



Newsletter - Friday 12th September

I am delighted to share how wonderfully well everyone has settled into the new school year. It has been truly wonderful to see our children arriving in their smart uniforms, ready and eager to learn each day.

The speed at which all our pupils have embraced our routines has been remarkable, including the introduction of our new, calmer lunchtime arrangements. This positive change has made a noticeable difference to the school day, creating a more peaceful and enjoyable environment for everyone.

We are also pleased to welcome our new staff members to our school community. Their enthusiasm and dedication have already made a significant impact, and we look forward to the contributions they will make throughout the year. An even bigger welcome to the new families that have joined us throughout the school - I am sure you will join me in welcoming them to the Laddingford community.

I want to acknowledge the incredibly hard work of our entire school community—staff, parents, and children alike—in making such a successful start to this term.

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch our new Student Leadership Team. This initiative will provide our children with a stronger voice in the decisions that shape their school experience, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility that we believe will benefit everyone.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to make this a fantastic year for all.

Mrs Clark

Worship



Our first two weeks have given us an opportunity to think about the year ahead and consider our school rules, what our values mean to us and being grateful for the year ahead.

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 wonderful school and friends.

As we start a new school year together, please help us to be patient and kind, especially on the playground.

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.

Miley - Joy

Phoebe - Love

Bobby - Love

Joey - Joy

Attendance and Punctuality



Our attendance expectation is 96%

Attendance from week beginning 3/9/25

Pippin = 96.1%

Russet = 95.1%

Jazz = 92.7%

Bramley = 97.6%

Whole School = 95.2%

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/health/when-to-worry-about-your-childs-illness/)

Studybugs



The banner features a blue background with a white bird-like character holding a blue envelope, flying between two light blue clouds. Below the illustration, 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, three lines of text describe the app's benefits: '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. The Studybugs logo with a green shield icon is at the bottom right.

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.

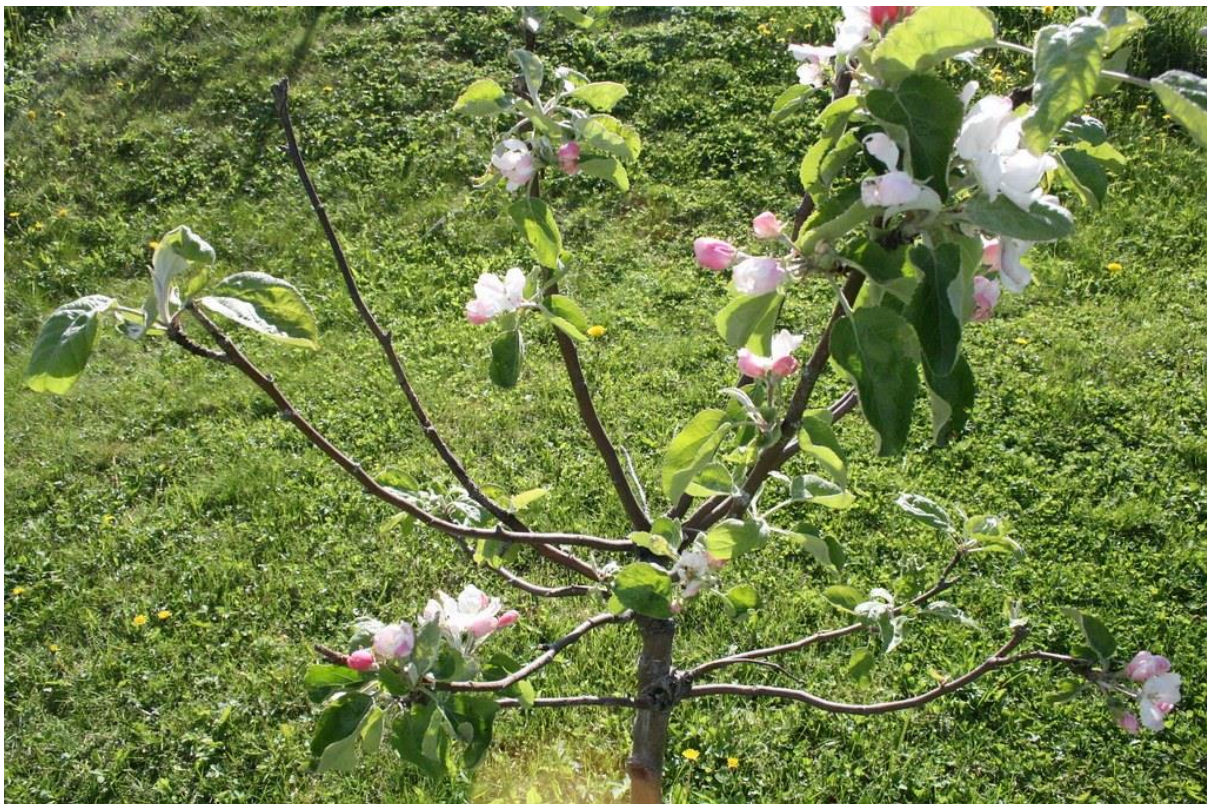
1. It helps us know sooner if your child is unaccounted for.
2. It's quick and easy to register and use and automatically reminds you to keep us posted.
3. You'll be helping the NHS and other public health organisations improve children's health. (<https://studybugs.com/about/schools>)

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!



Our new Reception children have settled in beautifully this term! They have quickly adapted to their new routines, made lots of new friends, and are already showing great enthusiasm

for learning. From practicing their phonics to exploring the classroom through play, it's been a joy to see their confidence grow each day. We're so proud of how well they've started their school journey!







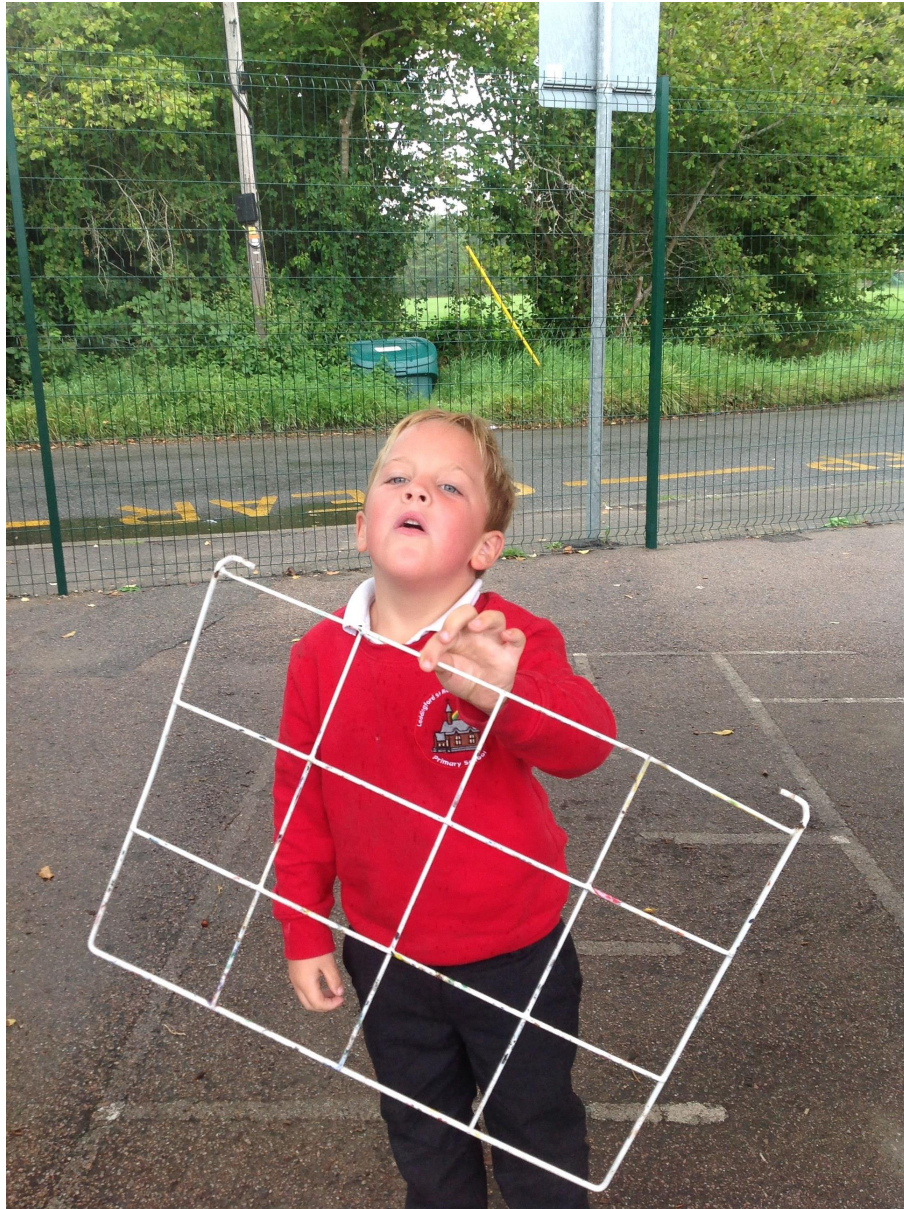


Spotlight on Russet Class!



Russet have had a fantastic start to the year and have settled really well back into school. We have been exploring our new book Old Bear and starting to write our own versions of it as well as going on a material hunt in Science. We have started learning basic ball skills and fundamental movements in PE and been working really hard on Place Value in Maths.





Spotlight on Jazz Class!



We've had a fantastic week in Jazz class and it's been wonderful to see how well everyone has settled into the class and our routines. We have quickly got to know each other and have got stuck into our new units. We have started a lovely book called 'Grimwood' in our Comprehension lessons and we are also diving into a picture book called 'The Whale' in Writing. In History we started looking at the Stone Age and had lots of fun making our own toilet roll timeline!

Congratulations to Maria, who got a certificate in our Celebration Worship for being the first to collect all of our school values in one day. It has been lovely meeting some of you at pick-up time and I hope that the rest of us will meet in due course.

Spotlight on Bramley Class!



This week in Bramley class we have started learning about World War 2, the children have been very enthusiastic and have taken a keen interest! In our writing we have started writing a diary from the perspective of a child in the war. This week was our first forest school visit of the term and the children made me very proud of their respect and creations from the forest.

Forest School



Back in the woods today with Laddingford year five and year six children. Today being the first session of the new school term I met lots of new friends and I was reunited with lots of familiar faces. The children were eager to explore the woodland straightaway and started repurposing the structures that had been left in place from the reception and nursery children. The pirate ship has now become a base/Den and one of the climbing trees has now become a shelter.

A group of four or five children were super keen on making a zip line today and with the help of some of the volunteers and class teacher their children managed to create a zip line that lasted a little while... unfortunately the children were a little too heavy!

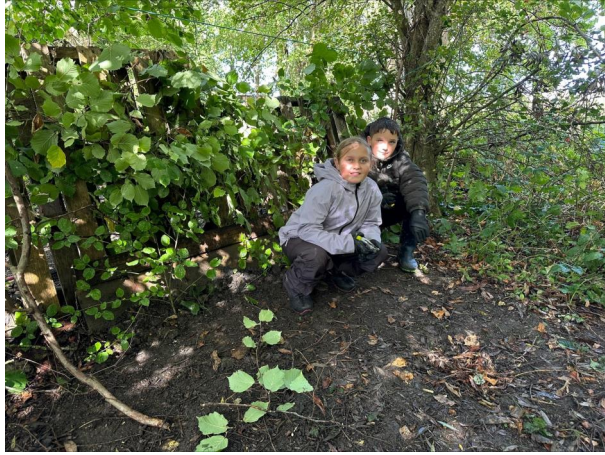
I absolutely loved watching the children repurpose and restructure the space to make it their own.

Two children who don't usually spend time together at school, spent the whole day together today making a hide/bird/crocodile spotting space. Using pallets and offcuts from the Hazel tree the children camouflaged the pallets so that they could be hidden from wildlife. Today the children used hammers/nails/ to make crossbows secateurs to clear brambled areas and made fire as well as engaging in combat with each other!

I have such admiration for these children as they help each other to achieve their goals. Encouraging each other, peer on peer teaching is amazing!

What a fun session can't wait for next week!







SMARTIES



SMARTIES



SMARTIES



Friends of Laddingford Smarties Challenge

We've given you these Smarties to eat
But the empty tube you must keep
Money is what you must find
Ask friends and family, they won't mind
Fill up your tube, right to the top
Return by Monday 22nd September for our FLS
charity pot!

So the race is on, which ever class earns the most
money will win a movie for their class.... Who will
it be Pippin, Russet, Jazz or Bramley?
It's over to you!



SMARTIES



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Diary Dates



Term 1:

24th September – Karate Taster Session

1st October – Athlete Day

2nd October – Living History Workshop - Jazz Class

8th October – Parent's Evening

9th October – Parent's Evening

10th October – Harvest Festival - 2pm

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



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