

Diary Dates

30/01/2023 Maple Class Stone Age Workshop
02/02/2023 Lime 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

Farmer's Market

Just a reminder the Farmers' Market is on here tomorrow at 9a.m. There are lots of exciting stalls and of course there is delicious food to be had!

Dear Little Hadham families,

Another couple of weeks have gone by and it's still January. Here, at Little Hadham we have welcomed several visitors into school. Two of our governors, came in to talk to the school council. It was really interesting for the children to share their ideas about what our school needs. Each year the governors give them some money and they, as a school council, explore ways to make the school even better. One of their ideas is to have a reading area outside, so far they're planning on having a pop up gazebo, picnic blankets, and cushions- sounds to me like an excellent way to spend a break time. And, it's so wonderful how they love a good book here at Little Hadham.

Other visitors included the Police, who came into talk to Beech class about life as a police person. The children had some great questions. We also had two headteachers from our Envision partnership group (16 local schools working together). They came to observe the children learning. They were focusing on our foundations subjects, speaking to our pupils and looking through their books. They were impressed with our children who spoke enthusiastically about their learning and were able to recall things that they had learnt. They said that our children were really excited about their learning in History, for example, and were able to talk about what they had learnt in topics.

Early Years have had visitors who came with their diggers to work building us a new track- there was great excitement out there this week and we are really looking forward to the finishing product!

Have a restful weekend

Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

Calling Parent Readers

We are reaching out for a team of parent volunteers to hear children reading from 8:45-9:05am. Parents would not have to hear readers in their own child's class and would receive induction training to ensure consistency of approach when working with children. Parents would need to be DBS checked and provide two references as they would be regular visitors to school. Potential volunteers are asked to email the School Office with their regular availability e.g. every Monday or every day. If you can spare 20 minutes once, twice or five times a week please email the School Office, we would be looking to start after February half term. When established, we may have other periods of time to hear readers or support with library.

News from the classes...



In EYFS, the children have been thinking about different ways of making a sticky web for Incy Wincy Spider! We decided that if he had a sticky web, then it would be harder for him to keep falling down the water spout when it rained. We explored the use of different sorts of glue, tape and tack to find out which sticky substance was up for the job!

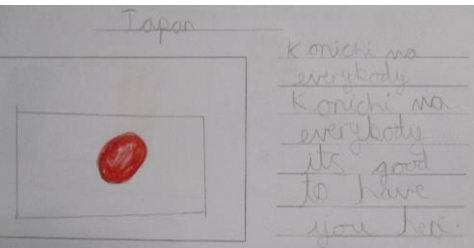
We have also been thinking about the dragon in our story "The Magic Paintbrush", which inspired us to paint our very own dragons, complete with labels to indicate the different parts of the dragon's body. We also thought about whether our dragons would be **heavy** or **light** and this inspired further investigations to find out the weight of different objects around the classroom.



The children were also very welcoming to our new friends who have been working hard in our garden to build us a new track! They developed some really thoughtful questions to ask the builders and listened carefully to learn more about the process and the tools they were using. We can't wait to watch and learn as the track begins to take shape!



In Beech Class, we have been completely immersed in all things Great Fire of London. The children started the week by taking part in a virtual reality experience where they pretended to go back in time and help put out the fire that ravaged the City in 1666. It required a lot of listening and group work and the children excelled themselves! From this experience the children gained a better understanding of what a firebreak is and how hard making choices can be when faced with something as terrifying as an enormous fire.



We built on the virtual experience by gathering verbs that described how the fire was moving. We then learnt about personification in order to bring the fire further to life. The children loved using their imaginations to paint their very own fire monster which they used as inspiration in their writing.

Next week the children in Beech Class will go on a local educational visit to St. Cecilia's Church. Here they will meet the Reverend and learn about how the church is a special place to Christians. They will also learn more about how baptisms are performed.

In music, we are listening to a piece of music called 'Finlandia' composed by Jean Sibelius. We have felt that the music is like a storm. We could hear rain, wind and thunder. So we recreated these sounds using body percussion; finger tapping, blowing and lap-tapping. We experimented with the order of these sounds and created a class orchestra! We have also thought about how proud Jean Sibelius was of his home country, and we have thought about why we love our country too. We then had a think about how we could make up a simple greeting song in our language, and then translate it to other languages.

We had a special visit from our local Police Officer and PCSO. They explained their role in keeping us safe and talked us through the different equipment that they carry.



In Lime class we have been on a spy mission to gather intelligence about Viking longships! We questioned our prisoner, Sven the boat builder, and then wrote a report.

In maths we have been multiplying and dividing using both practical and formal written methods. What numbers do you think you can divide by if you make triangles and squares out of sticks?

In science we investigated how far sound waves can travel by dropping a dice on the wooden floor and walking away. We found out that we stopped hearing the dice when we were about 20 metres away.



The Year 4's now have their turn to enjoy Wednesday afternoons and are loving it.



This week in English we included some characters. We are Golden Rope by Joe



learning the ukulele with Mrs Martin on

have written great stories about Thor and correctly punctuated conversations between the continuing to enjoy the story of Arthur and the Todd Stanton.

Our RE lesson this week was all about tolerance and understanding. We discussed some very interesting questions about different beliefs, learned what a minority group was and thought about the concept of equality.



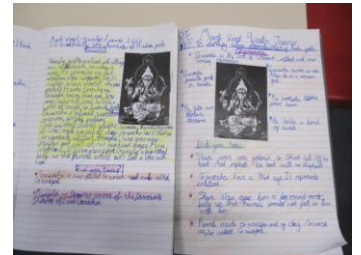
Maple Class have been very productive these last couple of weeks. They are certainly enjoying stepping back into the past and using a range of sources to carry out research. We particularly loved learning how knowledge of the past has been constructed by researchers studying the Stone Age 'rubbish tips or middens' but they didn't fancy going through the bins themselves!

En français, we have been learning how to order breakfast in a French café and really trying to perfect our language skills. Maple Class certainly adore their petit déjeuner!

In English we have been looking at persuasive writing and we have focused on the book 'Hidden Figures' where the children have learned more about the achievements and determination of four iconic women at key moments in American and world history. The children have been inspired by the text and have been learning to write for different formal and informal contexts. Our finished letters to persuade to include one of our heroes to be put on an upcoming Honours list were very impressive.

We love when maths gets a little more difficult. This week we were learning to add and subtract fractions and solving word problems involving fractions. Our previous knowledge of equivalent fractions contributed to our success- well done Maple mathematicians.

In our R.E. we researched interesting facts about Hindu gods and created knowledgeable fact files on Ganesha and Brahma. Our understanding of Hinduism is improving.



Our new class text is the award-winning 'Wonder' by R. J. Palacio. We shared the opening of this book and quickly were discussing the use of the word 'normal' and what is meant by normal. We asked thought-provoking questions including, 'What does normal mean?', 'If one person is described as being normal, does that mean others are not normal?' We then tried substituting the word 'normal' with the word 'usual' to see how it felt and sounded. Only a few pages into this page-turner and already we are thinking big. Impressive discussions, Year 6!

It was expedition time in History as we learnt more about the experiences of Ernest Shackleton and Robert Falcon Scott. We delved deep into Scott's Terra Nova Expedition of 1910 and looked at different pieces of information before debating and discussing the question 'Was Scott's Terra Nova Expedition thwarted by bad planning or bad luck?' We worked together in teams and presented our ideas using fabulous oracy.



In Music, we have been developing our rhythm work and learning some music notation including crotchets and quavers. We had lots of fun using bars of 4 counts whilst clapping 8 quavers and keeping to the steady beat. We then introduced a second rhythm to be played alongside the first. With plenty of practise, we had some success and plenty of smiles!

In PSHE this week we learnt about the speed with which something posted online can spread. We demonstrated this speed by passing a 'tap on the shoulder' down the line from one person to the next and then compared this to one person tapping two people, two people tapping four people and so on. The results amazed us. We discovered that in a seven 'clicks' something



posted by an individual online can reach over 2 million people We also discussed the difference between real friends and online 'friends', including how we stay safe when using social media platforms.

Warning! A TikTok trend – which can be fatal

Parents please be careful, there is a challenge on Tik Tok that sees youngsters put a small magnet either side of their tongue to imitate a tongue piercing – but if the tiny magnets are accidentally swallowed they can cause life threatening injuries. Unfortunately, one of our children entered into this challenge and thankfully they were unharmed. However, it was an extremely worrying time for them and their parents. Please be vigilant as these magnets are in fidget spinners and other toys and are very small.

Little Hadham Primary Foodbank

We thought it might be helpful if we started a school 'food bank' so that anybody struggling financially could pop in and grab a few bits. So many parents ask to let them know if parents or families need help to pay for different things like trips or school jumpers. We are so lucky to have a strong community and feel this would be a wonderful way to support each other in these really challenging times. We all have times when we could do with some help between pay dates or if unexpected expenses crop up but equally, there are times when we might have surplus items that we feel we can pass on to someone else – we feel this would be a great way to do this!

We will put a box out in the front entrance and if you are able please add items. If you find yourself in need of a bit of support please pop in and take items that would be useful to you. Apparently, this has worked well in other schools. Some have put it behind reception but I feel our front entrance is a very quiet place and would be somewhere people could come discreetly and help themselves if needed.

We can see what the uptake is like for donations and for people using and make adjustments as necessary.

Erasmus Update

As you already know, Little Hadham Primary school is an internationally accredited school and has been leading the Erasmus+ project 'Cinderella Then and Now – Discovering Values', which is funded by the European Union.

The project is funded for 4 pupils from Year 6 to attend the mobility in Italy (Maleo) on Sunday 21st to Thursday 25th May 2023. The four children and three accompanying adults from Little Hadham Primary will attend activities at the school 'Istituto Comprensivo di Maleo' with the pupils and staff from the partner schools (Spain, Poland, Greece, Croatia and Italy).

Two draws took place on Wednesday 25th January in the presence of the Headteacher, the Project Coordinator and one British Council Ambassador.

Thank you all for your positive responses with reference to the trip in Italy. We are definitely amazed by how many responses we received. We would also like to thank all the parents who supported us and volunteered to accompany their child. We are very pleased to announce that the names are:

Peter & parent

Kayden & parent

Lauren

Jessica C

We also have two 'reserves', who will only be contacted if one or more children do not accept their places.