

Be Safe, Belong, Be Inspired

Headteacher's Weekly Newsletter



A message from our headteacher Alex



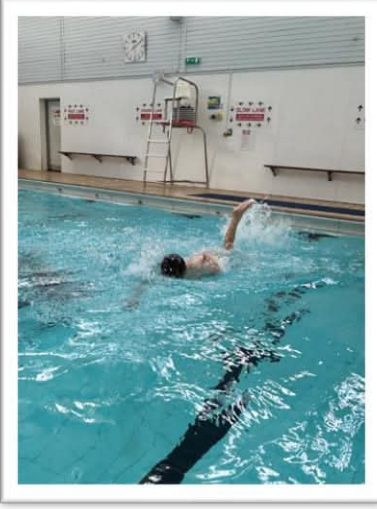
We have had a productive week at Haywards Farm School this week. Can I remind everyone that our school can get extremely muddy and it's really important that the children have suitable clothing and footwear, anyone who needs further support with this please do get in touch so that we can support you with this.

Winter is approaching fast and we have listened to children and made some adaptations to our enrichment and personal development curriculum. This will look like adapting our plans for sailing within our PE curriculum. Emily will be in touch with further updates next week.

There have been some glimmers of successes this week, Maple class ended the week after a positive morning of learning on Friday and which we were all super proud of them for well done team Maple !

Aser Class, our currently upper KS3 cohort, completed some amazing English work which they were really proud of and so are we, a huge well done to them!

The staff team end the week with West Berkshire supporting teachers with making adaptations for our children to ensure they can make progress and access learning. I think it's important to recognise the dedication our teachers offer our children daily and the drive to continuous upskill themselves to enhance the level and quality of education they deliver.



Dates for the Diary

- **Monday-** Cherry class-Stables, Year 7-Paddocks
- **Tuesday-** Aser class Sailing.
- **Wednesday-** full day
- **Thursday-** Year 7 Swimming, Year 7-Stables, Cherry class-Paddocks.
- **Friday-** 1pm finish for all children.



Class Updates:

WEEK STARTING-30.09.24:

Cherry Class:

In English, the children have been using their knowledge from the text and wider connections to make some fantastic predictions about what might happen next. They also had a go at sequencing pictures from part of the story to get a better sense of its structure. The class then wrote a recount from a character's point of view, while practising how to use coordinating and subordinating conjunctions to improve their sentences. In Computing, the children have been creating their own drawings using a simple programme. They learned how to choose different tools to draw pictures on the whiteboard and enjoyed talking about what their drawings show, using ICT to bring their creativity to life! They are also having a great time using TT Rock stars to improve their ten times tables. In Music, the children have been learning about pulse and rhythm over the past weeks. They practised clapping back short rhythmic patterns and followed the lead to clap to a steady pulse. It's been a fun and energetic way to develop their musical skills! In Science, we continued our exciting journey into studying rocks. The children tested different types of rocks, making sure it was a fair test, and carefully recorded their results. They discovered that while marble and sandstone sank, pumice was the surprise of the day as it floated! It was a fascinating hands-on activity that really brought our rock investigation to life. In Art, the children had a brilliant time using shapes to create stunning Stonehenge silhouettes. Not only did this help them build their artistic skills, but it also tied in perfectly with our history topic, allowing them to get creative while learning about the past. Our children are becoming more confident in looking after the animals at the farm, which is fantastic for their personal development. Caring for the animals teaches them important skills like teamwork and empathy, which also help them build and maintain relationships with their peers. As they see the positive impact they can make, their self-esteem grows, and they develop into caring, responsible individuals—both towards animals and each other.



Chestnut Class:

This week in Chestnut class the children learnt more about place value in maths and explored this using concrete apparatus. In English we continued with our 'The First Drawing' texts and looked at conjunctions. We were then able to use a range of different conjunctions in our sentences to link different ideas together. In science we continued to explore states of matter and created coloured liquids which we then measured the amounts of these in millilitres using the different sized measuring containers and pipettes to move the liquid around. In art the children were given the opportunity to create a 'cave wall' water colour painting of what they could paint on the cave wall.



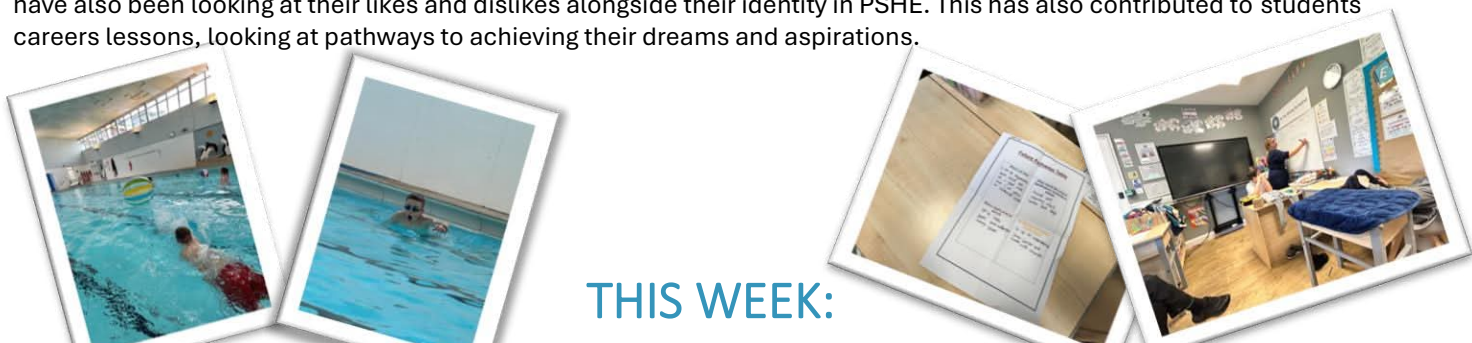
Maple Class:

In Maple Class this week, the children have begun using computers to write their news articles based on our book *The Last Bear*. The children have completed the end of their first maths unit on Place Value and moved into new, smaller learning groups to continue their maths progression. In history, the class dug trenches in the traditional zig zag pattern and created wooden soldiers who would live, eat and sleep there. They also learned about Noel Chavasse who earned two Victoria Crosses for bravery before sadly dying just months before the end of WW1. In geography, the class have been learning how to time travel! They have learned about the International Date Line and how different time zones work across the world. They jumped forwards and backwards through time by crossing the IDL either travelling east or west. We have finished our sustainability science unit about climate change and renewable energy. Next week, we will begin a new unit about Living Things and their Habitats. In our class Thrive sessions we have been learning how to play team games such as Cranium and Hot Potato, we have had lots of fun and are getting better at working together, listening to each other and taking turns.



Secondary Classes:

In secondary we have been having some fascinating and mature debates in our votes for schools topic this week “should more rules be in place to prevent knife crime?”. Students had a fascinating debate some stating that with rules come more consequences which could help prevent crime and some saying more rules can have an impact on buying everyday items which shouldn't have to affect the general population, a very mature conversation about a sensitive topic. Students have also been looking at their likes and dislikes alongside their identity in PSHE. This has also contributed to students careers lessons, looking at pathways to achieving their dreams and aspirations.



THIS WEEK:

Cherry Class:

Over the past weeks, Cherry Class has been busy exploring our topic of land use! We identified different types of land use and explained how various parts of the UK are used for different types of farming. During our Forest School session, we even compared UK fruits with those grown abroad for enrichment. The children learned that the UK has both wetter and warmer areas, and we discussed how weather impacts farming here. We also explored different types of land, including moorland, peat bogs, arable land, and pasture. It's been a fantastic way to understand how our landscape shapes what we grow! This week in Science, we went on a local rock survey to spot the different types of rocks used in various places around us. The children had a brilliant time exploring and used a tally table to collect their data. Look at our little scientists in action! In History, the children have been diving deeper into life in the Stone Age. During Forest School, they got hands-on and crafty, using moss and leaves to make their own pigment. They then painted some Stone Age jewellery, carefully considering the colours they would have used. It was a brilliant way to bring history to life while having fun with a bit of outdoor creativity! In our Thrive session, the children had great fun playing "Spot the Difference" with a twist! They looked at two fish and wondered, “Which fish is kinder? Can we really tell just by how they look?” The game continued as the children compared differences amongst themselves, helping them appreciate what makes each of us unique. At the stables, the children enjoyed an exciting scavenger hunt, searching for different animals. They loved spotting the chickens, noticing how each one is different and unique. It was a lovely way to celebrate how special we all are.



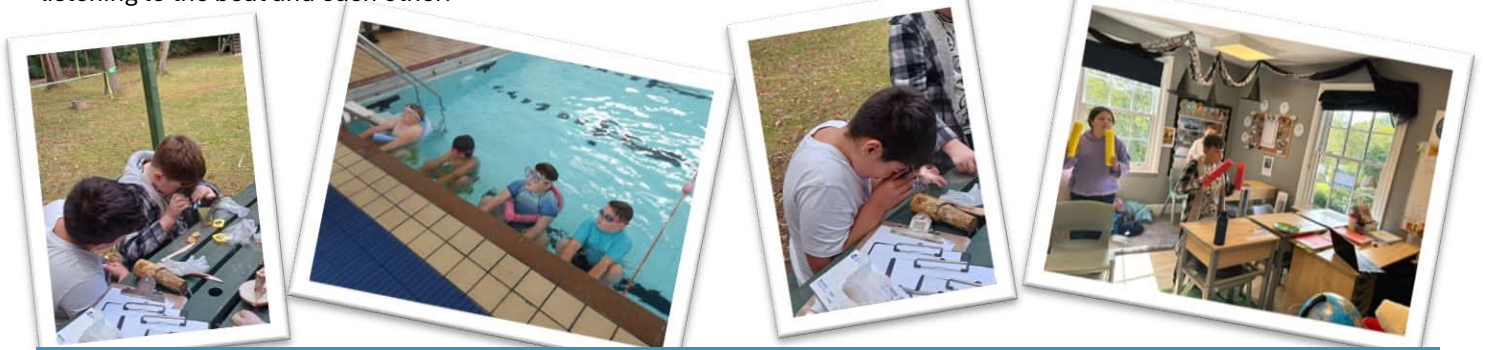
Chestnut Class:

This week in Chestnut class the children learnt about adverbs in English and explored sentences using these and their own interests. In maths we have continued to learn about place value. In PHSE lessons we have been exploring our own personalities and identities through what we do and don't like and capturing this to create a classroom display. Playdough has become a magical, squishy buddy for our children, offering more than just fun—it's a fantastic tool for helping them express their feelings without needing to talk. Sometimes, finding the right words can be tough, but with playdough, they can shape and squish their emotions into life. We've also discovered blow painting as another brilliant way for children to get creative and express themselves. The gentle act of blowing through a straw to move the paint around is not only calming, but it also helps them focus on their breathing while having fun. And, of course, who doesn't love making a colourful mess?



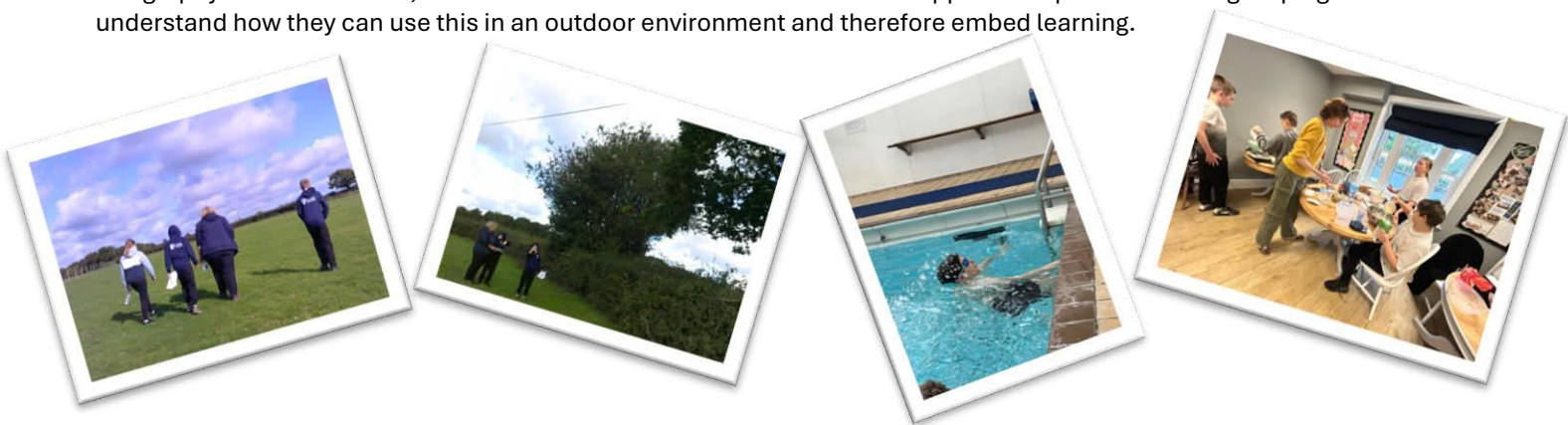
Maple Class:

In Maple Class this week, the children have been amazing at swimming, learning new strokes, how to push themselves off the side, hold their breath for longer and increase their strength in the water. In English, the children have worked hard to publish their newspaper articles, including quotes, photos with captions, extended writing using paragraphs and fronted adverbials to elevate their writing and make it more exciting. This week in history, the class have been learning about the Home Front and how life changed for women during WW1, this included going out to work in factories, new freedoms such as being allowed to play football and some women finally getting the vote. Our science unit is now focused on organisms and their habitats, so at the Paddocks the children were exploring the natural environment and using mini-microscopes to look at micro-organisms such as fungi. In class Thrive Time we have been learning how to drum together as a group, listening to the beat and each other.



Secondary Classes:

This week in Secondary classes we have been working hard on finalising topics in English with some descriptive language and using magical imagery to inform our writing. Maths has seen the first week of learning groups come to an end and what a success it has been, children are able to access Maths more successfully and have appropriate scaffolding and stretch and challenge. In year 7 we have been delving into understanding who we are as part of personal development and children have been learning about Thrive and where they are at in Thrive and why. Children also learnt about how this can present in others at different stages and what they can do to support different people with their needs as well as themselves. We have also been lucky enough to practice transferring our skills and knowledge of map reading in Geography to the Paddocks, this has allowed for an academic skill to be applied in a practical setting helping students understand how they can use this in an outdoor environment and therefore embed learning.



Have a restful weekend, Alex.