

LCPS Weekly Newsletter

Ready. Respectful. Resilient.

Autumn : Issue #13
5th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a festive week this week with myriad opportunities for enrichment. The children—as always—have been phenomenal!

Here are the highlights of this week's learning:

Nursery: This week, Nursery officially begun our festive topic: Christmas! The children had a wonderful time on their special trip to the postbox to deliver their letters to Santa. We've also been reading "Fletcher and the Snowflake Christmas" by Julia Rawlinson and Tiphonie Beeke, and have started working on all our exciting Christmas crafts.

Reception: In Reception Christmas preparations are in full swing, with gingerbread making Christmas phonics and arts and craft activities. The children have been excellent at learning their Nativity songs and signing; getting ready to take part with Year 1 and 2 for rehearsals in the main hall. They have really applied all school values of being respectful, resilient and ready this week every day. Well done Reception!

Year 1: This week, Year 1 have been busy and brilliant! In phonics, the children learned the 'ue' grapheme making the 'yoo' sound, spotting it in words and practicing reading words containing the sound with growing confidence. In computing, they explored digital painting, experimenting with colours, tools, and creative effects to produce some fantastic artwork. The children have also been consolidating their learning within math's as well as starting a new unit of recognising and sorting 3D shapes.

We also put the final touches on our dance to a well-known song from The Lion King. The children and the entire Year 1 team are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, teamwork, and commitment.

Well done, Year 1!

Year 2: have displayed impressive resilience throughout their end-of-autumn assessments this week. They have been dedicated in rehearsing for their nativity performances and thoroughly enjoyed spending time together at the school Christmas lunch.

Year 3: This week in Topic, we learned about who the Ancient Egyptians fought and why these battles were important. The children also wrote their own fictional newspaper report using inverted commas, and personal and possessive pronouns. Most excitingly, the class spent time creating outdoor art inspired by Andy Goldsworthy, using natural materials to imitate his unique style. It was a brilliant chance for everyone to be creative and work in nature.

Year 4: This week, pupils have been busy! In Science, they explored how states of matter change by observing evaporation and the condensation that occurs when steam hits a cold surface. It was lovely to see all the pupils wowed by the condensation appearing on the mirror and windows. In Art, pupils created their Greek pottery, using clay to form the base, body, and handles of their pots. They worked hard and took their time shaping their designs, ensuring everything stayed secure. The class is very excited for the next lesson when they will paint their pots!



Year 5: Have been continuing developing their understanding of fractions, specifically adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators. I am so proud of Year 5 for their resilience and independence in maths, they have developed so much confidence with fractions! I also want to say a massive WELL DONE to Year 5 for their continued focus and resilience for assessment week. I hope they all have a restful weekend!

Year 6: This week, Year 6 explored how and why plants have adapted to survive in the rainforest, discovering the fascinating ways vegetation thrives in such a unique environment. Pupils were especially engaged by the incredible variety of plant features that help them compete for light, water and nutrients.

Looking Ahead...

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

- 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 ...

- Xmas jumper Day (Wed)
- PTA Xmas Fair—Friday 12th Dec 4-7pm
- Continue to read with your child daily—KS2 children use [Sparx Reader](#)



Hot Chocolate with the Head: Well done to **Edward** (Rec), **Abheer** (Yr 1), **Olivia** (Yr 2), **Hollie** (Yr 3), **Max** (Yr 4), **Druthi** (Yr 5) and **Nahla** (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!! This week, the Eco-Council presented an assembly launching our Wormery project to the children in years 1-6. The children were articulate and confident, generating a huge amount of excitement in the next stage of this exciting initiative. In addition to this, the Eco-Council have been busy helping to build the wormeries that arrived on Wednesday afternoon. We're hoping the project will commence fully during the first week back in January. We can't wait to launch this amazing initiative!



TTRS Competition (monthly): Well done to topping the leader board again this month. A big well done to Aryana-Zainab (Yr 4) for topping the leader board this month answering an eye-watering 50,000 questions!

Overall winner

Aryana-Zainab Fazel - Year 4 answered 50,000 questions!

Amazing work, well done!



Class of the competition- Year 4

2nd November - 29 November 2025		Completed		
Year 4	Year 5	Year 2	Year 6	Year 3
3763	1437	1414	297	276
Class Results		Player Results	Certificates	
Class Average Correct		Class Total Correct		
1	Year 4	3,763		
2	Year 5	1,437		
3	Year 2	1,414		
4	Year 6	297		
5	Year 3	276		

Dojo Points

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

2581	2445	2865	2664
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2nd= Burton 0 pts	2nd= Loudham 0 pts	1st= Bendrose 3 pts	2nd = Coleman 0 pts
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Attendance Last Week:

5th Dec

Year 4	99.4%
Year 2	97.0%
Year 1	96.3%
Year 6	94.4%
Year 3 and 5	94.1%
Year R	93.3%

Whole School: 95.5%

Attendance: This week has been another solid week for attendance. **Year 4** topped the leader board with an impressive **99.4%**. Good attendance is essential for strong social and academic progress.

New website: Further to my email earlier on today, the new website platform is now live! Please spend some time familiarising yourself with this to ensure you are up to date with everything LCPS-related. [Please click here for website.](#)

🌸 A Huge Thank You to Our Library Transformation Hero! 📖

We are delighted to thank Nicky Alexander for giving our school library a complete and inspiring makeover!

Thanks to her tireless dedication, the facility has been transformed into a vibrant hub for literacy. The highlight of this effort is the provision of the [Latest Top 50 books for every year group!](#) (please click link in red for further information).

This fantastic collection and beautiful new space will help us promote and engage our children, instilling a true love of reading. Thank you Nicky for this wonderful gift to our school community!

A special thank you to the children (and parents) that took part in the sponsored read initiative – this as well as PTA funding enabled this exciting new initiative! The books will be available to borrow from the 10th December 2025.

Staff Traitors Evening: A massive thankyou to Miss Higgs (Claudia) and Mr Attwell (Winkleman) for organising a staff social Traitors Evening last Friday night. We're hoping to roll out this exceptional evening to parents in the near future as part of a PTA fundraising initiative. A fantastic evening and the Traitors won!



Do you have concerns about a child?

LCPS SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Mr Hacking

DSL & Headteacher



Mrs Abadee

Deputy DSL & SENCo



Mrs West

Deputy DSL & AHT

No mobile phones
No photography

Please keep phones out of sight
whilst on school property



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)



Edible Garden update (proudly sponsored by Cytiva): WORMS! Excitingly this week, hot on the heels of the eco-council's explanatory assembly to the whole school on Wednesday, the first of the food waste digesting wormeries were delivered to the school office, complete with their crew of worms by post! The children of the eco-council were poised to unwrap them and get them all set up in our fabulously useful DT room, with a little help from Mr. Cox to get the legs screwed on and Mrs Tate and Mrs Atkin to assist with unboxing and worm handling.



The children (and passing staff!) were fascinated by how the coir bedding blocks in each pack expanded into a whole block of crumbly soil-like material with the addition of water and the children brought shredded paper from the office to mix with it to settle the worms into it their new home. As the worms are happiest in slightly moist warm conditions between 18-25 degrees and it we were due an overnight freeze we needed to find the most sheltered outdoor spot we could and wrap each wormery up to insulate it against freezing - in nature worms will bury deeper to avoid the cold but this isn't possible in the shallow wormery trays. Some worms can produce a natural antifreeze in their bodies and survive the harshest cold, but this takes a lot of energy and their activity slows right down as a consequence. So ideally we want them to stay warm-ish and well! Continuing our sustainable repurposing and reuse agenda, we made temporary covers from scavenged roof insulating wrap, but if you have any (unpopped!) bubble wrap please send it into school as the eco council will be adding more layers to help get the worms through the winter.

Food needs adding gradually, so we added a few bits from the kitchens but have also made a new small bin to collect only the stuff they like. Read more about wormeries and how they work here!



In other garden news, Year 1 came to the garden to plant small pots of muscari (otherwise known as grape hyacinth) bulbs for the Spring, and our fantastic Stony Dean work experience volunteer students have helped us get 250 miniature daffodils into the ground near the front car park - so lots for the pollinators in 2026. Stony Dean pupils also diligently cleaned and sanded down the inside of our new cabin, ready for freshening up with a coat of paint, so we are looking forward to being able to do that and their partnering input really helped!

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

Grateful and undaunted,
Mr Hacking

