

NEWSLETTER 11.02.2022

Dear families,

It has not been the easiest half-term and it has certainly seen the most disruption due to COVID that we have had. Fingers crossed, we seem to be turning a corner with the number of cases we have in school. A big thank you to all the staff who have rearranged days and helped out when we have been so short staffed. It looks likely there will be a further change to the COVID regulations shortly after we return from the holiday. We will be reviewing all of this as always and will update you on what this means for us as a school.

Despite all of this, there has been much to celebrate over the last 2 weeks. Willow and Maple Class made their school trips, which they greatly enjoyed. Lime Class trundled off to Millennium woods this afternoon and luckily just made it back for the half term train. We even had a fire drill and made it down from trees in record time! Never a dull moment here! We celebrated Safer Internet Day this week. While Online Safety is embedded in our computing curriculum, we still use this day to raise awareness of the importance of staying safe online. The children all had lessons in class. The focus this year was 'Fun and Games? Exploring Respect and Relationships Online'. The younger children discussed the importance of passwords and ensuring adults know what games/apps they are playing. The older children focused on how to behave appropriately online and how to stay safe by not sharing any personal information. Please do reinforce these messages with your children at home and have discussions about what they are doing when they are online. It is such a valuable resource but one that must be used carefully.

A much needed week's break is upon us - for everyone. Can I take this opportunity to thank all the staff here at Little Hadham Primary for their continued hard work during yet another challenging half term. It truly is a testament to their professionalism and dedication that the children barely notice any disruptions!

Happy Half-Term,  
Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

**Diary Dates**

- 21/02/2022 Inset**
- 22/02/2022 Return to school**
- 30/03/2022 Parents' Consultations**
- 01/04/2022 End of Term**

**More to follow...**

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week is run by the children's mental health charity, Place2Be. They focus on the importance of looking after our emotional wellbeing from an early age. The children have been learning about this year's theme, "GROWING TOGETHER."

Here are some top tips for parents and carers, of how you can encourage emotional growth at home:

[file:///F:/CMHW Growing%20Together Parents&CarersTips.pdf](file:///F:/CMHW%20Growing%20Together%20Parents&CarersTips.pdf)

Year 2 and Year 6 SATs

This year the government have confirmed that the SATs for Y2 and Y6 will take place as normal. This is definitely a challenge given the huge disruption the children have had to the last 2 ½ years. You may have heard that there are going to be supportive measures put in place for GCSE and A level examinations. Sadly, as yet there is no indication that the same type of accommodations are going to be allowed for our children.

Nevertheless, we have been moving forward with the curriculum to ensure both year groups are as well prepared as they can possibly be. In order to ensure you can support your children through this process, we will be providing more detail early next term for both Y2 and Y6 (details to follow). The key message though has to be not to worry! The teacher assessment of all the pupils is far more valuable than any test scores and much more accurate. The results this year are also not being published in league tables in recognition of the disruption that the pandemic has caused.



This week in Early Years, we have been very busy, from exploring capacity, to den building, to learning all about e-safety! The children particularly enjoyed leaving messages for the creatures of the forest, inspired by the thin, paper-like bark left by the bamboo. We wrote to the Boggle, the fairies and even our friendly Robin visitor we see each day!



Beech Class have enjoyed reading and listening to the poem "Up in the Attic....and Down in the Cellar". We collected rhyming 'ing' and 'er' words to use in a poem about our own creatures we had created.



We have continued to investigate the properties of different materials in Science and developed our artistic skill painting like Kandinsky.



Lime class have enjoyed painting some mini birdboxes for a competition. Watch this space for the winners!



We really enjoy our Maths too and use lots of different resources to help – this week we have been learning about fractions and decimals. We have also done lots of work about staying safe on-line and we know all about the SMART rules so feel free to ask us about them...



Maple class pupils travelled to St Albans Cathedral by coach to impress with their knowledge about the Tudors and their behaviour. The trip was part of their topic 'Off With Her Head'. It was a great experience and definitely enhanced the children's learning. Maple class pupils had the opportunity to attend two workshops: Tudor Food and Tudor



Music & Dance. They tried on costumes, danced and made Tudor cheese and salad!



The week in which we boarded the train to Cambridge and had our own mini adventure!



Willow Class enjoyed a fantastic visit to the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. We found out about Captain Scott's expedition to Antarctica and read moving accounts from his diary about the challenges he and his team faced during their fateful

expedition. We saw many examples of the instruments used by Scott and his team of researchers at the South Pole. We were extremely fortunate to be invited to ring the very bell from Scott's ship, the Terra Nova, dating back to 1912! An experience to remember!



All fun and games? That is the slogan for this year's Safer Internet Day and in Willow Class we had lots of fun creating a rap containing important messages on how to get the best from the internet whilst staying safe online.