Lady Bankes Primary School

Newsletter No. 7

Friday 1st May 2026

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ambition, togetherness, opportunity, respect, curiosity, happiness

Dear Lady Bankes families,

This term has started off as busy as usual. We have already had the Ark Farm for our nursery children who had a wonderful time with the animals they had brought along- the rest of the school were very envious! We have had a theatre show on road safety for our Year 2 pupils and Pizza Express visits for Year 4. We also had 15 children across the school from Reception to Year 6 taking part in the mini-marathon on Saturday which was such a fabulous experience for them. See the sporting news for more details.

Year 2 had a fabulous time at Whipsnade Zoo yesterday. The sun always shines when they go on this trip and the children have a great time seeing all the animals and learning about them.

This week and next our children across the school will be having sessions from SCARF in their brand new Life Space. We have been chosen to be the first Hillingdon school to experience their new teaching resource and the children have, or will, enjoy these sessions which enhance our PSHE curriculum.

Thank you to all the parents who attended our Year 1 phonics meeting. We hope you found it useful to find out more information before the children have their screening check in June.

FOLBA have been working tirelessly to get all the arrangements ready for our 90th Anniversary 'Big Bankes Birthday Bash' on Friday 15th May. There will be a concert at 2pm so we hope all our families will come along as all the children will be performing. After school there will be lots of stalls and games to enjoy. Thank you for all your donations today for the tombola. It is going to be a fabulous event.

Last week we had a visit from Danny Beales, our local MP. It was a pleasure to show him around the school so that he could see the children hard at work and enjoying school. We are delighted that 90 children will be joining us in Reception next year and that our Nursery just has a few spaces in the afternoon left if you know anyone who is looking for a place- they need to be quick!

Our Year 6 pupils are working very hard ready for their SATs tests starting on Monday 11th May. We know that they will all try their best and that is all we can ask.

Today I attended the funeral of Mrs Moller along with colleagues who have worked with her for many years. Thank you to families who took the time to contact us with kind messages- we really appreciated them.

Have a lovely long weekend and we look forward to seeing the children safely back to school on Tuesday 5th May.

Mrs Needs

Sunflowers

Thank you to all the families who purchased sunflower seeds last term, we are hoping that you are beginning to see them grow! We will be sending out details of how to submit your measurements in the next newsletter. Happy growing!

World Day for Cultural Diversity

On Thursday 21st May we will be celebrating Cultural Diversity. This enables people all around the world to reflect on what diversity is within our culture and cultural heritage. It's also a time to think about why cultural diversity continues to matter in today's world, and to discuss important issues affecting people of different cultures.

Celebrating culture is important to us as we are a diverse school with many different cultures in our Lady Bankes Primary School family. As part of our ongoing commitment to promoting the understanding of the cultural backgrounds of one another, we are asking all children and staff to come in their traditional clothing to mark this day.

We do understand that not all children have their own cultural wear, therefore children can represent this in alternative ways, such as wearing the colours of their country's flag or wearing their national football shirt.

Diary Dates

Monday 4th May
BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Thursday 7th May
4CF Trip to Pizza Express
Year 3 & 4 Spelling Bee @ Newnham

Monday 11th May
Year 6 SAT's Week
Year 4 Trip to Wembley Stadium
School Council to Connect Cafe

Friday 15th May
90th Birthday Bash Summer Event Afterschool

Tuesday 19th May
90th Anniversary of School Opening

Wednesday 20th May
Year 1 Trip to Legoland
Quad Kids

Thursday 21st May
Year 6 Trip to Chessington
World Day for Cultural Diversity

Friday 22nd May
STAFF TRAINING DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

25th – 29th May
HALF TERM

Tuesday 2nd June
Year 1 'Homes through the Times'
Year 6 PGL Parents Meeting @ 9.00am

Wednesday 3rd June
Year 6 Moving on Presentation

Attendance and Lates April 2026

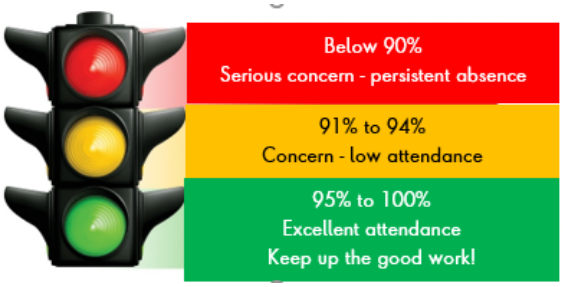
Missing a day of school here and there may not seem like much,
but absences add up.
Research shows that pupils with the best attendance also achieve the best results.

Attendance record and lessons missed

- 95% attendance means 50 missed lessons. This means a child missed about 10 days or 2 weeks of lessons in the school year.
- 90% attendance means 100 missed lessons. This means a child misses 4 weeks of lessons in the school year.

Punctuality

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year, that's 20 lessons missed.
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day adds up to 2 weeks absence a year, that is 55 lessons missed.



Attendance Matters
Every student. Every day.

Best Attendance - KS1 (Year & Year 2) – 2OR Mrs O'Sullivan & Mrs Wilson's class
Least Lates - KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2) – 1US Mrs Sathyarrooban's class
& 1KH Mrs Hewett's class

Best Attendance - KS2 (Years 3 to 6) – 5CG Mrs Gibson's class
Least Lates – KS2 (Years 3 to 6) – 3RG Mr Gohil's class
4KS Mrs Seabrook's class
6BM Miss Mackerness's class

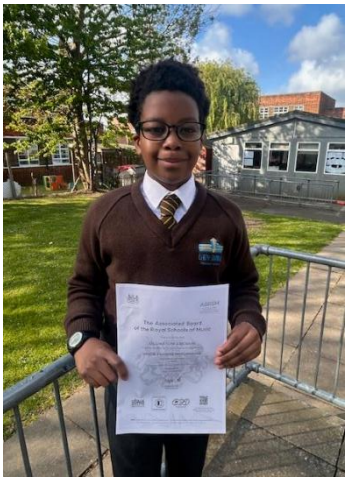
Year group		% to date
Nursery	EYFS	86.8%
Reception	EYFS	94.1%
Year 1	KS1	93.6%
Year 2	KS1	95.5%
Year 3	KS2	94.1%
Year 4	KS2	94.7%
Year 5	KS2	94.7%
Year 6	KS2	95.1%

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

Attend Today
Achieve Tomorrow

Out of School Achievements

Well done to Toni in Year 6 who has been passed his Grade 3 singing with a Merit.



Sporting News

We were thrilled to have 15 of our children take part in the Mini London Marathon this week. The children, who won their places via a poster competition, ran the last mile of the marathon course finishing on The Mall having just run past Buckingham Palace. It was such an amazing experience for the children to take part in and a huge thank you to Miss Cronin for organising this.
Shout out to Oscar in Year 6 who finished his mile in an amazing 6 minutes and 41 seconds, he also raised £40 for FOLBA.

KS2 After school Art club

The recently started KS2 after-school art club has been a great success! Over the last few weeks children have been learning about forced perspective photography, character design and developing their drawing and painting skills. They have enjoyed it a lot so we will definitely be running it again soon - do keep an eye out if you would like to join!

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Parent / Carer meeting

We will be teaching Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), along with Health Education as part of National Curriculum. As part of our school's wider Personal, Social and Health Education programme, your child will soon receive lessons on relationships, sexual health and personal safety. These lessons will be taught between WC 8th June - WC 13th July 2026.

We have provided information that outlines what each year group will be teaching. Please read:

https://www.ladybankes.school/page/?title=Relationships+and+Health+Education&pid=112

In addition to this we would also like to offer parents / carers the chance to attend a presentation meeting. In which we will discuss the curriculum and what is being taught to each year group.

The meetings will take place as follows:

EYFS/KS1 (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)
Date: Wednesday 20th May
Time: 9am

KS2 (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
Date: Thursday 21st May
Time: 9am

If you would like to attend the meeting, please fill out this google form below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1nb45p7yJJ5rXVqqglp8ke6mQ6RUnceXDgWtaaJMiqK0/edit?pli=1

We encourage you to visit the website on the link above, so you are informed of the content of the curriculum.

Kind regards,

Mrs Neagle and Mrs Cowley

Nursery

The Nursery children are learning about life on the farm. The key question is 'What animals live on the farm?' The children have enjoyed farm stories about 'Fergus the farm dog', 'Rosie's Walk', 'Gobble, Gobble, Moo, Moo, Tractor story' and 'Farmer Duck'. They have been singing 'Old MacDonald had a Farm', 'Five Little Ducks', 'Five Green Speckled Frogs', 'Baa, Baa, Black Sheep' and many more songs! The children are learning the names of the baby animals that live on the farm. They are identifying the farm animal sounds. The children are having fun painting, sticking and drawing farm animals. They had a fantastic experience when Ark Farm came to visit us. The children could get up close to the sheep, pigs and goats. They were able to stroke and brush their coats.

Reception

Reception have had another busy and exciting month! On Monday, the children took part in our EYFS Mini Marathon, and a fantastic morning was enjoyed by everyone. We were especially proud of two Reception children, Zayden (RDP) and Louisa (RLH), who travelled into London to take part in the London Mini Marathon—what an amazing achievement!

Our new topic, *How do living things grow?*, is now in full swing. The children have been learning about what makes something a living thing and exploring this through a range of engaging activities. With the warmer weather, we have been spending more time in our outdoor area, observing the signs of spring and watching plants begin to grow.

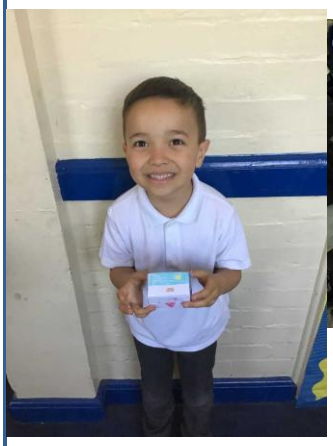
A particular highlight this month was a visit from the Year 2 chicks. The children were delighted to meet them and even had the opportunity to gently hold a chick—an experience they thoroughly enjoyed.

Year 1

For the last two weeks, we have been starting our story writing unit. We have created magical boxes, took part in some acting and will be writing our stories about finding them next week. In Maths, we have started multiplication and division by looking at grouping in 2s, 5s and 10s.

During our Humanities lessons, we have started to look at our new key question, 'What would it be like if you were King or Queen and lived in a castle?' and cannot wait for our two upcoming trips to Legoland and Windsor castle. We have been working very hard in preparation for reading our phonic words to our teachers in June too.

Have a safe and lovely bank holiday weekend 😊



Year 2

The children have settled back into school really well and are excited to see what the final summer term brings! This half term we have had our annual visit from the chicks! Having the chicks was a wonderful experience. The children have observed them hatching, taking their first few steps and growing into very lively little chicks that liked to try and jump out of the box A LOT! As you can imagine we have had a few tears from the children when saying their goodbyes, they have loved having our little visitors in school and enjoyed all the cuddles we have been giving them ☺

We had a fantastic time yesterday at Whipsnade Zoo, learning a little more about animals and their habitats. Pictures to follow in the next newsletter.

We are looking forward to our annual LBP talent show and Sports Day 😊

Year 3

This term, Year 3 children had a fantastic time learning through exciting hands-on activities. In Design and Technology, they made delicious plantain crisps, exploring different flavours and taste-testing their creations. While some children were unsure about certain flavours at first, they showed great curiosity and bravery in trying something new.

In Maths, we focused on weight, measurement, volume, and capacity. The children thoroughly enjoyed practical experiments, using a range of equipment to measure, compare, and investigate. These engaging activities helped deepen their understanding while making learning fun and memorable.

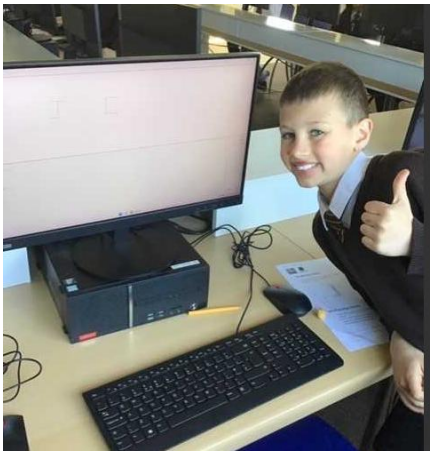
We are so proud of the enthusiasm and effort Year 3 has shown this term. Their willingness to explore, experiment, and challenge themselves has been wonderful to see.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the term. We greatly appreciate your encouragement and partnership in your child's learning journey.

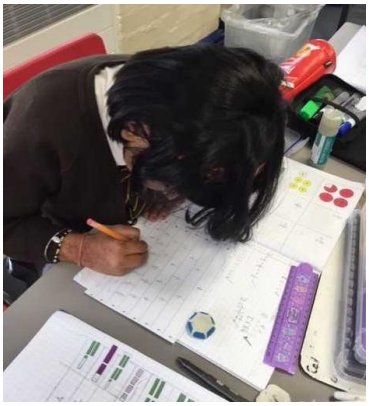
Year 4

The start of the summer term has begun with some wonderful learning taking place! Over this half term we have some exciting upcoming trips: 4KS and 4CF will visit Pizza Express where the children will discover the origins of particular ingredients, the history behind where pizzas were made and then become pizza chefs! We also have our trip to Wembley stadium in May!

In Computing we are exploring a new program; FMS Logo. This is a computer program that helps children learn the basics of coding in a fun and visual way. It uses a small "turtle" on the screen that follows instructions like move forward or turn, allowing children to draw shapes and patterns. As they experiment, they build important skills such as problem-solving, logical thinking, and understanding how instructions work, all without needing any prior programming experience.

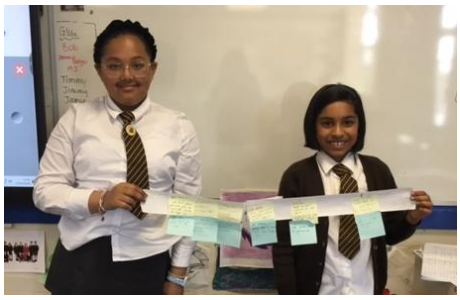


In maths, we are currently learning about fractions. The children are developing their understanding of how to add and subtract fractions, as well as exploring the difference between improper fractions and mixed numbers. They are also learning how to convert between these forms. This work is helping to build confidence and deepen their understanding of number, which is an important foundation for future maths learning.



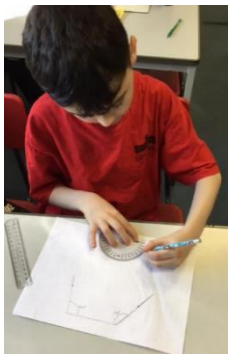
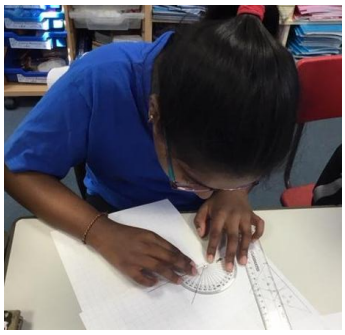
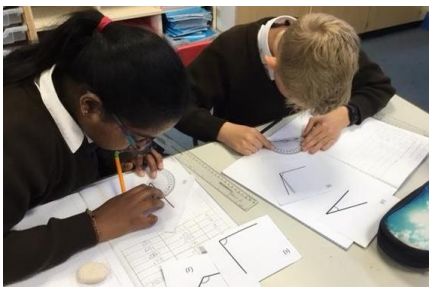
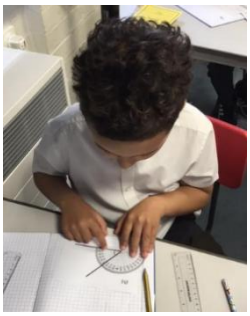
Year 5

We have had a busy start to the new term in Year 5. We are really looking forward to our new Topic of 'Crime and Punishment' and the trip to The Tower of London in June. We have started to read 'Oranges in No Mans Land' in English and have been completing work based around the changing thoughts and feelings of the main character, Ayesha.



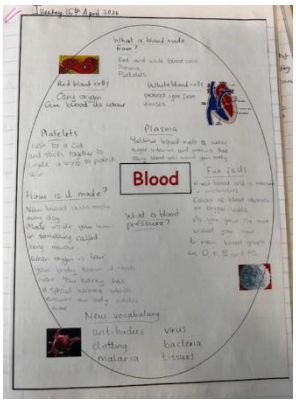
During Science, we have finished our topic on materials by studying what happens to different materials when they are exposed to fire. We also completed some independent enquiries on electric and thermal conductivity.

In maths, we have been learning about angles and shape and have been practising how to use a protractor to draw and measure angles. We also enjoyed learning about 3D shapes.

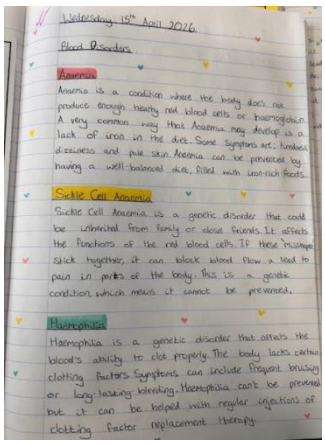
Here are some other pictures of our learning and activities from this half term.

Year 6

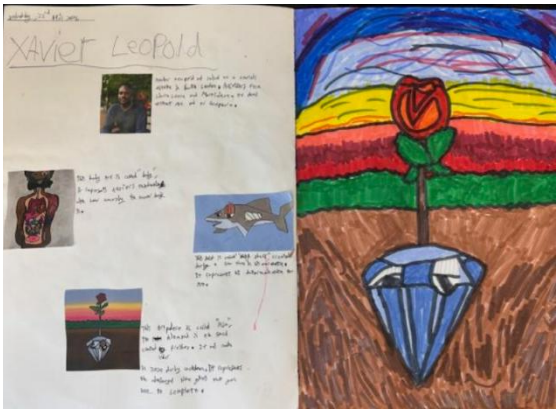


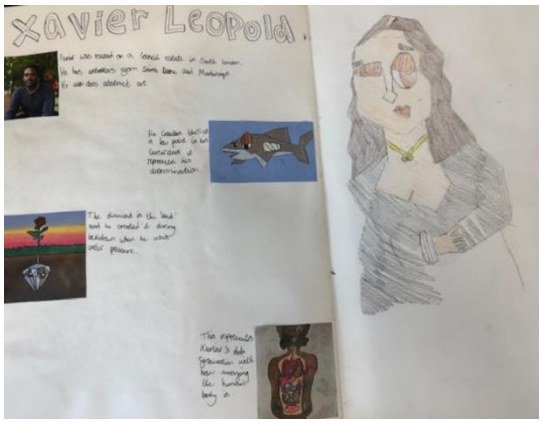
Year 6 have been working hard preparing for their SATs in a couple of weeks' time. A letter with more information will be coming home to Year 6 families next week.

In science lessons, we have been learning about the blood and various blood disorders. We have also linked this to PSHE about how to keep our body healthy through the food we eat and exercise that we do.



In art we have studying Xavi art. Recreating his designs and our own in our art books and in the computer suite. Here are some brilliant pieces of work from 6CT.





We have also been rehearsing for our end of year show, 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' and are looking forward to sharing it with the school and Year 6 families soon.