16th October 2026

Laleham Lea

A Catholic Independent School for boys and girls aged 3 to 11

29 Peaks Hill, Purley, Surrey, CR8 3JJ
Tel: 0208 660 3351 Email: secretary@lalehamlea.co.uk Web: www.lalehamlea.co.uk

Dear Parents,

What a busy end to a wonderful first half term of the new year.

Our Black History Month celebrations continued this week with a spectacular performance at pick up time by our Orchestra and Year 4 dancers. Well done everyone.

Our first Class Assembly of the new school year was led by our Year 6 students today where they taught us all about Global Trade, their Catholic Social Teaching Principle of Subsidiarity and wowed us all with their emotional poetry.

Our parent consultation meetings took place on Monday and Thursday this week. I hope these meetings were helpful in understanding your child's progress so far and how to support them going forward.

We return from half term on November 2nd in full winter uniform including blue hats please.

Wishing you a relaxing and safe half term break.

Mrs Reece

Headteacher

Black History Month

What an incredible afternoon! Our Orchestra completely brought the house down—or rather, the school grounds—at collection time on Tuesday with some lively African beats to celebrate Black History Month.





Dates for your Diary

- 19th—30th October—Half Term
- 2nd November—Return to school winter Uniform
- 9th November—Anti Bullying week
- 11th November—Year 1 Pizza Express Trip
- 13th November—Catholic Schools' Cross Country
- 4th December—EYFS/KS1 Nativity Plays 9.15/11am
- 8th December—Christmas Carols
- 11th December—End of term 2pm—No Clubs or Late Leavers

The Catholic life of the school

Celebration of The Word

In our Celebration of the Word Assembly this week, we learnt how everyone is welcome: God's love is open to every single person. Through the parable of the wedding feast, Jesus tells us what the Kingdom of Heaven is like.



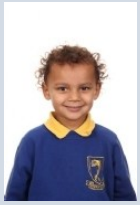
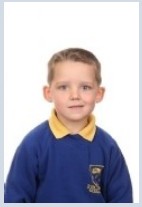
God invites every single one of us to be part of His big celebration! But just like dressing up for a special party, God wants us to prepare our hearts by choosing love, kindness, and obedience to Him. We reflected on God's invitation and how we can say 'Yes!' through our choices, words and actions.

"***The Kingdom of Heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son and sent his servants to call those who were invited". (Matthew 22:2 -3)***

Gospel Values

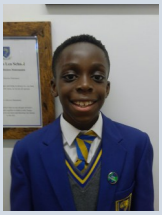
Well done to this week's Gospel Values award winners for showing our values of ***Compassion, Gentleness, Justice, Love***, ***Forgiveness*** and ***Hope***.









Mini Vinnies

Our newly elected Mini Vinnies presented a wonderful assembly on Monday, launching the 2026 Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal.

We hope you have all been able to collect your shoebox after school, so you can create your own thoughtful gift for a child who is not as fortunate as we are, during half term.

Please return your filled shoebox to school by Thursday 5th November 2026. Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated.



Year 6 Assembly

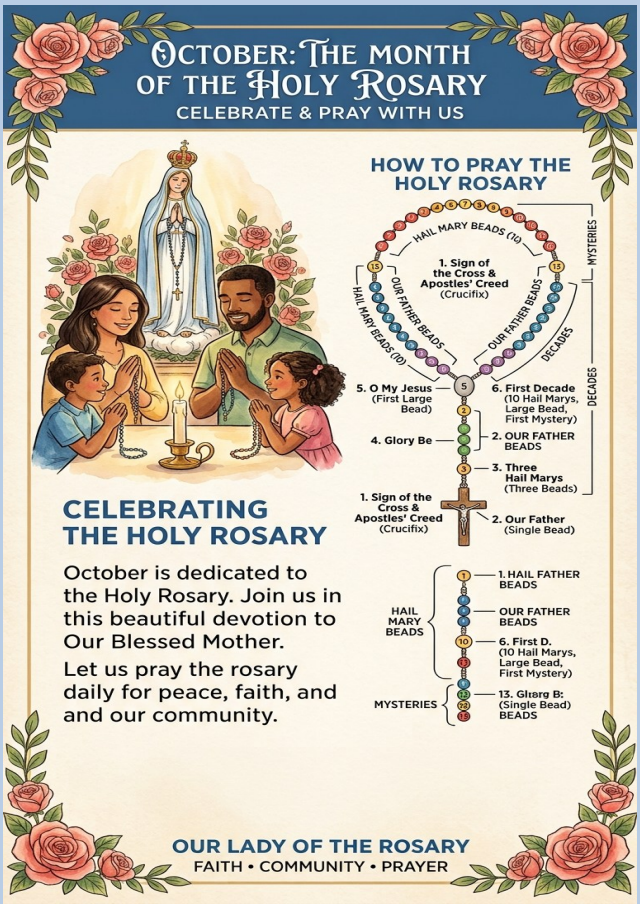
Well done to Year 6 class who led our first Class Assembly of the new academic year showcasing all of their learning so far to the whole school and their parents. Themes included Global Trade and resources, the class Catholic Social Teaching principle of Subsidiarity and they looked inside themselves to write poems about emotions. Well done Year 6.








Month of the Holy Rosary



Harvest Collection



Thank you for your generous Harvest donations for Purley Food Hub.

We collected over 200 items to help local families in need.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2026

RECEPTION CLASS



Reception Class have been enjoying a vibrant celebration of culture and creativity this Black History Month. Through storytelling, music, and hands-on crafts, the children have been exploring traditions from around the world and deepening their understanding of the African continent.

In Literacy, the class were captivated by the legend of *The Spider Weaver*, before creating their own colourful mixed-media Kente cloth. The children also linked their Maths learning to art by making African necklaces, weaving, and basketry using symmetry and repeating patterns. The classroom truly came alive during traditional African drumming and dancing sessions, and the children loved discovering Africa's scenic beauty, countries, and rich cultures, alongside touching upon the origins of Black History Month and notable Black leaders.

The children also enjoyed exploring the artwork of English-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare and the iconic Jean-Michel Basquiat, looking at their unique styles and creative ideas. Reception's enthusiasm has been fantastic, and we look forward to continuing our cultural learning throughout October and beyond!





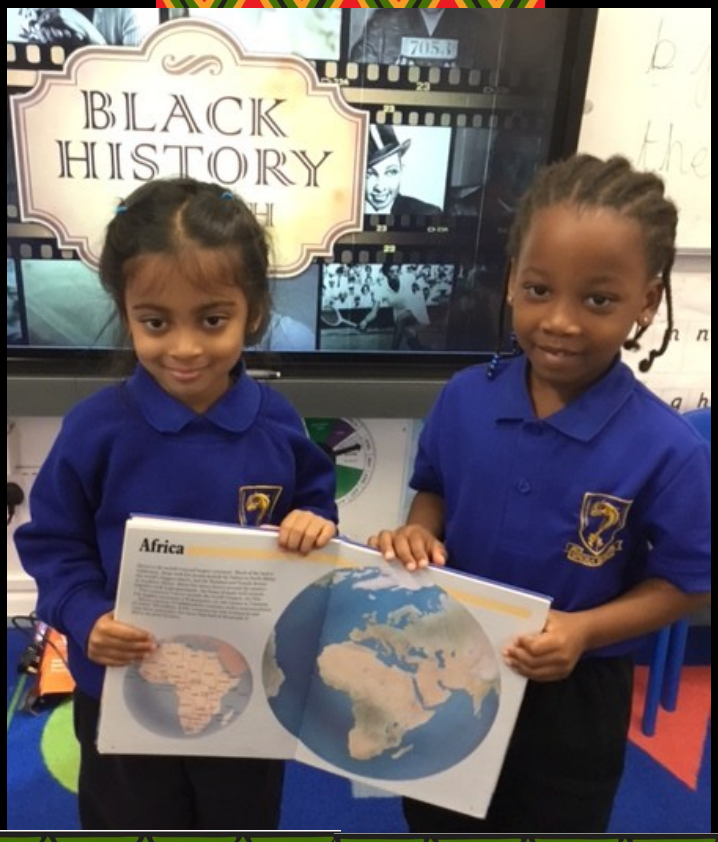














Nursery



It's been another action-packed week in Nursery as our little explorers took a deep dive into the world of 3D shapes!

Inspired by our story of the week, Captain Invincible and the Space Shapes, the children embarked on an exciting maths adventure to identify and classify three-dimensional shapes. The excitement grew even more when they realised just how many 3D shapes are hidden all around us! Working in small groups, they set off on a 3D shape hunt, carefully recording their discoveries along the way.



Throughout the week, the children showed fantastic engagement, practicing fine motor skills through shape sorting and sticking activities, building patience and turn-taking during a game of 3D shape dominoes, and putting their counting skills to the test with an 'I Spy to 10' challenge using number lines for guidance.

Reception



We have had a fantastic final week of half term in Reception! As we come to the end of our Autumn topic, the children have been busy exploring the natural world around them. Using magnifying glasses to look closely at autumn fruits, they created some wonderful observational drawings, taking care to notice the different shapes, colours and details.



In RE, we created our very own Creation table, representing the world around us. The children made trees, flowers, animals and people, as well as night and day and the sea. It was lovely to see their creativity as they thought about the different elements of Creation and worked together to bring our table to life.

We have also enjoyed learning about Black History Month through a range of creative activities, including basket weaving and making repeating-pattern beads. We will share more about these wonderful experiences in a separate newsletter update.

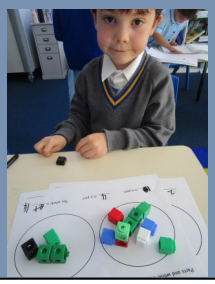


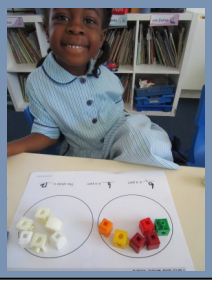
We hope everyone has a restful half term break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back for another exciting half term of learning!

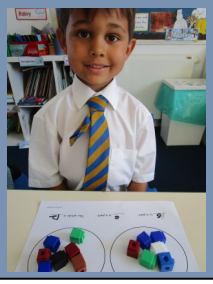
Year 1

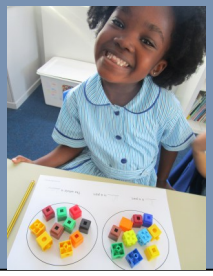
Year 1 have been learning how to partition in Maths using counters and cubes using their knowledge of number bonds to ten and twenty. They are beginning to understand that two parts make a whole.

They have also been busy exploring traditional poems in their English lessons and even listened to a German version of 'pat-a-cake'. They then created their own rhyming couplets for themselves to add to our Class Poem. They were lucky enough to perform it for Mrs Reece and even worked as a class to create a rhyming couplet for her! It's been a fantastic half term full of learning and laughter. Well done Year 1!









Year 2



This week in Year 2 we continued the theme of Black History Month and learnt about prominent people that have made a difference in the world.

The children drew posters of those individuals who have stood out to them.

Year 3



This week Year 3 have been using commas in a list; they worked hard, carefully and well! We have been honouring Our Lord's Mother, Mary, by saying a decade of the rosary and our class was signed up for Aid to the Church in Need's 'One Million Children Praying the Rosary' project for peace and hope.

Year 4



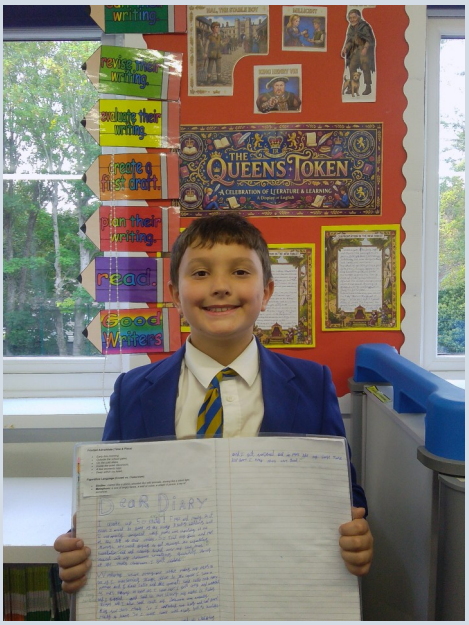
What an action-packed week in Year 4! The children kicked off the week with an amazing African drumming workshop, and we were so proud to see so many Year 4 pupils perform brilliantly in the after-school orchestra performance.

In Art, the children have worked incredibly hard hand-crafting beautiful, technicolour dream coats for Joseph - the results look fantastic!

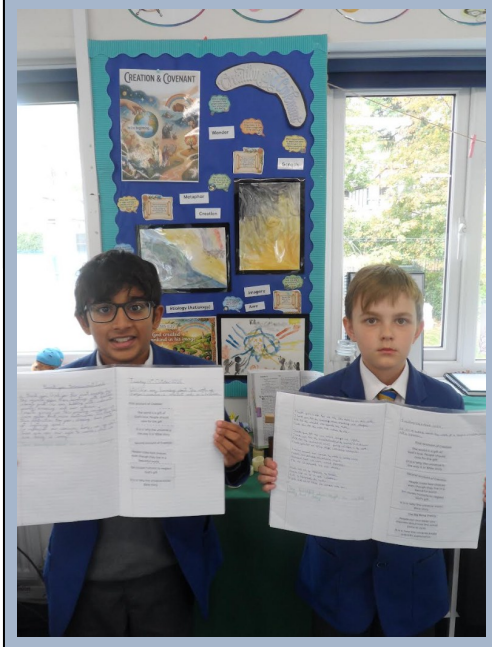
Year 5

In English this week, Year 5 have been making cross-curricular links with Black History Month by studying the inspirational story of Ruby Bridges. The children explored her brave journey as a six-year-old walking into William Frantz Elementary School surrounded by crowds.

The pupils wrote emotive diary entries from Ruby's perspective, capturing how she might have felt stepping through those school doors each day with courage and determination.



Year 6



This week Year 6 have explored the harmony between science and faith. The children investigated the work of Catholic scientist Georges Lemaître and the Big Bang theory.

They learned that science explains how the universe works and faith explores why, reflecting on awe, wonder, and caring for creation.

Stars of the week





