

Diary Dates

**22/03/2023 Parents' Consultations starting at 1:15-
school will remain open for children**

30/02/2023 Golden Morning for children

31/03/2023 End of Term 1:00pm finish

Attendance Over the next few weeks we will be working with the Educational Welfare Officer to look at children whose attendance is low or any child who is persistently absent/late from school. Our attendance has recently dropped, so we now need to look at how we can support families in ensuring that all children come to school every day.

Dear Families,

Thank you firstly to all of our parents for your support with the strikes recently and for knowing how hard our teaching staff work and the reasons why they felt this step was necessary; to maintain the profession for all of us both in it and using it for the betterment of our children.

As always, the children have been working hard across the curriculum, demonstrating their love of learning and resilience. This week, I've had the pleasure of popping into children's writing lessons and seeing the progress they are making. The journey from mark making to learning to hold a pencil and forming letters correctly, to applying phonics when writing words before learning grammar rules and sentence structures, and finally on to writing creative stories and complex persuasive pieces is incredible. Each child is at a different stage of this journey but is being well supported in making excellent progress. Well done to all of the children.

Also, we had a visit this week from a Local Authority Representative, who now knows our school well. Not only did she comment on the impeccable manners of our children, she was also super impressed with their learning. She spoke to children and looked at their books in history and D&T and spoke about their knowledge, enthusiasm and passion. This is what we see on a daily basis so it's lovely to hear from visitors that they have picked up on this too.

Next week is Parents' Evening – this is a valuable opportunity to find out how your child is progressing in all of their learning. We have had assessment these last couple of weeks, this will help inform you at parents' evening next week. I do hope you have managed to book a time to meet your child's class teacher where you will discuss their successes and achievements.

Happy St. Patrick's Day and wishing you all a wonderful Mother's Day weekend!
Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

Our Junior Dragons

On Tuesday, our Junior Dragons from Willow Class, gave up some of their time to raise money for a charity called Space. This charity supports families of children and young people who are neurodivergent. They have raised just over £200. In their Dragon sessions they came up with a plan to sell Mother's Day gifts, including books, bookmarks bangles and chocolates- all things mums love.

We are very proud of them as it is so lovely to see so many children working hard to help others. Huge SHOUT OUT to Mrs Sassis for helping and encouraging them.



News from the classes...

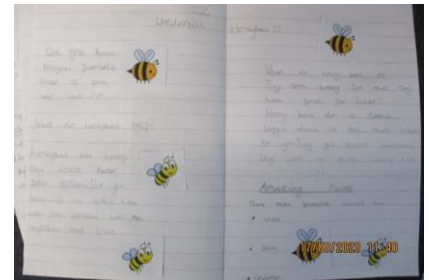
In EYFS, we have been as busy as ever over the past couple of weeks! Thank you to those of you who were able to make it to our official Track Opening Ceremony! The children had a lot of fun preparing for the ceremony, making a thank you card for Mr McAndrews for his generous donation, and making flags with words of encouragement written on, ready to wave to our friends as they showed off their cycling and scooting skills during the ceremony.



We have also been thinking a lot about our impact on the world around us, and have been exploring different ways to help save our oceans from plastic. We went on walks around our area, spotting litter that had blown over the fences from the blustery weather. We made posters to help people remember to put their rubbish in recycling bins, where possible, and came up with different inventions that could help to clean our oceans. One idea of Naomi's was to wear special gloves with nets on every time you went swimming, which would collect lots of plastic waste in!

We have also been enjoying working on building our knowledge of shapes and managed to convince Mrs Lawrence that a cube was not as good as a sphere for use as a football! We have been doing really well with our reasoning skills and have been getting lots of practice using the word 'because'.

In Beech class during our English lessons, we have been reading our class book, 'The Bee Who Spoke' and we took a closer look at the setting of the story. Belle needed to get home, so we drew her a story map and then wrote a set of instructions. We then drew our own story maps for a setting of our choice, and wrote our own instructions. We focused on using clear, step-by-step sentences, adverbs like 'carefully' and 'slowly' and we used the conjunctions; 'and', 'because', and 'if'.



We also collected lots of facts about bees, organised them into paragraphs and produced a non-chronological report.



In Maths, the Year 2's have been learning about length and height. They have been looking at how to measure in cm and m, and also how to compare lengths and heights. Our Year 1's have been learning about partitioning numbers up to 50, and demonstrating this using Base 10 and Part-Whole models.



We have loved having more cuddles with our guinea pigs, Cookie and Snowy, and have enjoyed learning more about their little personalities. We have learnt that they love spinach for breakfast, and that Snowy likes to eat Cookie's pear!



Lime class have been learning all about the water cycle and relating the process to both science and geography. They have written glossaries to help remember some of the more technical vocabulary needed to explain these processes. They even spent time pretending to be particles as they learnt about different states of matter! 'This is the best lesson ever!' was the verdict.....

In maths they have learnt to place fractions onto a number line and have also been able to use number lines to find equivalent fractions. They also used their fractions knowledge to sort rainforest facts into groups of true or false.

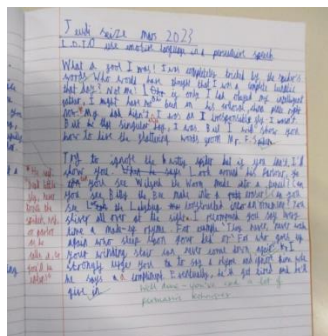
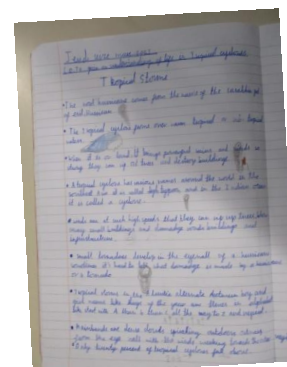


They began their new DT project with some practical research into the moving parts found in children's books and they learnt about the mechanisms that make them work.

Our PSHE this week has been about rights and we learnt about the United Nations and how they have drawn up a list of rights for children.



In Maple classroom, our children have continued to learn about extreme weather and were astounded to learn different categories of hurricanes, the speed of wind and the damage that can be caused. Did you know that winds at the eye wall can reach speeds at 320km/h? The children really enjoyed writing lots of different facts and gave great advice on to how to stay safe- well done!



In English, the children have been looking at the poem, 'The spider and the fly' and this week were writing in role as a bug trying to persuade the fly not to be flattered by the spider. They have written excellent speeches in role! Some children came up with some great fronted adverbials and all are eager to up-level their vocabulary using a thesaurus, keep this up!

In Maths, we have been working out percentages, fractions and decimals. The children have been tackling this with characteristic determination. Year 5 can now also convert decimals to percentages- test them at home!

In Science, the children have been learning about the different phases of the moon. They found out that you can bounce on the moon, the children loved learning this. Ask the children some more of the interesting facts they learned!

Thank you to those of you who were able to join us for Learning Together Morning, we are very happy with our new resource and have been using the cards already!



Last week it was International Women's Day. The theme for this year is #EmbraceEquity and raising awareness around 'Why equal opportunities are no longer enough'.



During their Art lesson, Willow Class looked at the work of a modern female Inuit artist called Kenojuak Ashevak (1927-2013). She was one of the art world's most acclaimed female graphic artists.

We learnt that Inuits are the people of the Arctic. Inuits are known in some countries as Eskimos. Inuit means 'The People', in their language. Kenojuak Ashevak developed her art from the embroidery she learnt as a child. The animals in her surrounding environment inspire much of her work. Ashevak does not concentrate on making the animals look real but gives them personalities and character.



Inspired by this female artist, we painted animals in her style choosing colours to represent their character.

From one amazing and influential woman to another...

Having previously learnt about the incredible work of Marie Maynard Daly, and her research into cholesterol and its effects on blood vessels, in Science this week we investigated blood flow.

We investigated how a liquid flows through straws of different diameters and asked what this tells us about how blood flows through blood vessels and the impact of blockages on blood flow. We then considered the importance of a healthy, balanced diet and active lifestyle. Our investigation was lots of fun, even if a little messy at times!



In our History lesson, we enjoyed a virtual session with an expert from the Scott Polar Research Museum in Cambridge. We learnt so much about the struggles of Captain Scott on his expedition to the South Pole and about the different roles of the people in his team from geologists to cartographers and hairdressers! What a great experience to be able to ask an expert so many questions!



Safeguarding

Help Children Stay Safe on Chat Apps

Over the last few weeks it has been brought to our attention again that some children are using WhatsApp, which is an app for 16+ children. Our concern is that no child within Primary School should use this app, as it is legally not allowed.

We are aware that many children use a variety of messaging and chat apps, as a way for children to stay in touch with their friends and family, but it is important that they are using apps that are age appropriate and parents/carers are monitoring what is being said within these chats.

Please talk to your child about who they're chatting to and how they know them. Remind them to be conscious of who they're sharing personal information with and not to share information with people they haven't met before. This includes information like their name, location, email, phone number and school name.

LET US KNOW WHEN...

There has been change of contact details: Please make sure that the office have any new details so that we can update our contact systems. Also if you have any changes to your address or email details. Thank you.

Changes in medical needs: Has your child been recently diagnosed with anything that school should know about? Are they now Asthmatic and require an Asthma Care Plan? Have they developed an allergy and require an allergy care plan? All these things school should be aware of. If your child requires medication a form must be completed before school can administer anything.

Changes in circumstances: If you feel there has been a change within the family which you think could affect your child and we should be aware of.