

**NEWSLETTER 26.05.2023**

Dear Parents & Carers,

As you know, our school proudly holds the British Council's prestigious International School Award 2022-2025 in recognition of our inspiring international work to bring the world into the classroom. Our school has well-established links across Europe, which are being used as an effective vehicle to enable increased awareness of ways of life, cultures and experiences in the world. Over the last three years, Little Hadham Primary has been leading an Erasmus+ project that was inspired by the following areas: Immigration and inclusion; British values; Keeping Safe and Feeling Happy; eSafety; Antibullying; Climate change and Sustainable Goals 2030. Our partner schools are five primary schools from Spain, Italy, Greece, Poland and Croatia.



This week, four of our Year 6 children represented our school in Maleo, Italy as part of our Erasmus+ project, 'Cinderella Then & Now - Discovering Values'. Accompanied by Mrs Sassis, project coordinator, and Ms Connolly the children took part in a variety of activities sharing the values of the project. They had the opportunity to learn with other children from each of the partner schools and spend time in the Italian school's classes. Our children beautifully recited some poetry and taught the children from the partner schools simple conversational phrases. I am told there was even time for some well-deserved gelato too!

A huge thank you to our wonderful Ms Sassis for her endless enthusiasm for this project and creating such an incredible opportunity for our children and our school. We are delighted to have you all back safe and sound today and can't wait to hear more about the trip!

Back at school, you will see over the page, we have all been extremely busy with our learning. Enjoy reading what we have been up to in 'News from the Classes'.

As we pause for the half term break, do take a look at the diary dates for next half term. We have lots to look forward to!

Wishing you all a wonderful half term break,  
Lucy Tweedale, Deputy Headteacher



## **Diary Dates**

**26/05/23 Half term begins @3:15**

**05/06/23 Inset Day-staff training**

**06/06/23 Return to school**

**08/06/23 Willow Class Learning Together**

**Morning**

**12/06/23 Design & Technology Week, Whole School**

**16/06/23 Puppet Making Workshop Willow Class**

**19/06/23 Class Photographs**

**20/06/23 Change of Date: Maple performance @6pm**

**03/07/23 Art Week, Whole School**

**13/07/23 Transition Day**

**14/07/23 Maple Class Henry Moore AM**

**19/07/23 Last day of Term School Finishes @1pm**

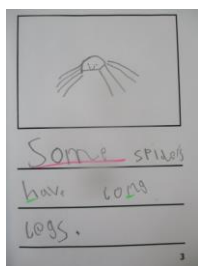
**Sports Day date to follow as we are still considering the location!**

## **Breaking News**

I think you will all have to sit down for this one! I am very sad to announce the retirement of the wonderful Mrs Erswell. Mrs Erswell has been at Little Hadham since forever! She has been a constant reliable figure at our school and community. She has always been very helpful and knowledgeable with anything to do with the school, she has been a fabulous colleague and friend to many staff. It will be very strange not to see her in the school office and to have her answer all the millions of questions we all have, but at the same time we wish her a truly deserved, happy and healthy retirement.

If you think you have what it takes to be the next Mrs Erswell, or know someone who could be a wonderful School Office Manager, please call the office for more information.

## ***News from the Classes...***



To conclude our work this half term all about Anansi the Spider, the children made their own leaflets sharing facts they have learnt about spiders. We worked on a class leaflet as a group and then the children completed their own. Saplings did an amazing job with their initial sounds and early blending skills, and the sentences that Ash class have been producing have been blowing us away!

We also enjoyed saving Father Anansi in the forest, where he got up to all sorts of mischief. The children thought of how the different characters in the story would save Anansi, by cushioning his fall, building a road, or even throwing a stone at the tree to help him get down! It is great to see how the children are making such thoughtful links between their different areas of learning.



The children have been really enjoying the warm weather this week. It has been a great opportunity to continue working on our sensory garden project. We planted geraniums, sewed wildflower seeds and began to build a bug hotel this week, to see what insects we would be able to attract. We already have had a visit by two tiny lizards, camouflaged underneath the bark! The children have also been filling our bird feeders and have enjoyed spotting the little song birds as they fly down to have a little snack.

In maths, the children have found a new favourite game! Using the Numicon pieces and a dice, the children used their knowledge of subitising different representations of numbers, alongside their spatial reasoning skills to fill the Numicon board completely! They soon realised that the larger numbers were harder to fit on the boards as they filled up, and so the normal cheer for rolling a six was this time assigned to rolling a one! Such a great demonstrating of creative and critical thinking!





In **Beech Class**, we have been reading the book 'Where the Wild Things are' by Maurice Sendak. This week we have been summarising the key events of the story and mapping them onto a plan. We then looked at how we could change elements of the story to make our own versions. We had lots of imaginative ideas with magical creatures and some very interesting story settings! Instead of Max's bedroom transforming into a rainforest, we have travelled through portals to oceans, and flying on dinosaurs to magical volcanoes. Of course, instead of a Wild Rumpus with the Wild Things, we have had our own celebrations and parties with unicorns,

In Maths, the Year 1 children have been continuing to develop and deepen their understanding of finding halves and quarters of amounts. They are able to count a group of objects and use this information to find halves and quarters in different ways. In Year 2, the children have been learning how to tell the time. They have applied their knowledge of fractions to find 'half past', 'quarter past' and 'quarter to' and have used their knowledge of the 5 times table to tell the time in minutes.



Science- We have now finished our work on everyday materials. We

researched about the scientist John McAdam who was the first person to invent a new process for making roads stronger and smoother called Macadamisation. Without his invention, our roads wouldn't be what they are today!



Geography- We have been learning about where we live in the world. This week was all about settlements and the towns that we each live in. We discussed whether we lived in a city, village, town or hamlet. We then drew some pictures of the areas we live in.

Art- we have been very busy painting monsters this week! We used watercolours to paint our sketches. We focussed on blending and thought very carefully about our monsters surroundings and how we could show that through paint.

In RE we have learned about the holy book for Christians, the Bible. The children looked at two stories from the Bible: The Lost Pearl and The Feeding of the 5000. We also looked at two commandments from Matthew: 22 v37-39, which teaches Christians to love God and their neighbours.

**Lime Class** have learnt all about the Crazy Celts by making a Q and Q board game and then we put ourselves in the place of Boudicca to try to understand why she led a rebellion.

We used our beautiful setting descriptions to plan and write an adventure story and, in grammar, practised our fronted adverbials.



We have been continuing to learn about fractions and decimals in maths and love to play a game of 'beat the teacher' in the afternoons for mental maths!

We have been electrified in Science as we investigate circuits, learning all about conductors and insulators by doing an investigation. For our investigations, we learnt the definitions of dependant, independent and control variables.



For music we have had fun performing clapping games and in art we have explored the mosaics of Gaudi by looking at photographs of Barcelona.

In computing, we have turned into filmmakers as we compare different techniques, angles and shots with our iPads.



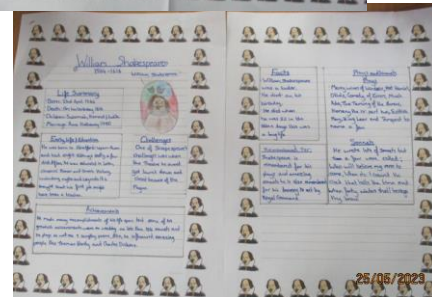
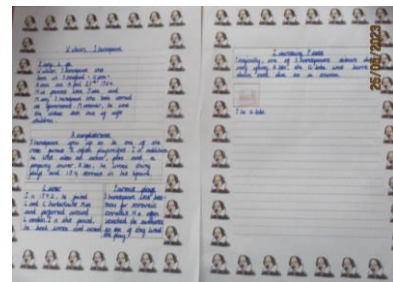
PHSE saw us welcoming parents for a learning together morning to design a website for a well-being hotel – they didn't actually want to leave they were having so much fun!

Have a safe and happy half term everyone!



This week, the children in **Maple Class** have been busy preparing for our upcoming play 'Who was William Shakespeare?' Rehearsals are well under-way as we have been learning our parts, developing our stage voice and acting skills and of course learning some dances! I have been extremely impressed by the children's enthusiasm, commitment and confidence levels – you are in for a treat in June!

English lessons this week have been closely linked to our play as we began by learning about the life of William Shakespeare through completing a detailed comprehension. We practised choral reading together and enjoyed being detectives, finding interesting facts and information about his life. We also practised the skill of note taking, ensuring we selected key information, which we then used to plan and write a biography about his life. The children's work shows they have included the main features needed in a biography. They took great care over their writing and should be very proud of their work.



In science this week, we enjoyed investigating what happened when glasses of varying sizes were placed over a burning candle. The children predicted correctly that the lit candle would extinguish and were able to say that the largest glass would contain the most air which would enable the candle to stay lit for longer – very clever! We talked about the variables we should keep the same to make

it a fair test – I wonder if they can tell you about them!



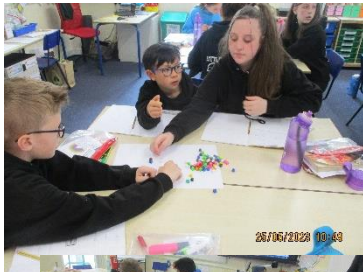
In **Willow Class** this week, we have been learning about the conditions inside Victorian factories. We asked the question, 'Was it really as bad as people suggest?' We enjoyed some role-play, taking on the roles of factory workers, parents of children who worked in the factories and commissioners who conducted an enquiry into working conditions. We used sources of evidence and witness statements taken from the time and questioned the reliability of each. We looked for bias in each source, taking into account who produced the statement and considered allegations of bribery.





It was then time to see just how 'sticky' our learning was by playing a game. In a race against the clock, each team had to collect ten reasons that made the life of a factory child so miserable and difficult. Our two teams were called 'The Factory Factors' and 'The Revolutionaries'. We showed great recall of some key information:

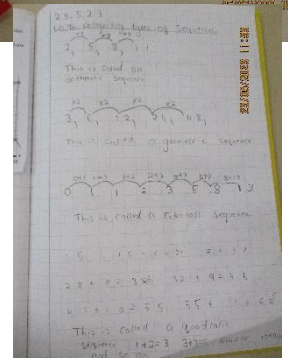
1. Started work at a very young age.
2. Worked long hours as many as 15hrs
3. Little time for rest
4. No time for proper meals
5. Injuries caused by accidents
6. Deformities caused by repetitive, awkward work
7. Punishments for lateness
8. Early starts, sometimes 3am
9. Late going to bed often 11pm, little sleep
10. Fear of being beaten



In Maths, we have been tackling some Year 7 learning. We learnt that a number sequence is a set of numbers that follow a particular pattern or rule. There are four types: arithmetic, geometric, quadratic and special sequences including Fibonacci, triangular, square and cube. We

explored finding different terms and used our knowledge of algebra to help. There was much discussion and teamwork as we worked with apparatus to show different sequences and explain different terms.

Wishing you all a great half term break!



The one where Year 2 completed their SATS... did we???

Congratulations to Year 2 who completed their SATS without even a murmur of having done a test. They gave every practice test and the 'real' ones their very best and we will have a lovely treat for them next half term! What superstars you have- we are super proud of them.

It was so lovely to be back in school today with lots of fabulous smiles and welcome backs from all the children- I sure did miss them all!

'Grazie Mille' to Mrs Tweedale and all the staff for all their hard work this last week and throughout this half term. Have a wonderful break and we will see you all on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> of June.