



# LADY BANKES PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Newsletter No. 1

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2026

Tel: 01895 634180

[www.ladybankes.school](http://www.ladybankes.school)

Email: [office@ladybankes.school](mailto:office@ladybankes.school)

X: @lady\_bankes

ambition, togetherness, opportunity, respect, curiosity, happiness



Dear Lady Bankes families,

The children across the school have made a brilliant start to the new school year. We have welcomed 90 new children to Reception and 53 to our Nursery. We are looking forward to another very successful and enjoyable year here at Lady Bankes. The children are all working hard and enjoying their learning. All the children from Nursery to Year 6 are completing learning related to 'Take One Picture' - this is in conjunction with the National Gallery. There will be a lovely display of all the children's learning on the main staircase ready soon for all our families to see.

We have so many exciting things planned for the children this year. This week for example pupils in Reception and Year 1 have had pedestrian training from the Hillingdon Travel Team. The Year 4-6 choir also performed at St Paul's Church's 90th anniversary concert on Wednesday along with school choirs from Ruislip Gardens and Sacred Heart. This was a lovely community event.

Over the next few weeks Year 3 will be visiting the Chiltern Open Air Museum, Year 2 have a Great Fire Of London workshop and Year 1 have visits to local churches to enhance their learning to name a few. We also have our first class assembly of the year from 5CG on 14th October. The theme is 'Harvest' and we will be kindly asking families for donations of food and other items for Hillingdon Foodbank. More details are in this newsletter.

We will be holding our first parents' evenings on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd October. This is a chance to meet your child's teacher formally and to see the great learning that they have been doing so far. A letter with more details will be sent out next week.

We said goodbye to Mr Collins, our Site Manager, on 14th September. Mr Collins has ensured that our wonderful school building has been well-maintained and he has been an integral part of the staff team for the past 27 years. We will all miss him greatly and thank him for all his hard work and dedication to the school.

We send all our love and congratulations to Mrs Bates who had a little boy, Barney, on 27th September. Both mum and baby are doing really well.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing the children safely back to school on Monday.

Mrs K Needs

## PLEASE KEEP US UPDATED

It is important that you keep the school up to date with any medical issues concerning your child including asthma, allergies and any dietary needs.

If you have moved home, have a new phone number or email address please notify the school by email [office@ladybankes.school](mailto:office@ladybankes.school) so that we can update our system.

If your child is absent from school due to Asthma please make the reception aware as it needs to be recorded to the school nursing team.

## IMPORTANT UNIFORM REMINDER

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL WEARING TRAINERS. ALSO IN KS2 CHILDREN SHOULD WEAR A WHITE SHIRT AND A TIE TO SCHOOL.**

## Starting secondary school

September 2027

For Hillingdon residents only

**Apply online at**

[www.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions)  
Closing date for applications is Saturday 31 October 2026



[www.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

## The Hillingdon Music Service

Discover your talent



If your child would like to start playing an instrument in school please sign up via [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/startmusic](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/startmusic)



## Diary Dates

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

Year 5 Pedestrian Training

### Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October

Last day of the book fair  
Year 3 Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum  
Year 1 Trip to Ruislip Baptist Church

### Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October

Year 6 Cooking Week

### Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October

Year 1 Trip to St Pauls Church  
Year 2 GFOL Workshop in Lower Hall

### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October

5CG Class Assembly @ 9.00am - Harvest

### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October

Open Morning for Prospective Parents 9.30am & 1.30pm

### Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October

Year 6 Trip to the RAF Museum

### Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October

Year 2, 3, 4 & 5 Individual Photos

### Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October

Reception, Year 1 & Year 6 Individual Photos

### Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October

Sibling Photos  
Parents Evening till 7.30

### Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Parents Evening till 5.30

### Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

STAFF TRAINING DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

26<sup>TH</sup> – 30<sup>TH</sup> HALF TERM

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

STAFF TRAINING DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

### Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Term Begins at 8.30am

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

Our whole school attendance from nursery to year 6 for Sept 2026 is **95.1%** which is higher than last year's percentage of 94.6%.

We would like to say well done to all our families for their support in ensuring all our children have access to all lessons on a daily basis.

**Are you supporting your child with their education?**

**Is your child in school every day?**

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.



**Below 90%**  
**Serious concern - persistent absence**

**91% to 94%**  
**Concern - low attendance**

**95% to 100%**  
**Excellent attendance**  
**Keep up the good work!**

| Year group |      | Current attendance percentage% |
|------------|------|--------------------------------|
| Nursery    | EYFS | 93.1%                          |
| Reception  | EYFS | 96.5%                          |
| Year 1     | KS1  | 96.3%                          |
| Year 2     | KS1  | 92.3%                          |
| Year 3     | KS2  | 94.6%                          |
| Year 4     | KS2  | 96.5%                          |
| Year 5     | KS2  | 95.5%                          |
| Year 6     | KS2  | 94.6%                          |

Mrs Sue Smith – Attendance Officer and Mrs K Needs -  
Headteacher

**Attend Today  
Achieve Tomorrow**



## Head Lice Advice

We have had a couple of cases of headlice reported in school this week. Please take time over the weekend to check your child for signs of infestation. If you do see any in your child's hair please follow the advice below.

Remember - All members of the family need to be checked and treated with the wet combing system including yourself and other close family members.

If you are in any doubt about the presence of head lice, the staff at your local clinic will be happy to advise you. You are also welcome to pop into school to see our Welfare Assistant.

The clinic gives the following advice that avoids the use of chemicals. This is believed to be just as effective.

### **Do Not Wash Hair!**

**Put Conditioner onto dry hair (it does not have to be expensive)**

**Use a fine comb (nit comb) to dislodge any adult lice and loosen eggs**

**Rinse thoroughly**

Repeat this at least every two days for a fortnight. Continue to keep an eye on the situation and repeat the above if necessary.

Chemical treatments should only be used if **live** head lice are seen in the hair, following the instructions supplied. No more than **two** consecutive applications should be used (one week apart). If lice are still present after 2 weeks you will need to use a different lotion. Chemicals are **NOT** to be used as a preventative measure.

It is very helpful in containing the spread of head lice if parents always inform school immediately when a child is affected. Your co-operation in the past has enabled the school to keep the problems to a minimum. After treatment has taken place your child can come back into school.

**Ensure that your child's hair is kept tied up while at school to avoid contamination.**

For more advice on treatment please see your GP or local pharmacist.

### **Eye Nursery Breakfast Club**

Our Breakfast Club is open from 7.30am until the start of the school day, providing children with a calm, welcoming and positive start to their morning. A healthy and varied breakfast is served each day. Children can eat with their friends and take part in quiet games and activities before being safely prepared for the school day.

### **Eye Nursery After School Club – A New and Improved Structure**

We have listened carefully to feedback from existing children and families and have made significant improvements to the structure of our After School Club.

Our new approach provides children with a clearer and more varied programme while still allowing them to choose how they spend their time. Each afternoon now follows a consistent structure, with planned activities, organised group sessions, outdoor play and quieter options available.

When children arrive, they are welcomed by our qualified and experienced staff and given time to settle, play and choose from the activities available. We have also extended the option for a freshly prepared tea to be available for all age groups from October.

The planned programme for the club includes creative activities, construction, varied sports, games, challenges, group projects and opportunities for children to relax and spend time with their friends. Our aim is for children to enjoy outdoor play as much as possible. Weather permitting, children will spend regular time outside, taking part in organised games, exploring, exercising and enjoying free play.

This term, external sports coaches will also be delivering structured football and netball sessions. These sessions will give children the opportunity to learn new skills, develop their confidence, work as a team and enjoy being active.

We are excited about the improvements we have made and the positive difference the new structure is already bringing to the children's experience. Parents and carers are warmly invited to arrange a visit to observe the activities, meet our staff and see the changes for themselves. A small number of spaces are currently available.

### **Eye Nursery October Half-Term Holiday Club**

Our Holiday Club will run throughout the October half-term, with five exciting themed days planned:

Monday – Autumn Adventure Day - Autumn crafts, leaf art, seasonal games, nature-inspired activities and an autumn treasure hunt, if weather allows we will also visit the local park.

Tuesday – Harvest and Baking Day - Seasonal baking, food-themed activities, harvest crafts and team challenges.

Wednesday – Bowling Trip (additional small fee). A bowling trip to Uxbridge, arranged following requests from the existing children.

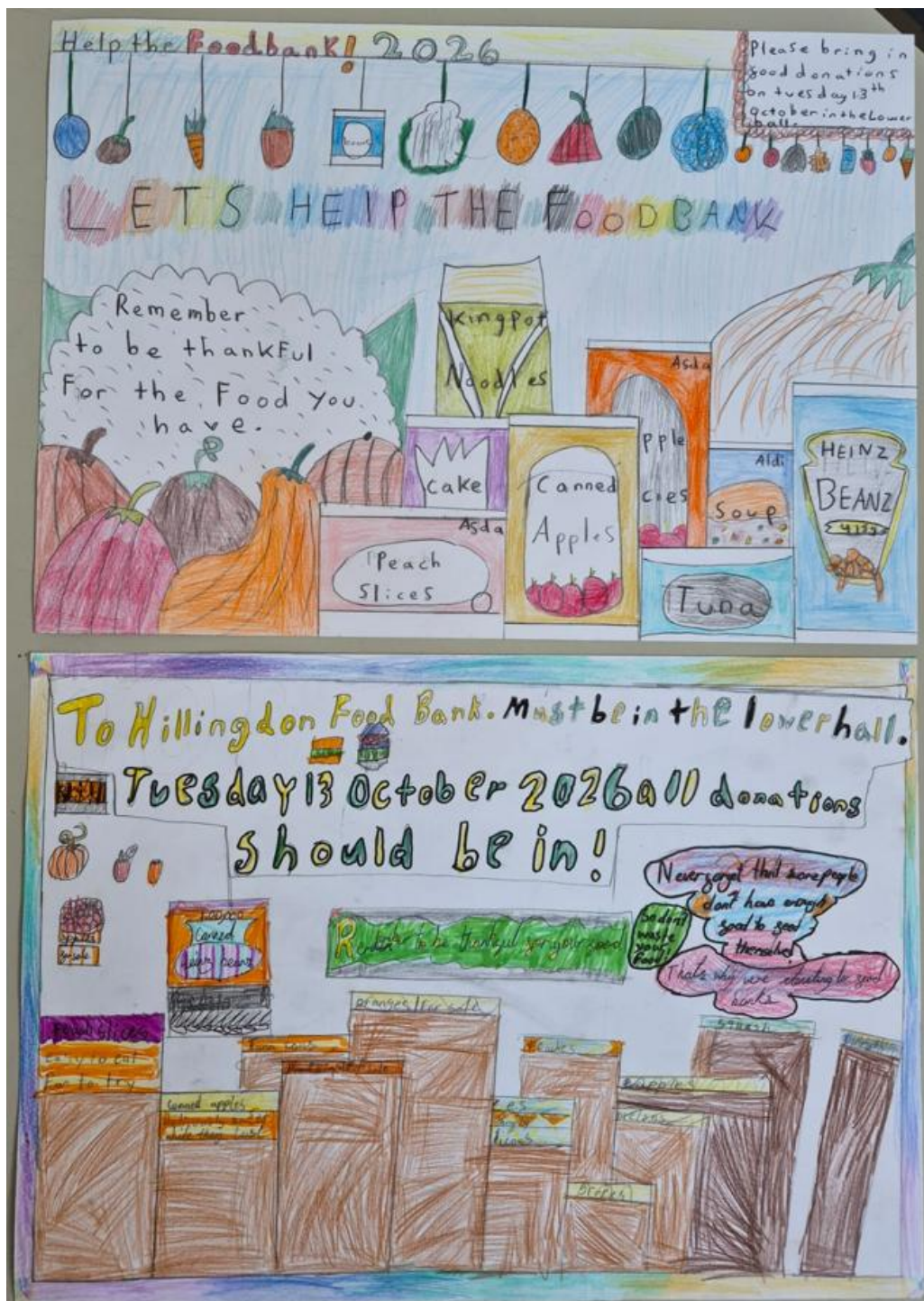
Thursday – Emergency Services Day - An exciting day learning about the emergency services, including a planned visit from the London Fire Brigade. Children will take part in themed activities and learn more about the important work carried out by firefighters and other emergency services teams.

Friday – Zoo Lab (Small additional fee) and Halloween fun - Zoo lab will be visiting for an exciting interactive animal experience. In addition, pumpkin-themed crafts, traditional games, music, outdoor activities and an end-of-week autumn celebration.

Full details of our competitive fees can be found on the Eye Nursery website. Places are limited. New families can request a registration form for the Breakfast Club, After School Club or Holiday Club, or arrange a visit to the After School Club, by emailing [jsludden@eyenursery.co.uk](mailto:jsludden@eyenursery.co.uk).

## Harvest Donations

This year, we are collecting donations for Hillingdon Food Bank as part of our Harvest celebrations. Please bring any donations including non-perishable food items with long shelf lives, basic toiletries or household essentials to the lower school hall by Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you in advance for your support.



## A Message from 4<sup>th</sup> Ruislip Beavers:

Dear Parents,

We're excited to invite your children aged 6-8 to join the fun and adventure of Beaver Scouts! At our Beaver Colony, we offer a place for young people to make friends, have fun, and develop valuable skills through engaging activities.

### What We Do:

- **Fun and Social:**We have weekly meetings filled with games, crafts, stories, and outdoor adventures!
- **Skill Development:**Beavers learn teamwork, problem-solving, and develop confidence through challenges and competitions.
- **Badge System:**We earn badges that reward achievements and encourage exploration of various interests. ~~SEP~~Our 4th Ruislip Group:
  - We meet on a Wednesday 6-7pm
  - at our Scout hut, rear of New Pond Parade, West End Road, Ruislip Gardens. HA4 6LR
  - Our motto is "Fun and Friends," and that's what we focus on!
  - We have a safe and supportive environment for all children to thrive.

### How to Join:

- If you're interested in learning more or joining one of our Beaver Colonies, please contact us at ~~SEP~~4thruislipcherokeesbeavers@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming your children to our Beaver family!  
Any children under 6 can go on our waiting list.

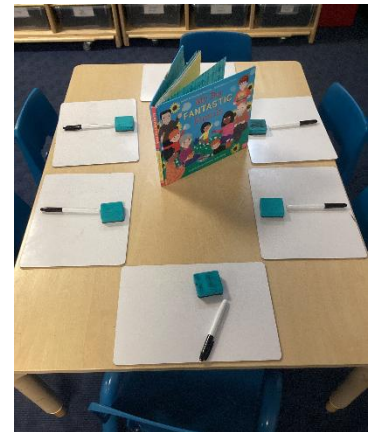
Yours Sincerely

Heron (Lead Volunteer)

4thruislipcherokeesbeavers@gmail.com

## Nursery

The nursery children are beginning to settle in to the nursery routine. They are exploring a variety of activities inside the classroom with the support of the nursery team. The children are getting to know the school rules and carpet rules. They like being active in the nursery garden, playing with the basket balls, using hula hoops, balancing on the obstacle course, riding the bikes and scooters and climbing on the pirate ship. The children are learning about themselves. We have been singing 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' and 'Two Little Eyes'. They have learnt the 'Fruit and Vegetable' song. The children have been introduced to 'Harry the Hedgehog' a puppet who makes mistakes when counting and the children give him the correct answer! Here are a selection of nursery activity photographs.



## Reception

And just like that, we are well into our Autumn 1 term! It has been wonderful to see so many smiling faces each morning as the children settle into Reception and begin to feel at home.

The children are enjoying lots of exciting new learning, particularly exploring our **outside classroom**, where they have loved discovering and investigating the different activities on offer.

We have started our topic, '**How am I Changing?**', and the children have been learning about the different ways they are growing and changing. We have loved seeing the family photographs they have brought in and hearing them talk about the special people in their lives.

It has been fantastic to see their **curiosity, enthusiasm and excitement** for learning already!



## Year 1

September has absolutely flown by in Year One! The children have been incredibly busy settling into life in Key Stage One and have already been participating in lots of exciting opportunities. They have been learning all about old toys, exploring a variety of books in English, and developing their counting skills in maths. It has been wonderful to see how confident they are becoming with their new routines.

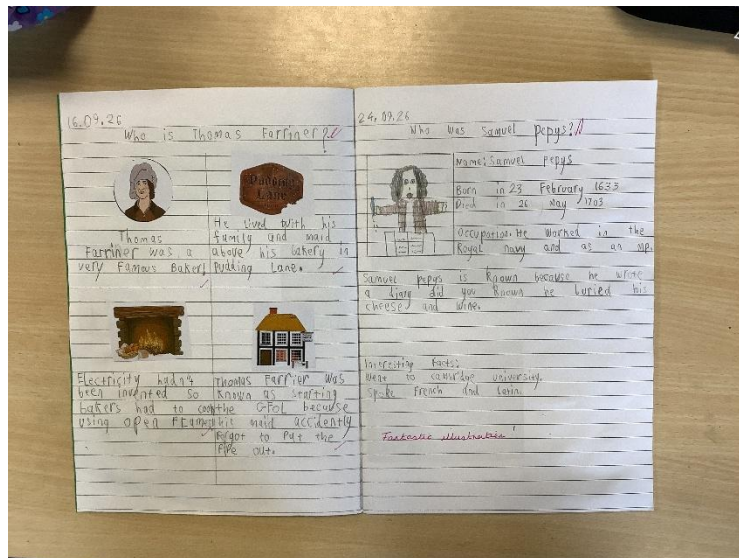
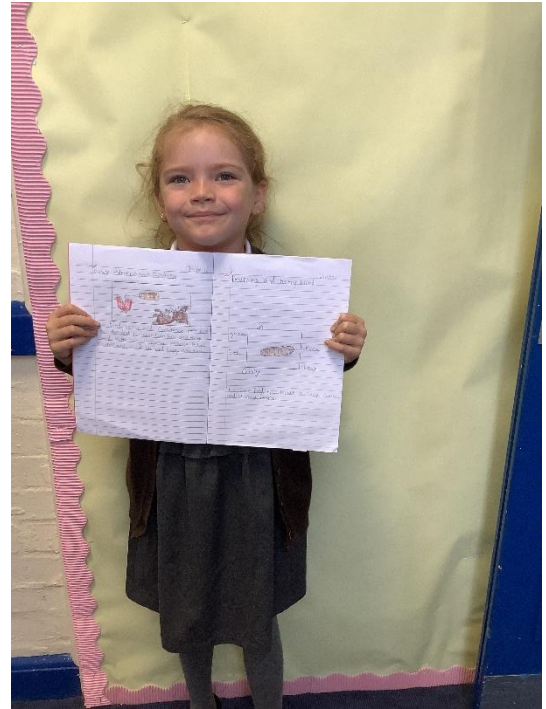
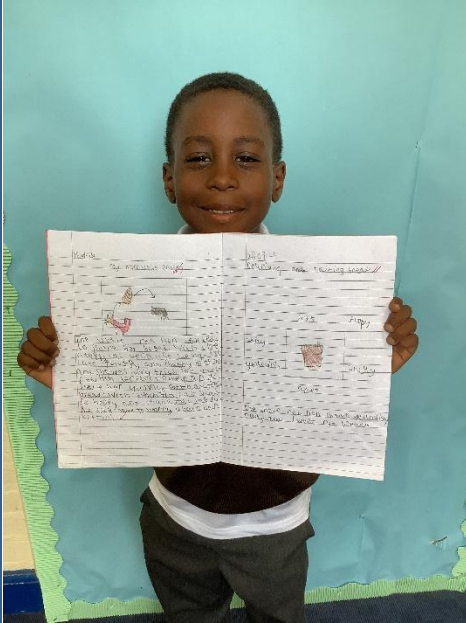
This week has been particularly exciting! On Monday, the children enjoyed a visit from the Hillingdon Travel Team, who taught them some very important lessons about pedestrian safety. The following day, we were delighted to welcome Mr B, Lady Bankes' very own Toy Expert, who brought our learning about old toys to life with his fascinating knowledge. Finally, on Thursday we were busy celebrating World Poetry Day where we explored a poem about our own treasures.

We have lots to look forward to over the coming weeks. The children are very excited about visiting Ruislip Baptist Church and St Paul's Church, where they will be developing their learning in RE and Geography.



## 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 and discovered the importance of Samuel Pepys! In English, we have been retelling the story of 'The Little Red Hen'; we have been working in groups to change the ending of the story and in Maths, we have been working on refreshing our knowledge of place value! The children have very much settled into Year 2 life and we are proud of their brilliant start ☺



### Year 3

We have been enjoying getting into the swing of things this term and have had a fantastic start to Year 3! We are currently learning all about the Stone Age and are very much looking forward to our trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum next week, where we will be able to bring our learning to life.

In Maths, we have been learning about place value, developing our understanding of the value of each digit in a number.

We have also started our steel pan lessons, which have certainly been music to our ears! The children have really enjoyed learning how to play the instruments and are already making great progress.

In English, we are studying the wonderful book *Storm*. We have been exploring the characters and their thoughts and feelings through hot seating, allowing us to really get into character and develop our understanding of the story.

We are looking forward to another exciting week of learning and adventures!



## Year 4

It has been a busy start to the new school year and the children are working incredibly hard. We have already started to think about how we can answer our Topic key question:

### How have the Romans influenced our lives today?

We acted the story of Romulus and Remus and discussed who built Rome. We have also mapped/located the Roman Empire – showing how the Roman Empire grew and why they did not invade particular areas. Did you know the Roman Empire spanned across 3 continents and 50 modern day countries!



In English we have started to read Christophe's Story – the tale of a refugee and the struggles he may face. We are enjoying this powerful text and through drama we retold the story, as shown in the accompanying pictures.

Year 4 have been diving into the fascinating world of the **human digestive system**! As part of our science topic, we carried out an exciting investigation to explore how digestion works – from the moment food enters our mouths to the end of its journey through the body.

Using everyday items like bananas, crackers, water, and sandwich bags (along with a bit of imagination!), we recreated the different stages of digestion. The children had great fun squashing, mashing, and mixing to mimic the roles of the teeth, saliva, stomach, and intestines. It was a hands-on, slightly messy, but very memorable way to see digestion in action!



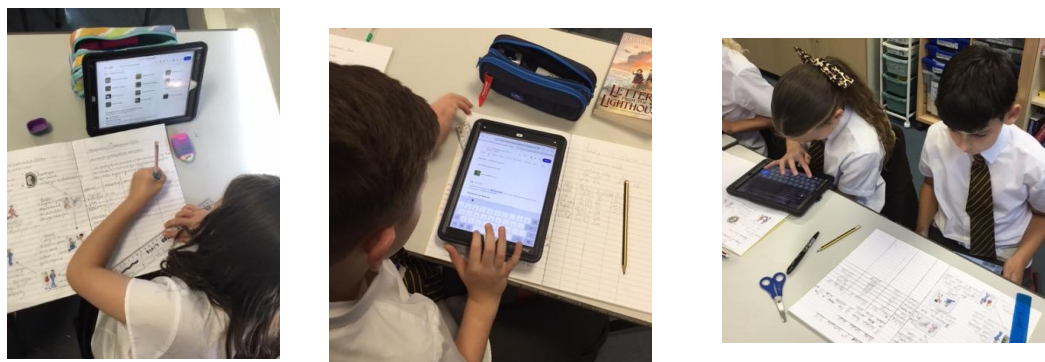
The investigation really helped bring the science to life, and the children asked fantastic questions throughout. We're so proud of their curiosity and enthusiasm for learning!

## Year 5

We have settled in really well into life in Year 5. In maths, we have been learning about place value. We have looked at numbers up to 1,000,000 and have been comparing and ordering them. We have also started revising our column method for addition and subtraction.



In science, we have started our topic on Lifecycles and have started to compare these across a range of animal groups. We also used the iPads to investigate the gestation periods of mammals.

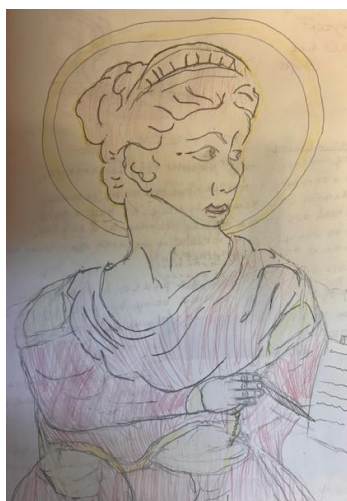


Here are some other pictures of our learning, including our timeline in topic, learning about our weekly spelling rules and learning about the Greek muses for our school's 'Take One Picture' project.

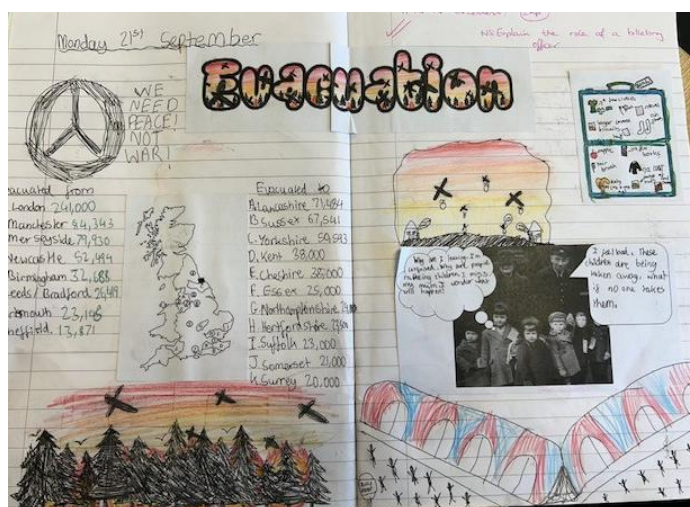
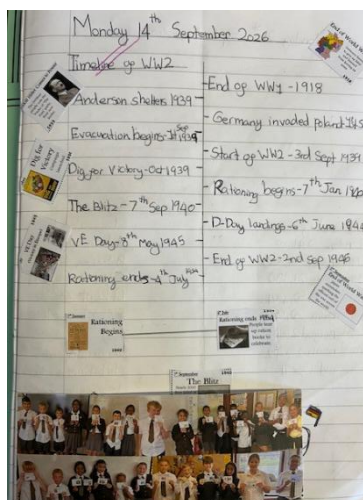


## Year 6

Year 6 have been busy with the Take One Picture project and have created their own muses inspired by Cosimo Tura: A Muse.



We have also started learning about our Key Question: Did WW2 affect all aspects of people's lives living in London.



Some of our Year 6 children took part in Bikeability this week.

