

Dear Families,

It has been lovely to see some warmer weather this week along with blue skies and sunshine and the children have really been enjoying playing outside without coats. Please do make sure their clothes are labelled with names as our lost property boxes are bulging with coats and jumpers.

Thank you to the parents who were able to join us for our Learning Together Mornings. It was wonderful to see families actively engaging in various learning activities alongside their children. Your enthusiasm and support are invaluable in creating a vibrant learning community, and we always look forward to welcoming you to events.

We are thrilled to share that Maple Class had a captivating learning experience with a special guest, Matt the astronomer from Cambridge University. The children were fascinated as they explored the wonders of the universe, delving into the mysteries of space and beyond. Matt's expertise and interactive presentation sparked curiosity and ignited imaginations, leaving a lasting impression on our young learners. We extend our gratitude to Matt for sharing his knowledge and passion with our students, inspiring them to reach for the stars in their pursuit of knowledge- I am not sure he knew there would be 1001 questions!

Huge congratulations to our Year 3 and 4 students who recently participated in a local schools tennis competition. Despite being practically beginners, our young athletes showcased remarkable determination and talent on the tennis court. We were delighted to hear some even won a game- well done everyone, what a fabulous achievement- we may even see you at Wimbledon one day! Thank you to Mrs Goodger and Mrs Evans for all their support and encouragement.

Have a wonderful sunny weekend!
Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

Lego Appeal

Do have any mini builds of Lego with instructions that you do not use anymore?

Although we have a supply of Lego, mini build sets are an essential part of play, focus, listening and learning for our children to get the best support when playing with Lego. If anyone has any they feel they can spare, it would be much appreciated.

Diary Dates

- 13/05/24 Willow Class SATS Week
- 14/05/24 Willow Class- Online V&A Workshop
- 20/05/24 Show Racism the Red Card workshops for Yr4,5 and 6
- 21/05/24 Willow Class Crucial Crew
- 23/05/24 Spelling Workshop 9am
- 23/05/24 In-house Netball challenge KS2
- 24/05/24 End of Half -Term school closes at normal time
- 03/06/24 INSET Day: No Insects!
- 04/06/24 Return to School

Message to Willow Class

We would like to wish all of our year 6 team the best of luck. We are incredibly proud of how they have supported each other.

We know that we have artists, musicians, poets, sports people, ambassadors of kindness, great philosophical thinkers, problem solvers, designers and great all round amazing children in our year 6 classes. The tests won't show all of those talents, but we recognise these talents and are proud of all the achievements in our year 6 classes.

Have a restful weekend, spend time outside in the fresh air, and spend time with friends and family. We look forward to seeing you on time on Monday morning.

Early Years have enjoyed the warmer weather this week as we had our first PE lesson on the field. The children practised rolling hoops and throwing javelins. They used all their strength to throw the javelins and some went very far.

Ash and Saplings have been practising different ways to move their bodies and balance carefully during our gymnastics lesson this week. They found it tricky to stand on one leg like a flamingo but persevered and were proud of themselves when they could balance for a long time.

For our PSHE sessions, we are continuing to think about how we can keep ourselves healthy. This week, we talked about how important it is to exercise and

move around. The children shared lots of super suggestions of ways to exercise, including swimming, bike rides, running, gymnastics and football.



Outdoors, we are very lucky to have a new sheltered area where the children can play when it gets too hot. The children have already turned it into a reading area, a beach and an airport. We can tell it's going to get busy in there!

In maths this week we have been looking at shapes and counting the number of sides and corner different shapes have. We have also been

thinking about the difference between a rectangle and a square. The children made excellent shape detectives as we hunted for shapes all around the classroom. We were surprised at just how many shapes there were, hiding right in front of us!



This week, the children in the Beech class have continued their gardening activities. We have expanded our raised beds by planting lettuce and onions. In addition to nurturing the existing plants, they have taken the initiative to create labels, aiding in identifying the various items they've planted.



In maths, the Year 2 students have been investigating place value, and comprehending the significance of digits in numbers and how they represent different quantities. They learn to identify the value of each digit in two-digit numbers and begin to explore regrouping when adding or subtracting.

Meanwhile, the Year 1 children have been learning about multiplication and division, laying the groundwork for more complex arithmetic. They started by grasping the concept of repeated addition as a precursor to multiplication, and they explored how division represents sharing or grouping equally. Through hands-on activities, visuals, and interactive exercises, they developed their understanding of these fundamental mathematical operations.



In English, the Year 1 children have completed their final fact files on Rhinos, incorporating all the knowledge they've gathered through their research. They've not only deepened their understanding of Rhinos but also expanded their vocabulary, integrating newly acquired words into their writing. This process has not only enhanced their literacy skills but also fostered a deeper connection to the subject matter.

The Year 2 children have been practicing their reading comprehension skills through structured exercises and assessments. They've tackled reading comprehension papers, where they're tasked with analysing and understanding various texts. These exercises not only improve their ability to comprehend written information but also enhance their critical thinking and inference skills. By engaging with a range of texts, from fiction to non-fiction, they develop strategies for extracting meaning, identifying key details, and making connections within the text. This practice lays a solid foundation for their continued development as proficient readers and critical thinkers.

In art class, the children's watercolour sunset masterpieces have taken on a new dimension as they skilfully add silhouettes of trees in the foreground. The contrast between the vibrant hues of the sunset and the stark outlines of the trees creates a captivating visual effect. We eagerly anticipate the completion of their final pieces next week, where their creativity and attention to detail will shine through in their completed artworks.

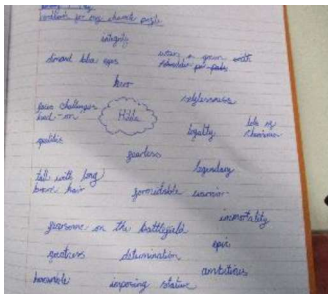


Lime class had a mystery to solve on Tuesday - the mystery of the empty grave! We used our powers of deduction and historical knowledge to look at evidence to decide who could have been buried at the famous site of Sutton Hoo in Suffolk. You'll have to ask us to find out what the theories are.....

We have also had a wonderful time investigating magnets and magnetic materials both inside and outside the classroom, exploring our different ideas and finding proof to support our hypotheses. We made predictions, tested them and drew conclusions from our results.



Maths is all about time, hours, minutes and seconds to be precise. How many seconds does it take you to write your name ten times? Grab a stopwatch and find out like we did in our lesson!



Our English lessons have been all about creating a Saxon hero based on Beowulf. We read a character profile as our model text, rewrote it and then innovated it to reflect the new character we have created. Next week we will be dreaming up our gruesome monsters based on Grendel and then we can create an Anglo Saxon story.

In DT we have designed and written our own comic strips. We chose the target audience and the style and are now beginning to create the panels. We are hoping to evaluate them and then turn them into 3D animations by the end of term.



This week, Maple class worked on what makes interesting adventure stories. Firstly, the children read and explored the structure of an adventure story; they discussed the story structure and plot and recorded the emotions that matched with each part of the plot. They then developed a well-rounded character, using similes and powerful adjectives and created vivid setting descriptions, using prepositional phrases, sensory language and personification.





In our yoga lesson this week, after warming up with the postures of the 'sun sequence', the pupils played the 'Shark game', while performing new postures, such as the crab, the flamingo and the dancer. A new game was introduced: the 'Front to front', in which children were required to mirror postures of the children opposite them in the circle. Throughout the games, they - as always - worked on their listening skills; the session ended with the calming powers of the 'rainstick' and the 'ladybird relaxation' games.

In Art, children used tools and appropriate techniques and created their clay vases according to their plans, following last week's practise session with plasticine. In order to create their 'pinch' pots, they tried to follow their designs, while making necessary adaptations; they worked hard on securely joining and smoothing the edges. They realised that clay can be manipulated in a variety of ways, but necessarily in a skilful manner. And yes, it was messy and fun!

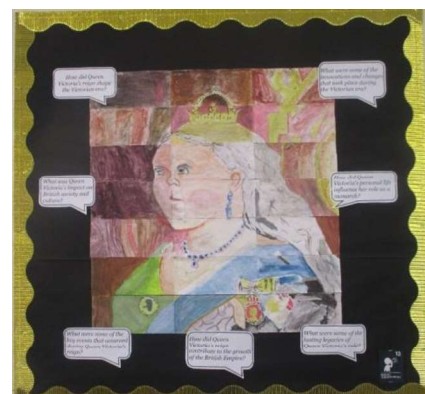


In Maths, children revised dividing numbers by 10 and 100 and dividing numbers using the short division. Year 5s also worked on and understood the equivalence between decimals, fractions and percentages.

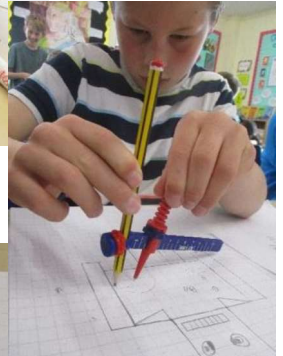
In PSHE, children discussed in what ways people can be influenced by what they see in the media, including social media. They brainstormed features that most of the celebrities have in common but focused not only on the physical qualities but also on the personal qualities that people have. Children shared their thoughts and made lists of star qualities! Based on the lists, we are all stars!



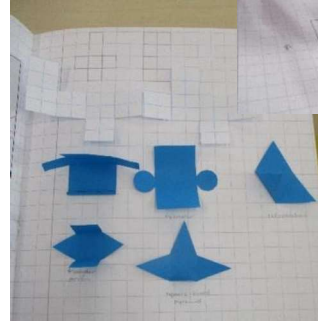
We began this week in Willow Class by admiring our Victorian portraits, now on display in the classroom. It was fun trying to identify each other from the silhouettes. There is a Victorian scientist hidden amongst us too! Can you spot him? We are justifiably proud of our whole class portrait of Queen Victoria. Mrs Tweedale is pleased with how Queen Victoria appears to be keeping her beady eyes on us all! Our drawing and painting skills we certainly challenged during the creation of this artwork, but teamwork and perseverance have paid off! We are sure Queen Victoria would approve of her portrait.



One of the key skills we have been developing in maths is learning how to use coordinates in all four quadrants. We have been practising plotting points on a grid and identifying the correct quadrants for each point. We enjoyed a fun 'Battleships' style game with our learning partners allowing us to put our learning into practice.



We have also been busy identifying nets of 3D shapes, exploring the 2D shapes required to create 3D shapes and we have been working on visualizing the connection between the two. We honed our drawing skills by learning how to draw shapes accurately using rulers and protractors to ensure precise measurements and using compasses to draw perfect circles.



In English we have been writing as diaries in Darwin. We have been finding out about the and enjoyed researching some of the animals and felt like (and some of us sounded like) younger versions of Sir David Attenborough! All this research and learning has helped us to be able to write with more confidence when writing in role as Darwin, including using scientific vocabulary when talking about the adaptations of different creatures.

role as Charles Galápagos Islands Darwin studied. We

It's all about balance – in Willow Class, we work hard and understand the importance of rest and play too. We are ready for our SATs assessments next week and are already

looking forward to starting each day with our friends at our SATs Breakfast. This weekend is an opportunity to enjoy the sunshine, do the things we love and ensure we are well rested for the week ahead! The odd ice lolly along the way certainly helps!



Nursery Applications for 2024 and future years: We still have a few places available for Nursery in September 2024, so if you know anyone still looking for a place, please spread the word. We take children in September who will have already turned 3. We offer both 15 and 30 hours and also other flexible options. Our before and after school club also takes children who are in our Nursery.

Safeguarding Update

Attendance- understanding our joint DUTY OF CARE for your children. Please be HONEST!

Children only have one chance at an education and, as research shows, good attendance at school is vital for wellbeing. Simply put, children who attend well, achieve well- academically and socially! We are now a school that has attendance below national average and the number of persistent absentees has increased. Please follow school policy and inform the school if your child is unable to attend school. On occasions where an absence needs to be recorded, please be honest with any reasons. Such honesty must surely be a basic expectation for all! At Little Hadham Primary we are committed to providing a nurturing and supportive environment where every child feels valued and empowered to reach their full potential. But we can't do it alone – we need your partnership and cooperation to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Rating	Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
Good	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
Satisfactory	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
Cause for Concern	90%	171 days	19	95
	89%	169 days	21	105
	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125
Unsatisfactory	86%	163 days	27	135
Serious Cause for Concern days	85%	161.5 days	28.5	142.5
	84%	159.5	30.5	152.5
	83%	158 days	32	160
	82%	156 days	36	170
	81%	154 days	34	180
Critical	80%	152 days	38	190