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## HURST GREEN NEWS

### FRIDAY 17th DECEMBER 2021

We have reached the end of another year; they fly by! Thank you for your gifts and kind words – the staff all appreciate the community spirit at Hurst Green and we are grateful to you for your continued support in what appears to be an ongoing difficult time.

The children have shown great fortitude and have continued on day to day with very little complaining or fuss – even though we are constantly changing the goal posts, so well done children!

Have a good break and Happy Christmas to you all, from us all.

**Miss Flack**

# Roundup

## **Nursery**

From rockets and fireworks for Bonfire night to gathering Autumn leaves, conkers and sticks, we have had a great term. We have worked with pairs and learnt our numbers (dancing to 100 to help us remember). We have decorated Pudsey biscuits, done some gardening, learnt lots of Nursery Rhymes and watched the Pantomime, as well as the Nativity. We are looking forward to Christmas and have made decorations and cards too! On Wednesday we had our Christmas lunch and we have been playing party games.

## **Willow**

We are feeling very proud of ourselves in Willow Class! We have learnt 35 sounds and their actions and we know how to form all of our letters properly. We can write words using these sounds and sometimes, whole sentences.

We have enjoyed lots of stories, looking carefully at different characters and how stories develop. We particularly enjoyed the 'Supertato' book and the Evil pea character. We read lots of books in the series, comparing the stories and deciding on our favourite!

We have learnt about the numbers up to 5 and met the number block for each number. We can recognise a number of dots and say how many there are without counting them. We have talked about shapes, capacity, length and height.

We have improved our fine motor skills by rescuing peas from jelly, marbles from gloop and making paper snowflakes. We used an aerial photograph to find places in the school grounds, learnt about Remembrance Day and why we have fireworks and demonstrated our amazing drama skills by performing in our wonderful nativity.

## **Silver Birch**

We all settled in to class very quickly, with the help of Mrs Phillips! We have been learning about the different maths vocabulary, how to read and write stem sentences, we know the value of the ones and tens in the place value grid, we have added and subtracted and are now moving onto groups of numbers for the multiple and division fact families. We have also been having fun with 2 and 3D Shapes.

We explored the different ways of learning stories including: singing, rhyming clapping syllables and even acting. We have written letters, stories and information reports.

Despite Covid-19 darkening our door we were excited to return to the class to get our Nativity rehearsals underway. The children performed a brilliant Nativity, which was remarkable, considering we had two weeks to practise the songs and the lines - so well done children! We are looking forward to the New Year for more learning. Happy Christmas and we wish you all a healthy, safe new year!

## **Chestnut**

What a busy and exciting term we have had! We travelled back in time to the Bronze Age and discovered how people made bronze by smelting. We discussed the significance of monuments such as Stonehenge and the development of engineering. In Science, we explored forces and magnetism and in Art, we looked at patterns used by designers such as William Morris.

We wrote news reports and fact files about the Amesbury Archer and made holiday brochures about Skara Brae in English. Maths has been all about multiplication and division. We learned that multiplications are commutative and used the inverse to check our work. We used our problem solving skills to work out how many Daffodil bulbs were in a 25kg sack and then planted them!

We loved watching the Panto and were very excited about our visit from Santa who generously filled our shoes on St Nicholas Day. I wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy 2022.

## **Maple**

We have had a busy and productive seven weeks! In English, we have been exploring writing in a variety of genres and have focused on detail to capture readers. In Maths we have worked on powers of ten, looking at what happens when we multiply or divide by tens, hundreds or thousands. We have investigated area and perimeter and designed a new enclosure for a particularly fussy dragon!

This term's topic has been Ancient China where we learned about the Shang dynasty. As evidence about these ancient people is limited, we have tested our investigative skills to study the artefacts and writing that does exist. We have also looked more broadly at Chinese culture, finishing with our tea-themed day.

In Music, the children are mastering the glockenspiel. We have been learning how to read musical notation, and can now play Jingle Bells, Silent Night and Il Est Né, Le Divin Enfant. We have listened to many classical composers, from Grieg to Ligetti. In French we can hold simple conversations in shops and can name animals, classroom equipment and some foods – on a good day we can even order lunch! We have found time in all this to conduct scientific experiments, develop our skills in Art, and we have produced some brilliant pieces based on artists of the week, including Mondrian and Van Gogh.

For those of you who have been feeling unwell, I hope that you get better soon; and I hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. I look forward to seeing everyone for the start of the new term.

## Oak

We have had a super busy term and have learnt an awful lot! In Maths, we have learnt to multiply by 10, 100 and 1000. We have also been learning how to multiply 4 digit by 2 digit numbers, and how to do short and long division and use factor pairs to divide mentally. We have explored how to use known facts to help us to find answer to more complicated calculations. We have also practised mental maths so that we don't always have to rely on a written method. Phew!

In English, we have learnt how to identify and use adverbs and adverbial phrases. We read Goodnight Mr Tom and Darwin's Dragons and have worked hard on our comprehension skills as well as building our vocabulary by discussing the meaning of new words. We enjoyed a brilliant day with a visiting author, C.S Clifford, who inspired the whole class. We made holiday brochures about the Galapagos, wrote biographies about the life of Charles Darwin, and read poetry.

We have studied evolution and adaptation - and how this helps animals to survive. We have looked at the survival of the fittest, and learnt that natural selection can change inherited traits. We had a French morning with Mrs Clease and an afternoon of PSHE, where we have discussed body image and the effects of social media on our mental health and well-being. We had a great Christmas lunch together on Wednesday and our class treat was to watch 'Nativity'. Happy Christmas everyone – enjoy a well earned rest (although practising times tables would be good)!

## ART CLUB

**Aren't these just the most fantastic Mr Foxes! Well done children!**



A BIG THANK YOU TO PLANTERS FOR THE BEAUTIFUL TREE – WE HAVE PASSED IT ON TO ‘SURVIVING CHRISTMAS’ – A HASTINGS BASED CHARITY WHO WORK WITH THE SALVATION ARMY.



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL ON WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

