

Dear Parents & Carers,

Now that December has arrived the festive season is in full swing in school. We are trying to ensure that we manage to cover all the festivities as well as prioritising normal lessons and learning for the children because routines and their learning remains vitally important.

The last 2 weeks have been very productive as you can see from the class news. We also had our School Improvement Partner in. School Improvement Partners are external professionals from Herts for Learning who come into the school and identify what a school does well and how it might improve. The main focus of the day for our School Improvement Partner was a 'deep dive' into science (this is a thorough review/audit of our science). First, she spoke with me and we observed science lessons together, looking at books and listening and observing the children learning together. She then met with the teachers, and then she met with children. What she saw is an excellent learning environment where discussions were powerful and had impact on children's learning because they evolved into one dialogue where challenging concepts were built upon and explored, which supported children's understanding. Pupils' love and enthusiasm for their science stood out and staff and leaders have high expectations of pupils and what they will achieve. She was pleased to see that there is an effective balance between practical work and written work in books. Furthermore, to top off all that, she said she loves coming to our school as there is a wonderful culture of positivity and learning.

In addition to this, we had a Safeguarding Commissioned School Visit. The purpose of the visit was to review some aspects of the school's safeguarding arrangements. We haven't yet received the report, however, I am pleased to say he was very positive with all our policies and procedures that we have in place.

Therefore, a huge thank you to all my staff for their extraordinary good will, good humour, team spirit, generosity of time and talent and as always "can do" attitude. You, your children, and I are so lucky to have them.

Thank you to everyone that came to watch our dance performance. These are such treasured experiences and I could not be prouder of our EYFS, Year 1 & Year 2 children. It never ceases to amaze me what confident performers we have in our ranks with some stunning moves and dancing. We look forward to seeing you back next week to our performances. There is no better sound than that of children's singing flowing through our corridors – what a treat next week will be.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,
Sinead Connolly, Headteacher

Diary Dates

**12/12/22 Humanities Table Quiz-
Key Stage 2**

13/12/22 Ice Skating Willow Class

14/12/22 Beech Class

performance 6pm CORRECTION

FROM LAST LETTER

**15/12/22 Pantomime whole
school**

16/12/22 Golden Morning

**16/12/22 EYFS "Christmas
Concert" at 2.30-3.**

**19/12/22 Little Hadham's Got
Talent**

20/12/22 Christmas Lunch

21/12/22 End of Term 1pm

05/01/23 Inset Day-staff training

06/01/23 Return to school

Christmas FOODBANK Collection

Following on from our Harvest foodbank collection, we are now starting our Christmas Foodbank donations – if you could provide any Christmas dry goods or a selection box, this will make a big difference to the people of Bishop's Stortford who are struggling. It is a good time to remind ourselves and our children the importance of sharing what we have and giving can be as rewarding as receiving. The last day for donations will be Friday 16th of December. Thank you.

News from the classes...

In Early Years, the children have been learning about a very important word: co-operation! We have made Christmas decorations together, worked on collaborative pieces of art and enjoyed playing teamwork games.



We have also been thinking about how to look after ourselves and our friends by washing our hands with soap and water.

The children enjoyed their competition about who could be the biggest 'bubble monster' as they lathered the soap on their hands!

The children also had so much fun performing their dance for all the grown-ups on Monday! They have been working really hard all half term, focusing on skills such as moving to the music, following



instructions and negotiating space. Well done Ash and Saplings, you are amazing!



In RE, Beech Class have been learning about the Christian celebration of Christmas. They learnt the history of the Christingle and how it is used during Advent to represent how Jesus is the light of the world to Christians. They then had a go at making their own Christingles. We hope you all enjoyed these at home and were able to use this as a good starting point when discussing what Christmas means to your families

if you celebrate it.



In English, we had a go at using expanded noun phrases to describe some of the lost toys we found in our classroom. The children then put their phrases to good use by making lost posters that they then placed around the school. Have a look next time you are at school to see if you can spot some of our wonderful work in the windows!



In our computing lessons, we have been learning how to make stop motion animation. After watching a clip from Wallace and Gromit, we were inspired to make our own objects come to life! We carefully took many photos so that our frames were in small



increments.

Lime class started their Christmas countdown with some advent 'would you rather' questions, we enjoyed discussing and justifying our choices!

Maths has been all about times tables and patterns – practising on TTRockstars has really helped us.

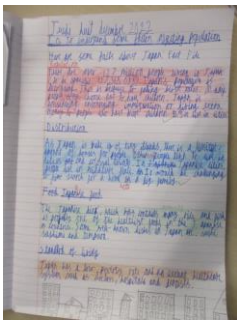


We finished our fabulous Haiku poems in English and then published and illustrated them so that they could go on the wall – please do pop in and see.

In PSHE we have learned about stereotypes and watched some footage of an interesting BBC experiment entitled 'girl's toys and boy's toys' – make sure that you ask us about it.



We have learned all about a famous artist called William Morris and have had fun talking about his designs. Our learning together morning was an oasis of calm as we all tried to recreate one of the famous designs – nothing like a bit of art therapy on a cold December morning!

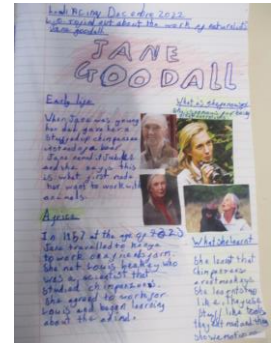


Maple Class have been getting into the Christmas spirit writing newspaper reports on the Cadburys advert. There was some mention of a fictional grumpy Ms Connolly and Mrs Sassis in their writing, more importantly they impressed us with their use of dialogue and correct punctuation.



Macbeth is becoming even more intriguing and we love predicting what will come next. There was some super role playing this week-well done Maple.

In science they loved researching and finding out about Jane Goodall and Mary Seacole. They also enjoyed learning about different suitable environments for animals. Our visitor last week observing our science, was really impressed with their curiosity and knowledge. I think we may have some budding scientists on our hands!



In geography we continue our learning journey on Settlements and researched Uganda and Japan. There we looked at push factors and pull factors of different areas. We were surprised at the huge contrast between these countries and the different standards of living. We enjoyed creating our own factfiles using all the information we found.

In P.E. we have been really working hard with partners and in groups perfecting our balances and developing our techniques; it's not always as easy as it looks- though Maple do make it look really easy!



The countdown to Christmas has officially started in Willow Class. Last week we decorated our tree and on the 1st December, we opened door number one on our Class Advent Calendar and lit our Advent Candle. We rather like having lessons by candlelight!


This week we began our DT topic about traditional English desserts. We researched different desserts and cakes and discussed their popularity. We then explored traditional Christmas desserts including mince pies, Christmas pudding, yule logs and Christmas cake. Then it was time for us to taste Christmas cake. We looked at texture, decoration, shape as well as taste. After a rather sticky and lip-smacking tasting session, we thought about who we would make a Christmas cake for and how we might adapt the basic Christmas cake recipe. Watch this space to see our Christmas cakes being made and decorated next week.



Have you ever wondered what colour light is? We investigated using prisms to find out by splitting or refracting light. When we refracted the light, we saw rainbows. This is called the visible spectrum. The visible spectrum is made up of the seven colours of the rainbow. We then used Isaac Newton's Colour Wheel and his Theory of Colour to turn the seven colours of the rainbow back into white light. We are applying our scientific knowledge brilliantly and impressing with our use of technical vocabulary when using our awesome oracy. What superb scientists!

[illegible]

No Nuts Policy



"Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!

What if Christmas, he thought,
doesn't come from a store.

What if Christmas...perhaps...
means a little bit more!"

- Dr. Seuss.

TT Rockstar Battle of the KS2 Classes is on the go!

It's time for the battle to commence in Lime, Maple and Willow and there are prizes on offer!

The TT Rockstar Battle of the Classes has started with lots of excitement and will run until Friday 16th of December 2022!

Children are to take part in the battle at home; it's amazing what ten minutes a day will do to enhance their times tables and their speed! **Most importantly it will help them remember their number facts!**

Remember, the prize for the highest percentage of participation from a class is a £50.00 voucher from Amazon for their class. And last but not least, there will be a £10 voucher for the child in each class who gets the highest percentage. Come on children, get playing - we do love a competition!