

Headteacher's Update

The children have all completed another safe and successful week in school. I fully appreciate that this has been a very strange term and very much hope that we will be almost back to normal at some point after Easter. The children have been fantastic since school opened again, remembering the rules and welcoming new friends to their classes. The current school routines and social distancing measures will continue after Easter and until the Government guidance changes.



The Roof

finally FINISHED Despite the initial plans for the roof to have been completed at the end of December 2020, we have now reached the final stages. Hopefully, the work will be signed off later today and the scaffolding dismantled over the weekend. Thank you for your continued patience during the ongoing months of disruption to the school site.

Reminders

- On the 1st April school will finish at 3.20pm for KS1 and 3.30pm for KS2.
- Parent's Evening letters and appointment requests have been sent out, so please make sure you return your slip with your preferred times.
- Please ensure children do not come to school if they have a new continuous cough or a high temperature, or have a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).
- Now we are now all back in school, please keep us informed through the office / email if anyone in your household test positive for COVID.

Easter

Our Easter celebrations will be low key this year. As you know, we usually like to involve the Parents in a celebration assembly and an Easter Egg Hunt. Unfortunately, we cannot take part in these activities this year. Let's hope we can make up for some of the fun things we've missed out on later in the year!



Stars of the Week

Ash Class

Sanaya for always being an absolute star, she listens, she's caring and helpful.

Maple Class

Ianis for showing a good understanding of fractions.

Elm Class

Jesse for good ideas and doing his best.

Rowan Class

Chloe for brilliant perimeter work in maths.

Cherry Class

Tazia for having a positive and enthusiastic attitude to learning! Also for putting every effort in to all that she does!

Pine Class

Thea for her wonderful improvement in her editing skill.

Willow Class

Chase for independently setting himself some maths challenges!

Oak Class

Isla for trying hard in all lessons this week.

Sycamore Class

Quinn for outstanding efforts in his fractions.

Hazel Class

Isabelle F for always working incredibly hard, but especially for impressing me with her maths work.

Beech Class

Anna . Her Maths work has been amazing, and her coaching skills have enabled others to achieve well too.

Class News

Ash Class

In Elm class 'The Giant of Jum' has been our story of the week. We have written shopping lists of lovely food that he might like to eat (instead of children!!)



In Ash class this week, we have read the story of 'The Giant of Jum'. The children have written shopping lists for food for the giant. Some of the children have worked well as a team and have built castles for the giant.

In Maths we have been playing lots of games and practising our skill of adding two groups together.



Elm Class

Cherry Class

This week we have enjoyed looking at a variety of Non-Fiction texts about animals. We had fun creating our own fact files about tigers! In Design Technology this week we used paper to weave a blanket for our topic. We are getting ready for our sewing project next week. We have introduced the secret star of the day! We are looking for great learning behaviours and then revealing the star at the end of the day! Ask us about it! Again, we have had a lovely week and well done to the children for all they have achieved this week.



In English this week we have been looking at Fantastic Mister Fox and started thinking about how we will write a newspaper article all about it! In Maths we have cracked fractions, recapping unit and non-unit fractions and counting in halves, thirds and quarters. For Science, we thought about what we needed to make a healthy meal. We have continued looking at the Easter story in RE and in Art we finished off our leafy backgrounds ready for our clay animal sculptures! In PE we are working on throwing, catching and dodging skills.

Sycamore Class



Willow Class

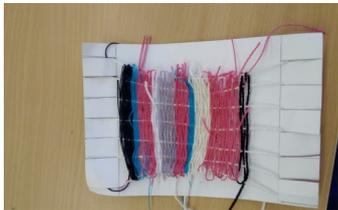
The children in Willow Class have had such a positive week and have really worked their socks off! In Maths we have been learning about length by measuring using cm and m. We then used this knowledge to help solve some puzzles! For English we have begun learning about Roald Dahl's Fantastic Mr Fox. This involved learning how to use speech marks and how to find the features of newspaper reports. Next week we will be writing our own reports! For PSHE we were thinking about how we keep our mind healthy as well as our body and we have been calming down with some zentangle drawing.



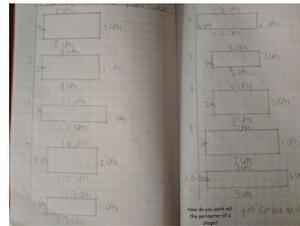
Maple Class

Maple class have had another busy week our English this week has been linked to our topic and having spent some time doing research we've now started to write a non-chronological report about a continent of our choice. In maths, year 3's have got to grips with perimeter and are now starting to look at fractions. Year 4 are still working on fractions and have been trying some tricky addition and subtraction this week. Last week we told you we were going to investigate if the weight of a car meant that it would travel further down our ramp - we discovered that it didn't. A heavier car didn't go as far as our original car.

This week has been a bit different in Pine class. In maths we have been completing tests of what we remember from home learning about area and fractions. All the children did amazing on these and a big thank you to all of the parents that were helping whilst at home. In English, we have been looking at writing a formal letter. In Art we have been finishing our weaving, this was tricky to begin with but we all managed to complete these.



This week in Rowan class we've been practising perimeter in maths and have just started our work on fractions! We've used atlases to find capital cities of the world, explored magnets and magnetic materials in science, we've practised our tennis skills and learnt about the East-er story.



Oak Class have been learning how to play tennis this term. This week, we had our first proper match using the official scoring system.



We have been focusing on Myths this week in English. We have read a range of creation myths from different areas of the world. We have also planned our own and presented them to the class in small groups.

In Maths, we have started learning about decimals. As we are so confident with fractions, we have been finding decimals fairly easy to understand!



We have started learning more about Ancient Greece. We have been focusing on evaluating sources, to decide if they are likely to tell truthful and correct information or not.



In class this week we have looked at the impact of Macbeth's actions linked to King Duncan and Banquo and the impact of his second visit to the three witches. In Maths we have mastered ratio and proportion. Whilst dodging the rainstorms unsuccessfully on Thursday, we began developing our archery skills. Shanae was lethal with a bow and arrow - top markswomen.



The Mysterious Singer...

THE WINNER IS...PANDA!!!



Well done to our fabulous winner **Mrs Haywood** for keeping us entertained for the past 5 weeks.

Commiserations to **Mrs Chart (Horse)** who was our runner up.

All the staff have been brilliant each week, singing and making these videos in their own time just to give us a smile. We've really loved it.

THANK YOU to ALL of our Mysterious singers.... Mrs Batchelor, Mrs Sumner, Mrs O'Brien, Mrs Day, Miss Bailey, Mrs Young, Miss Green, Mrs Chart & of course Mrs Haywood.



IN OTHER NEWS....



From September 2021

The staff have been reflecting on all of the changes since March 2020, in terms of: 'keep, develop and bin'.

One change was to continue to let the children wear their PE kit to School on PE days. We have found that the initiative for children wearing their PE Kit on PE days has worked really well and maximises actual lesson time, in addition to resolving changing issues for the older children.

So that the children are still wearing our "Uniform" on those days, we will be moving to plain black / dark joggers (no logos or patterns) with a suitable PE top and a school sweatshirt or hoodie. I am currently talking to the 'Monkhouse brand' who make the official Westlea sweatshirts to find out how much it will cost for the children to have an official school hoodie for PE and will let parents know. We were thinking that if this is cost effective, Children can wear either a School hoodie or a School sweatshirt on PE days going forward. I will keep you posted once I know more.

Coming soon

As I've previously mentioned, once the scaffolding has all come down, we hope to introduce a 'One way system' for dropping off and collecting your Children. This will mean you enter the School by one gate, drop / collect your Child at their classroom door and exit the School by the other gate. This should reduce the overall crowds at the gates and hopefully be a more efficient and safe way to drop and collect your Children.

Westlea Nursey class

Please can I ask that you spread the word about our new Nursery class opening September 2021. This is for Children aged 3—4.

Attendance

Attendance this week has been 95%

Please remember to call the office each day if your Child is going to be absent.

Lateness

Just this week, we have had 21 Children with a late mark.

The gates open at 8.45am, children are expected to be in class and settled by 8.55am at the latest. There are always start tasks and assemblies to attend in the morning, with the teacher needing to order dinners and talk about the rest of the day. When children arrive late, they miss all this and it can be stressful for them to join the rest of the class or school in the middle of an activity.



10 or 15 minutes might not seem too much to miss, but over the year it really mounts up.

15 minutes every day for a week= 1 hour 15 of missed school

15 minutes a day for a term = 6 and 1/2 hours of missed school

15 minutes a day for a year = 39 hours of schooling missed

HAVE A LOVELY WEEKEND

