

NEWSLETTER 26/01/2024

Week 19

Dear Families,

Yes, it's still January. Here at Little Hadham Primary some of us have wondered if this week has actually been several months long. But there is light at the end of the tunnel. This morning when driving to work there were definite glimmers of daylight rising. Spring is on its way so much so we had a listen to Vivaldi's 'Spring' at music assembly this week before continuing learning 'New Shoes' by Paolo Nutini- which I am sure many of you will have heard them singing!

January is a great time to reset good habits like putting on the new shoes! With that in mind high attendance and good punctuality really do make a difference to children's success in school. A reminder that gates open at 8.45am and all children need to be in their classrooms by 8.55am. Anyone arriving after 8.55 should enter through the school office and will be marked late. We have reviewed attendance from last term and will be sending letters to families in this week to that we can work together to maximise children's time in school.

Here, at Little Hadham Primary we don't think the power of being outside can be underestimated. That is why in this bleakest of months it has been such a pleasure to see our children are making such good use of forest school and being so active at breaktimes. And as Ofsted noted our 'Playtimes are happy. They are highly active with pupils enjoying the many activities on offer.' On that note, a huge THANK YOU to everyone for all your warm hearted emails and words about our Ofsted report. Thank you once again for being a part of our journey towards sustained educational excellence. Our Little Hadham School with its huge heart is one that I, and all the staff, are proud to be a part of.

Have a lovely weekend
Sinead Connolly

Diary Dates

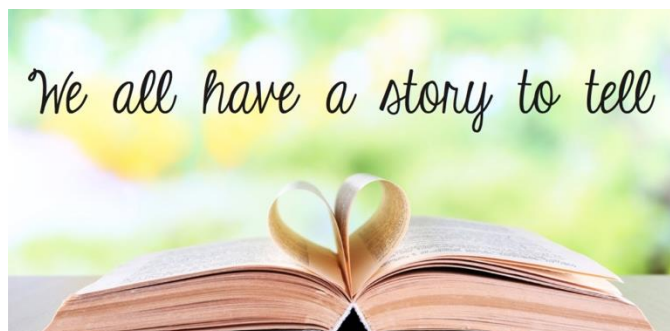
- 06/02/24 Safer Internet Day
- 13/02/24 Maple Class Trip
- 14/02/24 Willow Class Trip
- 16/02/24 Half term begins
- 26/02/24 Return to school
- 27/03/24 Parents'
- Consultations
- 28/03/24 End of Term- 1pm

Nursery Admissions are now open. If you have a child born 01/09/2020-31/08/2021 then this will be the time to apply. Please ring the office for more information on 01279 771285.

Skip 2 B Fit...

The story so far... As you know our Skipping Sponsorship Fundraiser has begun and you'll be pleased to know that I have improved my skipping since we had our skipping workshop-hot chocolate token for me! On the other hand, from my session with Maple class on Tuesday, I now realise I have much more competition from all of these children so I really need to up my game. All sponsorship greatly received to keep me going. £125 raised so far... every skip helps!

Tell me a story!



Dear Parents,

For our entire lives we are surrounded by stories, and they can be incredibly powerful. Stories can motivate us; stories can pull at our emotions; we can learn from stories; stories teach us empathy and they can frame our perception of our lives. Perhaps the most powerful words are, *'Tell me a story...'*

Little Hadham Primary School is running a project called **'Tell me a story'**. The aim of the project is to collect and share stories. The stories can be about anything:

- *Journeys*
- *Funny incidents*
- *Work stories*
- *Holiday stories*
- *Strange events*
- *Lucky escapes*
- *Coincidences*
- *Acts of kindness*
- in fact, anything that makes a good story!

Stories can be long, short or anything in between. They can be stories about things that have happened to family members, friends or anybody from our local community or stories passed onto them. The stories will form an exhibition at the end of March 2024 when children and parents can read and share the stories.

The stories will be collated by Mrs Tweedale. We would love families to become involved either by donating their own stories or collecting stories from friends and family members for the project.

Your stories can be emailed to admin@littlehadham.herts.sch.uk marked 'Tell Me A Story' or handwritten and dropped into the school office marked 'Tell Me A Story'. We would love to have your stories by **Friday 22nd March**.

So, got a story to tell? We can't wait for you to share it.

Happy storytelling 😊

Lucy Tweedale
Deputy Head

News from the classes...

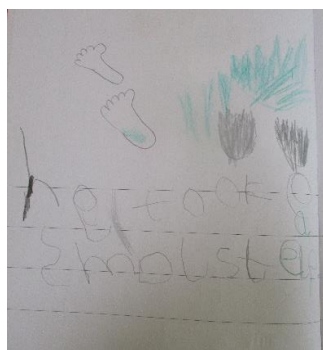
Ash and Saplings thoroughly enjoyed welcoming their families into the class for our learning together morning. Play-doh gingerbread men looked and smelt good enough to eat, the little pigs' houses were being created out of straw, sticks and bricks and there were beanstalks built out of lego.



There was a very busy and happy feel to the room whilst the children shared their busy fingers activities with their grown ups.

In Maths this week, the children have been working out how many objects are hiding, when they know the total amount altogether. They have been very good at working out the missing amount and quizzing each other.

In English, the children are continuing to work from the story, Jack and the Jellybean Stalk. Ash children have been writing sentences to describe the type of steps Jack and the Giant took.



We have continued to talk about our feelings and thinking about different times when we might feel sad, excited or happy. The children could share lots of ideas about what they

could do to make themselves happy if they were feeling sad.



All their hard work paid off as they celebrated a jewel in the jar treat one afternoon, where they ate gingerbread men, whilst watching The Three Little Pigs ballet. A perfect Traditional Tales kind of treat.

In Beech class, in our English lessons, the children have been reading the book 'There's a Tiger in the Garden' by Lizzy Stewart. The children have honed their language skills by describing the characters using vivid verbs, adverbs, and expanded noun phrases. Children wrote wonderful, descriptive sentences such as 'The raging buffalo is charging furiously just like a rhino' and 'The hungry tiger is catching his prey quickly'.

In maths, our year 1 pupils have been exploring doubling and halving numbers, building a foundation for multiplication concepts. Year 2 children have been focusing on measuring skills—telling time, measuring length, and comparing mass—developing essential life skills through hands-on experiences that connect mathematical concepts to real-world applications.

In art, our children have been designing and drawing robots. Emphasis was placed on the quality of lines, with children making thoughtful decisions between straight and curved lines to bring their robot creations to life.



Collaging materials with varying textures such as shiny, bumpy, smooth, and rough added an extra layer of depth to their designs, showcasing their artistic flair and attention to detail.

In history, we transported our children back in time as they learnt about toys from the past. As part of their homework, the children took a nostalgic trip down memory lane, gathering insights from their parents and grandparents about the toys from previous generations. The sharing of videos, photos, drawings, and PowerPoints enriched the learning experience. Explaining to the children all about Discmans, Walkmans, and VHS players, proved to be both enlightening and entertaining for all, even if it did make some of us feel a tad old!



Lime class have been rearranging squares to make shapes with different perimeters. We have also looked at finding the perimeter of shapes with missing lengths which required some logical thinking!



In English, we have started to look at biographies and used the biography of the famous athlete Usain Bolt as a model text.

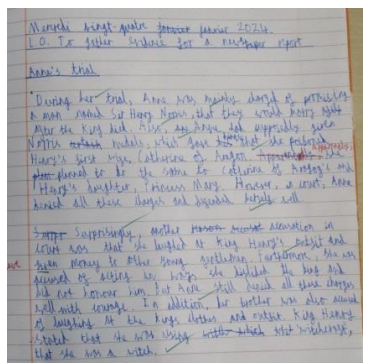
In Computing, we learnt how to program a robot using the lightbot app, and in music we sang a call and response song about a Mexican wave! We also tried the wave while we sang.....

In Science, we learnt all about the human ear and in History, we became town planners and investigated ancient Indus valley cities.

Our art has been all about drawing a human face and we used a youtube tutorial to get our perspective right, and then applied what we had learnt about shading to create the shadows.



For PSHE, we learnt all about rights and discovered what UNICEF's rights of the child is all about.



In Maple, this week, we analysed the features of newspaper reports as next week we will write newspaper reports on Anne Boleyn's trial and execution. We then gathered evidence looking at different sources and used direct and indirect speech to present the eye witnesses' statements. Did you know that Anne Boleyn was charged with suppressing her love to another man? Anne was also accused of attempting to poison Henry's first wife and daughter and acting in disrespectful ways. Linking with our History work, we explored the differences between rich and poor women in Tudor times and discussed the social structure in the Tudor Period.

In Maths, we are definitely getting more confident in arithmetic and specifically in multiplying numbers using different methods such as partitioning, the area model as well as the long and short written methods.



In Art, we explored how Sonia Delaunay created rhythm and movement in her artwork. In preparation for our artwork next week, we looked at the primary, secondary and tertiary colours and mixed primary colours and paint to make lighter and darker shades.



The way in which two or more colours are combined can greatly affect our visual experience. Children had to think whether they would like their outcome to be vibrant or calming. Complementary colours contrast with each other, creating a vibrant effect, whereas similar colours and combinations are pleasing to the eye, creating a calm, harmonious and soothing effect. Our art sessions this week were definitely calm but full of vibrant colours.



In PSHE, we identified some rights and also responsibilities that come with these. Rights for children can be described as things that every child should have or be able to do in order to them be healthy, safe and happy. Children chose three that they felt were very important to them and we then voted the top 5 rights in Maple class.

Willow class had a very busy week – as always. In our gymnastics session, children worked on developing counter balance and counter tension, by moving slowly in and out of balances and working with a partner or in a small group to create a sequence of balances and rolls.



In History, children considered evidence about Scott's expedition. Was it bad luck or bad planning that led to the failure of Captain Scott's expedition? Willow class children completed a Diamond Nine activity, which involved them ranking and prioritising nine ideas or pieces of information into what they considered highest to lowest importance. They considered and discussed the evidence in small groups and formed a conclusion.



In Maths, children worked on using scale factors, describing the relationship between shapes, solving ratio and proportion problems as well as problems that included scaling up or down. Children worked methodically, persevered and shared their viewpoints with their partners.

In computing, children designed online avatars and started exploring the VR world. Last but definitely not least, children learnt about their rights but also their responsibilities and designed posters to show their understanding of the ABCDE of Rights.



Term Time only - Monday to Thursday 3pm-6pm

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 After-School Club staff.

Duties will include:

- To supervise and set up games and activities
- To supervise all areas both inside and outside where pupils spend time
- To check to see that all pupils are adhering to the behaviour policy
- To prepare and serve healthy meals
- 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 Battle who works in Maple Class. She will leave us on the 16th of February to start a new business doing Forest Sessions. 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 last few years.

'A place where staff and pupils flourish'

Wow! What a fabulous Ofsted outcome. We know that our school constantly strives to offer the best it can for our children, so it is fantastic to have this affirmed in such a truly positive report.

The report contains so many compliments about the children's attitude and behaviour and the multiple ways they develop and succeed. Having such supportive and engaged parents, as reflected in the very high level of positive results in the 'Parent View' survey, is wonderful to see. It goes without saying that the learning environment and the quality of education is dependent on having enthusiastic, high quality staff and leadership and, as the report makes clear, Little Hadham has both in abundance.

You may have noticed that, very unusually in Ofsted reports, the section headed '...what the school needs to do better' contains no recommendations. That is not a mistake. The lead inspector told us that that there was nothing sufficiently significant that he thought needs to improve.

It was very gratifying that the report mentions the governors so positively. Governors work really hard behind the scenes on behalf of the school and it's great that the report recognises the difference they make. But undoubtedly the main congratulations need to be directed to pupils, staff and parents, but especially to Ms Connolly.

Keith Hutt
Chair of Governors

Little Hadham Primary School

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Tel: 01279 771285 Email: admin@littlehadham.herts.sch.uk

Head Teacher Ms S Connolly



Farmers Market Last Minute Reprieve

I am delighted to report that following some recent offers of help the market at Little Hadham will continue after this month. However, it still remains somewhat precarious – we will try and continue to operate but it is still somewhat dependent on getting more help. A few people offering to help for maybe just for one or two markets a year for a couple of hours really would make all the difference

At tomorrow's market two new stalls are joining us, one selling sweets and one selling baked treats like croissants, muffins etc,. You can find details of all the stalls on our 'Little Hadham Farmers Market Facebook page'.

We are planning a new arrangement, with a dedicated area set aside for people to sit down on adult sized chairs, to relax, chat and enjoy breakfast. We will be offering both a large and medium sized full English, alongside bacon, sausage and egg rolls, plus hot and cold drinks. If you can, please come along and support the market between 9.30am and 11.00am.

A very big thank you to Mrs Evans, a member of our support staff, who has contributed a huge amount to the running of the market during the last two years. Sadly, other pressures are now meaning she needs to step back from her current leading role. If you might be able to offer occasional help, please call or email me so we can discuss the possible ways in which you might contribute.

Thanks. Keith Hutt.

07825 399371:

huttk@littlehadham.herts.sch.uk