

Diary Dates

15/05/23 Gilwell Trip Willow
17/05/23 EYFS in-house experience
21/05/23 Erasmus-Willow trip to Italy
26/05/23 Half term begins @3:15
05/06/23 Inset day
21/06/23 Maple performance @6pm

The one where Year 6 Sats are finito...!

I was blown away by how hard the children have worked this week. Their determination, resilience and positive attitudes is a lesson for us all and also highlighted how ready they were to show everyone all that they have learnt. Having conquered an impressive six papers over four days, they have so much to celebrate. A massive thank you must also go to our incredibly skilful, dedicated and wonderful teacher Mrs Tweedale, who has worked tirelessly to enable all the children to showcase their learning. We, along with the children, are very lucky to have you. #TeamLittleHadham

Dear Families,

It is that time of the week again, and it has come round very quickly thanks to another 4 day week. Despite it being shortened, there has been a lot crammed in into two short weeks at Little Hadham Primary.

Like many of you, I am sure, I spent much of last Saturday sheltering from the rain and watching the historic event of the King's coronation with my children. It was a fantastic opportunity to see and experience living history. We enjoyed the day before celebrating in our red, white and blue and some of us even wore crowns. We were delighted to be met by King Charles himself- who come all the way to Little Hadham. Thank you Mrs Battle for lending the cardboard cut-out, we loved it!

Unfortunately, the weather stopped us from having our planned picnic but we had had a fantastic Coronation lunch 'street party style' indoors. We had so much fun... even if we did reach a fair few decibels above normal! Thank you all for your help and Mrs Hanson for putting on such a spectacular spread!

As a school we are really focussing on oracy skills. Philosophy for Children (P4C) is one way we do this; pupils are given one big question and they explore this by looking at arguments for and against. The children love these sessions and we really are lucky to have some very deep thinkers among us. One way to continue this at home is to have a short, but thoughtful, conversation about an interesting topic. At the end of the newsletter each fortnight you will have some tips and ideas for discussions- feedback through Seesaw or Tapestry would be great- we really do love hearing your children's ideas and thoughts.

Well I am off to pack my bag for Gilwell as I hear Year 6 are off on a trip and I wouldn't want to miss out and let Mrs Tweedale have all the fun. I hear there are high ropes to climb and someone mentioned a leap of faith! Now, where are my ear defenders...

We hope you have a wonderful weekend filled with some sunshine, fun and maybe a Eurovision song or two!

Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

Anyone for Tennis!

We have had another fun sporting event take place too, congratulations to our Year 3 and 4 who took part in a local schools tennis competition last week. Beginners they may have started but some hidden talents were shown! 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 Charlie's mum for all their support



News from the classes...



In Early Years this week, we have been getting creative with storytelling in maths! Using the prompts of 'First', 'Then' and 'Now', the children created simple addition stories, demonstrating their ability to apply the maths knowledge that they have been acquiring into different situations!

We even used this approach to think about the amount of plants we had bought for the sensory garden; *first we had 4 plants, then we bought 8 more and now we have 12!* The children have been really hard at work preparing the mud in the sensory garden, ready for these twelve plants to find their

permanent spot in our outside area. Thank you so much to all the parents and carers who have offered donations for our sensory garden; we are really excited to see how it grows and develops.

We hope very much that the plants we have planted will also attract lots of minibeasts to our outside area! We have been learning a lot about butterflies this week in particular, including sharing stories from different religions, sharing facts from information books about their lifecycle, and even looking at the feeling of 'having butterflies in your tummy' when you feel nervous or worried! The children have loved learning in this way, and it has sparked a lot of creativity during choosing time, including observational drawings of butterflies and even writing and illustrating butterfly and minibeast books to share.



The children have also been doing a great job in gymnastics, having completed their second lesson this term. Having been focusing on making simple gym shapes with our bodies, this week, we moved on to involving the children in setting up equipment to use our shapes within sequences of movement. The children worked together to carry heavy PE mats to where they needed to go and used great teamwork to complete their task.

In Beech class we have been reading the book 'Where the Wild Things are' by Maurice Sendak. We have been using a variety of drama skills to help us explore some powerful and descriptive language to demonstrate the feelings and actions of the main character, Max, as well as describe the exciting settings in the story. Toward the end of the story, Max starts to feel a little lonely, so we wrote him a letter to show empathy for his feelings, and also to give him advice so that he can feel happier. We then pretended to be Max and wrote a letter back describing our thrilling return adventure!



In Maths, the Year 1 children have been practical and creative, using our cuisenaire rods to demonstrate their understanding and problem solving when finding halves and quarters. The Year 2 children have been applying their understanding of fractions to real-life contexts. They can count in halves and quarters in objects such as toast and pizzas! In Science we have been learning about everyday materials. We have been looking at comparing the suitability of materials and how the shape of materials can be changed. We carried out an investigation using plastic bottles, elastic bands, play-doh, socks and pipe cleaners and predicted whether they could be bent, twisted, stretched or squashed. We then had lots of fun testing our predictions!

In RE we have learned about the holy book for Muslims called the Qu'ran. We discussed all of the different ways that Muslims show respect for their special book by keeping it off the floor, placing it on a stand when reading from it, washing hands before touching it and wrapping it in a special cloth. We then listened to a special story from the Qu'ran about the prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

In Music we have been learning about the musical piece 'No Place Like' by Kerry Andrew. Last week we listened carefully to the sounds around the school for two minutes. We could hear the pipes creaking, the floor vibrating, children's voices having their PE lesson and even our neighbour's pencil writing in their book! We discussed which sounds were loud or quiet, high or low pitch. We divided our class in to six groups, and we chose percussion instruments, and our bodies to create a musical soundscape of these different sounds.



Lime class have been busy learning about fractions and decimals in maths and have been using fraction walls, base ten equipment and place value charts to support their learning.

In English we have published our wonderful shape poems into a book to share so please do come in and ask to see it. We are also enjoying our class text 'Mouse Bird Wolf Snake' and are using it to grow our vocabulary.

Science has been *electric* as we learn about where it comes from, what we need it for and how to stay safe while using it.

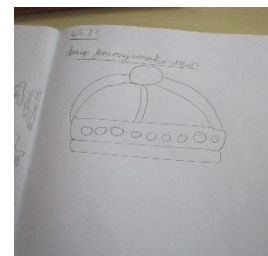
We are so enthusiastic about our new History topic 'rotten Romans' and have been asking ourselves, were they really rotten? Where did they come from and why did they come here? Ask us and we will tell you.

PHSE has seen us being our best as we discuss what makes us all individuals and how we can make sure we get along, celebrating our diverse range of skills, talents and interests along the way. And no, being messy is not a talent!

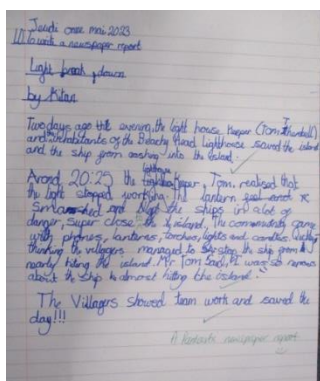


In PE we are playing tennis and rounders and learning to be athletic, and in RE we have been finding out what justice and fairness looks like in different religious beliefs, spotting similarities and differences.

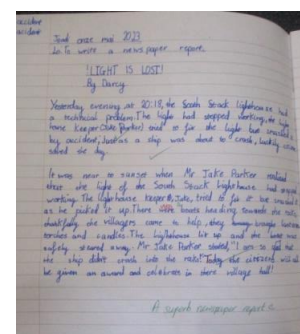
We had a wonderful time last Friday celebrating the Coronation, we had a quiz, we had our photo taken with the King (sort of!), we designed and made our own special crowns and had a fantastic street party at lunchtime. All this and dressed up in red, white and blue too!



In Maple class, children got inspired by the Little Hadham international Erasmus+ project and created surrealist art exploring a variety of techniques including printing. They used various surrealist techniques as well as their imagination to create beautiful collages that portray silhouettes and vibrant colours and reflect Cinderella's dreams and thoughts. The amazing creations will fly to Italy and will be gifted to our partner schools!



In English, children got inspired by a short film showing a lighthouse in a small sea-side village. A ship was heading for the rocks, but the light house was not working... When disaster was about to strike, the local community come to the rescue! Children planned and then wrote brilliant, well-structured newspaper reports. I was super impressed with their headlines, the quotes and the formal vocabulary they used throughout their pieces. Well done Maple Class.



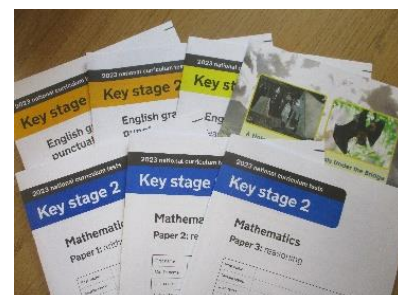
In Maths, children read and interpreted a variety of line graphs and tables. But how did some children ended counting 20p and 50p coins? Solving problems is what we love best and it definitely kept them focussed and quiet!



What fun Maple had in history this week. They were learning about the ancient Greek scholars and philosophers. They had to put themselves in the shoes of each philosopher or scholar and write resumes to be considered for a job. It seems we have a few philosophers in Maple, Mrs Neal and I were so impressed, we definitely wouldn't know who to hire. Maybe you can ask them who Pythagoras was!



Testing times for us this week in Willow Class! We tackled each and every SATs test with confidence and impressed with our determination and stamina. Perhaps it was the SATs breakfast each morning that helped us or perhaps it was that we felt well prepared and ready to show off our learning. Either way, we took the week of tests in our stride and our teachers are very proud. Thank you to everyone across the school for supporting us this week. A sweet, icy treat was definitely the way to round off a week of tests!





A few tests have not stopped us learning new things this week. In Science, we extracted DNA from strawberries! We looked at the structure of DNA and learnt how scientists use DNA to make new medicines and solve crimes.

In PE, we improved our tennis skills by working on longer rallies and trying to use a combination of forehand and backhand shots.



In our Forest session, we had a lot of energy to burn off as we set to work building our own small businesses. Small businesses included a lightsabre seller, flower power sellers, an ice-lolly shop, a bank and a Met Gala dress designer!



Quotes about critical thinking

DIALOGUE WORKS

Don't raise your voice, improve your argument.

Seeking unity does not mean we abandon critical thinking.

Most people would rather die than think, and many of them do.

Desmond Tutu
bishop, South Africa

Jennifer Beals
actress and photographer, USA

Bertrand Russell
philosopher, UK

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Thinking about critical thinking

Caring thinking

Why should you care about whether you, and other people, make good decisions?

Collaborative thinking

Is it usually best to discuss with others before making a decision?

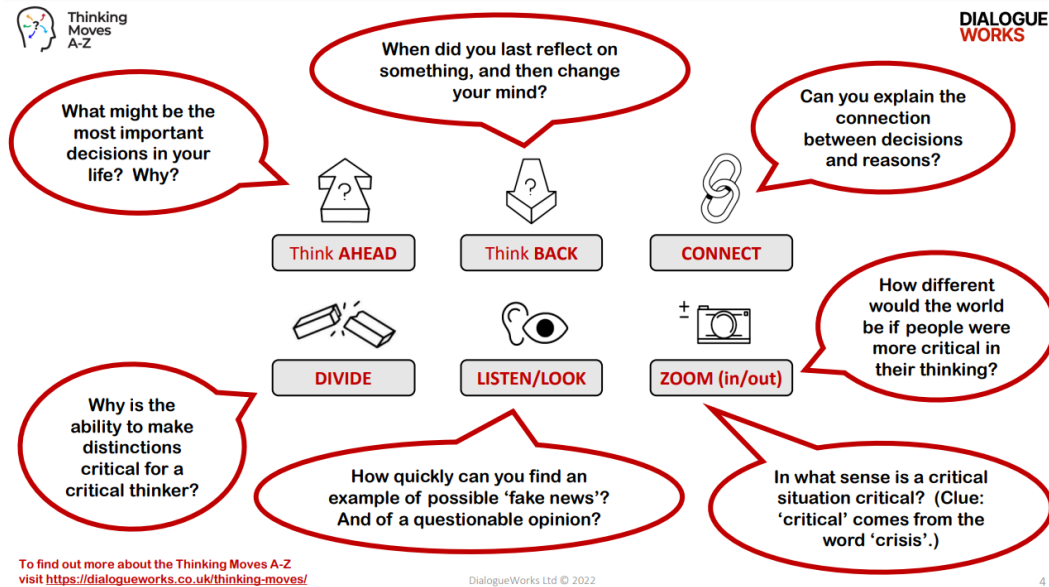
Creative thinking

Can realising you have made a bad decision lead you to a new way of thinking?

Critical thinking

How many reasons can you come up with for persuading someone to think more critically?





Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/c3zJr7II9yQ>

Would you rather?

by John Burningham

Some imaginative choices to be made – for fun (but worth asking 'why?')

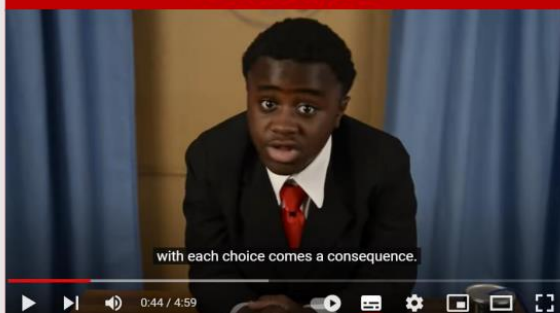
Talking Points

- Is being hungry a good reason for eating breakfast? Is it a good reason for eating someone else's breakfast?
- When did you last have a good reason for doing something? What was it?
- Do you sometimes do things for bad reasons?

Activities

- Make up a 'Would you rather?' choice for your family or friends, and see if they can give reasons for their choice.
- Make up a story about making a bad choice.

Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/gdsCUEXLE-Y>

Kid President on making choices

Be prepared for a mixture of serious stuff and silly stuff!

Talking Points

- Do you agree you make thousands of decisions a day? How many decisions do you make 'without thinking'? How many do you think hard about?
- Are there some decisions that you *ought* to think critically about (weighing up reasons for / against)?
- Do you find Kid President irritating or interesting? Why?

Activity

- Suppose you were 'Home President'. Make up five rules for your family, making sure you have reasons for them. Then discuss them with your family.
- If, after careful thought about pros and cons, everyone is in agreement, write the rules in an attractive way and publish them in the kitchen.