



# Langley Hall Primary Academy

Ad Vitam Paramus

## Lower School Curriculum Newsletter

The children have been working extremely hard this term in all areas of the curriculum.

### Reception...

Reception have had a jam packed term where they have continued to settle and shine!

We began the term looking at ourselves, our families, houses and homes. We have painted our self-portraits, explored transient art, and learnt all about our bodies through the story 'Funny Bones'. Just before half term we read the story 'The Three Little Pigs' and had a sneaky visit from 'The Big Bad Wolf' who left a crime scene in the classroom, luckily we had the CCTV to help the police capture him and put him on the thinking chair! We explored different materials for house building, used decorating tools to make wall paper patterns and built our own dens as well as writing descriptions of the wolf.

We also enjoyed our first trip to Little Street where we explored different role play settings and developed narratives in our play.

The second part of the term saw us delve into transport, with a trip to space with Bob the astronaut on our very large rocket to help him with his jobs on the moon. We also helped to fix Mr Gumpy's car that somehow got stuck in the mud, he was our first customer through the car wash and we offered a very thorough and superb valeting service! The children also enjoyed exploring the role play airport, packing their luggage and boarding their flights as well as the shop and Santa's Workshops.

There have been lots of celebrations this term and we have enjoyed learning about the Gunpowder plot and Diwali.

The Christmas play was a lovely end to the term and we are very proud of the children's achievements in their very first LHPA production. The 30 minute performance was filled with fantastic storytelling, beautiful singing and Oscar worthy acting!



Langley Hall Primary Academy  
Ad Vitam Paramus

## Lower School Curriculum Newsletter

### Year 1...

This term, Year 1 have been busy becoming story tellers in Literacy. They have been learning about what language is key to writing fiction, where to use it and how to implement it to have an effect on the reader. They have achieved this by retelling stories and changing parts of the story to make them their own. We have focused on the following texts; Class two at the zoo, The hungry Caterpillar, Super Worm, Stuck, Norman the Slug with the Silly Shell, The boy that lost his bumble and James and the Giant Peach.

In Numeracy the children have developed their understanding of number by playing counting games, learning number facts like number bonds to 10 and 20 and doubling and halving. They have also focused on measuring lengths and exploring money. The children have particularly enjoyed our new set of 'challenges' we have been doing every lesson.

In IPC we have been learning about plants and insects. The children have all had gardens in their classrooms which they have helped to grow and look after. They have gained a greater understanding into the parts of a plant, what they need to grow and can name many common British plants. They have also learnt about many insects paying particular attention to bees and ants. They can talk about colonies, name body parts and understand life cycles.



Langley Hall Primary Academy  
Ad Vitam Paramus

## Lower School Curriculum Newsletter

### Year 2...

In Literacy, Year 2 began the year reading 'There's a Viking in my Bed.' The children learnt the first page of the story by heart by creating story maps and actions. We then used post-it notes to change parts of the story. A Viking visited the school one evening leaving seaweed, his helmet and a letter for children. The children wrote letters back to him. We have also read a book called 'Traction Man.' We used it to think about how different characters were feeling using thought bubbles and speech bubbles. We then made comic strips and used these to write our very own adventures of Traction Man using story language. More recently we used the reindeer's as a writing stimulus as we explained that they have been stolen and that we needed to write letters to the police.

We started the year with our new Numeracy scheme. We started the year with looking at partitioning numbers with the aid of base 10 apparatus and place value cards. Then we moved children to use their learning to add and subtract. We have continued to give children practical operators to solve mathematical problems. Children are becoming confident at using coins to solve money problems. Time was probably the most challenging concept for them, especially 5 minute interval.

In IPC we have been learning about People of the Past. The children enjoyed the entry point where they came to school dressed as Queen Elizabeth I, Neil Armstrong and other famous people from history. The children are able to talk with confidence about significant people from the past.

In science our topic is 'Super Human' we have learnt about the external and internal parts of the body. We really enjoyed our food tasting activity which made us think about the different parts of the tongue.



# Langley Hall Primary Academy

## Ad Vitam Paramus

### Lower School Curriculum Newsletter

#### P.E...

In Reception this year we started looking at basic movements and the fundamental skills that children need to eventually develop them into complex and game based skills. We felt this has been hugely successful using the Real PE philosophy which is a way of teaching through story books that help children to develop all of their vital physical and mental skills that will help them achieve in PE and in life. All of the skills they learn through real PE are transferable, meaning children are able to use them in any walk of life and stay with them throughout their life. Static balancing has been popular this year with the reception children through games such as the pirate game where children have been performing different balances as pirates.

In Year 1&2 this year we started by learning about football. Practicing the basic skills that we can develop from reception such as dribbling, passing and shooting we were then able to get into some complex activities such as passing in circles and in triangles with different rules to challenge children. Following this we were able to turn these skills into a competitive lesson doing relay races using our dribbling, passing and shooting skills. We have also been learning about Rugby in PE, this has also been aided by the basic skills we learnt in reception which made the transition from basic skills to complex skills fluent. Playing the traffic light game with the children to familiarise them with the rugby ball was extremely successful, working on catching, passing and running with the rugby ball. We have been playing a new game in PE with the children where each child has a rugby ball and a tail, the object of the game is to place the rugby ball in the hoop at the other end of the court without your tail being taken by a defender. This has been a huge success and we are now developing ways to use it in other areas of PE.

PE this year has been extremely successful and we look forward to the New Year!

#### Dance

Year 1 have been clapping rhythms and then transforming their beats into movements. We have performed our choreography to the rest of our class in pairs.

Year 2 have been learning choreography. They can count along with the beats and move their bodies in time to the music.

# French

**Year 1** have been learning simple French greetings and completing a *Carte d'identité* (identity card) and have been singing *Dix dans le Lit* (Ten in the Bed) playing a variety of number games, some of them musical, such as "Stations".

**Year 2** have been playing the role of *un pirate* (a pirate) looking for lost treasure and accompanied, of course, by their *perroquet* (parrot). They have also been having fun with the traditional French song "*Mon Beau sapin*".

# Music

We have had a fantastic start to this academic year in Lower school Music. At the start of term in September a group of year 2 children played their recorders at The harvest in The Park event in Langley and did very well! £2 year 2 children have also just recently taken part in The Slough School's Music festival at St John' church in Windsor, which was a great success and the children behaved well and sang brilliantly!

The Reception children enjoy singing songs as part of their everyday work which help to enrich and embed ideas.

Year 1 children have had their first term taking part in Music Workshop activities on a Friday afternoon! All of the children are making good progress with learning the recorder and can successfully play rhythm patterns on notes B and A and are starting to become aware of note G. They enjoy singing sessions and are learning to sing more complex songs in tune with dynamics. The children have also started their pre-violin lessons where they are starting to get to know what a violin looks like as well as rhythm and note patterns.

Year 2 children have continued to take part in their music workshop sessions and have learnt to be able to carry around a Violin and recorder to different rooms! (Not an easy task!). The children have been put into star groups for violin and are making pleasing progress. They continue to do well in their recorder playing and are growing in confidence in playing more complex tunes using notes B, A,G,E and C. They learnt The landlord's Cat Christmas play songs brilliantly and sang with confidence in the play.

In January I will be starting a Year 2 Choir to continue to encourage the fantastic singing voices that we have in Lower school!



Langley Hall Primary Academy  
Ad Vitam Paramus

# Lower School Curriculum Newsletter

## Photos...





# Langley Hall Primary Academy

Ad Vitam Paramus

## Lower School Curriculum Newsletter

