHD as, due to illness, Mrs Dealey unfortunately is unable to continue with us. They are thoroughly enjoying teaching and getting to know the class. We have also welcomed Mrs Richards to our Year 2 teaching team.

We look forward to seeing all our families at our parents' evenings coming up before half term- please book an appointment if you have not done so already.

We send all our congratulations to Miss Hanson who had a little girl just before Christmas and to Mr S who became a dad to a little boy last weekend. All of us here send all our love and best wishes to them and their families- it is wonderful news.

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

Mrs Needs

## Parking

Can we once again remind parents who drive their children to school not to park over and block resident's driveways in Dawlish Drive. We often receive complains from residents who cannot exit or enter their driveways which is very upsetting for them.



## Parent's Evening

Parents consultations are on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> 3.30 – 7.00pm and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 3.30 – 5.30pm

Please click on the Juniper link in the letter sent home to select a suitable time.

## **Lady Bankes - Tuck Menu 2026**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot item	Sausage/veg sausage baguette	Cheese and tomato pizza bread	Breakfast wrap	Seasoned wedges	Sausage/veg sausage roll
Cold items available daily	Freshly cut fruit, fruit yogurt, flapjack				
Drink items available daily	Carton fruit juice, bottled water, flavoured milk				



## Diary Date

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

2OR & 2HT Library Visit am

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February

Choir to Young Voices at Wembley Arena  
West London Sports Finals  
Year 5 Road Safety

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Reception Live Phonics, Parents Session am

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February

Non-Uniform Day for Hillingdon Home Start  
Year 3 & 4 Kurling Competition  
FOLBA DISCO - No Afterschool Clubs

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

3BH Class Assembly 9.00am  
Basketball Competition 12-4  
Parents Evening  
No Year 3 & 4 Multi-Sports

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February

Parents Evening

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

End of Term - Finish Normal Time

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February

HALF TERM

### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Space Dome in School for Year 2

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

3BR Class Assembly @ 9.00am

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February

Year 1 Author Visit

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February

Year 4 Author Visit

## Attendance 2026

Some attendance reminders:



- We have had quite a few children arriving late at the start of this term so this is a polite reminder that school starts at 8.30am.
- 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.
- When reporting your child's absence, please include their name, class and reason for absence in any email or message.

DFE information:

'Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.

Our research found that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well'.

Our whole school attendance this time last year was 95.6%.

Our current percentage is 94.1%



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

Miss Barr's class - 2KB

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

Miss O'Sullivan and Mrs Richard's class 2OR

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

Mrs Gibson's class 5CG

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

Mrs Gibson's class 5CG



Year group		% to date	Number of lates to date this
Nursery	EYFS	84.9%	40
Reception	EYFS	93.8%	93
Year 1	KS1	92.9%	155
Year 2	KS1	94.6%	200
Year 3	KS2	93.6%	198
Year 4	KS2	94.6%	283
Year 5	KS2	94.2%	256
Year 6	KS2	94.8%	206

### **Attendance and Punctuality Matters!**

Our current whole school attendance is **94.1%**.

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

**Mrs Sue Smith, Attendance Officer**



## Holiday Club - Eye Nursery and Clubs at Lady Bankes School Ruislip

Our holiday club runs on the school site and offers fun structured days with themed activities, games, sports, crafts and outdoor play which are all age appropriate, with occasional trips at an additional cost, we arrange these trips on a not-for-profit basis. The Holiday club has now been running for over 12 years

We provide a varied breakfast menu each morning as part of the package, to enable a refreshed start to the day and an optional hot meal at lunchtime. There is an added cost for this but again not for profit basis, our overall aim is to support busy families who require full, out of term time care.

We are proud to be a nurturing, engaging and inclusive provision, staffed by experienced and qualified, fully DBS checked practitioner's, all of whom also have great experience working with children of this age group. Our club is open to children in Reception to Year 6. We are registered with Ofsted where the current grading is good.

Children are always welcome to introduce friends to the provision if numbers allow for a taster session as we understand this is important to the child, and we are quite unique in that we operate from 7.30 - 6.00pm for all of the school holidays. A full-time place is at a cost of £35 per day, we do however offer flexible packages if the full hours are not required.

Our next club for February half term is due to run Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 until Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February. If you would like to sign up, or require more information, please email Claudia Reed on [creed@eyenursery.co.uk](mailto:creed@eyenursery.co.uk).

**JOIN OUR  
HERO SQUAD  
THIS HALF TERM!**



# **FUNWEEKS**

## **FEBRUARY HALF TERM ACTIVE CAMP**

**EPIC SPORTS!  
SUPERHERO CRAFTS!  
PRIZES!  
CHALLENGES!  
10% SIBLING  
DISCOUNT!  
EXTENDED HOURS**

**BOOK ONLINE:  
WWW.THEPSDGROUP.ORG.UK**

CAMP DAY (9AM-3PM)	£22.50
EXTENDED SESSION (8AM-9AM)	£5.00
FULL DAY (8AM-6PM INC SNACK)	£35.00

**LADY BANKES PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**MONDAY 16TH - FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 26**  
**9AM - 3PM • £22.50 PER DAY**  
**FOR CHILDREN IN RECEPTION - YR 7**

**BOOK BEFORE MIDDAY ON 11TH FEB £22.50 | BOOK AFTER MIDDAY ON 11TH FEB £24.00**



SCAN TO BOOK



0203 397 7409  
info@thepsdgroup.org.uk  
thepsdgroupuk  
www.thepsdgroup.org.uk

## Extra Special Achievements



Congratulations to Rhys in 6LM who recently gained a black belt with a merit in Kick Boxing. Rhys has been attending Premier Kick Boxing in Ruislip Manor for around 3 years and was the first student in the academy to achieve a black belt with a merit. A black belt in kickboxing signifies the highest level of proficiency, it requires passing comprehensive technical and physical grading, including sparring, self defence and fitness tests. Rhys had to remember 25 combos (combinations) which are rapid sequences of punches, kicks, knees, or clinches. Well done Rhys!

## LBPS Sporting News

The boys football team competed at a tournament hosted by Brentford FC this week. They got all the way to the quarter finals before losing narrowly to Whiteheath. The team will be playing in their cup semi-final soon against Sacred Heart.



The netball team went to Glebe this week for their first match of 2026 and were proud winners following a close contest. Well done to everyone who took part.

Huge congratulations to the girl's football team who were crowned Brentford Primary Stars Winners for Hillingdon this week. Without conceding a goal the whole tournament, the girls beat Glebe 1-0 in the final and will now move onto the West London finals in February. Well done to the team who played so well throughout the competition.



## Nursery



The Nursery children have come in to our new spring term loving our topic 'Favourite Stories'. We started with 'The Ugly Duckling'. Then 'Jack and the Beanstalk'.



Next 'The Enormous Turnip' and this week 'The Gingerbread Man'. They have enjoyed playing musical instruments, singing songs and learning new phrases. The children have been very creative in their playdough models.



Their counting skills are improving on a daily basis. They showed their role-playing skills when Chris came in from 'Perform Drama' who acted alongside the children in music and movement to tell a shorter version of 'The Midnight Toy Shop'. Your children are a pleasure to teach and they show great enthusiasm for learning.



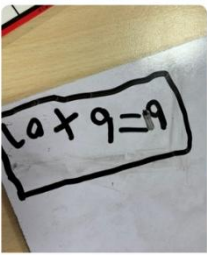
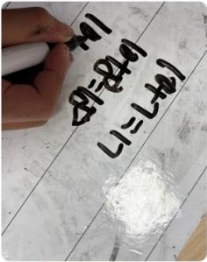
## Reception

And just like that, we are well into the spring term! The children have certainly hit the ground running and are clearly excited to be back. We have begun our new topic question, "**Who is your favourite character?**", with the children enthusiastically exploring a range of traditional tales and thoroughly enjoying the stories. Through activities such as building bridges, making porridge, retelling events, and exploring different characters, the children have engaged creatively and thoughtfully with each story.



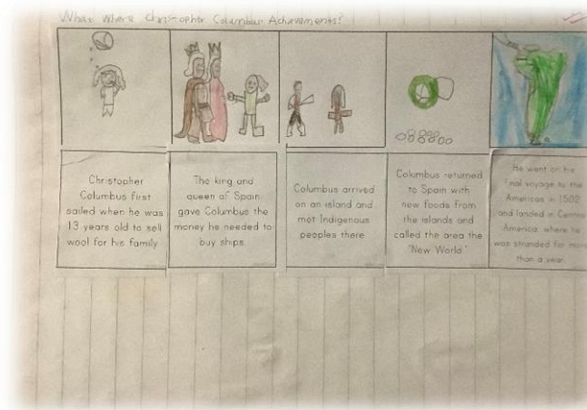
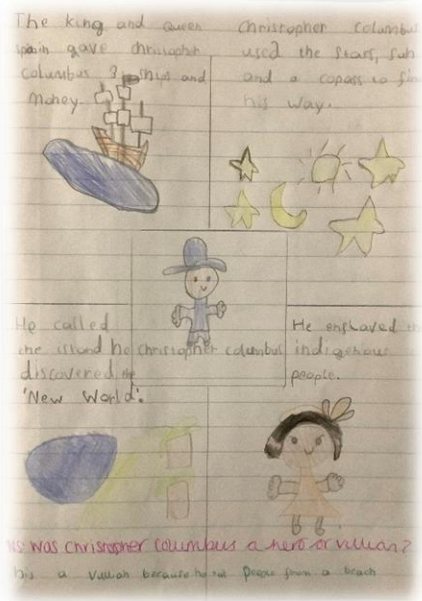
## Year 1

January has flown by! We have had a very busy month in Year 1. As part of our Humanities learning, we had a virtual Polar Museum workshop that was very interesting and we were able to learn lots about Captain Scott. In Art, we have been focusing on painting and printing. We have really enjoyed exploring these materials and making mess. In English, we have explored different polar related texts and have been comparing the Polar Regions to Ruislip Manor. As part of our Maths learning we have been continuing to explore place value. In RE, we have been acting out the story of the 'Lost Son'.



## Year 2

The children have settled back into school really well this term and have absolutely loved starting their new topic of Explorers! The children have been discovering the type of explorer Christopher Columbus was and using their map skills to track his voyages across the Atlantic ocean! The children have been learning a very catchy song about the continents of the world (which we are sure you have heard at home too!) to support them with their world map learning. 2KB went on an exciting trip to the library where they enjoyed shared different stories with each other. 2HT and 2OR are looking forward to their trip to the library next week.





## Year 4

It has been a very busy start to the Spring Term where we have been introduced to our new Topic and are already beginning to build up our knowledge in order to answer our new Key Question:

Who were the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and why did they invade and settle in Britain?

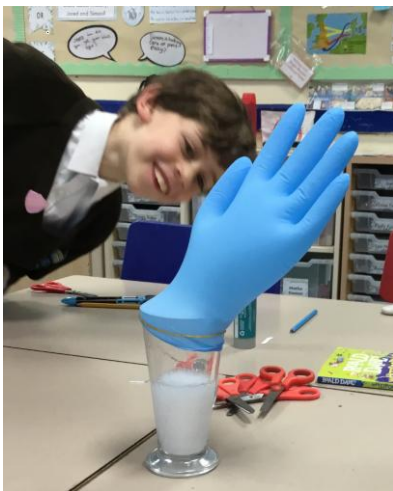


We have enjoyed learning about where the Anglo-Saxons came from and where they settled in Britain. Do you know that the Anglo-Saxons settled in Angle-Land which we now call England and created 7 different Kingdoms!



In English we are reading a new fantasy book called The Spiderwick Chronicles. We are enjoying reading this wonderful text and have written a letter using the perspective of one of the characters! You will be able to read these at Parents Evening!

Our Science topic is States of Matter where we are exploring the differences between a solid, liquid and gas. We thoroughly enjoyed our recent Ghost Hand investigation where we learnt what happens when you mix bicarbonate of soda with vinegar!



For topic, we created an Anglo-Saxon village working in groups, thinking carefully about what people would have had in their village. We included houses, farms and other important features, showing our understanding of Anglo-Saxon life. The project provided a great opportunity for teamwork, creativity and imagination, as everyone worked together to share ideas and build the village.



We celebrated World Religion Day, which is a special day that encourages understanding, respect, and appreciation for the world's many religious traditions. It's also an opportunity to learn that people around the globe have different beliefs and practices, and that these differences can be celebrated through kindness, dialogue, and mutual respect. Here is our poster that we created:

Finally, well done to 4CF on a wonderful class assembly.



## Year 5

We have settled back in to school after a lovely Christmas break and have investigated what plants need to grow. We set up our own experiments to test variables including sunlight, temperature, soil and water and observed the growth of the cress over two weeks.



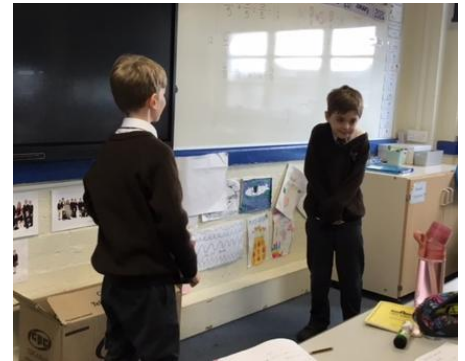
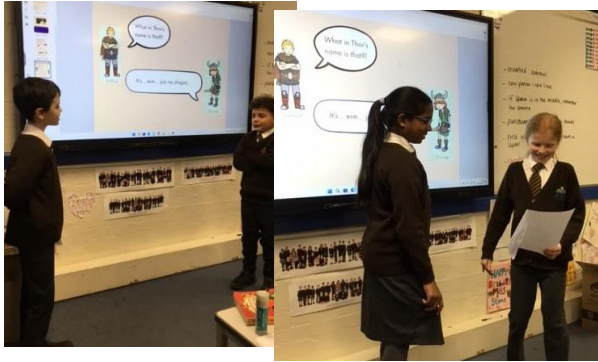
Since then, we have started our new science topic on materials where we have classified materials/objects based on their properties and have started to explore the concept of dissolving.



We have also enjoyed completing our Computing lessons on vector drawing. We learnt key skills such as copy and paste, ordering, grouping, rotating shapes and changing the colours and borders of shapes.



We have been enjoying reading our new text in English: 'How to Train Your Dragon'. We have explored the text through role play and longer pieces of writing from the perspective of different characters.



In art, we have been experimenting with different colours and media to create our own dragon eyes.



Finally, we have been using maps to compare how land has changed over time, as well as identifying features that are the same. We have also used atlas' to help us locate and name some UK counties and cities, whilst also learning about the origin of county and city names.



## Year 6

Year 6 have been continuing their learning about World War Two. We have been visiting the Battle of Britain Bunker in classes and using primary sources of evidence in the Lady Bankes Museum.



We have also been enjoying our visits to read with the Reception children. They have been so caring towards the smaller children, which has been so lovely to see.

