

Dear Parents & Carers,

Well, it has been quite a couple of weeks here at Little Hadham Primary! The preparations for our Beech Performance of 'The Stickman' are reaching their final moments (what amazing actors we have-watch out West End) but we also had our School Improvement Partner in to review. A School Improvement Partner is external professionals from Herts For Learning who come into the school and identifies what a school does well and how it might improve. Whilst her report is yet to be sent, it is safe to say we were very pleased with the outcome. Her main focus of the day was to a 'deep dive' into maths, this is a thorough review/audit of our maths. First, she spoke with me and we observed maths lessons together, looking at books and listening and observing the children learning together. She then met with Mrs Sassis, our maths lead, and then she met with children from each class. What she saw is what we as a Little Hadham community experience every day. A same lesson approach, aimed at deeper learning is evident in each class, showing a co-ordinated and systematically progressive pedagogy. Pupils' love and enthusiasm for their maths- she noted that their attitude to learning is impeccable. There is an effective balance between practical work and written work in books. Staff using effective questioning to enhance children's learning. However, on top of all that, she pointed out that our school was one of few that she has been into recently that has an air of normality and positivity. I've said it before, but it is a huge privilege to be the Headteacher of this wonderful school and I could not have been more proud of everyone, staff and children for showcasing all the fantastic things we do and achieve everyday.

Have a lovely weekend,
Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

Diary Dates

- 13/12/21 Little Hadham Bake Off
- 14/12/21 Beech Class Performance
6pm
- 16/12/21 Panto at Southmill Centre-
pick up from there 3:30pm
- 17/12/21 Early Years Celebration
@9:00am
- 20/12/21 Christmas Dinner
- 21/12/21 Autumn Term ends
1.00pm
- 05/01/22 Inset day-staff training
- 06/01/22 Children return

Winter/Christmas events

As it stands we are hoping that all of our plans for the last week of term, in relation to the Christmas activities, will be able to continue as planned.

However, if there are alterations and changes these will be made in the best interests of the health and safety of our school community and communicated to you at the earliest possible opportunity.

Also, after-school club will have its last session on Wednesday 15th of December. There will be no after school on Monday 20th of December.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

As we move into the last week of term (and the country moves into Plan B), I would like to remind you to please keep safe and take necessary precautions, including:

- *Wearing masks on the school site (unless exempt) Keeping socially distanced from other parents/ carers and staff*
- *Leaving the site swiftly after dropping off*
- *Being alert for signs and symptoms of COVID i.e. continuous cough, temperature, loss of sense of smell/ taste*

We are managing all of the things that we are currently doing to try and minimise risk and protect the Christmas break for our children, families and staff. I am sure that you all want to be able to spend some quality family time over Christmas and visit those near and dear.

News from the classes...



A busy Christmassy week with songs to sing and games to play in Early Years. The children have been working together happily and responded well to their YOGA, dance, PE and forest sessions.



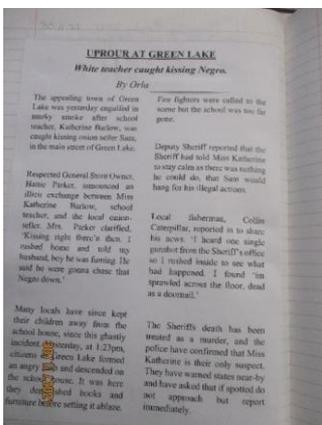
Beech class have been very busy and having so much fun rehearsing their 'Stick Man' production. Yet they have still found time to be write reports and be weather forecast presenters and to think about how trees change throughout the seasons.



Lime class have been finding out all about skeletons and looking for similarities and differences in animal and human skeletons. They have also learned what the word dilemma means and are working on some dilemma stories about alligators! They painted some beautiful watercolours of predatory birds which are being mounted for display. In PE they have been playing tag rugby and creating amazing human shapes!



In Maple class, we have been learning about air resistance. We watched an investigation on the Moon where a hammer and feather were dropped. Because of the lack of air on the Moon, we saw that they fell at the same time! We designed and made three parachutes, only changing one thing about the design (e.g. size or shape of parachute, length of string or object attached to the parachute). We found out that the parachute that fell the slowest, had the greatest amount of air resistance.



It's no secret we love reading in Year 6, and so with this in mind, we decided to make book-themed baubles for our classroom Christmas tree. A few folds here and few twists there, our tree was looking beautiful in no time!

We have been busy creating presentations all about Christmas traditions in our country ready to share at our live, online meeting with our partner countries next week.



In English, we wrote newspaper articles based on one of the many shocking events from our class book 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. Miss Katherine, the school teacher, had caused scandal in the small town of

Green Lake and, as a result, the schoolhouse was burnt to the ground! To write our reports, we used a formal voice and included the use of the passive voice. We also showed a shift in the level of formality by including some direct speech. We have some budding journalists in Year 6!

