

Dear Parents & Carers,

Is it only two weeks since half term...? School has been really exciting with some fantastic learning opportunities coupled with lots of additional opportunities within the wider curriculum and extra-curricular activities taking place. On our first day back, we welcomed Mike Mullen from the BMX Academy for inspirational workshops with all our year 4, 5 and 6 pupils, followed by growth mindset assembly on the playground.

The children put their growth mindsets into action as they learnt some tricks and stunts on the BMXs during their workshops. A huge thank you to Mike for such an engaging, challenging and inspirational day and a big well done to our children for their efforts during their sessions- they certainly have talents!

As you can see from the class news here on the newsletter and the class pages of the website, our pupils have been enjoying their learning and interaction across the school.

Today, however, we all took a moment at 11 o'clock to remember and reflect on those who have given their lives for our country through being part of the armed forces. This was led by our school captains, who read a story called 'Where the Poppies Now Grow' by Hilary Robinson, and told us why and who we pay our respects to on Remembrance Day. On Sunday, the school will be represented at the Little Hadham cenotaph service where a wreath will be laid by children.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,
Sinead Connolly, Headteacher



Basketball Tournament

Not only has it been a busy few weeks, for some of our national sports teams...with record breaking gymnastics results in the World Championships, but here at Little Hadham, a selection of our pupils from Maple and Willow took part in a Basketball tournament at Birchwood and really showed their skills and talents. Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to Mrs Askew for all the organising (including the fab new kit!) and to Mr Hutt for chaperoning, we really appreciate it.



Diary Dates

13/11/22 Remembrance @Little Hadham Ford War Memorial @11:00am

14/11/22 ODD SOCKS DAY

14/11/22 Anti-Bullying Week Begins

18/11/22 CRAZY HAIR DAY for Children in Need £1.00 donation

25/11/22 Christmas Bazaar

01/12/22 EYFS Learning Together

Morning: at 8.45-9.10

14/12/22 Christmas Jumper day bring a £1

09/12/22 Beech Class performance 6pm

16/12/22 EYFS "Christmas Concert" at 2.30-3.

20/12/22 Christmas Lunch

21/12/22 End of Term 1pm

New Pupils!

With applications for Nursery and Reception school starters for September 2023 opening recently, myself and Mrs Tweedale have been busy taking families around the school to share our wonderful environment and to describe our educational and wider pastoral approach. These have been really popular so far and we have extended our dates throughout December too, to accommodate everyone. If you or anyone you know is interested in coming from a tour and hearing about us, please call the main school office to book a time.

That's Entertainment!

A huge thank you to Caden, who mesmerised us with his skills on the saxophone in assembly this week. His confidence was contagious and we look forward to hearing from other upcoming musicians next week. Well done Caden, we look forward to hearing your Christmas music at the Bazaar.



News from the classes... In Early Years we have been really enjoying our new topic Food, Glorious Food! In particular, our literacy work with our story I Will Not Ever, Never, Eat a Tomato has been a lot of fun! The children enjoyed thinking about their favourite foods and turning them into beautiful collages for our classroom display.



We have also been thinking about the health of our teeth, and that some foods can be harmful to our teeth. Dental Buddy helped us to remember how we need to clean them twice a day and the children really enjoyed cleaning the big classroom teeth during choosing time!

Another exciting development in Early Years since half term, is the introduction of a brand new water wall in the outside area! The children have been really enjoying using this resource and it even got them thinking about their use of water, and how they could save it by using the guttering to fill up extra trays and use the puddles to explore too!



In Beech Class, they Year 2 children have been consolidating their understanding of exchanging in order to subtract. They used various manipulatives to help them visualise this and practised exchanging using Dienes cubes before moving onto written work. Year 1 children have finished off their addition and subtraction unit this week and will be moving on to 2-D and 3-D shapes.



Our topic of 'Explorers' seems to have captivated the children which is lovely to see! We will continue learning about space explorers over the next few weeks and will even be designing our own exploration vehicles.



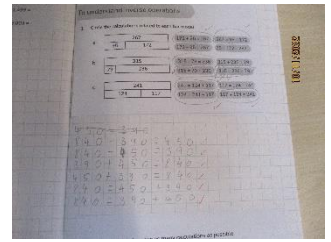
Lime Class welcomed our chair of governors into a History lesson last week and they definitely did us proud. He commented on the engagement and enthusiasm of all our students, and was impressed with their historical knowledge.

Our year 4s had an amazing time growing their resilience in the BMX workshops – what a treat!



The children have produced some amazing pencil sketches in art and have begun to learn all about plants in Science. Don't forget to try planting some bean seeds at home to watch the roots grow.

In Geography they considered the question South America – rich or poor? The children came up with some thoughtful answers based on what they know at the moment. We will be revisiting this question throughout our Geography topic to see if our ideas change as our knowledge grows.



In maths we have revisited fact families and inverse operations and have enjoyed playing around with calculations.



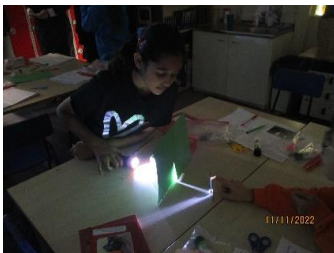
Maple class have had a very busy and exciting two weeks. Starting with a growth mindset BMX workshop they enjoyed coming out of their comfort zone and reaching new goals. They took this resilience back into the classroom where they have been developing their vocabulary skills and writing.

Macbeth is our exciting new text and we have been looking at character traits and settings to enhance our descriptive writing. Mrs Neal, who covered for Mrs Sassis this week, was super impressed with their enthusiasm and their creative ideas- well done

Maple!

In maths they challenged themselves with multiplying large 2 and 3 digit numbers. At first we were a little discombobulated but not for long... with lots of practice we soon made excellent progress!

Yoga this week really helped us prepare for our gymnastics lesson, where we performed symmetrical and asymmetrical balances and worked on different stretches and jumps. Look at how we worked in groups and created sequences of movements.



In our Science lessons, Willow, have been learning about how light travels. We worked together to create a 3D model showing how light travels from a light source in straight lines, reflects off objects and travels in a straight line to the eye. We used string to represent the light. We learnt that darkness is the absence of light and then we explored transparent, translucent and opaque objects.

In Music, we listened to the work of Bacewicz, a Polish composer who worked in secret during the Second World War. We could hear how Bacewicz had incorporated Morse Code rhythms into her music. We thought her music was full of drama and action, just like the times she lived in. As we listened, we thought about a story to match the pace, rhythm and dynamics of Bacewicz's composition.

There's a fine line between numerator and denominator! In Maths, we have been learning to place fractions on a number line, simplify fractions using the highest common factor (HCF), and use the lowest common multiple (LCM) to compare fractions. We have been learning how to use the LCM to add and subtract fractions with different denominators.

In our RE lessons, we found out about the core beliefs of Buddhism and learnt about the Five Moral Precepts. We discussed how these are different and similar to the Ten Commandments in the Christian faith. We had interesting discussions about which of the Five Moral Precepts we thought was the most important. We discussed the Eightfold Path and presented our learning on a Dharma wheel.

On Thursday, we enjoyed a fun 'Learning Together Morning' in which we used our SPAG skills to write amusing stories! There was much laughter (and learning, of course!) as we considered which fronted adverbials, modal verbs and relative clauses to include. We love sharing our learning!

To finish the week, our School Captains led the whole school in a reflective Remembrance assembly. They read the story 'Where the Poppies Now Grow' and explained why many people observe a two-minute silence on 11th November each year. On Sunday, our Captains will represent our school by laying a poppy wreath at the war memorial in Little Hadham.



News from the Parent questionnaire...

Just before half term the governors asked parents to complete a survey concerning your views about our school. The results were extremely positive with responses relating to 83 children. It is really pleasing to know how strongly by far the majority of you think what the school provides for your children is excellent.

The responses were as follows:

Qu 1: Is your child happy at school? If you have more than one child, please answer about each of them.

100% said Yes, with many comments praising the school and saying how much the children enjoy attending.

Qu 2: Does your child feel safe at school?

100% said Yes

Qu 3: Do you think the school values the diversity of children's backgrounds?

92% said Yes: 8% said they had no experience of this.

Qu 4: Do you think the school effectively provides for mental and physical well-being?

94% said Yes: 5% said Don't Know: 1% said No

Qu 5: Are you happy with our school dress code?

92% said yes with many supportive comments: 8% said No.

Qu 6: Would you recommend our school to prospective parents?

98% said Yes: 1% said Yes/Unsure; 1% said Partly

Qu 7: If our school was able to provide child care during school holidays, would you make use of it?

Parents of 39 children said Yes: Parents of 18 children said Maybe. (We will undertake further consultation about this)

Thank you for all your replies. Clearly the staff are doing a great job, as many of you said in your replies. Although most of the replies said they were happy with the school as it is, there were some suggestions about how it could be even better. We will follow up all of these and provide feedback at a later date.

Keith Hutt
Chair of Governors