

Dear Families,

Can you believe it? We're already two weeks deep into the summer term, and as May beckons, we're eagerly anticipating warmer days ahead—she says hopefully!

Maple Class kicked off the term with an unforgettable Ancient Egyptian workshop, diving deep into the mysteries of this fascinating civilization. The students were captivated by the experience, igniting their curiosity and thirst for knowledge.

A heartfelt thank you to all parents and grandparents who joined us for our Learning Together Mornings this week. Your presence not only brightened our classrooms but also your involvement truly makes a difference!

Congratulations are in order for our Year 3s and 4s who showcased their rugby prowess at a local schools competition held at Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club. We were thrilled to hear of their first place victory—what an incredible achievement— they'll be calling you to play for England soon!! A big shout out to Mrs. Goodger and Mrs. Evans for their unwavering support and guidance.

We are thrilled to share some more exciting news with you all. We have just received word that our school been named as among the best in the country. We were included in the most recent 'The Sunday Times Parent Power 2024' league table, which includes the top 500 schools in England. We went in as a new entry at 68th— Go Little Hadham Primary! <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sunday-times-parent-power-englands-top-500-primary-schools-revealed-p33771bxxm>

This remarkable achievement is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and commitment of our entire school community—our pupils, staff, governors and parents alike. It reflects our unwavering focus on excellence in education and our relentless pursuit of providing the best possible learning experience for our students.

We are thrilled of this accomplishment and extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your continued support, encouragement, and partnership in our journey towards educational excellence.

Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

Diary Dates

- 30/04/24 Learning Together Morning Lime Class**
- 01/05/24 Learning Together Morning Maple Class**
- 02/05/24 Learning Together Morning Beech Class**
- 06/05/24 Bank Holiday**
- 13/05/24 Willow Class SATS Week**
- 14/05/24 Willow Class- Online V&A Workshop**
- 20/05/24 Show Racism the Red Card workshops for Yr4,5 and 6**
- 21/05/24 Willow Class Crucial Crew**
- 23/05/24 In-house Netball challenge KS2**
- 24/05/24 End of Half –Term school closes at normal time**
- 03/06/24 INSET Day: No Insects!**
- 04/06/24 Return to School**

Did someone say SATS AGAIN??

In just two weeks our Year 6 pupils will be sitting the National SATs examinations. The children in Willow have been working incredibly hard and with preparations nearly complete, we are confident that they will shine.

Good luck Year 6 – you are more than ready– all you can do now is try your very best and have a delicious breakfast beforehand!



As parents, we all know the struggle of helping our children learn spellings at home. How many times have you gone over the same words again and again, only for them to be forgotten the next day? And when they do finally memorise the spellings, do they remember to apply them in their writing at school? Retaining and transferring that spelling knowledge can be a real challenge.

That's why we're inviting you to a special coffee morning on **Thursday 23rd May 9:00am-9:30am** to discuss practical strategies for reinforcing spelling skills at home. We'll share the approach we use at school to teach spellings, as well as fun, multi-sensory activities you can try with your child. By working together, we can boost their spelling confidence and see improvements in their written work. Join us for an insightful morning over a warm beverage! Mrs Martin (SENCo)

Rights Respecting Schools



Article 24: Every child has the right to good health, including health care, clean drinking water and nutritious food.

This week's whole school assembly theme was World Water Day. This day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. Did you know that we all need a recommended 20 litres of water per person per day for washing, drinking, and cooking? Easy if you only have to turn on a tap. But imagine having to carry 20 litres for each person you live with for more than 2 miles if you do not. Sadly, this is the reality for many children in the world as they do not have access to safe, clean water.

We listened to Ryan Hreljac's story. Ryan's story is really very simple...

"One day in January 1998, I was sitting in my grade one classroom. My teacher, Mrs. Prest, explained that people were sick and some were even dying because they didn't have clean water. She told us that some people walked for hours in Africa and sometimes it was just to get dirty water.

All I had to do was take 10 steps from my classroom to get to the drinking fountain and I had clean water. Before that day in school, I figured everyone lived like me. When I found out this wasn't the case, I decided I had to do something about it."



Ryan learnt about the shortage of water and the problems this caused. He was told that about £40 would provide a well for a small community in Uganda, a country in East Africa. And Ryan decided he must do something to help. Ryan set about raising funds to provide wells and water pumps. Ryan now has his own charity, called Ryan's Well Foundation, and so far it has built more than 460 wells in 16 countries, bringing water to nearly 600,000 people.



Today, Ryan is a Unicef Global Youth Leader and an expert speaker on water, health and poverty. Ryan's determination means that many children around the world will have a better life because their right to clean water is met. This is Article 24 in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Back in class, we have been taking a closer look at Ryan's website www.ryanswell.ca and www.wateraid.org to learn more about the importance of having safe, clean water for everyone.

Mrs Tweedale,
Deputy Head
Rights Respecting Schools Co-ordinator



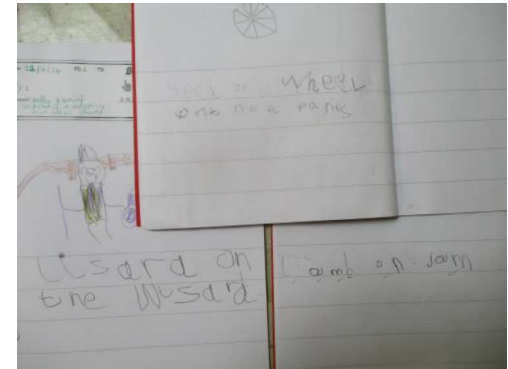


Ash and Saplings really enjoyed our Learning Together Morning this week. The classroom was filled with happy voices as they created homes for animals, cleaned muddy farm animals and painted colourful fish. It was wonderful to see the children sharing their learning and activities with their grown-ups.



During our carpet time, we have been thinking about how important it is to keep on trying, especially when we find something tricky. The children have shared examples of times when they have found something hard but persevered and kept on trying. The children then discussed how proud of themselves they were when they managed to achieve something difficult. We have come up with a class phrase for when we find ourselves wondering if we can do it, we'll say, "Yes, I can!"

In Literacy, we are continuing to think about rhyming words, using the book *Oi, Frog* for inspiration. The children thought of lots of fantastic sentences, such as dinosaur on a seesaw and lamb on jam. Ash class then wrote their sentences, thinking carefully about the sounds in words, finger spaces and letter formation.



In maths, we are continuing to practise counting to 20 and this week we have been making 20 using numicon pieces. The children noticed that we always have a tens numicon, and then add on more pieces to make numbers greater than 10.



This term, we will be having gymnastics every other Tuesday afternoon, alternating with Forest school. Early Years learnt some new stretches and movements in our first gymnastics session, as they moved around like rainforest animals. They were all very proud of how well they did, as were the teachers!

Beech class has had yet another action-packed week. In our art sessions, we've explored the colour wheel, particularly emphasising warm hues. Drawing inspiration from the works of artist Joseph Thiongo, we've begun sketching safari animals. Our focus this week was on creating initial sketches of lions.



In mathematics, our focus has been on fractions, a key topic in KS1. Alongside exploring fractions of quantities and shapes, we've also covered other fundamental aspects such as identifying and comparing fractions. Additionally, we've investigated foundational concepts like odd and even numbers, reinforcing understanding within the context of fractions.





This week in our yoga sessions, the children engaged in a variety of poses and activities aimed at promoting their physical and mental well-being. Through stretching, balancing, and breathing exercises, they worked on improving their flexibility, strength, and coordination. We focused on mindfulness techniques, guiding the children to pay attention to their breath and sensations in their bodies, fostering a deeper mind-body connection. Additionally, we

incorporated relaxation exercises to help them reduce stress and anxiety, promoting emotional regulation and self-confidence. By introducing yoga in our curriculum, we aim to provide children with valuable tools for managing their health and happiness, fostering a positive and holistic approach to wellness from a young age.



In our English grammar lessons this week, the children probed the intricacies of language structure, focusing on contractions, prefixes, and suffixes. Through engaging activities and discussions, they explored how words can be shortened through contractions, as well as how prefixes and suffixes alter the meaning of words. In our main English lessons, the children honed their abilities to compile fact files and reports, learning the essential skills necessary for effective research and presentation. We emphasised gathering accurate information, organizing thoughts logically, and presenting findings clearly and concisely. This skill-building will continue to be a focal point in our upcoming lessons.



This week Lime class became young historians delved into the fascinating topic of why the Saxons invaded Britain. Through a hands-on approach, they meticulously analysed clues and evidence to draw insightful conclusions, honing their critical thinking skills along the way.



In Science we had fun doing an investigation using force meters to test the amount of friction that could be found on certain surfaces. Through experimentation and analysis of results, they sharpened their scientific minds and drew meaningful conclusions about the materials tested.

We have also been learning the French words for common shapes or 'les formes' and thinking about healthy eating in PHSE.



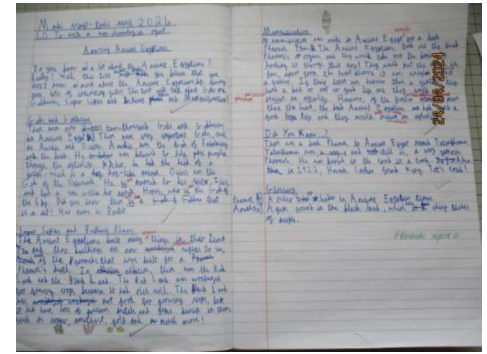
In PE, our energetic students kicked off a unit on gymnastics, mastering brilliant balances while understanding the role of tension in their muscles for stability. Through these activities, they not only enhanced their physical prowess but also developed coordination and focus.

For English we have been engrossed in the thrilling saga of Beowulf, and are now focussing their creativity by transforming it into a playscript in English class.



Meanwhile, in Mathematics, they've been immersed in the world of time-telling, mastering this essential skill with enthusiasm and determination- the first few lessons definitely were tricky!

Maple class is definitely getting immersed in the interesting world of the Ancient Egyptians. Children have been learning all about the Ancient Egyptians' fascinating lives and culture. This week, in History, the children found out how society in ancient Egypt was organised. They looked at the pyramid that showed the hierarchy from the most important and powerful at the top down to the slaves at the bottom, who had no rights or property of their own. Children then wrote descriptions of the different sections of society, including the pharaoh, viziers, nobles, priests, scribes, soldiers, craftsmen, farmers and slaves. In English, children researched and made notes on different aspects, such as the impressive pyramids, the hieroglyphics, famous pharaohs, the importance of the River Nile. They finally wrote amazing non-chronological reports on ancient Egypt.



Our yoga sessions are back! We warmed up with the 'sun sequence', performing different postures. We then played the 'Shark game', a game that requires good listening skills and contrasts from noise to silence, from movement to stillness and focus. The 'rainstick' game calmed us down, while listening to the sound of the rainstick in a calming and magical silence. Finally, the



'ladybird relaxation' game calmed our busy minds before returning to the class.

In Maths, we learnt about decimals: we read and represented tenths,

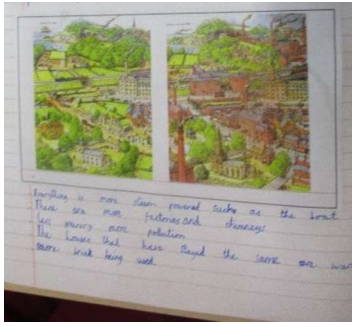


hundredths and thousandths on a number line or in place value charts, ordered and compared decimals. We also had a lesson on: how to pay for things. Children understood that there are many different payment methods, what the most appropriate way of paying in different situations is and used some of the key language relating to debit and credit cards appropriately. Children worked with a partner and they had to discuss and make decisions to help a family decide how to pay for goods and services during the month.



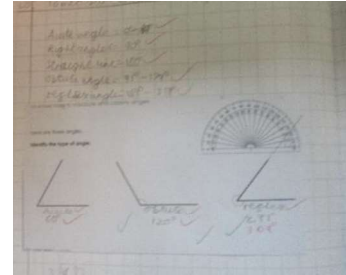
In Willow Class, we have got the new term off to a great start with new topics and new learning as well as revising key skills. On Tuesday, we had a lovely start to the day with our Learning Together Morning. We played a challenging game of SPAG-opoly (a board game designed to test our grammatical knowledge). There were plenty of opportunities for us to recall key learning and explain our learning to others, helping to reinforce some key concepts. Our competitive spirit was in full flow. Thank you, parents, for joining in the fun and playing (learning) with us.





Our history topic this term is *'Revolution - Full steam ahead?'* a study of the Victorian era. We learned the Victorian era, which lasted from 1837 to 1901, was a period of great change with significant advancements in technology, industry, and society. The Industrial Revolution was in full swing, leading to the development of steam engines, railways, and factories. This revolutionised the way people lived and worked, with many people moving from rural areas to cities to find work. Change during the Victoria period shaped the modern world in many ways and its legacy can still be seen today. We learned that Football leagues were created, the flushing toilet was invented, free education and public libraries were introduced. In our next lesson, we will examine some of the changes in more detail and question whether all changes were for the better.

In Maths, we have been exploring the world of angles. We have been learning how to classify angles based on their measurements and properties. This week, we had the opportunity to practise measuring angles using protractors, honing our mathematical skills and understanding of geometry.



In English, we have been diving into our class book *'Holes'* by Louis Sachar. This week, we have worked on writing a newspaper article about a key event from the book. We focused on transitioning from a formal to an informal voice, capturing the essence of the story in our writing. Our creativity and imaginative storytelling skills shone through as we had fun adding in some reported speech.

In Science, we began our new topic by learning about inherited characteristics and acquired attributes. We learnt that all living things have cells and humans have trillions of cells. These cells contain our genetic information, which is passed down from our parents. This genetic information determines many of our inherited characteristics, such as eye colour, hair texture, and blood type. We learned that acquired attributes, on the other hand, are characteristics that are not inherited but are instead developed or acquired throughout our lives. These can include things like learned skills, physical fitness, and even illnesses caused by environmental factors. It's important to understand the difference between inherited characteristics and acquired attributes, as it helps us better understand how traits are passed down from generation to generation and how our environment can influence our development.



Exciting news from our Green Team! Some of our enthusiastic young gardeners recently embarked on a thrilling adventure to dig up our brand-new allotment patch in the village. Their eager hands and boundless energy have already begun transforming this space into a flourishing garden of possibilities.

But as you know digging can be very hard work so we definitely need your help to make this project truly blossom! If anyone in our school community would like to lend a hand and join in the digging fun, we would be incredibly grateful for your support. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just eager to get your hands dirty, your assistance would be invaluable in nurturing this green haven for our students.

Every little dig helps!!



Safeguarding Update

DON'T BE MEAN BEHIND YOUR SCREEN!

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they wouldn't if they were face to face with each other. Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect and kindness, like they would if they were face-to-face. How they act online should be how they behave on the school playground when they are following school rules. Here are some examples of what being unkind looks like online:

- Leaving unkind comments
- Sharing photographs of somebody else without their permission
- Excluding somebody on purpose
- Impersonating somebody with a fake account
- Telling/sharing lies
- Sending nasty or hurtful messages

What should I do if my child is being bullied online? Ensure that your child understands that if they receive unkind messages or see something that worries them, they should not reply or engage in conversation with the perpetrator. Instead, they should tell a trusted adult. You can use the tools within an app to report any offensive or hurtful content as well as block people so they cannot contact you again in the future.