Term 1

Newsletter 09.10.26

Hello from Our Principal, Maria Cupit

Dear Families,

A Positive Start to the Term

We are delighted to share what a positive and exciting start to the term we have had. The children have settled back into school routines beautifully and it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, curiosity and confidence growing as they engage with the many opportunities available to them during the school day as well as the numerous extra-curricular opportunities through the provision of lunchtime and after school clubs, many of which are rune by our staff.

Making the Most of Our Outdoor Space
One of the most exciting developments this term has been our enhanced outdoor play provision. We are now making much greater use of the school field during lunchtimes, giving the children additional space to run, play, explore and spend time with their friends. We are extremely grateful to the Church of England School House Trust for their financial support to fund equipment to support this important initiative.

Developing a richer, more inclusive play experience for every child
· Play is essential for children's social, emotional, physical and cognitive development.
· We want playtimes to be opportunities for creativity, independence, problem-solving and friendship.
· Our aim is to create a school culture where play is valued as an important part of the day, not simply a break from learning

Children need opportunities to:
· Be creative and imaginative
· Take ownership of their play
· Develop resilience and independence
· Build friendships across year groups
· Manage risk appropriately
· Develop communication and negotiation skills
· Be physically active
· Experience joy and freedo






Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

Hello from Our Principal, Maria Cupit... continued

Play is children's work.

The benefits of high-quality play

Play supports:
· Mental wellbeing
· Physical health
· Language development
· Emotional regulation
· Problem-solving skills
· Social development
· Risk assessment and decision-making

Children who play freely often develop greater **confidence, creativity and resilience.**
The outdoor environment has been organised into play zones across the play space. Rather than viewing the space as one large, unstructured area, zoning allows us to create purposeful environments that support a wide range of play types-physical, creative, imaginative, social, and quiet. Each zone will be designed to offer a different style of play, ensuring that all children can access activities that suit their interests, needs, and energy levels.
The new strategy has seen the field quickly become a favourite part of lunchtime, with children enjoying the freedom to choose how they spend their time. From energetic physical games and imaginative adventures to quieter activities and exploring the natural environment, there is something for everyone.

Choice, Exploration and Self-Directed Play
We are particularly pleased with the range of activities now available for children to choose from during outdoor play. The provision has been carefully developed to encourage self-directed play, creativity, problem-solving and exploration.
Children can follow their own interests and make choices about how they use the resources available. They might build, create, investigate, imagine, experiment or simply enjoy being active outdoors. This freedom to lead their own play is helping children to develop independence, resilience and confidence, while also providing valuable opportunities to collaborate and communicate with their peers from across all age phases.
It has been lovely to see children using the space in imaginative and unexpected ways, developing their own games and ideas and learning from one another. Outdoor play provides a wonderful environment in which children can take appropriate risks, test out ideas and discover what they can do.






Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

Hello from Our Principal, Maria Cupit... continued

Looking Ahead

We are excited to continue developing our outdoor provision throughout the year and to build on the positive experiences the children have already had this term. We will continue to listen to the children, observe their interests and introduce new resources and opportunities that encourage them to explore, create and learn through play.
Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to a successful and enjoyable remainder of the term and to sharing more of the children's achievements and experiences with you.

With warmest wishes
Maria
Miss Cupit






Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

School Celebrations

Reading Champion 25th September



Handwriting & Presentation 25th September



Headteacher Awards 25th September



Maths Champions 25th September



Values Medals 25th September



Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

School Celebrations

Doodle Champion 2nd October



Handwriting & Presentation 2nd October



Headteacher Awards 2nd October



Maths Champions 2nd October



Values Medals 5th October



Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

School Celebrations

Doodle Champion 9th October



Handwriting & Presentation 9th October



Headteacher Awards 9th October



Maths Champions 9th October



Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

School Office:

Reminders, updates & future calendar dates

Future Calendar Dates (new dates added - event information will show in bold)

2026

12.10 - PTA AGM at school 8:40am - all welcome!
17.11 - Parents Evening
19.11 - Parents Evening
11.12 - PTA Rags to Riches
08.12 - EYFS (F1 & F2) Nativity Showcase Performance 9:00am - 9:30am
10.12 - Christmas dinner day
15.12 - KS2 Christmas Showcase 2pm-3pm

2027

26.01 - COOL Whole School 3:00pm
02.03 - Parents Evening
04.03 - Parents Evening
04.03 - World Book Day
15.03 - SATS parent meeting for Y6 3:00pm
29.04 - COOL Whole School 3:00pm
10.05 - SATS week
14.05 - Race Day Year 6
17.05 - Y6 Residential meeting
24.06 - EYFS and KS1 Sports Day 9:00am to 10:30am
24.06 - KS2 Sports Day 10:45am to 12:00pm
29.06 - Reserve Sports Day
15.07 - Y6 Performance 6pm



If you have a query about your child please contact their class teacher in the first instance:

Mrs Crick: F1@lambourn.excalibur.org.uk F2@lambourn.excalibur.org.uk
Miss Townsend Y1@lambourn.excalibur.org.uk
Miss Townsend Y2@lambourn.excalibur.org.uk
Ms Ross Y3@lambourn.excalibur.org.uk
Ms Ross Y4@lambourn.excalibur.org.uk
Mr McKee Y5@lambourn.excalibur.org.uk
Miss O'Farrell Y6@lambourn.excalibur.org.uk

For any other enquiries please phone or e-mail the school office: 0148871479
admin@lambourn.excalibur.org.uk






Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

School Office:

Reminders, updates & future calendar dates

Parent Evenings are scheduled for 17th and 19th November. These appointments can be booked on MCAS (under Parents Evening) from 26th October 6pm until 13th November 6pm.











Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

School Office:

Reminders, updates & future calendar dates








Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

School Office:

Reminders, updates & future calendar dates

PARENT AND VISITOR CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code of Conduct sets out the expectations for parent, carer and visitor behaviour to ensure a supportive, respectful relationship between families and the school community.
Our school values are: Love, Integrity, Grit, Hope & Trust

EXPECTATIONS
Parents/carers and visitors should:

- Respect school values and staff
- Work with staff in pupils' best interests
- Treat everyone with respect and seek peaceful solutions
- Follow reporting procedures
- Refrain from using mobile phones in school building/on site (unless agreed)
- Seek permission for photos/videos
- Report safeguarding concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Drive/park considerately
- Support learning, attend events, engage constructively

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR
Includes:

- Threats, swearing, discrimination or aggression
- Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments on social media posts/school-based systems about staff/school
- Disciplining another's child
- Smoking, alcohol (unless permitted), drugs, or dogs (except service) on premises
- Physical punishment, disrupting school, damaging property, covert recordings

COMMUNICATIONS

- Read all school communications fully and promptly
- Be polite and respectful; avoid excessive emails/messages
- Use the complaints process for concerns

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

- Any abuse, threats, or assault towards staff (physical, verbal, or online) may result in bans or police involvement

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Avoid online concerns about staff, pupils or families
- Raise concerns directly with the school
- Share verified info only (avoid rumours or speculation); respect privacy
- Abusive or defamatory posts may be reported and removed

BREACHING THE CODE
Possible actions:

- Conversation or warning letter
- Require SLT accompaniment to meetings
- Restrict contact or event attendance
- Tailored communication strategy
- Temporary or permanent site ban under Education Act 1996
- Parents may appeal via email

Thank you for your support in ensuring our young people continue to be educated in a safe and happy environment.






Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

Attendance

Overall attendance for our school at this stage of the year is **94.1%**.
The national average weekly attendance rate for state-funded primary schools in England is approximately **96.5%.** .

Not sure your child is well enough for school?
Please see the following short video
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3g_tfUyroZM&list=PLXjcCX3hH9LVaCIua1fZ2H6pgD7l4mDMP&index=1

If my child is not at school today due to illness

- I will ring the school office as early as possible in the morning and leave a message.
- I will ring the school for everyday that my child is off school **UNLESS** the office tells me that I do not need to.
- If I cannot ring to leave a message I will reply to the office email or phone call from the office before the end of the school day.
- If I do not let the school office know about why my child is off school by the end of the school day then I know that this will be logged as 'unauthorised absence'.
- I know that if I have 10 'unauthorised absence' in a rolling 10 week period that the school will contact West Berkshire Council and I may be subject to a fixed penalty fine.
- If I am not sure about whether to keep my child off school , I will ring the school for advice.






Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

Attendance

Do I need to keep my child off school?

Public Health Agency

Chicken Pox	Conjunctivitis	Diarrhoea & Vomiting	Glandular Fever	Hand, foot & mouth	Impetigo
Until all spots have crusted over	No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	48 hours from last episode	No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics

Measles or German Measles	Mumps	Scabies	Scarlet Fever	Slapped Cheek	Whooping Cough
4 days from onset of rash	5 days from onset of swelling	Until after first treatment	24 hours after commencing antibiotics	No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	48 Hours after commencing antibiotics

Flu	Head Lice	Threadworms	Tonsillitis
Until recovered	No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed









Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

School Council News

School Council – October Update

Our School Council have been absolutely amazing over the past few weeks and have been working incredibly hard to make a positive difference across our school.

Our Snack-tember initiative was a great success! It has been wonderful to see the changes children have made to their snack choices at break time. We have seen lots more healthy options being brought into school, and it is fantastic to know that the children have really taken on board the message about how healthy choices can benefit both our bodies and our minds. A huge well done to everyone for getting involved!

The **KS2 School Council** will also have the exciting opportunity to visit our local Foodbank. During their visit, they will be able to see how donations are sorted and organised, as well as hopefully learning more about how the donations made by our school help to support people in our local community.

We would like to say **a huge thank you to everyone who donated** to our Harvest Festival. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and it is wonderful to see our school community coming together to support others.
We are incredibly proud of our School Council and the enthusiasm, responsibility and kindness they have shown already. We can't wait to see what they get up to next!











Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

PTA NEWS



Reminder :

12th October

PTA AGM at school

8:40am - all welcome!











Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

EYFS: F1 and F2 Update

Hello from EYFE: F1 and F2!

We have had a busy and exciting few weeks in EYFS, with lots of hands-on learning and exploring.

We have been focusing on Autumn and noticing the changes happening in the world around us. The children have enjoyed exploring different leaves, creating leaf rubbings, bark rubbings and leaf paintings. These activities have encouraged the children to look closely at the different colours, shapes, patterns and textures we can find in nature.

In Maths, we have been learning about more and less. We have been comparing different groups of objects and talking about which group has more and which has less. We are also continuing to practise our number formation, encouraging the children to form their numbers carefully and correctly.

We have started something new called Write Dance, and the children have really enjoyed getting involved! Write Dance uses music, movement and drawing to help children develop the physical skills they need for writing. The children make large movements with their arms, shoulders and hands before transferring these movements onto paper.

These fun activities help to strengthen the muscles in the shoulders, arms, wrists, hands and fingers, as well as developing coordination, rhythm and control. All of these skills are important building blocks for confident handwriting. Alongside Write Dance, we are continuing to work hard on our letter formation.

We have also been learning all about our senses. As part of our learning about taste, the children had the opportunity to try lime, lemon, biscuits and salted crisps. There were certainly some interesting facial expressions along the way! It was fascinating to see which flavours the children enjoyed the most and to hear them describe whether things were sweet, salty or sour.

We are very excited about our first visit to the church this week! During our visit, the children will listen to a story and then take part in a craft activity linked to the story. This will be a lovely opportunity for the children to experience the church environment and build on their learning together. We are really looking forward to it!

Mrs Crick, Mrs Griffin and Miss Hine






Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

EYFS: F1 and F2 Update



















Newsletter - Term 1

09.10.26

EYFS: F1 and F2 Update



















Newsletter - Term 1

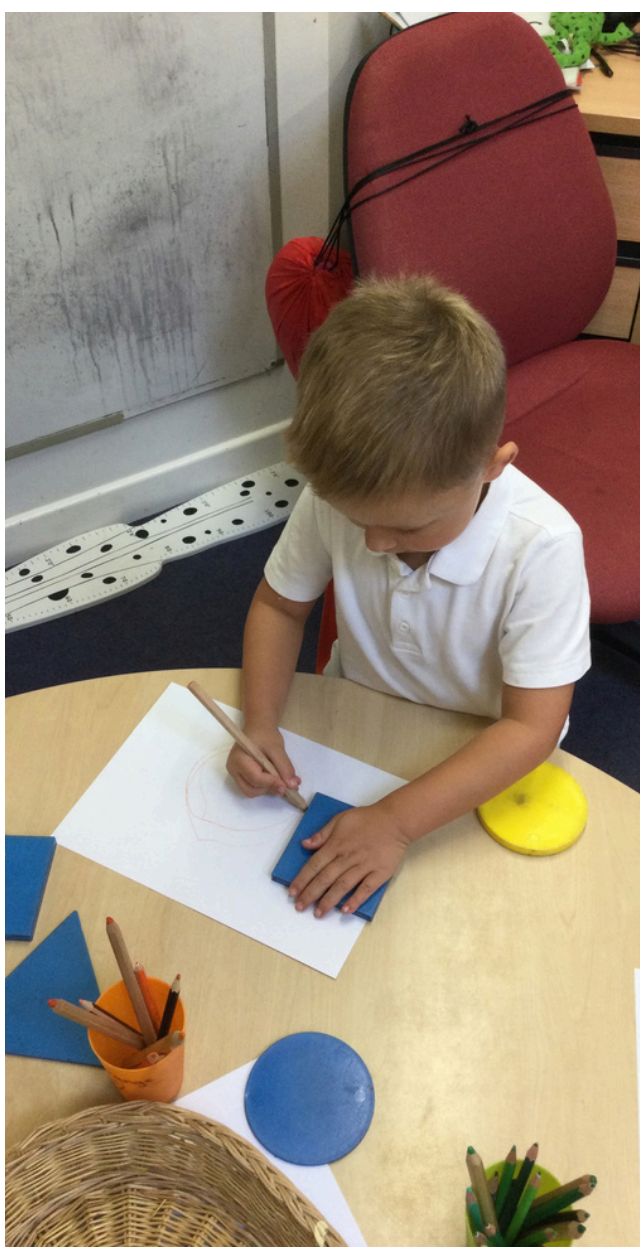
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EYFS: F1 and F2 Update

















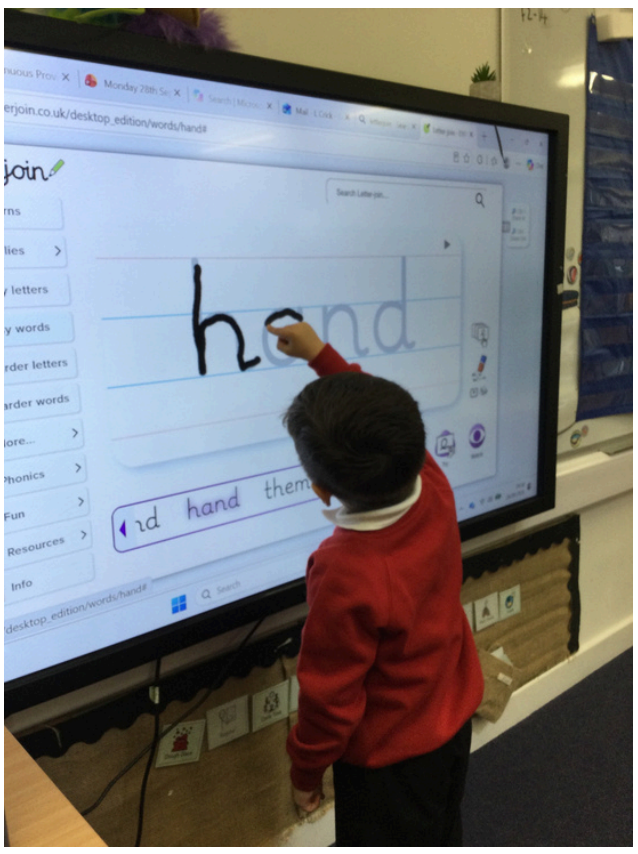


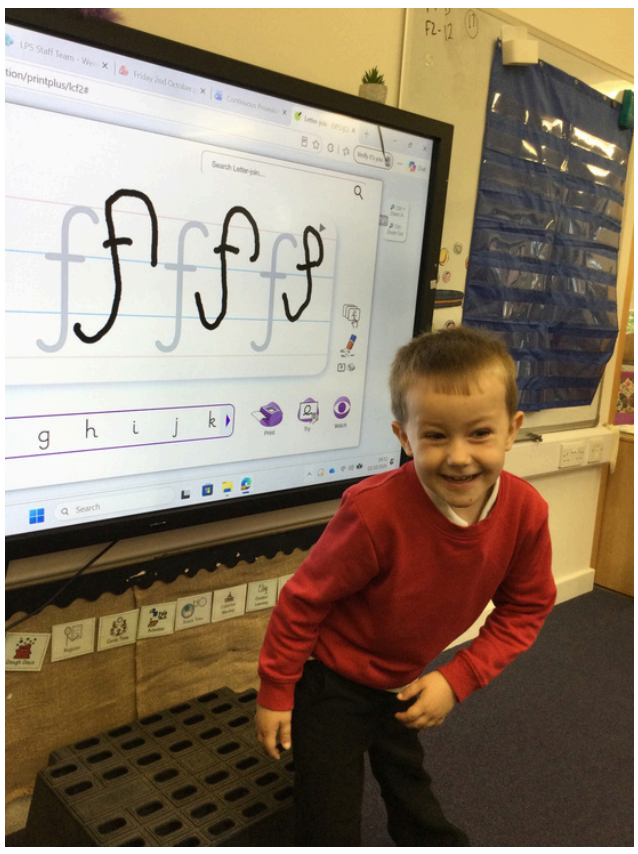
Newsletter - Term 1

09.10.26

EYFS: F1 and F2 Update



















Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

Year 1 & 2 Update

Hello from Year 1 & 2!

We have been working incredibly hard since our last update, and I am really impressed with the progress that the children have made in not a lot of time!

In maths, both year groups have been learning about the properties of different shapes. Year 1 have been using their observation skills to notice similarities and differences between 2D shapes, while Year 2 have also been applying their knowledge to counting the number of vertices, edges and faces on 3D shapes.

In English, we have just finished our unit based on 'The Queen's Hat', which resulted in some very creative independent work last week. The children enjoyed learning about different London landmarks, while also developing their understanding of sentence structure, including how to effectively use verbs and adjectives within their writing. This week we have just started our newest unit of work based on 'How to Catch a Star' by Oliver Jeffers. This is a really fun unit where the children really get to use their imaginations and consider different inventive ways that they might catch a star themselves!

I have now got Doodle logins and passwords for every child. If you require any additional copies, please let me know. Homework will be set weekly on Doodle. However, Doodle is not just for homework! There are plenty of activities that your children can complete on Doodle which will help to support their learning in school.

Miss Townsend, Miss Ball and Mrs Kumar



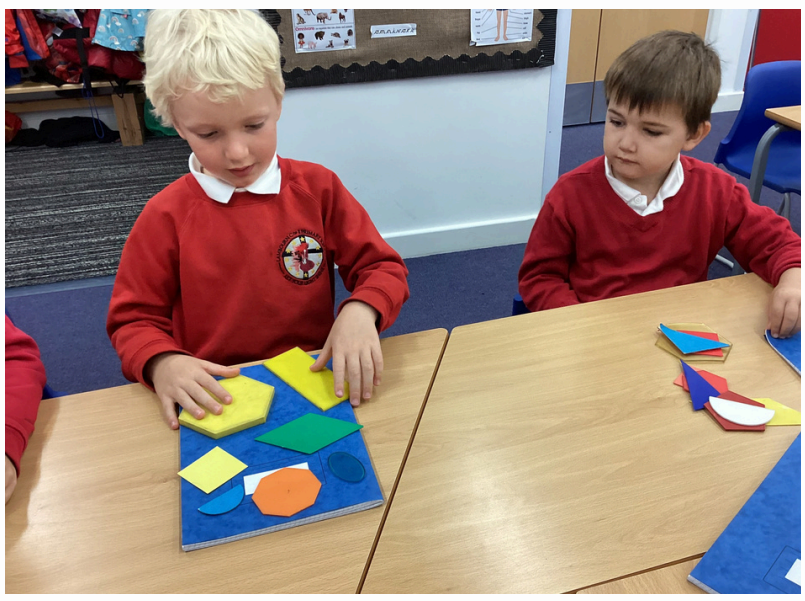



Newsletter - Term 1

09.10.26

Year 1 & 2 Update















Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

Year 3 & Year 4 Update

Hello from Year 3 & Year 4!

Dear Parents and Carers,
It has been another great couple of weeks in Year 3/4, and we have noticed lots of effort and progress from the children

In English, we have finished our second book, *Theseus and the Minotaur*, and the children produced their own mythical narratives based on the story. I was very impressed with the work they produced and, in particular, how hard they tried to apply the writing features we have been studying. These included expanded noun phrases, conjunctions and commas in a list. It has been lovely to see the children becoming more confident in applying these features independently within their writing. Our next writing focus is based on Pandora's Box where the children will be writing a newspaper article

In Maths, the children are continuing to develop their understanding of place value. Year 3 have been working on counting forwards and backwards in 10s and 100s from different numbers. I have already seen an incredible improvement in their confidence with this, and it has been wonderful to see them tackling these challenges with increasing independence. Year 4 have recently been learning about rounding numbers to the nearest ten, hundred and thousand. Although this was a new concept, they have taken it in their stride and have quickly become much more confident with their understanding.

The photographs show the children during our most recent Art lesson. They were completing observational drawings, focusing on showing tone and texture and carefully considering proportion. The children were so engaged throughout the lesson, and it was lovely to see them persevere when they found parts of their drawings challenging. Their patience and determination really shone through!

A quick reminder that children should have a separate uniform for PE. They should be changing both their tops and bottoms after PE rather than wearing part of their PE kit for the rest of the school day.

Homework is currently being set on Doodle every Friday and is due the following Friday. This gives the children a full week to complete their work.

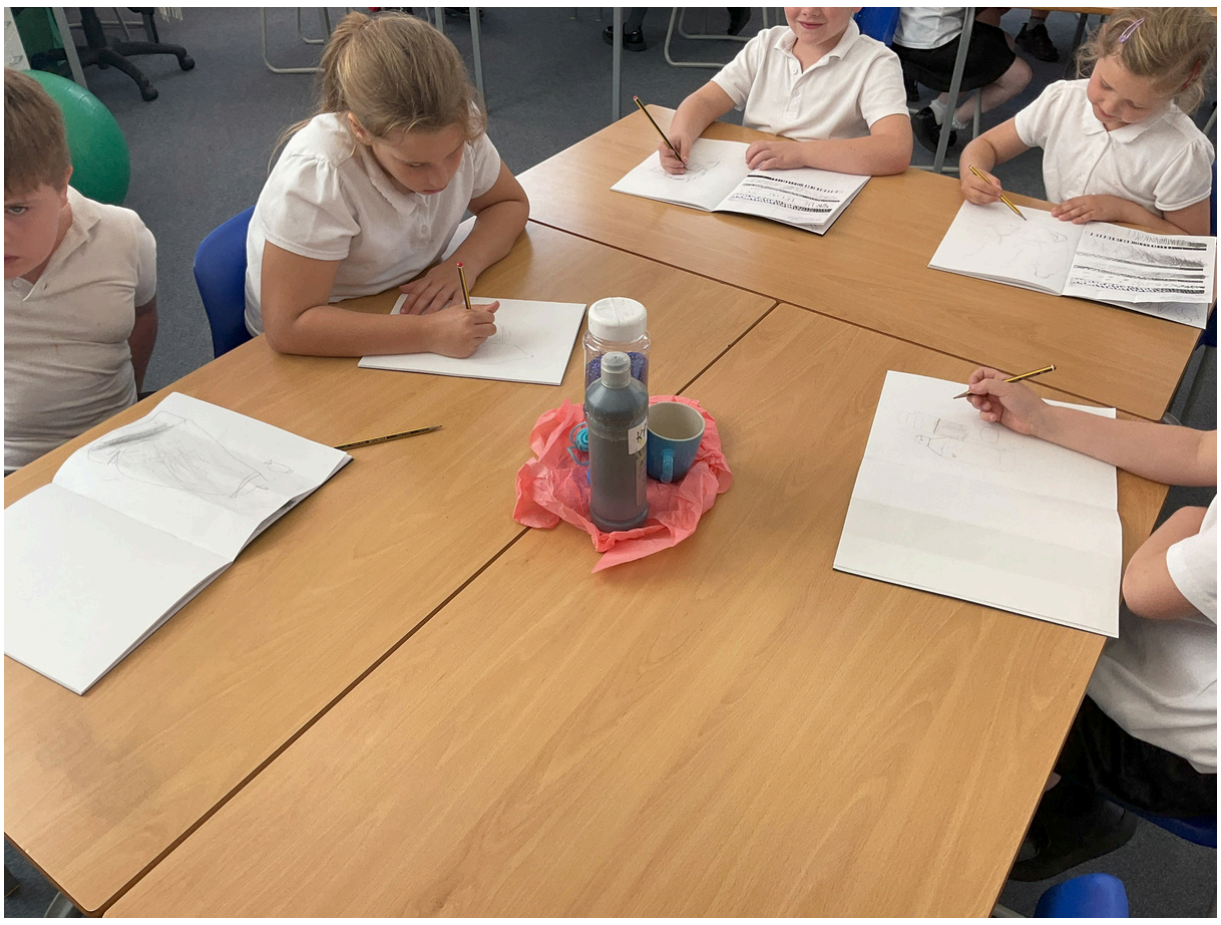
Thank you, as always, for your continued support.
Kind regards,
Miss Ross and Mrs Lord






Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

Year 3 & Year 4 Update













Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

Year 5 Update

Hello from Year 5!

The children have continued to show incredible enthusiasm and dedication to their learning as we dive deeper into our autumn term curriculum. Here is a look at what we have been up to recently across our subjects:

Maths

Having successfully wrapped up our unit on Place Value, the children are now moving on to our Decimals unit using Can Do Maths. They are working hard to build confidence in understanding decimal places and how they relate to the whole numbers they consolidated earlier in the term.

English

In English, the pupils have been honing key stylistic devices and grammatical tools, including:

- Using complex sentences and modal verbs to add depth and nuance to their writing.
- Exploring pathetic fallacy to create vivid atmospheres and set moods.
- Mastering the rules of speech punctuation to write dynamic dialogue.

They will soon be bringing all these skills together in an exciting independent writing piece!

Science

Our unit on Earth and Space has captured everyone's imagination! The children have been learning key scientific terms such as orbit, rotation, and satellite. They have been exploring how the Earth's rotation causes day and night, as well as how the Moon orbits the Earth.






Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

Year 5 Update...continued

History: We are continuing our fascinating journey through the **Viking age**. Most recently, the children discovered the details of the very first Viking raids and discussed the dramatic impact these events had on Anglo-Saxon Britain.

Geography: We have begun our new unit on **Kenya**! Over the coming weeks, we will be delving into both the physical and human geographical features of this diverse country.

RE & PSHE

RE: In Religious Education, the children have been learning about **Sikhism**. We have explored the **5 Ks** and discussed how these symbols represent commitment and faith within the Sikh religion.

PSHE: Using our *Jigsaw* curriculum, pupils have had thoughtful discussions around their personal **rights and responsibilities** as individuals, as a class, and as members of the wider community.

Art & Computing

Art: Through our **Drawing** unit, pupils have been experimenting with line, depth, and composition by creating detailed designs on polystyrene tiles. Next, they will be using these tiles to paint and print their final artwork!

Computing: We have been focusing on **Online Safety** through a series of engaging "unplugged" (offline) lessons, helping pupils understand how to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly.






Year 5 Update...continued

Music, PE & French

- **Music**: The classroom has been full of energy as the children listen to and practice performing the classic rock song, Living on a Prayer!

- **P.E.**: Pupils are developing their teamwork and tactical skills through Cricket and collaborative team-building exercises.

- **French**: In French, we are focusing on phonetics, helping the children build a solid foundation for pronunciation and speaking skills.

Home Learning Reminders

- **Doodle**: Please ensure your child completes the weekly assignments set on Doodle.
- **Daily Reading**: We encourage all pupils to read daily at home using apps like Boomreader or Fonetti.

Thank you as always for your continued support!
Warm regards,

Mr McKee and Mrs Smith






Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

Year 5 Update



















Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

Year 6 Update

Hello from Year 6!

What a fantastic start to Year 6 we have had!

In History, we have begun our learning about World War II, with a particular focus on the Battle of Britain and the invasion of British skies. In English, we have brought this history to life by writing recounts from the perspective of children being evacuated from cities during the war. The children have worked hard to develop their vocabulary, description and use of historical detail to create engaging and realistic recounts.

In Maths, we have completed three units covering place value, decimals, and multiplication and division. The children have been developing their mathematical reasoning and applying their understanding to increasingly challenging problems.

Our Science learning has focused on the circulatory system, building on our knowledge of the heart, blood and blood vessels. We investigated how our heart rate changes during exercise and rest, and explored why our bodies need to increase and decrease our heart rate to help us maintain a healthy lifestyle.

In Geography, we have started our exciting new topic on natural disasters, beginning with earthquakes. We have explored tectonic plates and learnt how the movement of these plates can cause earthquakes.

We have also been enjoying developing our teamwork and cricket skills in PE, with the children showing great enthusiasm and encouragement for one another.

Finally, in Art, we have been exploring the world of graffiti and street art, including the work of the famous artist Banksy. The children have been considering how artists use images, symbols and messages to communicate ideas.

It has been a busy and exciting first term, and we are incredibly proud of the progress, enthusiasm and positive attitude the children have shown.

Miss O'Farrell






Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

Year 6 Update.....continued



Monday 21st September 2026
LI: To use semi-colons in a sentence.

Warmup: The answer is a (Olive knew exactly what to do: find Suki) because find Suki is a subordinate clause, and the other part of the sentence is a main clause.

Olive and Cliff ran as fast as they could - they knew they had to reach the underground station quickly.

The air-raid siren screamed through the streets; explosions echoed throughout the city.

The blackout made everything difficult to see; she pushed heself to keep moving.

The bombs began to fall; everyone rushed to find shelter.

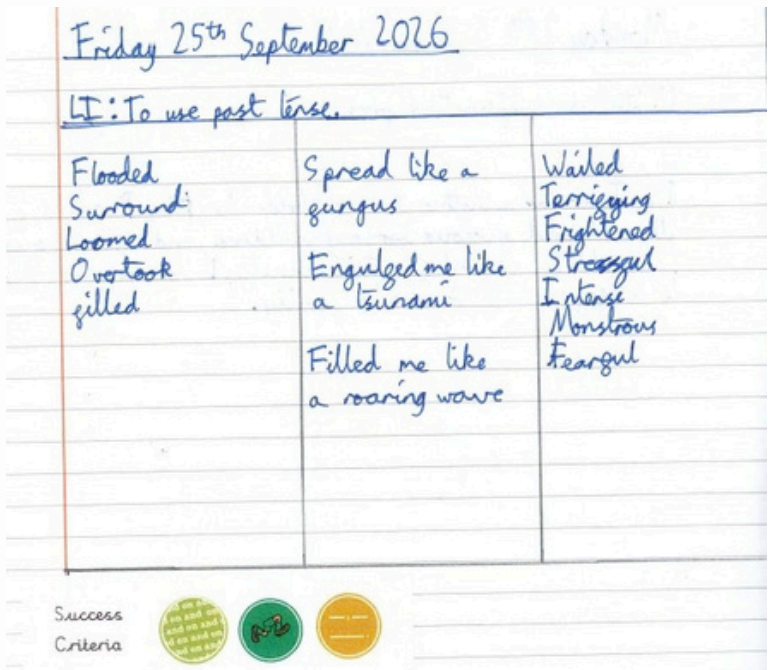
They reached the underground station; the shelter was already crowded with people.

Olive looked around for her mother; she couldn't see her anywhere in the panic.

Olive was scared; the bombs were getting closer.

People were shouting instructions; the noise made it hard to think.

The searchlights lit up the sky; the enemy planes were easier to spot overhead.



Friday 25th September 2026

LI: To use past tense.

Flooded Surround Loomed Overtook filled	Spread like a gungus Engulfed me like a tsunami Filled me like a roaring wave	Wailed Terrifying Frightened Strangul Intense Monstrous Feargul

Success Criteria

We would take cover in the tube stations every time we heard an air raid siren going off. We had done it hundreds of times by now, but the ear-splitting sound still filled me with dread, the spreading across my body like a gungus. One night, while we were running to the station, I lost Mother's hand, and me and my siblings couldn't find the station until the bombs started to drop. I had never felt so terrified in my life. Another night, when the war first started, we were hiding in the station for days: the sirens wailed and wailed as if they would never stop.

Thursday 1st October 2026
LI: To understand the invasion of British skies

power	What were the names of the British and German airforces? The name of the British airforce is the Royal Air Force and the name of the Germany army is Luftwaffe	What was Operation Sea Lion? Operation Sealion was the code name to destroy the UK Navy and attack by boat
	Who was the leader of the Nazi party in Germany? The leader of the Nazi Party in Germany was called Adolf Hitler	Why did Germany invade countries in Europe? Germany invaded countries in Europe for an Empire and the Third Reich

In 1940 Germany attempted to take control of the skies about above Britain. The German airforce was called Luftwaffe led by Adolf Hitler, Hermann Goering. The British air Force, the RAF was led by Hugh Dowding. The German leader, Adolf Hitler wanted to defeat Britain so he could invade the country. German pilots flew bombers to attack British aircrafts and airfields. The RAF fought back using Hurricanes and Spitfires fighter planes. They used radars to detect approaching enemy aircrafts and areas for attacks.









Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

Community News



Lambourn Festival Committee and Lambourn Sports Club

Community Firework Party

FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER

at Lambourn Sports Club, Bockhampton Rd

Bars open through the evening
BBQ – Face Painting – Fairground Rides

GATES OPEN 6.30pm – FIREWORK Display starts 7.30pm

* BUY IN ADVANCE AND SAVE *
£5.00 per adult and £3.00 per child (up to age 16)
Tickets on sale from 17th Oct at LUS and the Sports Club

or On The Gate: £6.00 and £4.00

Please note that due to strict insurance requirements, all children MUST be accompanied by an adult and NO individual fireworks or sparklers may be brought into the field. Parking at the Club is limited, please walk if possible! Cash is King for the evening, but we can take card payment at the main gate.






Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

Community News

















Newsletter - Term 1
09.10.26

Community News















