



Where **CURIOSITY** HATCHES, **creativity** takes **flight** and **learning** SOARS TO A SKY OF **opportunity**.



Issue 2: 19th December 2025

I can't quite believe we've reached the end of the Autumn term already! It feels like no time at all since we were welcoming everyone back through the school gates in September. As ever, it's been a wonderfully busy term — celebrating Diwali and Black History Month, coming together for our Macmillan Coffee Morning, and finishing with a Christmas Fayre which was absolutely buzzing. We've even had a visit from Buckinghamshire's High Sheriff who was incredibly impressed with the children.

The children will be back in school on Tuesday 6th January, ready to start the new year. We will continue to get 'Stronger, Sharper, Taller and Louder' next year – you'll see below the changes we are making to maths to improve the children's understanding, and in addition to this, next year is the Government's Year of Reading – a major national campaign to encourage reading for pleasure and improve literacy! It already sounds busy and better!

A huge well done to all the children in the 97up Club who have received their reward to. We have even more children regularly attending school which is brilliant to see. The new 'Abizon' Voucher (see below) has gone down a storm!

Finally, I'd like to offer a heartfelt thanks to our governors and staff for their dedication throughout the term. There have been a few challenging moments along the way, but as always, the team have pulled together and come out stronger.

Season's greetings to you all, and a very Merry Christmas to you and your families.

Movers and Shakers

Kiran Mann-Jones is returning to Thomas Hickman after a year-long maternity leave. She will be back in class (in Year 4) and leading our school in English. Welcome back Kiran!

At half-term we will be saying a sad farewell to Jo Saw in Year 3; Jo has invested eight years in Thomas Hickman but is moving on to an independent school. We thank Jo for everything she has done for our BIRDS and wish her luck and success.

Lauryn Laugie will be taking up post as the new full-time classteacher, so no new teachers; just our existing teachers shifting around a bit.

We will be advertising for Jo's replacement to start in September – if you know any brilliant teachers with a keen interest in Art, let them know we are looking!

THOMAS HICKMAN SCHOOL IS A **'KNOW NUTS'** SCHOOL!

We know...

- We know that we have children with severe, life threatening nut allergies in our school
- We know that although we might love nuts ourselves, we must not bring nuts in to school
- We know we should try and avoid having a nut-spread, this could be chocolate spread too, in our sandwich.
- We know that we should not share our food with our friends in case it contains nuts
- We know to wash our hands before and after eating
- We know not to bring sweets in without checking with our adults in school in case they contain nuts
- We know to tell an adult if our friend doesn't look well - if they have swollen lips, or can't breathe
- We know all the above information keeps our friends with a nut allergy safe, happy and well.

We know we are all BIRDS and no BIRD flies alone.

Miss Abi's Updated 97UP Club!

We know that great attendance helps our pupils make the most of every learning opportunity.

While we understand that achieving a full 100% isn't always realistic, we encourage all children to aim high, so 97% and above is our golden standard.

That's why Miss Abi was so excited to relaunch the 97UP Club, celebrating pupils who reach this milestone.

As a reward for their commitment, children can chose either a Zoomania voucher or a reward from Miss Abi's very own "Abizon" shop. See, 'great' things come from 'great' attendance!

Let's keep aiming for 97% and up, because every day in school truly counts!



Total raised: £310.00

We have had a very busy half term fund raising for many different causes. Your efforts again to raise money for Children in Need has helped local children's charities.

MP Laura Kyrke Smith

On 27th November, the children had the wonderful opportunity to meet **Laura Kyrke-Smith**, our local MP for Aylesbury. She adored our THS birds and was full of praise for the children's thoughtful and well-considered questions. Some of our Year 6 pupils also proudly shared the letters they've been working on in English.

KS2 Maths Update

From **after Christmas**, you may notice a few small changes to how Maths is taught in **Key Stage 2**. These changes are focused on strengthening consistency and ensuring all children continue to receive high-quality Maths teaching.

As part of this work, Maths lessons will sometimes be taught in **groups**, which means your child may be taught by a different teacher rather than their usual class teacher. This is a planned and positive step, and **all children will continue to follow the same Maths curriculum**, with the same expectations and teaching approaches.

These groups will be **reviewed at the end of each Maths block** and adjusted ahead of the next unit, ensuring groupings are **flexible and responsive** to the needs of the children and the focus of the learning.

We know that familiarity is important for children, and we will ensure they are well supported and confident in their learning throughout. Any changes will be carefully managed to minimise disruption and keep learning purposeful and engaging.



Christmas Fayre

Wow! what a fantastic event!

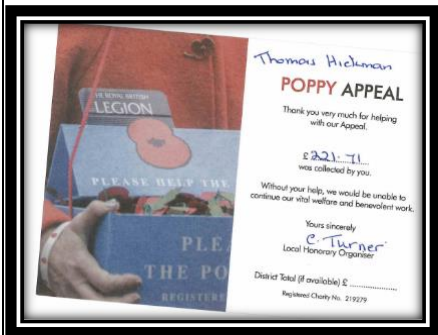
It was amazing to see so many of you come along and join in the festivities. The chocolate tombola was sold out by 4:45pm and Santa kept the children thoroughly entertained with a stream of families and gifts. He's already promised to return next year because the THS birds are always so lovely!



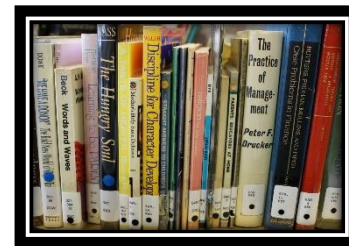
We are incredibly proud to announce that we have raised an amazing **£1537.45** and this money will be used to **FULLY FUND NEXT YEAR'S CHILDREN'S PANTOMIME!** ('Oh, no it won't', 'Oh yes it will!')

Thank you all for your wonderful support!

Royal Legion Poppy Appeal



Our local poppy organiser thanks you again for your kind donations this year, we raised **£221.71** to go towards supporting vital welfare and benevolent work within the Royal Legion.



Library Book Amnesty!

Please could you have a look at home for any THS Library books that have not been returned. Any books you find can be returned with your child and their class teacher will ensure they are returned to the library.



Hot Dinner Menu



Our lunch room staff kindly ask you to take time to order your child's food with them. They are finding currently, that many of the children are not liking the choice they have as they have not been involved with their menu choice.

Healthy Lunch Box

Supertato's Tips for a Healthy Lunchbox:

- 😊 Vary the contents of your child's lunchbox daily.
- 😊 Involve your child in preparing their lunchbox. They are more likely to enjoy food they have made themselves.
- 😊 Keep different breads in the freezer so you can just take out and defrost what you need for one day's lunchbox. Using different breads will make the lunchbox more interesting and enjoyable.
- 😊 For variety, use pitta strips, crackers, bread sticks, or fruit and vegetable finger foods with a dip.
- 😊 Make a fruit smoothie by blending juice and fruit together, or a yoghurt or milk drink by mixing yoghurt or semi-skimmed milk with pureed fruit.
- 😊 You can use leftovers; for example, rice and curry, vegetable pizza or pasta and sauce.
- 😊 Wash your hands before handling food. Wash fruit and vegetables before use and put food in clean containers.
- 😊 Use fresh fruit and vegetables which are in season to help the environment and enjoy variety!
- 😊 Everyone enjoys a treat in their lunchbox – go ahead! Just make sure your lunchbox is nutritionally balanced.
- 😊 Please don't include sweets or fizzy drinks in your child's lunch box.
- 😊 Remember we are a 'Know Nuts' school so nothing with any kind of nut please to help keep all our BIRDS safe (if you are using chocolate spread please make sure it is a type without hazelnuts)





Where CURIOSITY HATCHES, creativity takes flight and SOARS TO A SKY OF opportunity.



Y2 Nativity - The Fleece Force

Wow, wow, wow! What an incredible show put on by the Year 2 children. Their performance of 'The Fleece Force' nativity showcased all of the hard work and dedication the children have put into learning their lines, practising songs and rehearsing stage directions. We couldn't be prouder



Reception Nativity

Our Reception children were amazing as they retold the traditional Nativity story. Every child did a brilliant job, showing confidence and enthusiasm. Their singing and narration brought the story to life and we are so proud of how well they all performed. Well done, Reception!



What an Incredible Autumn Term of PE at THS!

At Thomas Hickman School, our BIRDS are soaring in physical education and school sport! Physical literacy – having a positive and meaningful relationship with movement and physical activity for life – is at the heart of everything we do. Our HAWKS (Healthy, Active, Willing, Knowledgeable, Safe) curriculum ensures that every child understands what it means to be a HAWK, both in and out of school, and to proudly represent THS in sporting events.

Our Reception and KS1 BIRDS continue to develop their fundamental movement skills through active play, fostering a lifelong love of movement and physical activity. Meanwhile, KS2 are exploring a wide variety of sports, focusing on refining techniques and developing tactical awareness across different activities.

Autumn Term Highlights:

- 1st Place – Girls' Handball League
- 2nd Place – Netball Tournament
- 3rd Place – Tag Rugby Festival
- 3rd Place – Boys' Handball League

A huge well done to all our BIRDS for their hard work, determination, and outstanding achievements this term – we can't wait to see what the next term brings!

'There is magic in movement. Enjoy being physically active for life!'



Clubs:

Our amazing THS team has once again created an extensive list of exciting, free clubs for our BIRDS, starting in January 2026! We pride ourselves on our extra-curricular club programme, enriching the learning experiences of our BIRDS, so please take a good look and sign up!





Muddy Ducks

This Half Term: *Over the Rainbow*

This half term our Field of Study was *Over the Rainbow*, and the children took part in a variety of colourful activities. They explored colour names both verbally and through Makaton signing, and proudly learned a new poem called *Breezy Weather*. A highlight was our party, where we loved watching the children dance, laugh, and enjoy themselves together.

Looking Ahead: *Once Upon a Time*

Next term our Field of Study will be *Once Upon a Time*. This project is designed to spark a love of stories and reading, encouraging children to use their imagination as they retell and act out familiar traditional tales. Alongside developing creativity, the project also helps children understand the importance of rules and expectations, showing how our actions can have consequences and affect the feelings of others.

Pre-school

The children have been exploring the enchanting theme of 'Starry night'. We have enjoyed creating lots of arts and crafts, all to do with nocturnal animals and the night sky. We loved our pyjama day and the children were very excited to show off their pyjamas to all their friends. We look forward to our next topic 'Dangerous dinosaurs!'



Reception

This term, the children have loved exploring the many celebrations that take place during the autumn months. They also enjoyed diving into different fairy tales and learning all about the Christmas story. Everyone practised so hard for our nativity performance, and we hope you enjoyed watching it as much as the children enjoyed taking part!



Year 1

This half term has been a busy and exciting one for our Year 1 children! In English, the class have been creating their very own paper dolls, showing great imagination and creativity. In Maths, the children have been working hard to consolidate their learning about 2D and 3D shapes, spotting them in the classroom and around school. Within FOS, the children have finished both their Geography and Art unit. Thank you to all of you who attended our parent finale on the 18th. As the weather gets colder, children must wear a winter coat to school and bring a water bottle and reading record every day. PE days remain Tuesday afternoon and Friday morning. Thank you for your continued support



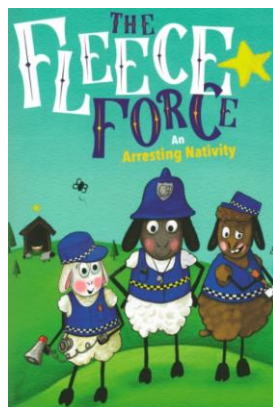
Year 1 Wonders

This term, the children had a wonderful time exploring activities inspired by the book *Stick Man*. From creating their own stick family using natural materials to using foods to create their own stickman. The children worked together to make a stickman family and do lots of fun crafts. It was a joyful term of *Stick Man* fun. The children have also had a look at the book *The Gruffalo's Child* doing hands on crafts using their creative minds. We are so impressed with their language development this term and can't wait to see them blossom in spring.



Year 2

What an amazing first term Year 2 has had! We have rounded off our English learning for the Autumn term by publishing our narratives about the Nativity, retelling the story of *The Fleece Force*. In maths, we have finished our topic of shape and will be starting in January with our new topic of money. Our new Field of Study is called 'Long Live the King' and we can't wait to get started! Don't forget to have a go at your talk homework - you can show your adults everything you already know about monarchs! Have a lovely Christmas break and happy new year.



Year 3

It has been an exciting term in Year 3! We had an amazing visit to the Chiltern Open Air Museum, where we got to make real Stone Age tools using wood, stone and dried grass. We made cave paintings, built shelters using 'animal hides' and even learnt to make fire! We made impressive Iron Age roundhouses in our finale using clay, wood and straw. We have learnt all about daily life in the Iron Age, from what the roundhouse would look like, how it was built using wattle and daub, hill forts, farming and food. In English we have learned more about life at Skara Brae, through our core text *The Great Storm*. In maths we have improved our calculation skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We are excited to learn all about Tectonic Tremors in the Spring Term!





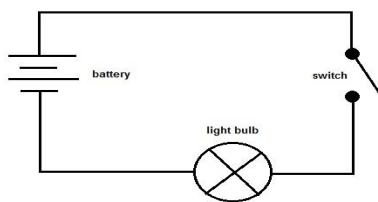
Year 4

This term, Year 4 have been buzzing with excitement as we delved deeper into our historical investigations! We've journeyed from the reign of the Anglo-Saxon kings to the fierce Viking warriors, culminating in the dramatic events of the Norman conquest.

In Science, our budding scientists have been exploring the fascinating world of electricity. Students created working circuits and even designed a pressure-sensitive switch that could function as a burglar alarm—how clever!

In English, we've been honing our writing skills by crafting balanced arguments. The question, "Were Vikings Really Vicious?" sparked lively discussions, leading to engaging newspaper articles and non-chronological reports.

Our recent trip to Ufton Court was truly magical, transporting us back in time. We learned about Viking raids, crime and punishment, and warfare—an unforgettable experience that enriched our understanding of history. What a fantastic term it has been!



Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic couple of weeks, and we are so proud of them. Our visit to Lewin House was a real highlight; the children sang their carols with confidence and kindness, and the residents were genuinely touched. Their manners were excellent throughout, and they helped to spread some early festive cheer, a lovely example of our Thomas Hickman values in action.

In Field of Study, the children have shown real curiosity as they compared the Shang and Zhou Dynasties. They have been spotting similarities and differences in hierarchy, education and daily life, and have been speaking confidently about what these comparisons show.

In English, pupils have been working hard on their setting descriptions, exploring how writers zoom in close, step back to mid-range and then widen the lens to reveal the bigger picture. Their writing has been thoughtful, detailed and full of imagination, exactly what we love to see.

A brilliant effort from Year 5, and a wonderful few weeks of learning. We hope everyone has a lovely rest and comes back fully recharged for a fascinating and exciting term ahead.



Year 6

What a packed first whole term it has been in year 6! We have enjoyed our Field of Study "Stand Up, Stand Out" including the wonderful trip to the Houses of Parliament. Thank you to the parents/carers who came to our Finale where we showcased our learning including the song Rise Up sung beautifully by all the children.

Just a reminder that Year 6 have homework set every week and are expected to complete it - your on-going support with this is crucial in the children achieving well. Maths is set using My Maths and reading is either on Reading Eggs or Reading plus (Dreambox). The children already have all their log in information. Please support us to ensure your child is completing homework every week.

We now look forward to the New Year and our Field of Study is Frozen Kingdoms

Dates for next term: Pit Stop Thursday 12th February @ 2,30pm

Finale for Spring term Thursday 19th March @ 2,30pm

Experiences and trips - Wednesday 28th January Spirit of the Wild animal experience in school. More details will follow in January with payment request.

Residential Monday 23rd March to Wednesday 25th March.

Enjoy the holiday and see you refreshed and ready to learn in January!



Where **CURIOSITY** HATCHES, *creativity* takes *flight* and *learning* SOARS TO A SKY OF *opportunity*.

THOMAS HICKMAN SCHOOL IS A
'KNOW NUTS'
SCHOOL!

We know...

We know that we have children with severe, life threatening nut allergies in our school.
We know that although we might love nuts ourselves, we must not bring nuts in to school.
We know we should try and avoid having a nut spread, this could be chocolate spread too, in our sandwich.
We know that we should not share our food with our friends in case it contains nuts.
We know that we should wash our hands before and after eating.
We know not to bring sweets in without checking with our adults in school in case they contain nuts.
We know not to bring sweets in if our friend doesn't look well - if they have swollen lips, or can't breathe.
We know to tell an adult if our friend doesn't look well - if they have swollen lips, or can't breathe.
We know all the above information keeps our friends with a nut allergy safe, happy and well.
We know we are all BIRDS and no BIRD flies alone.




Dates for you diary Spring 1.....

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>5th January</u> Inset day	<u>6th January</u>	<u>7th January</u>	<u>8th January</u>	<u>9th January</u> Flu Immunisation Team – children absent on 5/10/2025
<u>12th January</u>	<u>13th January</u> Reception Science Oxford Trip	<u>14th January</u> Yr1 Slime workshop	<u>15th January</u>	<u>16th January</u>
<u>19th January</u> CLUBS START Kings & Queens Day Yr2	<u>20th January</u> 3.30pm - Yr1 Parent meeting London Eye trip Yr4 Pitstop 2.30pm	<u>21st January</u>	<u>22nd January</u>	<u>23rd January</u> Yr5 Living rain forest trip
<u>26th January</u>	<u>27th January</u> Muddy Ducks Royal Party 9.00am – 11.00am 1.00pm – 3.00pm	<u>28th January</u> Yr6 Spirit of the Wild	<u>29th January</u>	<u>30th January</u>
<u>2nd February</u> Cooking course Acorn Centre 9.00am Yr2 Pitstop 2.30pm	<u>3rd February</u> Yr5 Young voices – times to be confirmed. Reception pitstop 2.30pm	<u>4th February</u> Muddy Ducks Art and Craft / Stay and Play 10.30am & 2.30pm	<u>5th February</u> Pre-school stay and play 10.30am & 2.30pm	<u>6th February</u> Yr4 Local river excursion Yr3 Pitstop 2.30pm
<u>9th February</u> Yr 5 Pitstop 2.30pm NO CLUBS THIS WEEK	<u>10th February</u> PARENTS EVE Book Fayre	<u>11th February</u> Yr1 Pitstop 2.30pm	<u>12th February</u> Height and Weight Reception & Yr6 only 9.00am Yr6 Pitstop 2.30pm Northern Lights PARENTS EVE Book Fayre	<u>13th February</u> BREAK UP

Where **CURIOSITY** HATCHES, **creativity** takes **flight** and **learning** SOARS TO A SKY OF **opportunity**.

In the community

FREE

FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

LIVE WEBINARS

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

DATES: JAN - APRIL 2026

TIME: 6PM - 7.30PM

To register, scan the QR codes on the next page!

01865 901566 | bucksmht@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

*PLEASE NOTE: YOUR CHILD MUST ATTEND AN INSET SCHOOL FOR ACCESS TO THE WEBINARS. IF YOU ARE UNABLE, PLEASE CONTACT US.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SECURE YOUR PLACE:

Topic	Date	Link	QR code
Exam Stress	Monday 12th of January 2026	Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams	
Awareness and understanding of eating disorders	Monday the 26th of January 2026	Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams	
Understanding childhood development and behaviour	Tuesday the 10th of February 2026	Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams	
Understanding Low mood	Monday the 9th of March 2026	Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams	
Understanding adolescent development and behaviour	Monday the 9th of March 2026	Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams	

HAF Clubs

Children's Multi-Activity

HALF TERM

Holiday Camps

16th-20th February 2026

7.45am-6pm

9am-5pm

aktiva

For all camp dates, venues and to book your place please visit www.aktivacamps.com

Kingsbrook View Primary Academy AYLESBURY

Aktiva Camps is an OFSTED-registered children's day camp, providing an extensive range of sports and activities for children to enjoy. Aktiva offers children between the ages of 4 and 12 a safe, fun, and friendly holiday camp environment. We encourage children to try new things, building their confidence and broadening their experience™ each and every day. Our programmes are designed to be high-energy, full of variety, and most importantly, fun! Your child(ren) will return home with memories, home-made souvenirs, and new friendships. **Building confidence and broadening experience™**

aktiva

HALF TERM CAMP AT: Kingsbrook View Primary Academy

FULL WEEK SESSIONS
Short Day: 9am to 5pm - £176
Full day: 7.45am to 6pm - £200

DAY SESSION
Short day - £44 Full day - £50
Childcare vouchers accepted

ROALD DAHL BOOK WEEK THEME:
Arts and Crafts, Dress Up, Song and Dance

OUTDOOR GAMES:
Football, Dodge Ball, Tennis, Volleyball, Tag Rugby

Easy Online Booking:
www.aktivacamps.com
Email: bookings@aktivacamps.com

The provider is named Christina Marks School of Performing Arts and a link to their offer can be found here - <https://app.holidayactivities.com/parent/providers/christina-marks-school-of-performing-arts-buckinghamshire>

If possible, we would encourage you to make eligible families aware of the places available locally and signpost them towards the HAF website [here](#) where they can see how to access the booking system and how to book onto provision local to them.

Where **CURIOSITY** HATCHES, **creativity** takes **flight** and **learning** SOARS TO A SKY OF **opportunity**.

UDO
INSPIRE | ENGAGE | EMPOWER
MAKING STREET DANCE ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL
DANCE FOUNDATION

WINTER HAF **FREE**
STREETDANCE CAMP

UDOIT Dance Foundation is back for the 3rd year of running their FREE HAF street dance camp for children on benefit related FSM!

Hawkslade Community Centre
Barley Crescent Aylesbury, HP219YL

29th, 30th, 31st December 2025
10am-2pm
Ages 7-13yrs

For more info email & sign ups
nadia@udoitdance.co.uk

Bucks Family Learning

Buckinghamshire Family Learning

FREE ONLINE SCHOOL COURSES for PARENTS and CARERS
TO BOOK YOUR PLACE → **01296 383582** OR SCAN the QR code or CLICK on the course code link below

YEARS 3 & 4

READING & COMPREHENSION
Support your child with Reading and comprehension (6 weeks)
Mon 5th Jan - Mon 9th Feb
9:30am - 11:30am
Course code: **FMRC059**

MATHS
Support your child's understanding of Shape, Data & Measure (6 weeks)
Wed 7th Jan - Wed 11th Feb
6:30pm - 8:30pm
Course code: **FMS088**

YEARS 5 & 6

READING COURSE
Creative ways to engage children in reading and making sense of text (6 weeks)
Tue 6th Jan - Tue 10th Feb
Thurs 8th Jan - Thurs 12th Feb
6:30pm - 8:30pm
Course code: **FMRC091**

YEARS 3, 4, 5 & 6

WELLBEING
Help your child to stay safe when playing games, doing homework or meeting friends online (4 weeks)
Tue 13th Jan - Tue 3rd Feb
12:30pm - 2:30pm
Course code: **FMWB090**

[BuckinghamshireAdultLearning](#) [BucksADLearning](#) [adultlearningbc.ac.uk](#) Funded by UK Government

Buckinghamshire Family Learning

FREE ONLINE SCHOOL COURSES for PARENTS and CARERS
TO BOOK YOUR PLACE → **01296 383582** OR SCAN the QR code or CLICK on the course code link below

RECEPTION - YEAR 6

ADHD Tips to support your child at home (2 hours)
Wed 14th Jan
9:30am - 11:30am
Course code: **FMAC135**

AUTISM Tips to support your child at home (2 hours)
Mon 19th Jan
7pm - 9pm
Course code: **FMAC134**

RECEPTION

PHONICS & READING
Support your child with Phonics and Reading (5 weeks)
Mon 12th Jan - Mon 9th Feb
Tue 13th Jan - Tue 10th Feb
Thurs 15th Jan - Thur 12th Feb
9:30am - 11:30am
Course code: **FMPR063**

YEARS 1 & 2

PHONICS & READING Support your child with Phonics and Reading (8 weeks)
Mon 5th Jan - Mon 9th Feb
6:30pm - 8:30pm
Course code: **FMPR064**

Wed 7th Jan - Wed 11th Feb
9:30am - 11:30am
Course code: **FMPR064**

MATHS
Support your child's understanding of Shape, Data & Measure (6 weeks)
Tue 6th Jan - Tue 10th Feb
9:30am - 11:30am
Course code: **FMS047**

[BuckinghamshireAdultLearning](#) [BucksADLearning](#) [adultlearningbc.ac.uk](#) Funded by UK Government