



Newsletter - Friday 26th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

There's a real buzz around school at the moment, not least because Bramley Class have welcomed a very special new classmate – Mary the axolotl! The children are absolutely fascinated by her, and it's been wonderful to see their excitement as they learn all about their unusual aquatic friend.

Meanwhile, Pippin Class have been fully embracing the season, out and about hunting for apples, conkers and all things autumn.

It was also lovely to see so many of you at the Laddingford Show last weekend – thank you for coming along and supporting our community.

As the weather turns chillier and inevitably soggy, please do ensure that all children come to school with a waterproof coat so they can continue to enjoy the outdoors whatever the weather.

Mrs Clark



Worship



Each week, Bramley have been tasked with writing a prayer. We are aiming that by the end of the year, we will have created our own prayer book.

Dear God,

Thank you for our bringing the cats that have lived at school and Mary the axolotl to us. Help us wish all the Laddingford cats a great life in the future forever homes. Show us how to continue to be kind and loving to Mary and all other animals to make sure they have the best lives possible.

Amen

Our School Values in Action



Our school values are **love, peace and joy.**

At Laddingford, love means to be kind and inclusive, showing care and understanding to everyone.

At Laddingford, peace means to be respectful, calm, confident and responsible.

At Laddingford, joy means to be a team-player, have fun, to be resilient and achieve excellence in all we do.

Each week, we plan to celebrate children who are noticed putting our values into action. If you spot your child putting a 'value in action' at home, please take a photo and send this along with

a brief caption to office@Laddingford.kent.sch.uk with the subject line 'Values in Action' and your child may have a starring role on our newsletter.

Mikey - Joy

Barney - Joy

Alfie - Joy

Luke Highwood - Peace

Rafferty Cox - Peace

Attendance and Punctuality



Our attendance expectation is 96%

Attendance from week beginning 15/9/25

Pippin = 91%

Russet = 95%

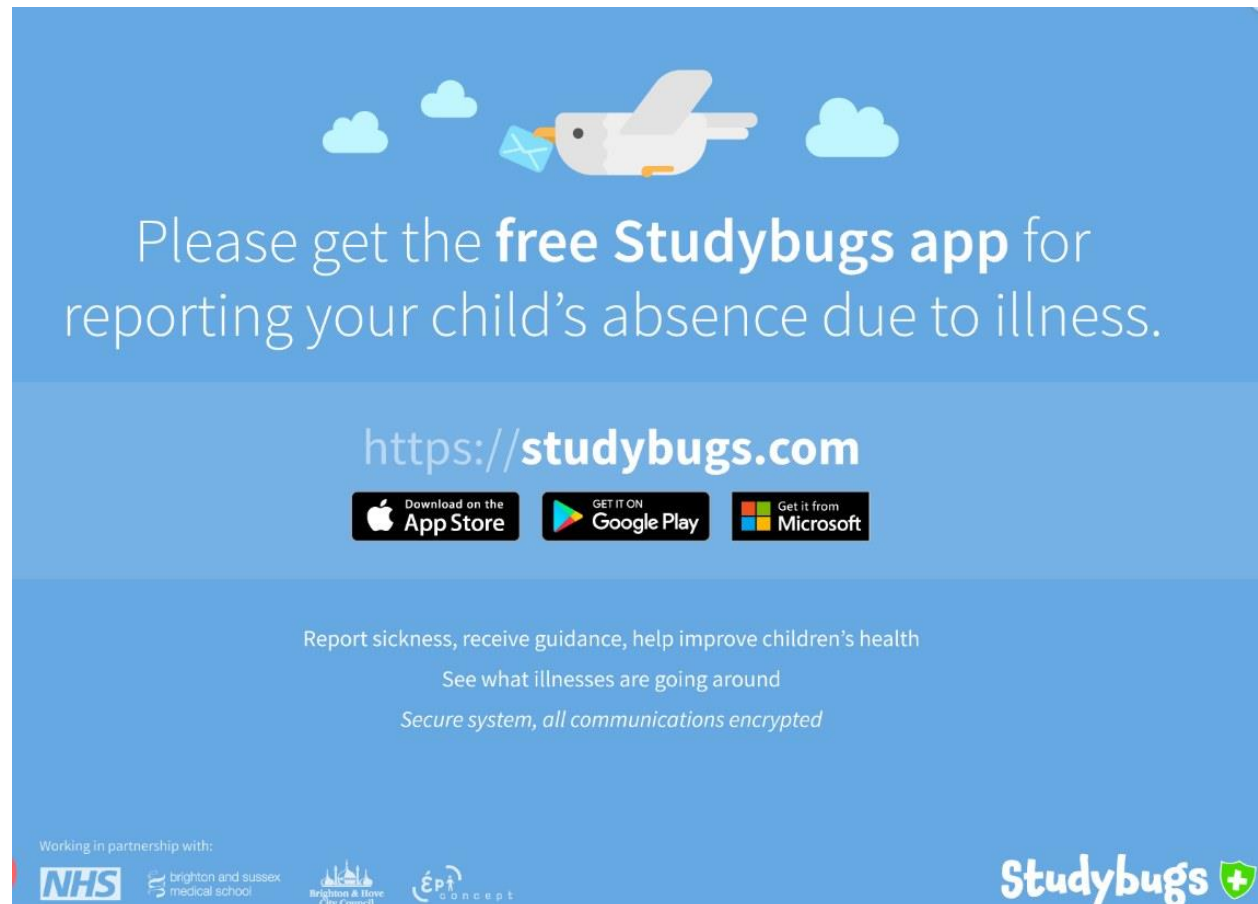
Jazz = 92%

Bramley = 93%

Whole School = 92%

Please remember, if you are concerned that your child may not be well enough for school, please check the following website: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Studybugs



The advertisement banner features a blue background. At the top, there is an illustration of a white bird with a blue envelope in its beak, flying between two light blue clouds. Below this, the text reads: "Please get the **free Studybugs app** for reporting your child's absence due to illness." Underneath the text is the website URL "https://studybugs.com". Below the URL are three icons for downloading the app: "Download on the App Store", "GET IT ON Google Play", and "Get it from Microsoft". Further down, the text says: "Report sickness, receive guidance, help improve children's health", "See what illnesses are going around", and "Secure system, all communications encrypted". At the bottom left, it says "Working in partnership with:" followed by logos for NHS, Brighton and Sussex medical school, Brighton & Hove City Council, and EPI concept. At the bottom right is the "Studybugs" logo with a green shield icon.

We're pleased to announce that Laddingford St Mary's is introducing a new, more efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness, called Studybugs.

If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child's ill and unable to attend school.

Get the app or register now (<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>)

Top 3 reasons to use Studybugs.

1. It helps us know sooner if your child is unaccounted for.

2. It's quick and easy to register and use and automatically reminds you to keep us posted.
3. You'll be helping the NHS and other public health organisations improve children's health. (<https://studybugs.com/about/schools>)

Over and Above



Don't forget, if your child participates in extra curricular activities and wishes to share their successes, please send these into school so they can be featured in our newsletter.

Spotlight on Pippin Class!



The children in Pippin Class have had a fantastic week full of learning and laughter! They've been diving into maths with great enthusiasm, exploring numbers, patterns and problem-solving with confidence. In writing, their creativity has truly shone, with wonderful stories and imaginative ideas flowing onto the page. Outdoors, the mud kitchen has been a favourite spot—full of messy play, teamwork, and lots of giggles as they cooked up their own muddy masterpieces!





Spotlight on Russet Class!



The last two weeks have been incredibly busy for Russet Class. In Maths, Year One have been thinking about more than and less than and Year Two have been counting in 2s, 5s and 10s as well as ordering and comparing numbers. We have been developing our fundamental skills in PE and investigating the properties of different materials in Science. Russet Class also thoroughly enjoyed their Karate workshop on Thursday!

Mabel, Skylar and Alfie all shared their work in assembly last week and were very proud of what they had achieved.









Spotlight on Jazz Class!



We have had another amazing couple of weeks in Jazz class. The whole class had got really stuck into swimming and we have already seen some great progress. The class has been getting really stuck into our book 'The Whale' and have just started their first big write of the year. In Art everyone has been excited to start work on their own cave painting of a British animal. We were also lucky enough to have a karate taster session this week, which the class thoroughly enjoyed.

Congratulations to Joe and Hudson for getting certificates in Celebration for showing great enthusiasm with their work.





Spotlight on Bramley Class!



This week in Bramley we have been creating backgrounds for our self portraits, the children experimented with different materials to achieve their desired look.

We have studied the experiences of two World War 2 officers serving in the RAF, the children found this very interesting and some were inspired by their stories.

Forest School



If you could bottle energy and sell it the year fives and sixes at Laddingford would be rich rich rich! Today's session absolutely fizzing and buzzing with energy. The children came to the woods excited and ready to build Den's/bases/shelters... The 17 students split into groups by themselves and made incredible structures using rope skills tying knots, hammers, and nails. While these structures were being built Whittaker and various friends steadfastly dug the

deepest hole I have ever seen at Forest school. Bobby and Whittaker wanted to dig down to the water table... On their journey they found clay and various insects including a devils coach horse beetle.

The TA & volunteer team created new spaces for the children today, including a new tool area and a new kitchen area as well as creating new paths in preparation for the huge parachute that will put up this weekend to keep us sheltered over the winter.

This afternoon, I showed the children how to drill & string conkers.. to play the dying Art of C O N K E R S some of the children decided they would make jewellery. I can see that the conkers and acorns at our site will be used for the foreseeable future for jewellery making.

Charlie had a go at whittling, whilst lots of children made crossbows!

Francie, Terry and Tony decided to 'busk' and sing for 'money'- Acorns.. Francie has a fantastic voice and his song about farmer Joe became a constant song throughout the woodland all afternoon.

Bobby and our friend Bek made a fire together today so that we could finish our session with Hot Chocolate we also found a friendly toad!

Super session today, everybody I look forward to seeing you all next week.











FLS Newsletter:

Time flies when you're having fun!

We can't believe it is already the end of September!

In today newsletter:

- Smarties update
- The FLS WhatsApp group
- The Laddingford Show updates
- Easyfundraising updates
- Important Dates

Smarties Fundraiser Last week we handed out smartie tubes to the children, the children got to enjoy the delicious Smarties and in return filled their tubes full of money and handed them back to the school!

We have counted up the donations. . . .

Wow, well done to all the children and parents, we raised an amazing total of £340.36

The winning class is

RUSSET with an amazing total of £135.23

Who have won a movie afternoon in class as their prize! 🎬🌟

Followed by

Jazz £108.13

Bramley £52.82

Pippin £44.15

Laddingford Show

The turnout for The Laddingford Show at the Chequers pub in Laddingford on Sunday 21 September was amazing, thank you to all of those families who came to support, we are still awaiting the final amount raised but we are sure it is going to be wonderful and very much appreciated!

Well done to everyone that entered – The school community submitted home grown veg, Art and models made with vegetables and fruit, and home baking.

Thank you to everyone who has joined the FLS and Parents WhatsApp group.

If you are not yet on the group there is always time to still join!

Make sure you're up to date with everything FLS and stay connected with other parents!

- ✓ **One central place** for school-wide updates.
- ✓ **Open to all families**—not limited to specific classes or groups.
- ✓ **Managed group** to ensure everyone has access to the same information.
- ✓ **A space for questions, updates, and key dates.**

👁️ **Sign up using the QR code below or the link provided!** Don't miss out—join today!

<https://weachieve.typeform.com/FLS-WhatsApp>

EasyFundraising

Earlier this year we reignited the EasyFundraising option for Laddingford, and since then **16 new supporters** have signed up! It would be fantastic to see even more families join in and help us raise funds at no extra cost. We now have nearly **£200**, from those 16 contributors, coming our way purely from the purchases we are going to make anyway.

Please look in to signing up!

Have you seen our shiny new banner outside school? – the QR code there will take you directly to our page - EASY!

💰 **How to get started:**

- 1 **Download the Easy Fundraising app** on your phone or via the computer browser extension.
- 2 **Shop as usual** at participating retailers.
- 3 **A donation is made automatically**—no extra cost to you!

It takes a few minutes to set up, but once done, it's an effortless way to **support our school** without spending anything extra!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofladdingfordschool/>

Upcoming Dates:

Wednesday 15th October - Break the rules day

23th November - Christmas fair

Laddingford Primary Schools Christmas Tree sale – you can reserve your tree from the 27th October!

You can always get in touch with the FLS via the following email Laddingfordfriends@hotmail.com

Diary Dates



Term 1:

1st October – Athlete Day

2nd October – Living History Workshop - Jazz Class

8th October – Parent’s Evening (NO Clubs**)**

9th October – Parent’s Evening

10th October – Hello Yellow - World Mental Health Day

– Harvest Festival - 2pm

15th October – Break The Rules Day

17th October – Tempest School Photos (morning)

17th October – Flu Vaccinations (afternoon)

Instrument Tuition



We are very excited to announce that from September 2025 we will be welcoming Andrew Parry Music into the school to provide our instrumental tuition. Please see the letter sent via parentmail for more information.

[Apply For Lessons — Andrew Parry Music](#)

Please note, we have had enquiries as to whether we will still host RockSteady - the answer is yes. Please contact them to book your lessons.

Notices



Promoting Safer Eating and Healthy Packed Lunches

We are guided by the latest Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework, which now includes updated safer eating guidance. This includes practical advice to reduce the risk of choking and to encourage healthy eating habits from an early age.

Key points from the guidance include:

- Grapes, cherry tomatoes, sausages and similar foods should be cut in half lengthways (and ideally quartered) before being packed in lunchboxes.
- Avoid hard foods that are difficult to chew, such as raw carrots in large chunks
- Encourage foods that support healthy development, such as: Fresh fruit and vegetables
Crackers
Lean proteins like chicken, eggs, or beans. Dairy or non-dairy alternatives (low in added sugar) such as cheese or yoghurt.
- Water as the preferred drink

We kindly ask that you **avoid** including:

- Sugary snacks such as chocolate bars and sweets

- Fizzy drinks or high-sugar fruit drinks
- Foods containing nuts, as we are a **nut-free school** to protect children with allergies

We kindly ask that you limit crisps and chocolate biscuit bars to one packet per lunchbox.

All of our children have access to free fruit/vegetables during break times. However, if you do choose to send your child into school with a snack, please ensure this is a healthy snack.

Wet Weather

With wetter weather expected in the coming weeks, please help us keep your child safe and comfortable at school by ensuring the following:

- **Raincoat or Waterproof Jacket:** Please make sure your child comes to school wearing a waterproof jacket or raincoat to stay dry during outdoor play and transitions.
- **Waterproof Footwear:** Suitable shoes or boots for wet conditions are strongly recommended to keep feet warm and dry.
- **Extra Clothes:** It's helpful to send a change of clothes in case your child gets wet during the day.
- **Water Bottle:** Please continue to provide a reusable water bottle so your child can stay hydrated throughout the day.

Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe and comfortable in wet weather!

Labelled Clothing

Please ensure that **all belongings are clearly named**. This includes school uniforms, water bottles, lunch boxes, PE kits, shoes, and any other personal items.

Medical Appointments:

Whenever possible, please try to schedule non-urgent medical, dental, and optician appointments outside of school hours or during school holidays. There are 178 days each year when children are not in school that can be used for such appointments. We do appreciate that hospital visits may need to take place during the school day. To ensure absences are recorded as authorized, please send a copy of all appointment letters to the school office via email for our records.

Donations



Has your child grown out of their wellies and waterproofs?

Before you get rid of them, please consider donating them to us - if we have the right equipment, we can play outside, whatever the weather.

Thank you

Contact Us

To contact your child's class teacher please either speak to them on the gate at the end of the school day or email office@laddingford.kent.sch.uk FAO - class name - child's name. The teacher will then endeavour to get back to you with two working days.

Visit us on the web at www.laddingford.kent.sch.uk