



Newsletter - Friday 23rd May 2025

As we find ourselves at the end of Term 5, it's hard to believe that we are already approaching the final stretch of another school year. Time certainly flies when you're surrounded by such a vibrant and hardworking school community! As we look ahead to Term 6, please keep an eye out for important information regarding transition arrangements and our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions – these are valuable opportunities to support a smooth start for your child in September.

This term has been packed full of activity and achievement. Behind the scenes, we've been laying the groundwork for an exciting new development project for *The Lathams* – the gated piece of land on our playground. Our vision is to transform this space into a sensory garden complete with our very own allotment. We're incredibly excited about the potential of this project to enhance our outdoor learning and wellbeing spaces. If you work in a trade and are able to offer materials, plants, time, or expertise – we would be so grateful for any support you can provide. Please see the 'notices' section at the end of the newsletter for our immediate 'wish list'

Our Year 6 children have shown tremendous maturity and resilience as they tackled their SATs. Their calm, focused approach and positive attitudes were inspiring, and we are all incredibly proud of them – well done to everyone involved!

Our Nursery continues to thrive, with four new children joining us this term. It has been a joy to see how well they have settled and the warmth with which they have been welcomed by both staff and peers.

A particular highlight for me this term was receiving glowing feedback following Bramley Class's participation in a Drama Workshop at Kent College Pembury. I had a real 'proud headteacher moment' when I read the following:

'Laddingford students were polite, friendly and immaculately behaved. They thoroughly enjoyed participating in the activities... The smiles and enthusiasm all round emulated joy and confidence... Laddingford students displayed excellent manners throughout and were a delight to welcome on site.' Well done Bramley Class.

It's been an incredibly busy and productive term, and everyone has certainly earned a restful break. I wish you all a wonderful half term and look forward to welcoming you back on **Tuesday 3rd June**.

Mrs Clark

Worship



This week in my worship we considered 'collaborative thinking' and how we could work together to solve our whole school issue of litter on the playground. Children were thoughtful and considerate and came up with a plan of action and the approach of taking joint responsibility for the problem. Well done Laddingford.

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.uk¹ with the subject line 'Values in Action' and your child may have a starring role on our newsletter.

¹<mailto:office@Laddingford.kent.sch.uk>

Congratulations to Dylan and Willow in Bramley who have both achieved 'joy' this week. Dylan, you have amazed Mrs Featherstone with your ability to summarise a very complex and detailed series of events. Well done. Willow, your contributions to maths lessons have been outstanding - keep it up!

Congratulations to Christianna in Jazz who has achieved 'love' this week. Myself and Miss Shearer are incredibly proud of the support you have given to Pippin Class in times of need - you have shown incredible maturity. Well done.

Congratulations to Victoria and Florence in Russet who have achieved 'joy' and 'peace' this week. Victoria, you have shown an amazing attitude towards your learning in every lesson. Well done! Florence, you are such a calm member of our school community, and the choices you make are incredibly respectful to those around you. What wonderful characteristics to display, well done!

Congratulations to Tony who has achieved the value of 'love' for always being kind to others and offering help to his peers during lessons.

Congratulations to Jack who has achieved the value of 'joy' for working especially hard in writing lessons.

Attendance and Punctuality



Our attendance expectation is 96%

Attendance from week beginning 12/5/25

Pippin = 86.4%

Russet = 97.6%

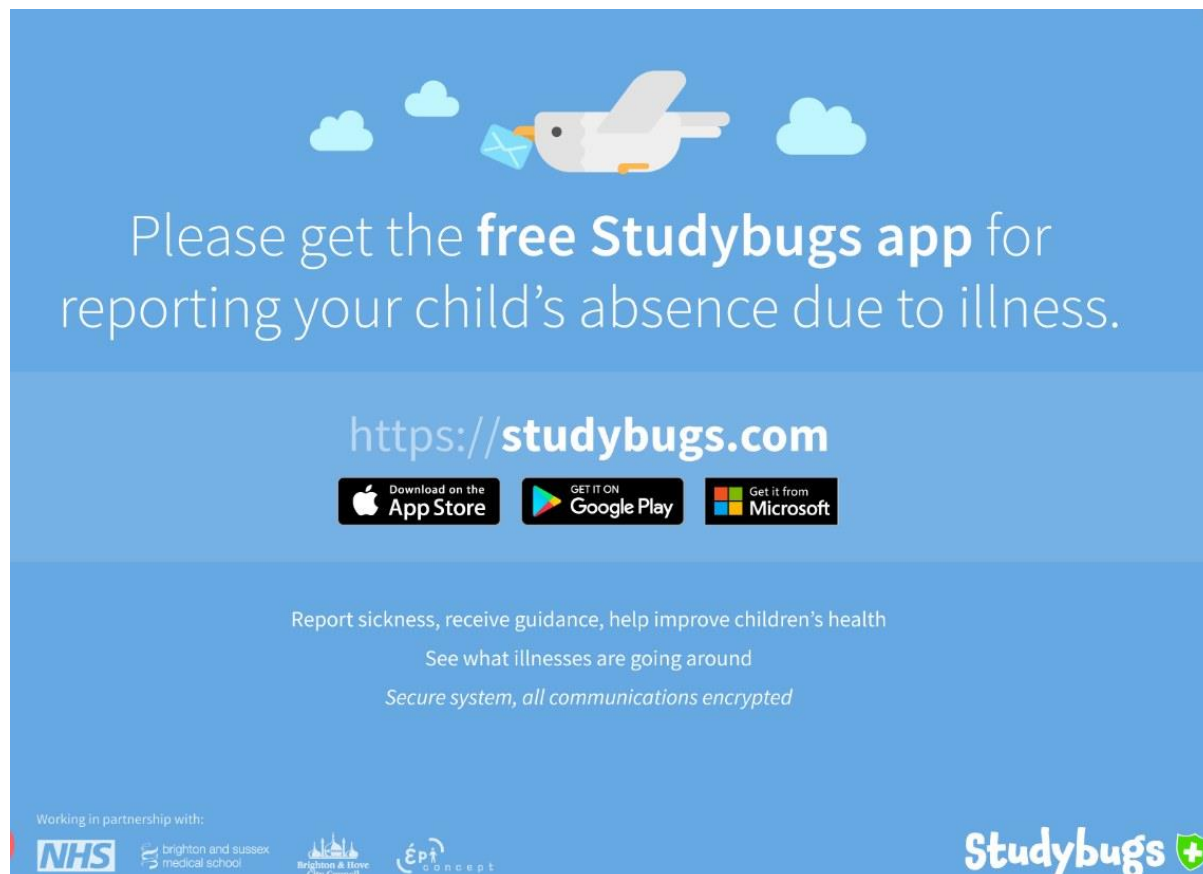
Jazz = 86.8%

Bramley = 89.2%

Whole School = 90.6%

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)²

Studybugs



The banner features a blue background with a white bird icon holding a blue envelope, flanked by two light blue clouds. Below the icon, the text reads: "Please get the **free Studybugs app** for reporting your child's absence due to illness." The website URL <https://studybugs.com> is displayed in white. Three app store logos are shown: "Download on the App Store", "GET IT ON Google Play", and "Get it from Microsoft". Below these, the text states: "Report sickness, receive guidance, help improve children's health", "See what illnesses are going around", and "Secure system, all communications encrypted". At the bottom, it says "Working in partnership with:" followed by logos for NHS, Brighton and Sussex medical school, Brighton & Hove City Council, and Epi concept. The Studybugs logo with a green shield icon is in the bottom right corner.

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>)

²<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

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 wanted to share with you some of their excitement about Forest School, they have been busy on bug hunts, building obstacle courses, and digging big

holes. The children have learnt new skills such as learning how to light a fire! We have been so impressed with all the children; they have been so resilient trying challenges. It has been so lovely seeing the children work as a team to build and create using what is available to them!







Spotlight on Russet Class!



Russet have had a very busy fortnight! We had an incredible trip to Leeds Castle which involved taking part in a workshop where they all had an amazing time dressing up as important figures through History. We also had a tour of the castle which was breath taking. Russet have been starting to plan their own banning narratives and most of them have chosen to ban school! We have also created dot art toucans which were absolutely beautiful!



















Spotlight on Jazz Class!

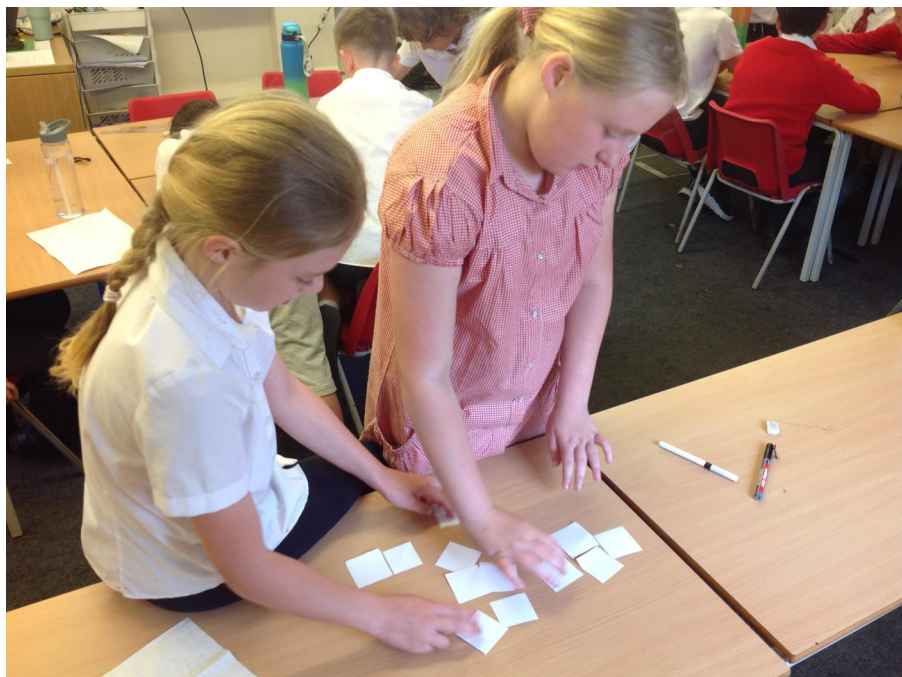


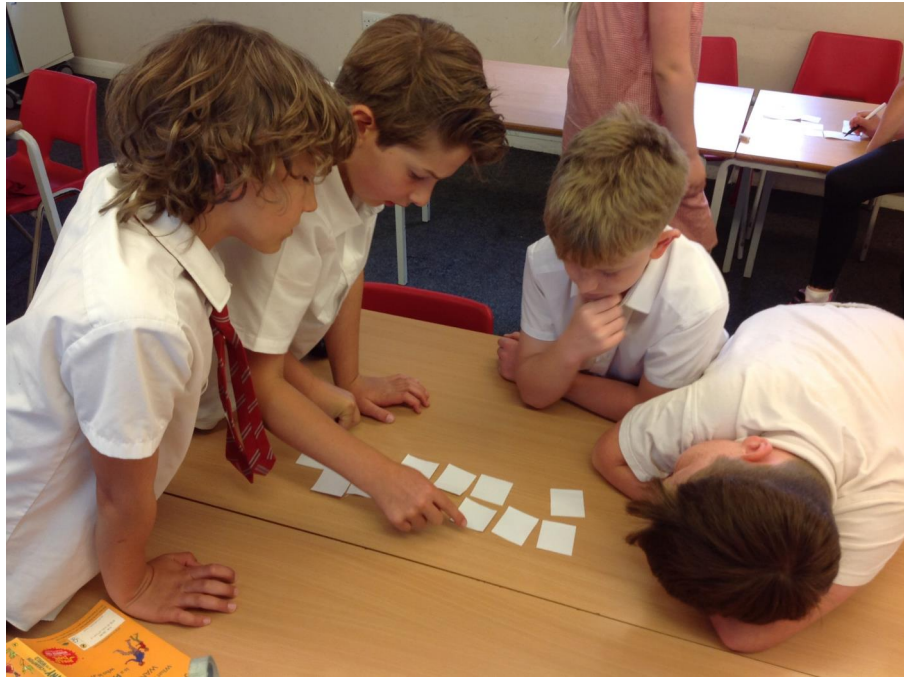
We have been conducting science experiments investigating what plants need to grow. We have also explored the different flowers in our surroundings. In English, we have started to write our return narrative based on the book *Jemmy Button*. We have used drama to support our learning in comprehension. In IT, we have looked at different devices and their processes. We're continuing to enjoy art, exploring the vibrant colours of the rainforest. In History, we have explored Ancient Maya inventions and beliefs.

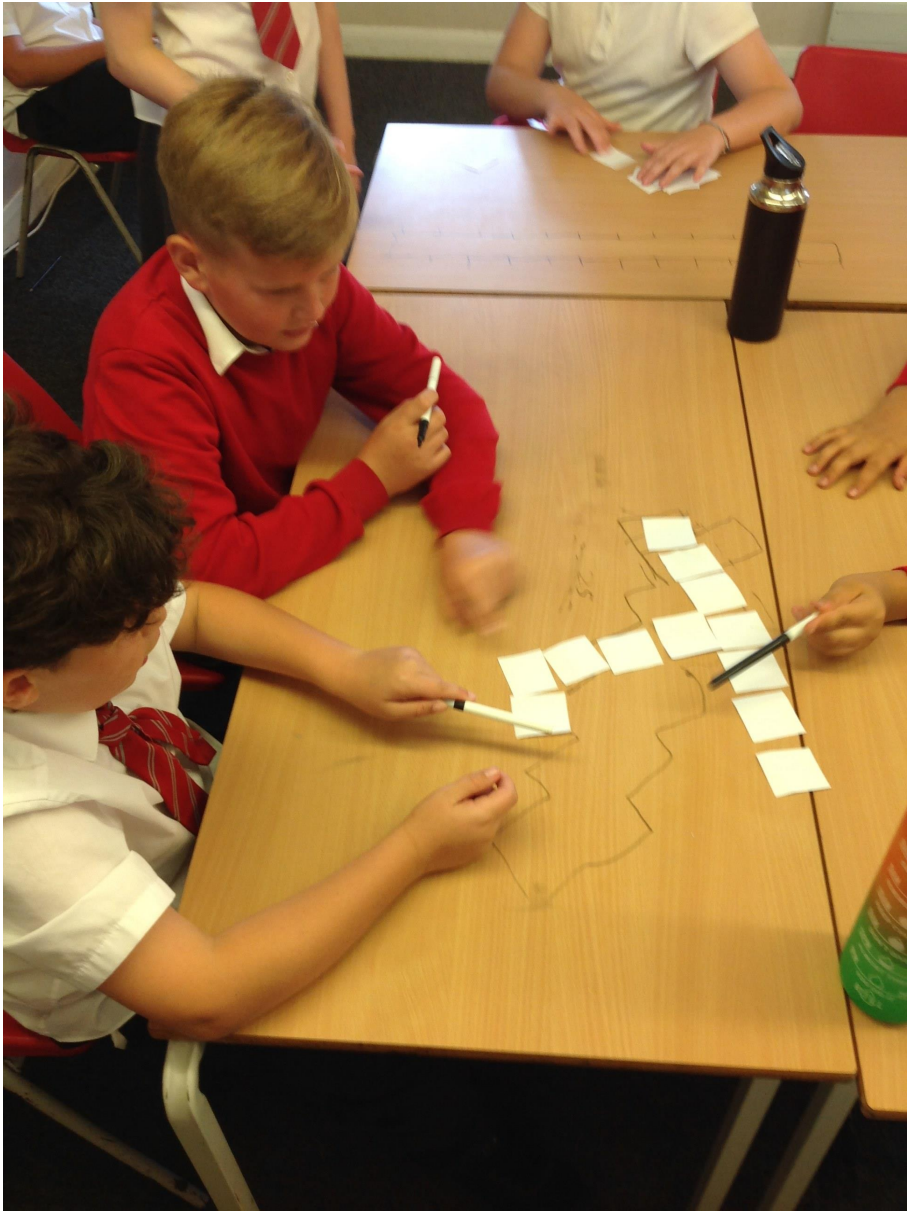
Spotlight on Bramley Class!

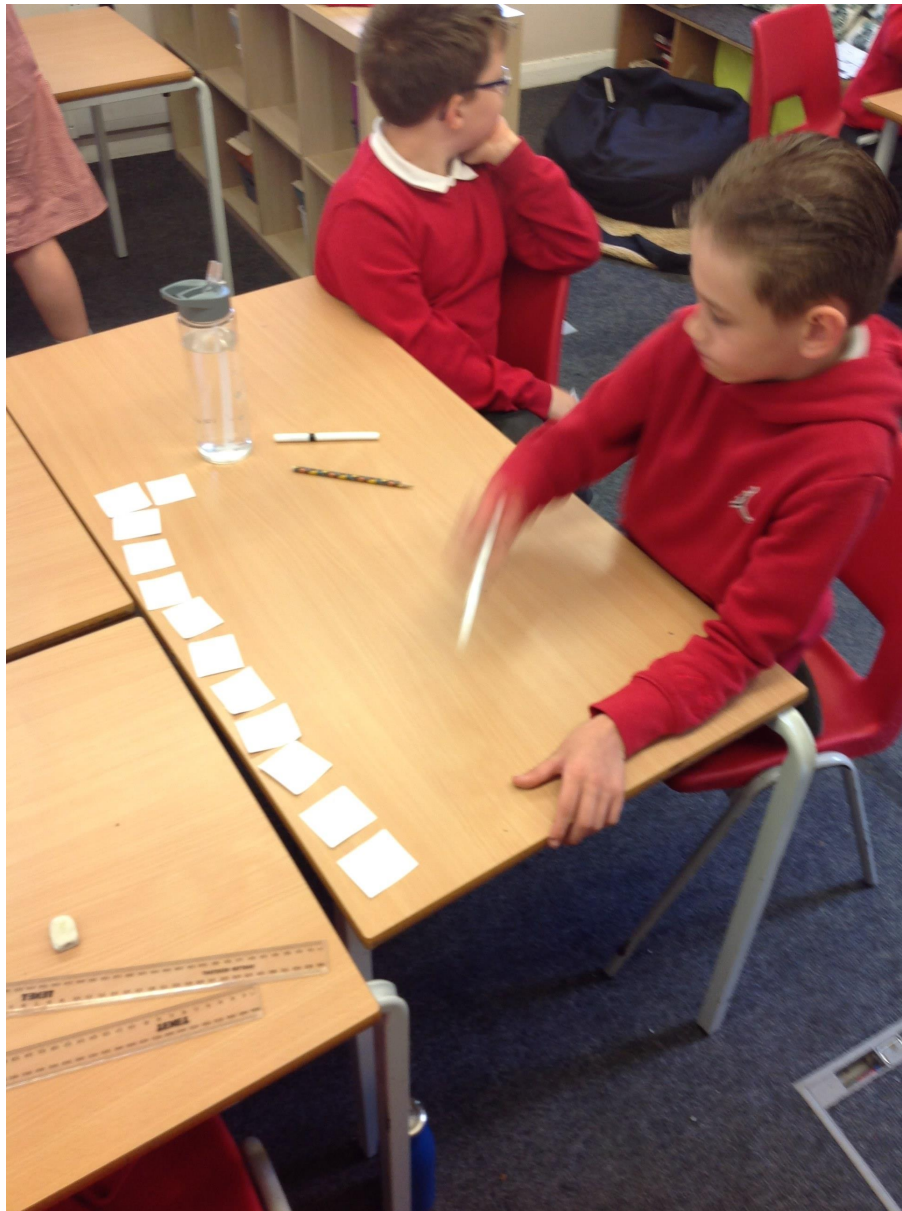


This week, we started our new topic in maths, looking at area, perimeter, and volume. To consolidate our previous learning, ready for our new learning, we investigated to see who could create a shape, using 12 squares, with the greatest perimeter. Once we found that, we then explored what else we could find out. Some children joined squares to investigate whether a shape could have the same area and perimeter, and some children split the 12 squares into two shapes to explore what was the same and what was different.











Forest School



Two weeks of learning to report:

Week 1 at the Forest

We had a absolutely fabulous session today. The children were incredible, so resilient and independent!

The children were excited to explore the forest school, some of the children had been to this site before and remembered some of the activities that they experience last time. For most of the children, it was a brand-new experience.

Amongst other activities, the children enjoyed digging, Using the swing, mud kitchen and making their own sofas!

During the session, there was a good deal of imaginary play, bug hunting and running! All of the activities today were child lead and initiated by themselves. After lunch the children started to get a little cold, so have been being taught the fire circle rules during the morning part of the session, I decided to encourage the children to help me gather tinder, to light a fire. This was a total delight to watch, as the children work together as a team to gather sticks and then sort them into size order.

Week 2 at the Forest

What a fun day we had celebrating World Bee Day. I read the children a book about bees and taught the children unbelievable bee facts. The children were given the opportunity to make bees with pine cones and wool with oak tree leaves. The children enjoyed learning how to fire strike with great success today, we lit the fire together.

After lunch the children played the bee game using their long tube like bee (sponges) tongues to transfer nectar to the Queen Bee in the bee hive!

To end the session today the children enjoyed marshmallows biscuits and hot chocolate fabulous session everyone see you after half term.















In the last few days, you may have seen information about our upcoming Fathers' day celebrations and the summer fair. The next few weeks promise to be busy! The team are planning and getting things arranged.

Father's Day

Just in case you didn't yet see the Fathers' day flyers we've attached them here too...All Dads, Step Dads, Honorary Dads and Uncles are welcome to the breakfast.

Don't forget to book via **ParentPay** to avoid disappointment!

We are looking for volunteers to help with fair, anything from helping set up, running stalls and clearing up afterwards. Even if you can only spare 1 hour, that will make a difference. Pop us an email or talk to one of the team if you think you can help us on the day!

You can always contact us at **Laddingfordfriends@hotmail.com**



Diary Dates



Week beginning Monday 2nd June

Mon - INSET

Tues -

Wed -

Thurs -

Friday -

Notices



We are requesting donations of:

- 2 watering cans
- garden tools
- tomato plants
- strawberry plants
- summer bedding plants

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.uk³ 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.uk⁴

³<mailto:office@laddingford.kent.sch.uk>

⁴<https://www.laddingford.kent.sch.uk>