

# LCPS Weekly Newsletter

*Ready. Respectful. Resilient.*

Spring : Issue #3  
23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had another great week of learning. Illnesses common at this time of year are affecting a lot of children and staff. I thank all the staff for their flexibility this week as there have been a number of teachers and teaching assistants teaching different year groups to usual.

Here are the highlights of this week's learning:

**Nursery:** This week, our Nursery children have been busy exploring the number 4. We enjoyed reading *Pete the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons* to reinforce our counting skills in a fun, musical way. This mathematical focus extended into our art sessions, where the children used squares and rectangles to create stunning pieces inspired by Piet Mondrian. It's been a week of brilliant shapes and "groovy" learning!

**Reception:** We have had a busy and productive week in Reception as we are starting to use all our learnt phonemes to write about our focus story, *The Gruffalo's Child*. We have also used the tricky word 'she' in our writing and have been investigating comparisons of mass and the term 'balance' in maths.

**Year 1:** have been learning Pier Modrian style art today, compiling pieces made of straight lines, square and rectangles. The children also unpicked the plot of *Pete the Cat*—classic children's story. Well done Year 1—great effort!

**Year 2:** have had a great week learning about the life cycles of different animals. In Maths, they completed their unit on money and demonstrated a strong understanding of recognising and using coins. In English, the children finished their invented letters inspired by *The Day the Crayons Quit*, showing wonderful creativity and voice in their writing.

**Year 3:** have had another week of exceptional effort; demonstrating a huge amount of resilience and flexibility with different teachers this week. Their English shared writing unit is progressing well with myriad examples of the children confidently applying technical language and key grammatical features. The children performed admirably in the second dance lesson of the term with Mr Attwell, working co-operatively and efficiently to produce impressive group pieces. Well done Year 3, for another productive week of learning!

**Year 4:** This week in Year 4, pupils explored what vertebrates and invertebrates are, as well as the difference between warm-blooded and cold-blooded animals. Pupils walked around the classroom identifying different animals and classifying them into these categories. In Art, pupils continued to develop their knowledge of Pointillism. This week, they explored different techniques, including using dots placed close together and dots spread further apart to create tone and texture in their artwork. In English, we worked together as a class to write an exciting action scene with dialogue. Pupils focused on using speech punctuation correctly, including a range of expanded noun phrases, and creating an engaging piece of writing that draws the reader in.

**Year 5:** Have been exploring colour theory, looking at contrasting and complementary colours. In Geography, we explored New York and how it has evolved over the years (population, architecture). Year 5 demonstrated great understanding of creation stories this week when writing our class story. They used some fantastic vocabulary to enrich the story!

**Year 6:** This week, in maths, Year 6 started a new topic on decimals, focusing on place value for integers and decimals, rounding and adding and subtracting decimals. Pupils also learned how to multiply numbers by 10, 100 and 1,000, developing confidence and accuracy in their calculations.

## To do this week ...

- In line with our policy, **all absences must be reported to the school office**—please leave a voicemail stating the **reason for absence**, as well as the message stating they won't be in. We need this for our reporting records to the DFE.
- Snow is forecast next week—please ensure appropriate, warm clothing is worn everyday.

## Looking Ahead...

[Click here for the full calendar.](#)

- 2nd Feb Yr 5 visiting Hare Krishna Temple
- 6th Feb NSPCC Number Day (in school)
- 9th Feb Yr 5/6 VIAM workshop (in school)
- 12th Feb Author Rashmi Sirdeshpande visit Yrs 3-6
- 13th Feb half term
- 23rd Feb children back from half term holiday
- 24th Feb Yr 6 HoTP Victorian Day (in school)
- 25th and 26th Feb Yrs 2-6 Chinese New Year dance workshop
- 4th March Yr 2 Roald Dahl museum trip
- 5th March World Book Day workshops (all children—in school)
- 9th March Rec-Yr 1 Science week workshops (in school)
- 10th March Yrs 2-6 Science workshops (in school)

## Premier Education update:

Please [click here](#) for the weekly announcement from Premier Education.

Premier also run local holiday clubs—further info can be found by following [this link](#).

**Hot Chocolate with the Head:** Well done to **Sophia (Rec)**, **Rory (Yr 1)**, **Campbell (Yr 2)**, **Advitha (Yr 3)**, **Antra (Yr 4)**, **Hetsi (Yr 5)** and **Anya (Yr 6)** who were recognised in Celebration Assembly this week for going above and beyond in displaying our school values this week.



### Weekly Winners

Year 1	83%
Year 6	82%
Year 2	82%
Year R	81%
Year 4	80%
Year 3	72%
Year 5	63%

**Travel tracker:** It's been an excellent week for active journeys this week. Well done to **Year 1** for topping the leader board this week with an impressive **83%** of active journeys. An active journey can be walk, scooter, cycle or park and stride. Active journeys set your child up for a productive and focused day.

**Attendance:** With lots of bugs at this time of year some of our classes, understandably, have not been as high as our usual standard. Well done to **Year 4** for achieving the best attendance this week. Strong attendance is a legal requirement as well as crucial to obtain strong academic and social progress. Thank you to all our families for their assistance in this important matter this week.

### Attendance Last Week:

**23<sup>rd</sup> Jan**

Year 4	96.9%
Year 6	96.0%
Year R	95.7%
Year 5	94.9%
Year 2	93.0%
Year 3	92.0%
Year 1	83.9%

**Whole School: 92.9%**

### Dojo Points

(house points are awarded at the end of each half term: 1st = 5, 2nd = 3, 3rd = 2, 4th = 1)

1350	1192	1097	1237
1st= Burton 6 pts	1st= Loudham 6 pts	1st= Bendrose 6 pts	4th Coleman 0 pts



**Author visit:** On Wednesday this week, we welcomed Author, Chris Smith, into school to present to the children in Years 3-6. They had a very interactive experience designed to inspire a love of reading. We invite many authors into school through our partners, Chorleywood Bookshop, aimed at engaging and inspiring our children. At the end of the presentation, many of the children received signed copies of his new book.

**Parents Evening:** Parents evening this term will be taking place on the 25th and 26th March. This will be in-person in the school hall, between 3.30pm-6.30pm. If your child is on the SEND register and you need to have a provision map meeting, this will be arranged with the class teacher at different times outside of the parents evening slots. Please continue to check communication for us over the next few weeks with booking information about when the slots will go live.

**Behaviour article:** Recently, I was asked to write an article on behaviour for the "Schools of Amersham" website. I was delighted to agree as this is an area I have a wealth of expertise in but also something I feel passionate about. If you would like to read the short article, you can do so by [clicking here](#). Feel free to speak to me whenever you would like if you have any questions regarding children's behaviour. My blueprint for behaviour management is based on the book by Paul Dix (which I feature in) titled: [When the Adults Change, Everything Changes](#).

**Smartphone-Free childhood:** As headteacher, I had the pleasure of sharing our school's journey to becoming smartphone free with 45 local headteachers this week. The event was convened by Sarah Green MP and organised by a group of parents, including Andy Cockburn and Julia Ison-Stierer from LCPS.

It was wonderful to showcase what we've achieved and to encourage other schools to consider taking a similar approach. The discussion between heads was extremely positive, and it felt as though there is real momentum building around this issue across our local area.

## Do you have concerns about a child?

### LCPS SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Mr Hacking  
DSL & Headteacher



Mrs Abadee  
Deputy DSL & SENCo



Mrs West  
Deputy DSL & AHT

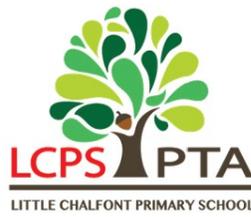
If the team are unavailable, contact First Response on 01296 383962  
If your concern involves a DSL, contact Chair of Governors, Simon Barrett or the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) on 01296 382070  
In danger is imminent, contact the police on 101 (999 for an emergency)



**No mobile phones**  
**No photography**

Please keep phones out of sight whilst on school property





**Edible Garden update (sponsored by our partners above):** We're in the season of cold and wet which can make it a bit unappealing from a warm armchair to venture out, but being hardy souls here in the Edible Garden we think there's nothing like a bit of fresh air and exercise to help beat those January blues. Even when it seems like there's not a lot happening outside, if you look more closely there's little bits of life everywhere and magical microbiomes are still happening under the ground keeping processes ticking over.

Year 6's garlic, Reception's tulips and Year 1's grape hyacinths have clearly established good roots, as they have sent out the beginnings of green shoots skywards over the holidays, and there are little tempting tufts of green spikes too where we planted new snowdrop bulbs in the quiet garden with Cytiva volunteers. Just a quiet reminder that the new year begins again and the cycle of life continues.



As overseers of the quiet garden outside their classroom window, Year 4 came out on Tuesday to winter prune the apple trees there and help our little orchard along. Winter pruning helps to restore and develop the trees' shape, encourages the formation of fruiting spurs (rather than lots of leafy growth) and removes any potential sources of infection by taking out diseased, dying or damaged wood where branches have maybe started to cross and rub each other (or been broken by boisterous play!) The children were very good in listening to instructions on how to safely use secateurs, and where to apply cuts to the trees most usefully. After last year's bumper cropping it's quite likely the trees will take a little rest this year and not produce quite so much fruit, so it may be another year before their results will show, but it was very satisfying to pile up a barrow of clippings and see more open tree structures result.



Mr Alexander and Mrs Tate have been busy this week moving the polytunnel on so that it will be ready for Spring sowings and 2026 growings. Having got the sand base levelled before Christmas, we laid the cover of landscape fabric inside this week, spreading it out flat so no trips and slips, and pinning it down round the timber edges, to keep any dormant weed seeds suppressed when we start irrigating - ensuring our new sheltered beds don't get overrun by things we can't eat! In the heavier traffic areas at the two entrances/exits we laid reclaimed slabs from Mrs Atkin's old patio to protect the sand base floor, and along one side also laid another run of slabs on which to stand our new workbenches when they're made. Mr Alexander also made some end props for the door support rails to stop them sagging and causing the doors to fall out of alignment and not close properly - brilliantly useful for keeping the local cats and foxes out!

We have also cleaned and sorted out some appropriate wood from our stash of reclaimed and skip-dived timber, suitable for making raised beds inside the polytunnel and workbenching/plant staging for early indoor sowings and carried it into the tunnel to dry out - thank you to our Year 6 Garden Guardians for their lunchtime help with this and the slabs! By creating new growing areas inside the polytunnel we hope to protect both our tender Spring seedlings and our outdoor classes of children from some of the soggiest of the winter weather on gardening days! It feels very cosy in there when the wind is whistling and the rain is hammering down, so we are looking forward to sharing this with the wider school very soon when it's all up and running.



We're looking for some woodchip to lay on the internal paths in the polytunnel - to protect the landscape fabric from wear and tear, but also to help regulate the moisture levels in there going forward - if you have any handy landscaping or tree surgery contacts who might be able to help us out with donating a load, that would be super helpful - please get in touch if you do!

Thank you for your support—have a safe and restful weekend,  
Grateful and undaunted,

Mr Hacking

