Forest News...

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to all our pupils, families and carers. It has been a fantastic start to the new academic year, and it has been wonderful to see our school full of energy.

I am particularly proud of our newly refreshed classroom environments. Staff have worked incredibly hard to create calm, low arousal learning spaces, using soothing colours and thoughtful layouts that support our pupils' wellbeing, engagement and learning.

We have also been delighted to welcome **32 new pupils and their families** to our school community. Starting at a new school can be both exciting and daunting, and we look forward to getting to know each family over the coming months.

A special thank you must go to our Primary Team, who have done an amazing job establishing our new school nursery. This is an exciting development for our school, and we are incredibly proud of what has been achieved.

As mentioned before the summer break, attendance remains a key priority for us. We will be working closely with families to ensure pupils attend school as regularly as possible so that they can benefit from every learning opportunity. Where attendance falls below **96%**, members of the school team will make contact to discuss how we can offer support. Of course, we will always take a sensitive and understanding approach where medical needs or exceptional circumstances are involved.

We are looking forward to a year filled with exciting school events and opportunities to welcome families into school. It was fantastic to see so many parents, carers and family members attend our recent Meet the Teacher sessions. Strong partnerships between home and school are so important, and we hope to continue seeing many of you throughout the year.

Thank you for your ongoing support and working together

Vicky Mummery

Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

Black History Month

October 2026

Harvest Festival

Friday 2nd October

World Teacher Day

Monday 5th October

International Chef Day

Tuesday 6th October

October Half-Term Break

Monday 19th October – Friday 30th October

Updated Allergy Policy and Allergy Information Review

We would like to inform families that we have recently updated our Allergy Policy, which can be viewed here:

https://limeacademyforestapproach.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2026/09/LT-Allergy-policy-LAFA-Sept-26.pdf

As part of implementing this policy, we will be contacting the families of all young people for whom we are aware of an allergy or intolerance. This is to ensure that our records remain accurate and up to date, and to confirm whether there have been any changes to your child's circumstances, diagnosis, treatment, or management plan.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe environment for all learners.

Sensory occupational therapy

Welcome Back!

A very warm welcome back to everyone for the new academic year!

As we begin a new term, it is a good opportunity to remind ourselves of the important role that sensory processing and regulation play in a child's ability to learn, participate and feel successful at school.
As Occupational Therapists, we work alongside school staff to help identify and understand children's individual sensory needs and to support regulation before participation. This may include sensory circuits, movement breaks, sensory strategies, environmental adjustments and access to appropriate sensory resources throughout the school day.

Sensory support is not simply about providing equipment or activities. It is about understanding what each child needs to help them feel regulated, engaged and ready to learn.
I look forward to working closely with the school team throughout the academic year, supporting staff with practical strategies and helping children to develop the regulation and participation skills they need to reach their full potential.

Wishing everyone a happy, positive and successful new academic year!

Donna Boygle.

Speech and language

We hope that all students, carers, and families had a lovely summer holiday and a positive start to the new academic year!

The Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) team will continue to provide communication support at LAFA on Tuesdays throughout this academic year.

Over the coming weeks, the SaLT team will be spending time in each class and speaking with staff to find out what communication support, advice or training they may require this year. We will then use this information to plan support that is tailored to the needs of each class and its students.

We have also been busy supporting new students who have joined Forest Approach. This has included providing individualised specialist communication advice and working alongside staff to help them implement communication strategies within the classroom.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with students, families and school staff to support communication across the school.

Safeguarding

Welcome from the Safeguarding Team

At our school, your child's safety and wellbeing always come first. We know that many of our pupils need extra care, clear routines, and support to help them feel safe. Our Safeguarding Team works closely with families to make sure every child feels protected, understood, and able to learn happily.

Meet the Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Vicky Mummery

Vicky Mummery
Headteacher

Deputy Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs):

Kirsty Butler
Assistant Headteacher

Lewis Sibbons
Deputy Headteacher

Samantha Inwood
Assistant Headteacher

Cat Flack
Assistant Headteacher

Jacqui Pooley
Family Support

We are here to help. You can contact us at any time if you notice anything worrying, at home or in school. No

Family support

Welcome back to all our families, and a special welcome to those who are new to our school community.

My name is Jacqui, and I am the Family Support Worker for the school. My role is to support children, parents, and carers with a range of needs and to help families access the right support and services when needed.

I am here to offer a listening ear, advice, and guidance on matters such as wellbeing, attendance, routines at home, and any concerns you may have about your child or family circumstances. Please feel free to contact me if you would like support or simply a chat.

I am also looking forward to hosting Coffee Mornings for parents and carers. These will provide a friendly opportunity to meet other families, share experiences, and learn about the support available within our school and local community. As soon as the dates are confirmed, we will let you know.

I look forward to meeting and working with you all throughout the year.

Thank you,
Jacqui

Behaviour and communication lead

It has been a busy start to the academic year, but it has been wonderful getting to know our new learners, families, and staff.

I am excited to work alongside our parents and carers, as well as the dedicated multidisciplinary team (MDT) within the school, to ensure that every child receives the support they need to thrive and achieve their full potential.

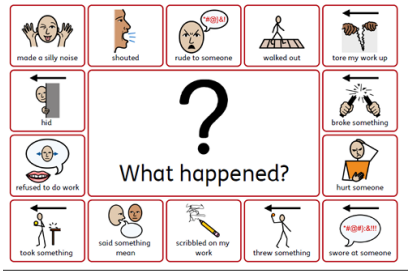
Our intervention groups are now fully up and running and have already proven to be a huge success. Learners have engaged positively with the sessions, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence and participation continue to grow.

Jade Munday

Emotional Coaching is a supportive approach used by staff to help our learners understand, manage, and regulate their emotions. Rather than focusing solely on a learners behaviour, emotional coaching helps adults recognise the feelings behind the behaviour and teaches our learners how to express and manage those feelings appropriately.

The five key steps of Emotional Coaching are:

1. **Recognise the emotion**
   Notice when a learner is experiencing an emotion, even if it is not verbally expressed.
2. **Connect and empathise**
   Acknowledge the learners' feelings and show understanding. For example, "I can see that you're feeling frustrated."
3. **Validate the emotion**
   Let the learner know that it is okay to feel that way. All emotions are acceptable, even if some behaviours are not.
4. **Set boundaries if needed**
   Clearly explain any expectations around behaviour. For example, "It's okay to feel angry, but it's not okay to hit."
5. **Problem-solve together**
   Support the learner in finding strategies to manage their emotions and make positive choices.



Nursery

Our Wonderful Nursery Opening

We were delighted to officially open our wonderful Nursery on 21st September, and we are pleased to share that it has already been a tremendous success.

Our learners have settled beautifully into their new environment and are embracing all that the setting has to offer. It has been a joy to see the children confidently exploring their surroundings, engaging in meaningful play, and developing their independence each day. They are forming positive and trusting relationships with staff, helping them feel safe, secure, and ready to learn.

We are proud to offer both morning and afternoon nursery sessions, providing flexible opportunities for children to access our nurturing and stimulating environment. Each session is carefully planned to encourage curiosity, creativity, communication, and social development through play-based learning experiences.

A key part of our nursery provision is the strong partnership we continue to build with parents and carers. Working together ensures that every child receives the support they need to thrive and reach their full potential. We value the relationships we are developing with our families and look forward to continuing this journey together.

We are incredibly proud of how well our nursery community has grown in such a short space of time and look forward to seeing our youngest learners continue to flourish throughout the year.

Samantha Inwood

Primary

Wow... welcome back! Doesn't time fly?

It has been wonderful to welcome all our primary classes back to school and see everyone together again. I cannot believe how much our learners have grown over the summer and how quickly they have settled back into school life.

I hope you all had a fantastic summer break and enjoyed some special time with family and friends. We have lots of exciting adventures, enriching experiences, and fun learning opportunities planned for the term ahead. Information and letters about upcoming events will be sent out in due course, so please keep an eye out for these.

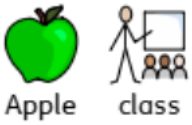
Our whole-school topic this term is Fantasy, and there is already a real buzz of excitement across the primary phase.

- Key Stage 1 will be exploring the classic tale The Three Little Pigs. I have already seen some fantastic impressions of the Big Bad Wolf from both learners and staff!
- Lower Key Stage 2 will be diving into the magical world of Zog, discovering dragons, adventures, and friendship along the way.
- Upper Key Stage 2 will be journeying through the curious and imaginative story of Alice in Wonderland, with plenty of opportunities for creativity and exploration.

It promises to be a wonderful year filled with learning, laughter, and memorable experiences. I am so excited to share this journey with all our primary learners and their families and look forward to seeing the amazing progress everyone will make.

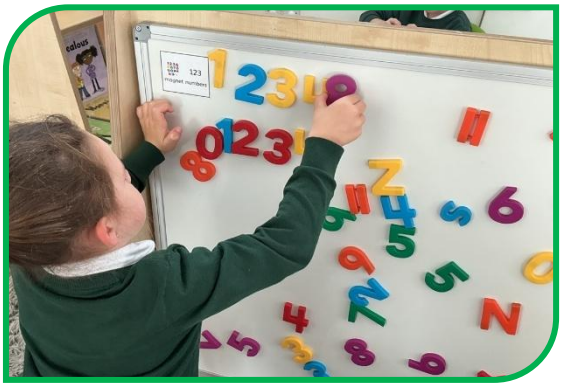
Thank you for your continued support, and here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Samantha Inwood



Apple Tree Class have settled back into school life exceptionally well and it has been wonderful to see how quickly the learners have re-engaged with their routines and learning. They have returned full of enthusiasm and are enjoying spending time with their friends and staff.

The children are thoroughly enjoying exploring the story of The Three Little Pigs through a range of engaging and sensory-rich activities. From story massages and role play to creative learning experiences, the learners have loved bringing the story to life. Story massage sessions have been particularly successful, providing opportunities for relaxation, communication, and shared enjoyment while helping learners connect with the characters and events within the story.

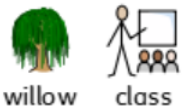


Lime Academy Forest Approach

Primary

Our Lemon Tree learners have settled into life at Forest Approach incredibly well. As all of the children are new to the school this year, it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow each day.

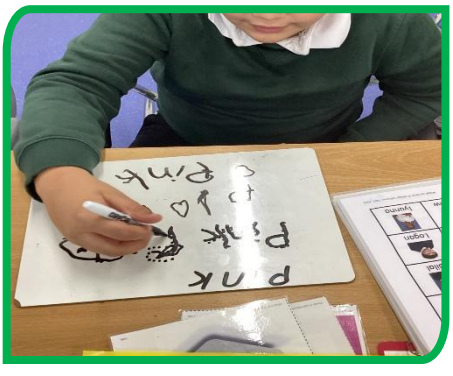
They have particularly enjoyed taking part in Sensory Cooking, where they have explored different foods, ingredients, and kitchen equipment through hands-on experiences, helping to develop their independence and life skills in a fun and engaging way.



Willow Class have made an excellent start to the new school year. They are doing extremely well within their highly structured classroom environment and are becoming increasingly confident with daily routines and workstation activities. It has been wonderful to see how quickly the learners have adapted, developing their independence, focus, and engagement throughout the school day. We are very proud of how well they have settled and embraced their learning.

Pear Tree Class have been thoroughly enjoying their **Music sessions**. Learners have loved exploring different sounds, instruments, and songs, while developing their communication, listening, and turn-taking skills. It has been fantastic to see their enthusiasm and engagement, with many learners actively participating and expressing themselves through music.

Palm Tree Class have been working incredibly hard during their handwriting sessions and are already showing fantastic progress. Learners have demonstrated great focus, perseverance, and enthusiasm as they develop their fine motor skills and handwriting. It has been wonderful to see their confidence growing and the improvements they have made in such a short time. Well done, Palm Tree Class. We are very proud of you all!



Secondary

Tongass

Tongass class have settled into the new school year, hitting the ground running in their highly structured classroom. The learners are responding well to their systems, with the independence and confidence building day by day! We have enjoyed a range of exciting experiences together already, including music, sensory play, and exploring our own class garden. We are excited for the year ahead!

Amazon

We're off to the wonderful world of Oz in Amazon class this half term!

The learners have enjoyed exploring The Wizard of Oz through sensory toys and props. The wizard's hat has been a huge success! We are settling into our new surroundings confidently, having welcomed new friends to our school. Our routine is establishing well and we are expressing ourselves positively. We are very excited for the year ahead.

Pine

We have enjoyed being reunited following the summer holidays. We have moved classrooms and welcomed some additional friends to our class, and we are building our relationships confidently. We have already packed so many experiences into our short-year, including cooking, music, and exploring the library. We cannot wait to see what the rest of the year brings!

Secondary

Oakley

Welcome back, we hope you had a restful summer break. Oakley class have been very excited for our book, How to Train Your Dragon, and have enjoyed exploring different ways to care for animals. We have settled back into school life really well and are enjoying being back in routine. We are building relationships with each other, enjoying each other's company alongside new learning experiences. We are excited for the year ahead!

Sheerwood

Sherwood class have been learning about The Wizard of OZ. Through sensory stories, we have been excited to learn about the characters, setting and plot of the story. We have also been very excited to explore our outside area - we feel very lucky to have such a big space! We are accepting one another beautifully in the learning environment and are continuing to build relationships with each other.

Post 14 and Sixth form

Welcome back everyone!

It has been wonderful to see our Post-14 and Post-16 learners settle back into school so positively. They have returned with enthusiasm, embraced new opportunities, and have shown great independence as they have settled into their routines

This year, we have continued to develop all of our classroom environments to ensure they reflect a **therapeutic approach**. Our learning spaces have been carefully designed to support learners' emotional wellbeing, communication, sensory needs, and self-regulation. By creating calm, nurturing, and structured environments, we aim to provide the best possible conditions for every learner to feel safe, supported, and ready to learn.

We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to seeing our learners continue to grow in confidence, independence, and achievement.

Kirsty

Maple

During independence and living, we have been learning how to wash and dry up our own plates and cups. We have been practicing filling up a bowl with water, pouring washing up liquid in and using a sponge to clean our items

Post 14 and Sixth form

Olive

For the first couple of weeks back, Olive Class has been focusing on building positive relationships and developing a strong sense of belonging within the classroom. We have been taking part in a range of team-building activities, helping us to get to know one another, work together and build new friendships. Each morning, we enjoy chatting together over breakfast, sharing news and experiences from home, which helps us start our day feeling connected and ready to learn.

The learners have particularly enjoyed playing games that encourage turn-taking, communication and teamwork. We have also been using our imaginations to create funny stories together, leading to lots of laughter and memorable moments. It has been wonderful to see the children supporting one another, growing in confidence and beginning to see themselves as part of a caring classroom family. We are incredibly proud of how well everyone has settled back into school and look forward to continuing to strengthen these relationships throughout the year.

Cedar

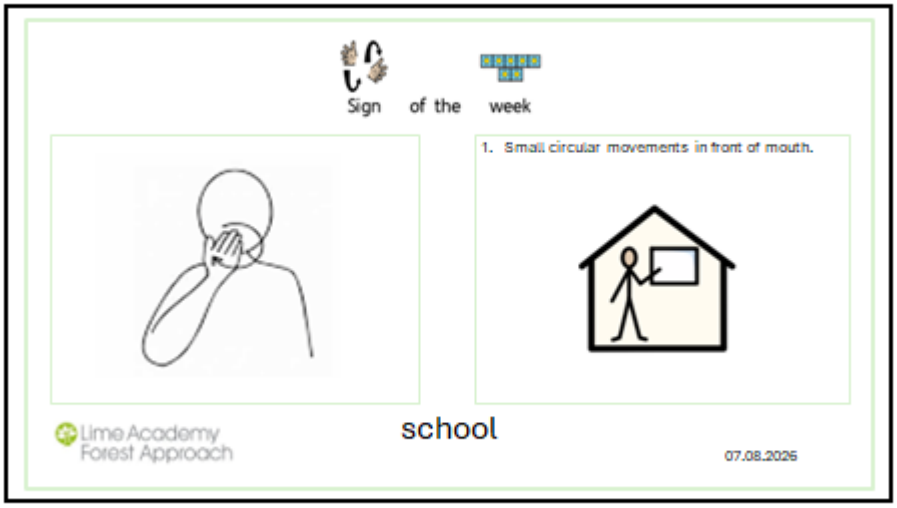
The photographs show learners using their AAC devices to make choices about the toppings they wanted on their bread during a Life Skills session. The learners independently navigated their AAC devices to communicate their preferences and make informed choices. They were fully engaged throughout the activity and clearly enjoyed the opportunity to create and taste their finished products, demonstrating both increased independence and effective communication skills.

Makaton

Please see attached our current Makaton Sign of the Week and Core Word of the Fortnight. These form an important part of our communication approach across the school and help to support the development of language, understanding and expressive communication for all learners.

We encourage staff to use and model the Makaton sign throughout the week and to regularly reference the core word within daily interactions, activities and lessons. Repetition and consistency help learners to understand, use and generalise these key communication skills across different environments.

Thank you for your support. We encourage families to practise these at home too, helping to build a shared communication approach between home and school. Please see the attached resources for this week's sign and current core word.



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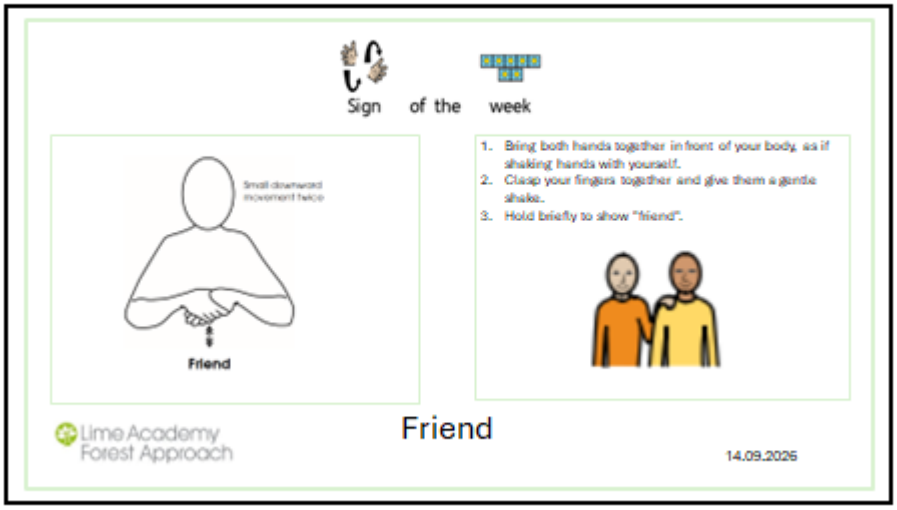

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