

Diary Dates

- 17/01/2023 Maple Learning Together Morning
- 18/01/2023 EYFS Learning Together Morning
- 24/01/2023 Willow Class Learning Together Morning
- 10/02/2023 Friends Valentine Disco
- 10/02/2023 Half term begins
- 20/02/2023 Return to school
- 29/03/2023 Parents' Consultations
- 31/03/2023 End of Term

Don't Be Late!

Tell all your friends! This is a reminder that children born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 need to apply for a new reception school place by midnight on 16th January 2023

Dear Little Hadham families,

As we end our first full week of the spring term, I have to say how brilliantly your children have settled back into the new term. In every year group I've seen children working hard to make a great start to 2023.

As we enter in to 2023, I can assure you that our expectations towards learning and our intentions to give our children the best learning opportunities will not diminish, our main focus will be that our we strengthen our children's learning muscle - memory - so that they can remember more. We will continue to warmly welcome, with a smile, every child, every day and continue to create an environment where children enjoy coming to Little Hadham.

One of the most important ways in which you can support us and your children in 2023 (and beyond) is to ensure that your children attend school every day. Like all parents, you be will wanting your child to do the best they can at school, and we are grateful for the crucial role you play in supporting them to do this. In particular, supporting them to attend on time each day, as well as supporting them to complete home learning is part of the reason our children achieve as well as they do.

However, families that have taken holidays in term time, for whatever reason, are having a significant impact on attendance and therefore on the achievement of some pupils. As a school, we have always had good attendance but we are now showing a worrying downward trend for some. We need your support to reverse this. The school holiday dates up to July 2024 are on the school website. Hopefully, this will help you book holidays during school holiday periods in advance. Holidays in term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Central government are expecting local authorities to fine families who have more than 5 days unauthorised absence in the school year. This is per child, per day. This is not something we want to happen to any of our families, especially after Christmas, but this data is collected from our attendance registers on a regular basis.

The following information is an extract taken from a Department for Education document, Working Together to Improve School Attendance:

This (100% attendance) is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment. At KS2, pupils not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had an overall absence rate of 4.7%, compared to 3.5% among those meeting the expected standard. Moreover, the overall absence rate of pupils not meeting the expected standard was higher than among those meeting the higher standard (4.7% compared to 2.7%).

As you can see, it is exceptionally important, for the educational success of your children, to attend school as much as possible. We are having a renewed focus on attendance this new year and I would appreciate the support of all parents/guardians. From January, we will be supporting talking to parents about ways the school can support them so that their children have the opportunity to attend 100% of the time. If you are having any problems with attendance or arriving on time, please speak to me as soon as possible to resolve this.

Have a great weekend

Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

News from the classes...



Early Years kicked off the New Year with some very special wishes and hopes. Lots of children thought about how they wish for more cuddles in the New Year, some thought about how they'd like to grow their brain in their hobbies and one even wished for an octopus!

Once our wishes were made, and thrown in the 'wishing stream' we got to work creating our first display of the year, our own 'wishing stream' based on the paintings of Claude Monet. The children enjoyed experimenting with different ways of using water colour paint, including introducing salt, tissue paper and even bubble mixture.



We have also been exploring Nursery Rhymes in our new topic, and have been figuring out how best to help Humpty Dumpty stay on the wall! The children explored this question in P4C and thought about different ways of preventing Humpty from cracking, such as using a trampoline to help him "boing" back up on the wall, and even installing pillows beneath him for "the softest" landing.

We also thought about how to make sturdy walls using different fixings, such as tape, sticky foam and blue tack.



We even enjoyed seeing if we could do a better job of balancing than Humpty, in our first Yoga session of the year!

In Beech Class, we have come back from the Christmas holidays with a bit of a pep to our step! The children have been excited to be back in school and actively engaging with our new topic, 'The Great Fire of London.' In English we have been doing lots of research and fact-finding and we have sequenced and ordered the events. The children had great fun acting out these events. We had children being Thomas Farriner, Samuel Pepys, the flames, the wind, the buildings, people fleeing their homes and people using a fire squirt.



This week we started talking about places that are special to us. We used describing words to tell how our special place makes us feel and explain why it is special to us. The children then had fun using their fingers to paint their special place!

We have been using coins to help us count money and find total amounts. The Year 2 children have done a fantastic job using and applying their understanding of coins and we have been so impressed with them thus far. We may open up a class shop one day after school for the children to come purchase things with their families so watch this space for more information!



In Music we have started learning about our piece for this term called Finlandia by Jean Sibelius. We looked at an orchestral performance and could name many instruments. We then discussed how the music made us feel at different points in the performance. At first we felt scared, then we felt brave and then we felt triumphant!

Lime class have welcomed in the new year with a week full to the brim! They have designed, made and tested printing blocks out of card and paper to finish off their art topic about William Morris.



This week we also introduced our class text and our new topic – the children were excited and enthused! Please look at our page on the website to find out more about what we will be learning by downloading the Spring letter for parents.



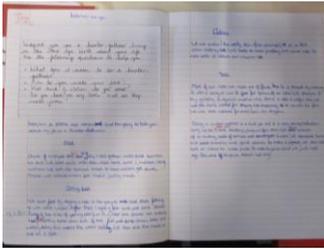
In computing we used a NASA coding project to start to create backgrounds with stars and orbiting planets! Science was all about sound and how it travels, the children had a great time experimenting with a range of objects and musical instruments. They had to decide what it was that was vibrating each time to cause the sound.



Maple Class have started this year with a dive... well there's no diving allowed, but they all definitely gave their first swim their best shot. While Year 5s were getting wet, Year 4 were practising their moves on the dance floor and apparently they have some impressive moves.

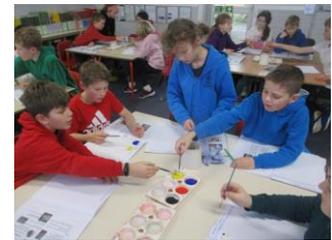


We journeyed back to Prehistoric times in history with our new topic, we became historians and had fun finding out facts from different resources. We then imagined life as a hunter-gatherer and wrote about what life was like. There were some very impressive facts added in- well done Maple.



In English this week they have been looking at instructional writing. We looked at the book *Wolf in the Snow* by Matthew Cordell and took on the role of a guide for the young child, giving instructions to support her care for the wolf and return home. They used some very impressive vocabulary while making sure their paragraphs were sequenced and logically- excellent writing team Maple!

We do love our maths in Maple. This week we were learning to recognise and find equivalent fractions, a bit trickier than we thought but we kept going! Also, we looked at found fractions greater than one and converted improper fractions to mixed numbers.



This week in Art, we learned about Wassily Kandinsky and his work. We had fun working on mixing primary colours to make secondary colours and creating different shades and tints using black and white. Our aim is to create abstract art, inspired by Kandinsky and we didn't even make a mess!

How lovely to be back and welcoming in the New Year with exciting new topics and experiences ahead for Willow Class!

This week we enjoyed learning about the story of Chinese New Year and how each Chinese year is named after one of twelve animals - this year is the year of the rabbit. We made beautiful Chinese New Year cards using lots of red (a colour considered to bring luck and good fortune!).



'Frozen Kingdoms – polarising opinions?' is the title of our topic for this term and we have begun in earnest exploring all things frozen. In English, we have been researching facts about icebergs in preparation to write non-chronological reports. As part of our Geography, we have compared and contrasted the Arctic and Antarctic and learnt about their different features.



Art took a chilly turn this week as we used different drawing techniques to sketch polar bears. The results are rather beautiful!

In Music, we listened to Vivaldi's 'Winter' from his Four Seasons concerto. We learnt about his talent for composing music that evokes images and his talent for playing and teaching the violin. As we listened, we wrote Winter themed short poems to match Vivaldi's music.

'We take it you already know of tough and bough and cough and dough...' We were kept on our toes during our spelling lessons this week as we explored the *-ough* grapheme. Did you know this letter string makes eight different phonemes? We wrote a poem using this spelling pattern and played a matching pairs game!



Term Time only - Monday to Friday 12:15-13:15

A fantastic opportunity has arisen to join our wonderful team here at Little Hadham Primary school. We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and motivated individual to join our team of midday supervisors, 5 days a week.

Duties will include:

- To supervise and help in the Dining Hall
- To supervise all areas both inside and outside where pupils spend lunchtime
- To check to see that all pupils are adhering to the behaviour policy
- To leave the Dining Hall in a tidy condition
- To carry out any other instructions given by the Headteacher reasonably falling within the role of the post
- To work in accordance with all School Policies with specific reference to Health and Safety, Safeguarding of Children, and Confidentiality

Previous experience is not essential however good communication skills and reliability are required. Training will be provided.

Little Hadham Primary is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check, prior to appointment.

If you are interested or know someone who is, please do not hesitate to contact the office for further details.

Ms S Connolly

So Long, Farewell...

Unfortunately, we have to say goodbye and good luck to Mrs Askew who works in Willow Class and at the After School Club. She will leave us on the 24th of February to start a new career with the police. Whilst we are very sad to see her go, we wish her all the best in her new role. We would like to say a huge thank you to her for all the tremendous hard work she has given to Little Hadham Primary over the years. Mrs Askew you will be missed, and we hope that you won't have to tell any of us off as a police officer!