

NEWSLETTER 09/02/2024

Week 21

Dear Families,

As the weeks fly by, we find ourselves rattling towards half term at quite a rate. There has been loads of engaging and exciting learning taking place across the school. As you can see from the class news our learners are gaining valuable experiences, developing their skills and deepening their broad knowledge across the whole curriculum.

At the very beginning of each school day, children get straight to learning tasks whilst the teacher calls the register. These often involve rehearsing key skills such as spellings, handwriting or times tables. This is also the time that many children read one to one with an adult or receive additional help. It is very important that children are on time for these sessions by being in the class at 8:55am. Please help children to be ready and arrive in good time for the start of the day. Setting a morning routine, preparing the night before and being consistent in expectations support children in the important skills of responsibility and time keeping necessary throughout life.

Also, this week children took part in Safer Internet Day. Although there is a dedicated day to highlight the safety messages, in school, every day is a Safer Internet Day!

Please be aware, that social media sites including Facebook, TikTok, Instagram and Snapchat are not appropriate for primary aged pupils. Most have an age restriction of 13 due to content which can be inappropriate for younger children.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> which provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online.

Have a lovely weekend
Sinead Connolly

Diary Dates

- 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 final countdown for the children. The competition is getting tough! Children have been practising inside and out and apparently sleeping all the better from it- shame for us oldies nothing seems to help us sleep! The dates are as follows for next week's sponsorship...

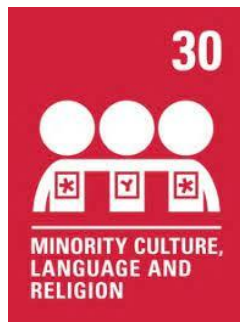
Maple Class Monday 12/02/24 @2:45
Beech Class Tuesday 13/02/24 @2:45
Lime Class Wednesday 14/02/24 @2:45

Willow Thursday 15/02/24 @2:45
EYFS Friday 16/02/24 @2:45

Rights Respecting Schools



Rachel Isadora's illustration of Article 2



Article 2: Every child has the same rights.

Article 30: Every child has the right to practice their own culture, language and religion.

This week's whole school assembly theme was to celebrate Mother Language Day (February 21st). Mother Language Day promotes the preservation and protection of all languages. The language we first learn is called our 'mother tongue' and we celebrate people's right to practice their own language. This is Article 30 in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We are fortunate because so many people in the world speak English, but it is not so easy for those who come here to have to learn English. And there are many countries in the world where English is not the first language and people who move to those countries have to learn another language.

Reuben, one of our School Captains, beautifully shared the story of Selwa - about a girl who was born in Morocco and learned to speak Arabic and then moved to Spain. We listened to how Selwa and her parents learned Spanish, how they faced discrimination from others and were forbidden to speak in their 'mother tongue'. Thank you, Reuben for reading to us and sharing this powerful story.

It was wonderful have the help of Bertu, Helena and Adeline from Willow Class, and Alice and Dylan from Maple Class during the assembly. Each spoke to the whole school in their 'mother tongue'. How wonderful to celebrate so many different languages – Turkish, Portuguese, Cantonese, Philippines, French...! Mrs Erdogan also spoke so beautifully in Turkish. Thank you!

Everyone has the right to use their mother tongue and we should respect other people's languages and culture.

Mrs Tweedale,
Deputy Head
Rights Respecting Schools Co-ordinator



News from the classes...

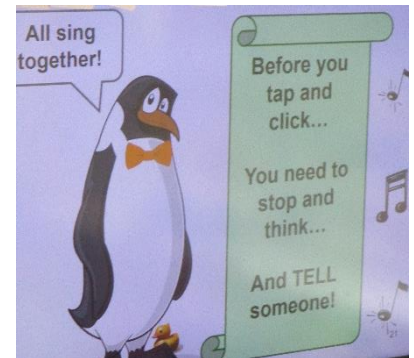
Ash and Saplings have been thinking about capacity in their maths lessons this week. They have been looking to see if containers are full, nearly full, half full, nearly empty or empty. We have used water and objects to explore this.



In our literacy we have been continuing our 'Jack and the Jelly Bean Stalk' work and thinking of what flavours the jelly beans might have been, we smelt them before deciding on their flavour.

We learnt how to stay safe when using computer, tablets, phones and other devices on line as part of E-safety week. We talked about how we need to ask permission from our grown ups if we want to go online and that we should always talk to them if we are ever unsure or worried about something we see when we are using out devices. We learnt a little rhyme:

Before you tap and click...
You need to stop and think....
And TELL someone!



We have also been thinking about how special we all are and what makes us special. We took it in turns to tell our friends why we are special. Some of us are special because we know lots about planes, some of us are special because we are so helpful, some of us are special because we are kind, and there were many more. The children came up with so many amazing reasons about why they are all special!

On Tuesday, we celebrated Safer Internet Day. The aim of the day was to help the children understand how to use the internet safely. Although this is always an ongoing topic of conversation it was nice to have a day to highlight it. With the help of the book 'Oscar's Adventures in the Online World' by James Southworth the children were able to cover a vast array of topics in an age-appropriate way. The children helped Oscar (the lead character) navigate his way safely to the end of the book.

In mathematics the focus has been on arithmetic. The children have been using their detective skills to unpick questions. They have been brilliant at looking at the different symbols and working out what the questions were asking them. They have also enjoyed becoming more familiar with a 100 square and noticing patterns.

In PE, during our gymnastics session, the children worked in small groups to explore different travelling actions as well as different balances. They then had to develop their own routine combining three different travelling actions with balances in between.





In art, we have continued to be inspired by Kurt Schwitters who we will be looking closely at next week. The children have created some wonderful mixed-media pieces. Their robots have developed from initial sketches to intricate pieces.

In English, the children were very keen to write their narratives. They used the framework from our class book 'There's a Tiger in the Garden.' The stories are all creative and they all feature different characters. They have developed their use of direct speech and have used a wide range of descriptive language and high-level vocabulary. We certainly have a class of budding authors.

Lime class have been busy multiplying and dividing 1 and 2 digit numbers using both base ten equipment to help consolidate their understanding, and then learning to use more formal written methods.

In English we have completed some very funny and interesting biographies of our classmates and have moved on to start thinking about traditional stories. We have also been doing some dictionary work and learning all about antonyms and synonyms.



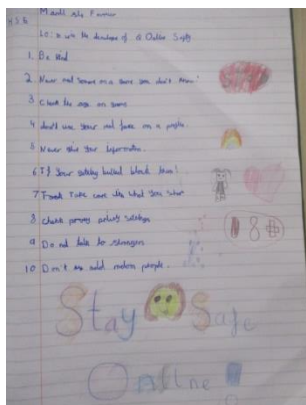
We have also been asking ourselves whether Leonardo Da Vinci was an artist or a scientist – talk to us to find out what we think!

Our self portraits in pencil are very effective and are being prepared for a display as I type so please do pop in to the class to take a look once they are ready.

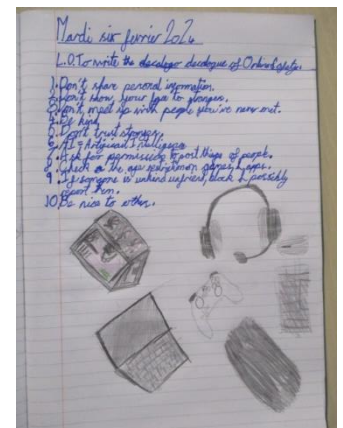
On internet safety day we learned about how technology has changed over the years – we couldn't believe what phones used to look like! We then did an activity to predict what things will look like in the future. Our computing has also involved writing algorithms for a toy car to move around a grid, then testing and debugging them.

In our History lesson this week we matched evidence to theories about the decline of the Indus valley civilisation. We made some excellent observations and connections and next week we will be voting on which theory we believe to be most accurate.

For music we had great fun practising call and response rhythms, learning about Sergio Mendes and counting and moving to Samba beats!



In Maple, on Tuesday, we celebrated the Safer Internet Day. Safer Internet Day is an annual event since 2004, which is organised by the Safer Internet Centre. It is a fun and educational event that has a valuable mission: to help children and young people to understand how to use the Internet safely and responsibly. One of its main aims is to educate everybody on how to make good choices when being online. Children from more than 180 countries participated in a variety of activities and discussions. Maple class children learnt about online safety and artificial intelligence. Inspired by this celebration, they wrote amazing newspaper reports and the Decalogue of being safe online. The lessons linked



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with our PSHE objectives: children recognised that reports in the media can influence the way they think about a topic.



In Art, children created their abstract work, inspired by Sonia Delaunay and the Orphism. Children had to decide whether they would like their outcome to be vibrant (by using combinations of complimentary colours) or calming (by using combinations that creating a harmonious and soothing effect).

In PE, in our gymnastics session, children worked in small groups and explored different travelling actions using both canon and synchronisation. They had to use combine three different travelling actions with two symmetrical or asymmetrical balances.

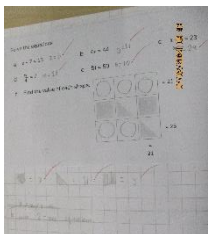


In History, children explored the differences between rich and poor Tudor houses. The children loved answering various questions about Tudor house, by finding evidence and information in posters around the classroom.



This week's update from Willow Class has been written by Arthur Herbert, Yr6.

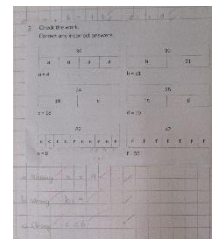
This week in Willow Class, we continued our learning about Algebra (we actually enjoy it!). We learnt the difference between an expression and an equation.



An equation is a mathematical sentence that has two equal sides separated by an equal sign e.g.

$x - 9 = 1$ In this equation, x represents an unknown value. In this equation, x can only be 10.

An expression can have multiple values for the algebraic input. x could be 10, 12, -7, 9.23 etc.

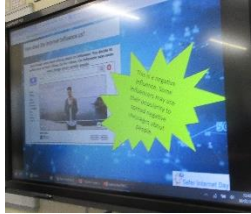


We've been busy in English this week. On Monday, we practiced our Reading Comprehension skills by completing a series of questions in a set time. On Tuesday, we revised using the Active and Passive Voice. We now know how to identify whether a sentence is written in the Active or Passive Voice. We know to look for the subject and object within the sentence.

As well as Grammar, on Tuesday in our Spelling lesson we looked at the spelling patterns and sounds

-ou and -ow e.g. **m**ould and **bl**own. We sorted the words according to their spelling pattern and we wrote sentences using these words.

How's your skipping coming along? In Willow Class, we think we are quite hard to beat. We have been practicing our skipping skills in preparation for our sponsored skip next Thursday. We look forward to our parents coming in to skip with us next Thursday at 2.45pm...better jump to it!



Tuesday was Safer Internet Day and we explored negative and positive influences online. We looked at how the internet influences us and how we can keep ourselves safe when using the internet.

In our Geography lesson on Wednesday, we learnt how to use the lines of latitude and longitude for locating places on a map. The lines of Latitude show how far north or south something is. The zero degrees mark of latitude is the equator. Lines of longitude show how far east or west something is. The zero degrees mark goes through London.

On Thursday, we continued to play dodgeball in PE. Dodgeball helps us with our catching, throwing and aiming skills. Although this lesson was exhausting, we had a great time!

This week has been lots of fun, but we are already looking forward to next week as we prepare to go to Cambridge to visit the Scott Polar Research Institute as part of our learning about the polar regions. We can't wait to tell you all about it!

Thank you, Arthur, for a great review of a week in Willow Class! Great job!

Please Miss can we have more ...LOOSE PARTS

Please Miss we neeeeeed more... LOOSE PARTS

Can you PRETTY PLEASE help?

It's amazing that items which may be discarded can be turned into dens, swings, costumes, sculptures and much more. And we're also helping to reduce, reuse and recycle!

If you have any of the following items, we'd love to have them in school:

Kitchen utensils- ladles, large spoons, whisks

Containers- mixing bowls, cake/muffin tins, pots, pans (no glass or ceramic)

Milk crates - plastic

Plastic tubing / pipes

Guttering, including connectors

Water butts

Garden storage- shelving, containers (must be able to last in all weathers)

Suitcases / briefcases

You can bring your items in at any time and leave them on the flat stage inside the school playground.