

LCPS Weekly Newsletter

Ready. Respectful. Resilient.

Autumn : Issue #12
28th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another excellent week of learning in school this week—well done to all the children for another brilliant week of effort and achievement!

Here are the highlights of this week's learning:

Nursery: This week in Nursery the children have begun preparing for our very first Nursery trip: our special Christmas walk to the post box to deliver our letters to Santa! The children have been learning about the whole process of posting and delivery—how our letters get from the post box all the way to Santa, written and decorated their very own letter to Santa and enjoyed the classic story 'The Jolly Christmas Postman'.

Reception: have continued taking part in Nativity preparations this week by sequencing the story and developing an understanding of the events that took place. In Maths we have been focusing on adding one more and one less to a given number or quantity, and working on composition of 5.

Year 1: have had a fabulous week of learning. From our nativity rehearsals to writing character descriptions, the children have been so engaged in their learning this week. As we draw a close to our model text *The Gruffalo*, the children have been writing a character description, showing off their knowledge of capital letters, finger space, full stops and adjectives. The children have been working independently using their own text map plan to write full sentences using their own descriptive language. Year 1 have also been learning about the Christmas Story and exploring colour mixing in the style of Wassily Kandinsky. Another great week, Year 1 Well done.

Year 2: have begun their new Maths unit on shape and have shown great enthusiasm as they explore 2D and 3D shapes in more depth. In History, the children have started learning about Florence Nightingale and they are already showing real curiosity about her life and impact. In Art, the class created an informative fact file about the artist Henri Matisse, learning about his colourful style and famous cut-outs.

Year 3: This week, Year 3 worked together to write a class fictional newspaper report featuring imaginative witnesses such as Mrs Claus and Jingle the Elf. In French, the children practised the days of the week, growing more confident with their pronunciation. In guided reading, the class have been enjoying their new poetry unit, exploring rhythm, rhyme and imagery. Meanwhile, in history, they learned about the fascinating gods and goddesses of Ancient Egypt, discovering the roles each deity played in Egyptian life and beliefs.

Year 4: Had a fantastic trip this week to a Buddhist Monastery. Well done to all the children for being curious (with their questioning), respectful to the staff (and monks) and absolute role models to LCPS!

Year 5: Have been generating ideas for the innovative non-chronological report about an Ice Dragon. Year 5 were amazing at creating some interesting expanded noun phrases, which will be used in our report next week. Year 5 have also continued their work on Fractions this week, demonstrating high levels of resilience when ordering and comparing fractions! I am really impressed with Year 5 this week, well done for your hard work.

Year 6: This week, Year 6 immersed themselves in a deliciously educational chocolate workshop. Pupils travelled back in time to explore the origins of chocolate, discovering its roots in Central America and the Mayan civilisation. They investigated how cocoa trees grow and why rainforests provide the perfect environment, while also discussing the challenges these fragile ecosystems face today. Through hands-on activities, the children learned about the cocoa-harvesting process, took part in sensory chocolate tasting, and explored important health, wellbeing and Fairtrade themes. The workshop concluded with an exciting practical chocolate-making session, which was a firm favourite with all!

Looking Ahead...

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

- 28th November—Yr 3 Parent Open Morning
- 1st Dec—Assessment Week (Yrs 1-6)
- 3rd Dec—Yr 2 Parent Open Morning
- 3rd Dec—Xmas lunch
- 5th Dec—Yr 1 Parent Open Morning
- 9th Dec—Yr 3 Ancient Egypt Day
- 11th Dec—Christmas Jumper Day
- 12th Dec—Nursery Parent Open Morning
- 12th Dec—Yr 5 Oxford Science Museum trip
- 17th Dec—EYFS/KS1 Nativity performance 9.15am
- 17th Dec—Christmas Carol Concert in the playground 3pm
- 19th Dec—Break up for Xmas holidays 2pm finish (**Back on 7th Jan 2026**)

Certified Play & Creative Arts Therapist

Gill Ward

BSc (Hons), PGDip, FTUK
www.gillwardplaytherapy.co.uk



Who am I?

Hi, I'm Gill. I offer Play and Creative Arts Therapy Sessions in schools across Hertfordshire and at my private practice in Croxley Green.

What is Play Therapy?

Play Therapy uses play and creative activities to enable children to explore and express their feelings and emotions, including:

- anxiety
- low self-esteem
- lack of confidence
- trauma
- loss, separation & bereavement

Children aged 4-11yrs are able to communicate their needs and feel heard and empowered while building qualities such as self-esteem, self-confidence and resilience.

Where do the sessions take place?

Sessions take place in a private and confidential space, working in partnership with the child's parents/carers. Sessions can be arranged either in school during normal school hours, or after school at my private therapy room in Croxley Green.

Testimonials:

"Our initial chat with Gill put our minds at rest and we decided it was in our daughter's best interest for her to attend play therapy sessions... The change in our daughter from start to finish was astounding... We wouldn't hesitate in recommending Gill or Play Therapy to anyone who has a child struggling."

"I cannot recommend the sessions with Gill highly enough. It has been wonderful to witness a change in [child] and I feel confident in the strategies [they] explored with Gill will continue to help [them] on a long term basis".

How can I find out more?

Please visit my website www.gillwardplaytherapy.co.uk if you would like to arrange a **free 15 minute chat** please email gillwardplaytherapy@gmail.com stating which school your child attends and your main concerns.

To do this week ...

- Reception, Yr 1 and Yr 2 open mornings
- PTA Parent Dinner Dance (Sat)
- Continue to read with your child daily—KS2 children use [Sparx Reader](#)

Hot Chocolate with the Head: Well done to **Matilda (Rec)**, **Ray (Yr 1)**, **Chase (Yr 2)**, **Ella (Yr 3)**, **Jenny (Yr 4)**, **Jessamie (Yr 5)** and **Daksh (Yr 6)** who were recognised in Celebration Assembly this week for going above and beyond in displaying our school values this week. Thank you to Mr Crabb for supplying the Zombie bar snacks to help celebrate—further information [can be found here](#).



Wormeries are go!! As you may be aware, I applied for a grant recently from The Royal Society. We were successful for a £3k amount which over the coming weeks we will be purchasing wormeries for each class, to recycle some of their food waste and turn it into compost for the edible garden. Mrs Tate and I, along with our STEM partner from Cytiva (Jakia), have been working closely with the children from the Eco Council. The children have created an assembly to launch the project that will take place next Wednesday. After this assembly takes place, we will be purchasing 8 large wormeries for the children to start using as part of the exciting project to bring more science learning to life—we're hoping this initiative will create more awe and wonder as part of the weekly science topics!

Message from Mr Ditta: Mr Ditta is fundraising for a local charity in memory of some of his family members that sadly passed away recently. If you would like to know about the fundraiser and donate, [please click here](#). If you do donate, please ensure you click the gift aid button to maximise your donation. Thank you for supporting one of our valued member of staff's quest to make a difference.

VIAM audition video: Today, I shared the audition video of our Year 5 and 6 children who are striving to be one of the schools on stage at voice in a million. Thank you to Duncan Wilson for filming and editing the piece. You can access the video by following [this link](#). Please use the password **dunklcps25** to download. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did!

Thankyou: A huge thankyou to the Saleem family who donated a brand new Christmas Tree for us to proudly display in the main entrance of school!

Dojo Points

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

1985	1901	1922	2024
2nd= Burton 0 pts	2nd= Loudham 0 pts	1st= Bendrose 3 pts	2nd = Coleman 0 pts

Attendance Last Week:

28th Nov

Year 4	98.8%
Year 1	97.6%
Year 5	97.2%
Year 6	96.9%
Year 2	96.4%
Year 3	92.2%
Year R	90.8%

Whole School: 95.3%

Attendance: This week has been another solid week for attendance. **Year 4** topped the leader board with an impressive **98.8%**. Good attendance is essential for strong social and academic progress.

Travel tracker: It has been another excellent week for active journeys to school this week. An active journey could be **walking, scooting, cycling** or **park and stride** and it a brilliant way to set your child up for a fantastic day of learning. Well done to **Year 1** who topped the leader board this week (again) and were recognised in Celebration Assembly today.



Weekly Winners

Year 1	85%
Year 6	81%
Year R	81%
Year 3	81%
Year 4	79%
Year 2	73%
Year 5	66%



Writer of the Month: During Celebration Assembly today, the following children were identified for their exceptional efforts in writing over the last unit of work. Well done to **Faith** (Yr 1), **Ellie** (Yr 2), **Raaghav** (Yr 2), **Leina** (Yr 4), **Pia** (Yr 5) and **Ayush** (Yr 6).

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 (proudly sponsored by Cytiva): National Tree Week this week, a celebration and call to action for all things arboreal!
<https://treecouncil.org.uk/seasonal-campaigns/national-tree-week/>

Why celebrate a tree? Well, these simple, taken-for-granted, background pieces of nature do so much for our very existence - they:

- pump out oxygen for us to breathe
- suck up carbon dioxide to reduce climate warming
- store carbon in solid form locked away, potentially for centuries and millennia (coal being ancient woodland!) into the soil and ground as it lives and dies
- provide shade with their canopy
- provide cooling by transpiring water into the atmosphere through their leaves
- take pollution dirt out of the air
- intercept rainfall hitting the ground thus reducing flash flooding off hard surfaces
- reduce noise pollution by filtering sound rather than reflecting or bouncing it around
- give us structure, landmarks and cherished monuments in our landscapes (think of the love for Sycamore Gap)
- hold soil together so it doesn't wash away
- support a whole soil microbiome transporting water and nutrients around to keep soil healthy
- renourish and build soil every year with leaf fall organic matter
- provide habitat, shelter, hibernacula and food (pollen, fruit, berries, seeds, leaves) for thousands of creatures from microscopic fungi and decomposers to pollinators, mammals and birds - and humans included (think of all that lovely apple juice!)



Even when they are cut they can provide sustainable building materials with a fraction of the environmental impact of carbon intensive cement or brick production whilst remaining biodegradable and renewable...just imagine if you could buy a Black Friday gadget that could do all those things for you, they'd fly off the shelves.

But it doesn't even have to be a tree of great size in acres of land to get all these benefits, as the children are learning. Even a small patch can be super beneficial environmentally. Year 4 came out on Tuesday to learn about and plant a hedgerow (or hedge for short) - essentially a living boundary, with our mix of native species saplings supplied for free by The Woodland Trust. In the space of an afternoon they planted 61 baby tree saplings of hawthorn, dog rose, rowan, silver birch and crab apple, to create a new 10m line of native hedge. Great work Year 4!

It's not too late to plant a tree or "hedge that edge" yourself if you've been inspired by LCPS's 8 and 9 year old children - "bare root" tree planting season starts in November when deciduous trees have shed their leaves in their annual cycle and enter dormancy for the winter, and lasts until around February/March when the warmer weather triggers their sap to rise, new leaves to sprout and the tree bursts into life again. While the trees are dormant they can be safely lifted with no ill-effect and even popped into the post easily to send elsewhere if they are small enough! So plenty of time to source a tree this GREEN Friday, and get it in the ground. It's lovely to watch them grow as your children do.

Thank you for your support and have a safe and restful weekend.

Grateful and undaunted,
 Mr Hacking

