

Diary Dates

20/02/2023 Return to school

02/03/2023 World Book Day- Decorate a vegetable

29/03/2023 Parents' Consultations

31/03/2023 End of Term 1:00pm finish

Nursery Admissions are now open. If

you have a child born 01/09/2019-31/08/2020 then this will be the time to apply. Please ring the office for more information.

Dear Little Hadham families,

As always at this time of year, I find it hard to believe that we find ourselves halfway through the school year and very soon we will find ourselves in the final term of this academic year.

Having seen the tragic events in Turkey and Syria this week, our thoughts are very much with these nations and those in our community with close links with them. I know our Little Hadham community will be keen to help, so we'll monitor this situation closely over half term.

After half term we have a new teaching assistant joining us, Mrs Erdogan. She will be working in Willow Class taking over from Mrs Askew who finishes on the 24th of February. She will spend this first week with Mrs Askew who will bring her up to speed for a smooth transition. Mrs Erdogan is a very experienced teaching assistant, and we are looking forward to her joining the Little Hadham team. Also, joining us will be a new MSA Mrs Forgham, she too has lots of experience and is excited to be joining our team and looking forward to adding to our active lunch times. I'm sure parents will join us in giving them a warm welcome to Little Hadham.

I hope that you all have a restful and enjoyable half term break and we look forward to seeing you all back in school on Monday 20 February.

Sinead Connolly, Headteacher



Each year, the 11th of February marks an international celebration of women and girls in science and STEM and the contributions they make in their field. As you may know, there is a huge gender gap between men and women in Science! Also, there are even less girls and women across sciences such as Physics, Chemistry and so on. These subjects are really important because they affect every aspect of our lives and the world around us. As a school we are committed to ensuring that gender should not be a barrier to participating and contributing to the world of scientific research or any other subject.

Therefore, today at Little Hadham we celebrated International Women and Girls in Science Day with some female sixth formers from Hockerhill School. In an assembly they discussed the different science subjects they are studying and the area of science they wish to study at university. An ex pupil of ours Una, did a very exciting WOW experiment. It was a huge success and we also discovered a few potential future scientists amongst us! One of the quotes from the 'Hockerhill Steminitists' was, 'It was a brilliant opportunity to meet some of the minds of the future and though we set out to inspire the next generation, their enthusiasm inspired us to continue being curious about all our fields of study. #steminitism'

News from the classes...



In EYFS, we have enjoyed experimenting with changes of state as we explored melting chocolate! The children helped to develop the method, as we worked out how to combine the ingredients to make our crispy cakes. This activity helped the children to practise their capacity language too, as they scooped full spoons of cereal into the melted chocolate, before mixing it up and leaving it to



set. As well as writing, mathematics and scientific skills being utilised, perhaps the trickiest skill of all to master, was patience when waiting for it to set! We spoke about why the crispy cake needed time to set, which prompted suggestions of “put it in the fridge” and “make it cold” to speed up the process!



We have also been enjoying each other's company in choosing time, working together on group projects, such as building a pirate ship out of loose parts and developing group narratives around police officers trying to find the culprit to the cheeky animal making more holes in our garden!



We cannot wait to return after half term to see the changes that have taken place in our track area outside. The children have been highly involved in deciding what markings the track is going to need and we have had brilliant suggestions, including a zebra crossing and even some roadworks signs (we wonder if the roadworks outside the school may have had something to do with this!)



In Beech Class last week, we walked to our local church, St Cecilia's, to speak to the Vicar to find out more about what is inside a church. To help our RE lessons, we listened to the Vicar explain how Christians welcome new people into the church, through a special ceremony called a Christening.



This week the children in Year 2 have been learning about contractions. They played contraction dominoes and had to match the contraction to the corresponding words. Doing this hand-on activity as a bit of a challenge but the children did a great job persevering and working together when needed.



We had a class trip to the Epping Forest District Museum where the children got to learn more about the Great Fire of London. They had a wonderful time deepening their understanding of the events surrounding the fire and getting to handle artefacts from the 17th century. Don't worry, they were replicas! It provided great insight into how different life was in the past and made them appreciate all the modern technology we have in 2023.



This has been a very exciting final week to the half term for Beech Class! On Monday we replicated the Great Fire of London by taking all of our wonderful Tudor homes to the playground and lining them up very close together before setting them alight. We had a visit from the local fire brigade. They were kind enough to let us ask some questions about the firefighting equipment they use so that we could compare it to the kind used back in the



17th century. Before they left they showed the children all the equipment they keep on the truck which helps them rescue people and animals in different scenarios.

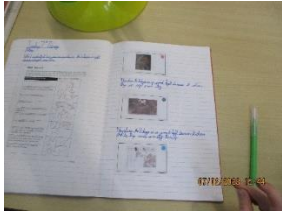


Lime class have been very busy measuring and learning to convert millimetres to centimetres and metres to kilometres. We have even found out how to use and apply our knowledge of multiplication and division to help.

In English we have learned a poem about Loki the Joker and composed a new stanza using the correct rhyme and syllable patterns, thinking about style and alliteration.



For our history, we became archeologists and researchers and looked for evidence to help us to discover what the Vikings were really like as opposed to the exaggerated ideas and misinformation we may have due to films and stories. Did you know that they never actually wore horned helmets?



We talked about decisions and influences in our RE and PHSE – discussing what might have a good or bad influence on our decision making, and how we need think especially hard about on-line influences such as youtube, news and social media.

We really enjoyed welcoming parents and carers for learning together morning. We gave them a snapshot of one of our ERIC lessons so that they could see one of the many great ways in which we learn to be effective readers and writers.



Maple Class really enjoyed taking on the role of being a newspaper reporter in English this week. They debated back and forth the crime committed by The Three Little Pigs! Yes, a very interesting turn of events- who knew after all these years that the poor old Mr Wolf was a victim. They practiced their use of punctuation when quoting from witnesses- well done Maple Class.

In history, these last couple of weeks we have been going back to the Bronze Age and Iron Age where we learned to understand the shift from a hunter-gatherer society to farming and how technology changed. We also had really good discussions about the everyday challenges of life for people living in the Bronze to Iron Age.

Science this week was super exciting, we recognised that levers and pulleys allow a smaller force to have a greater effect. We looked at machines that use levers and pulleys. Then we got into super science teams, followed detailed instructions and created Lolly Stick Catapults- oh the joys of a catapult in the class!

We continued our debating skills in PSHE, where we discussed some of the key risks of smoking; pupils then created inspiring posters.



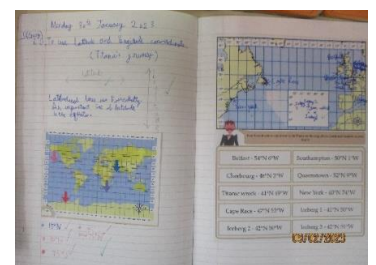
Roses are red, violets are blue, the heart is amazing...but what can it do?



In Science this week, Willow Class explored the heart in more detail. We learnt that there are four chambers in the heart and that there are valves to stop the blood flowing the wrong way. At the start of the lesson, the retrieval of our previous learning about the circulatory system was strong and we used scientific vocabulary with confidence including words such as 'oxygenated', 'deoxygenated', 'arteries' and 'capillaries'. We had lots of fun making models of the heart using

plasticine. We then labelled our 3D models. They were very accurate – perhaps we have some budding heart surgeons in Year 6!

41°N, 49°W... Here lies the wreck of Titanic. In Geography, we learnt about latitude and longitude and how to use this to plot coordinates on a map. We learnt that each degree north or south of the equator is approximately 69 miles.



We practised using latitude and longitude to find the exact location where Titanic sank. We also plotted the position of the icebergs in the vicinity and the ships nearby when Titanic hit an iceberg. Once we had plotted this information on a map, much discussion ensued as to why it was the Carpathia ship, which went to help Titanic rather than SS Californian despite SS Californian being the nearest ship at the time.

This week on Tuesday, it was Safer Internet Day. The theme this year is '*Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online*'. In Willow Class, we have had great conversations about keeping ourselves safe online. We discussed how we should protect our identity and the importance of blocking, recording and reporting unpleasant or inappropriate things. We all agreed that telling a trusted adult was best.



How would you like your art work displayed in the Royal Academy?

Artists are at the heart of everything they do at the Royal Academy of Arts — they believe in nurturing and celebrating the next generation of artists. Taking inspiration from the Summer Exhibition, the Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for young artists aged 4–19 years studying in the UK.

Each student can **submit one artwork** and there is no theme. **Please give your artwork a title and a sentence about your artwork, why you made it and do not forget to write your full name and age (do not write this information on the front of your work, put it on the back).** The deadline is Friday the 10th of March 2023.

Your artwork will be seen by a panel of judges and the selected pieces will be shown in their online exhibition. Some of the artworks will also be shown at the Royal Academy of Arts. The artwork can be made using any material; it can be a painting, sculpture, photograph, drawing, or a combination. There is no theme so artworks can be of any subject and they don't mind when you made the artwork as long as you are between 4-19 years old when you submit it. We also welcome collaborative pieces made by more than one student. Please return your artwork to your teacher by the 10th March.

And on the theme of entering competitions...

Blue Peter has launched its Amazing Authors competition, giving children the chance to become amazing authors, by writing their very own short story or poem! The winner will meet children's author Tom Fletcher, go behind the scenes to see how books are published, and receive their story or poem in print! Tom will also read their work and it will become an audiobook on BBC Sounds. Finally, the character's adventure will be animated by Aardman to create a story that will be shown on Blue Peter and CBeebies Bedtime Stories! We hope that lots of Charles Dickens children will enter. Further details are available <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/bp-competition?collection=blue-peter-book-awards>

Stop Press! Exciting News...



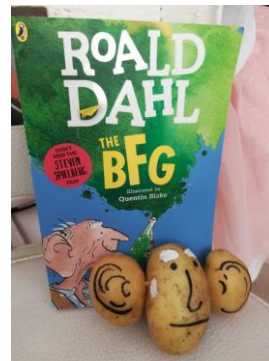
Dear Parents and Carers,

This year, World Book Day is **Thursday 2nd March** with the theme 'Reading for pleasure'. We would like to invite you to join us in helping your child to make the most of this special occasion as we celebrate books and a love of reading with the children.

Thursday 2nd March

World Book Day Competition Time! Decorate a vegetable as a book character!

Following the success of last year's '*Decorate a Potato as a book character*', this year we would like the children to decorate a vegetable as a favourite book character. Perhaps they will take inspiration from some of these pictures...

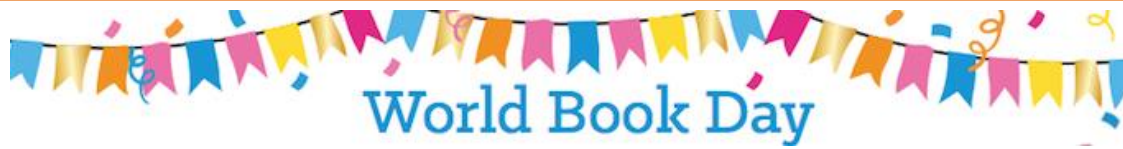


Any vegetable is fine, from Brussel sprouts to broccoli heads! Children can paint, stick, carve, draw on to, or dress up their vegetables to create their book character. Bring entries (clearly named!) to school on Thursday 2nd March – Prizes for every class!

The £1 book selection

Your child will receive their £1 book token during the week beginning 27th February. This year sees an exciting new line-up of £1 books for 2023 that your child can choose for free with their £1 book token. With books for beginning, early, fluent and independent readers, there is something for everyone.





World Book Day Song

MC Grammar has written song to help celebrate this year's World Book Day. In this year's song, MC Grammar meets a cast of fictional characters in a fabulous second World Book Day song – **Reading is Amazing**. I wonder how many of the fictional characters you might recognise. Take a listen using the link below.

[MC Grammar](#)

'Share a story corner'

Take ten minutes to share stories with your little ones (and not so little ones!). The World Book Day website has fantastic Share A Story Corner videos which have familiar characters and easy to follow stories, and tips for reading together. Look at the pictures together, guess what the characters are up to and ask your child what they think will happen next. Your child will soon be asking to read together again and again!

It's never too early to read stories with your child and spending just ten minutes every day enjoying books together can make a BIG difference to their development. Sharing stories boosts creativity and imagination, improves wellbeing, is a positive experience for parents, carers, guardians, grandparents – everyone! – and is great fun! Follow this link to watch some of the stories in the 'Share A Story Corner':

[Share a story corner](#)

Check out the World Book Day Live Events

Click on the link to see [World Book Day Events](#) for you to enjoy with your children. This section of the World Book Day website is being updated and added to.



Happy reading! We can't wait to see your amazing vegetable book characters on Thursday 2nd March! 😊

Lucy Tweedale
Deputy Head