



Park Mead Newsletter

It has been a busy week at Park Mead!

Willows have enjoyed a trip to Uckfield Fire Station, Maples have brought Roald Dahl stories to life and every class has been focusing on Safer Internet Day, learning how to be safe online, and Children's Mental Health week.

We hope you all have a lovely, restful half term and look forward to seeing you all on Monday 20 February.



Safety Outside School

There was a near miss this week when a parent and child were very close to being injured by a car doing a three point turn outside Park Mead.

Please do not turn around in the lane or in the entrance to our staff car park.

There is very large car park at Bedes, which they kindly let our parents use to ensure everyone stays safe. Please can we ask that you pass this information on to anyone else who collects/drops off your child/ren to school.

Thank you for your co-operation.





Pioneer Dodgeball Tournament – Term 3



Star Player of East Hoathly
Alexandra



Star Player of St Marys
Eva



Star Player of the Tournament
Megan



Star Player of Chiddingly
Ethan



Star Player of Park Mead
Benji



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place



4th Place



A Review of the Tournament

Another incredible tournament between the pioneer schools this week with all four schools participating in the dodgeball tournament organised and run by Mr Elphick and Mr Brett from Active Education Sussex.

All schools demonstrating outstanding resilience, sportsmanship and teamwork throughout the tournament. Every team gave their 100% effort with some fantastic demonstrations of skill. With a fast-moving pace, the dodgeball games were a blast with powerful throws, quick reaction dodges and amazing catches to see the teams compete from start to finish in a tightly contested competition.

At the halfway point it looked to be between Park Mead and Chiddingly, but East Hoathly putting on a brave display to regain some well-earned points. Newcomers to the sport St Marys demonstrated an incredible feat of determination and team work to storm the final stages of the competition and looking to take 2nd place but narrowly missing out by one point.

Park Mead were the overall winners, with Chiddingly coming a close second, St Marys Third and East Hoathly Fourth.

An incredible display from all teams involved and they should be very proud of themselves for their efforts.



Diary

February

20—1st Day of Term 4

March

2—World Book Day

7—Parent Consultations

9—Parent Consultations

10—Willows 1st Swimming Lesson

15—Oaks Preston Manor/Booth Museum

17—Red Nose Day

31—Last Day of Term 4

April

17—1st Day of Term 5

May

1—Bank Holiday

8—Bank Holiday (Coronation)

15—Mental Health Awareness Week

17—Group School Photos

26—Last Day of Term 5

June

5—Inset Day

6—1st Day of Term 6

13—Year 5 Bikeability

July

7—Sports Day

14—Reserve Sports Day

14—School Reports

18—Leavers Assembly

20—Last Day of Term 6

21—Inset Day

Weekly Events:

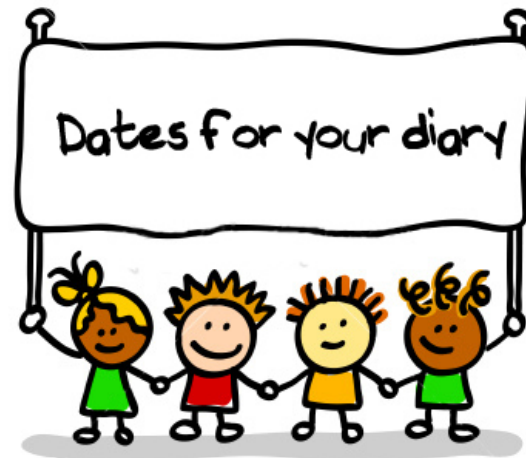
Monday—After School Sports Club 3.15-4.15pm

Wednesday—Drumming Lessons

Thursday—Piano Lessons

Thursday—Golden Assembly

Friday—Guitar Lessons



Changes to Key Stage 2 Dates

An additional Bank Holiday in honour of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III will take place on Monday 8 May 2023.

As this date had previously been announced as the first day of the 2023 Key Stage 2 (KS2) test week in England, a change to the KS2 test schedule next year will be necessary. Ministers have considered the situation carefully and have decided that KS2 tests will take place in the same week with tests following the usual order but each taking place one day later than originally planned.

As such, the new schedule will be:

- Tuesday 9 May: English grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS) papers 1 (questions) and 2 (spelling)
- Wednesday 10 May: English reading paper
- Thursday 11 May: Mathematics papers 1 (arithmetic) and 2 (reasoning)
- Friday 12 May: Mathematics paper 3 (reasoning)

News from Willows

The children had a visit from the local Sussex Police this week. They had lots of questions to ask which Louise and David answered. They talked about what number to dial in case of an emergency and which emergency services you would ask for.



They discussed the clothes that they were wearing and the children got to try on a variety of different Police uniforms.

They then went outside to explore the Police car. They heard the siren and saw the lights flashing. Inside the back they saw a first aid kit, a roll of police tap and road markers. Finally they got to sit inside the Police car.



News from Chestnuts

As we fast approach the end of term 3, the Chestnuts have been exploring poetry in English - thinking about how rhyme and repetition can be used to capture the reader's imagination. We have loved looking at the work of Michael Roson and how he brings his poetry to life through his performances. We have enjoyed 'The Sound Collector', by Roger McGough, and the children explored the sounds they could hear around the school - thinking about what The Sound Collector might take if they were to visit Park Mead.

In maths we have started to look at division by reading "The Doorbell Rang" (a tale of having to share out a dozen cookies to all the visitors that come to the house). The children used their playdough cookies to explore the concept of sharing out the cookies into different sized groups.



We have also been busy this week discussing our mental health, and things that we can do to protect it. We explored the concept of being 'connected' as a class, by passing a hoop through all the children whilst they were holding hands. Finally, we have made the most of the glorious sunshine, by connecting outside and spending some time enjoying each other's company! Have a restful half term Chestnuts!



Willows Visit to Uckfield Fire Station—Thursday 9 February 202

Willows had a really exciting morning at the fire station; the fire crew even got called out on an emergency ... which ended up being some burnt toast!

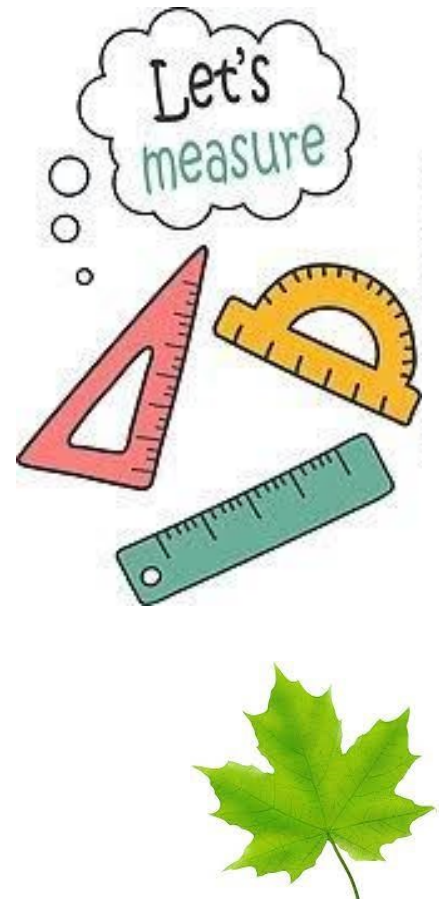
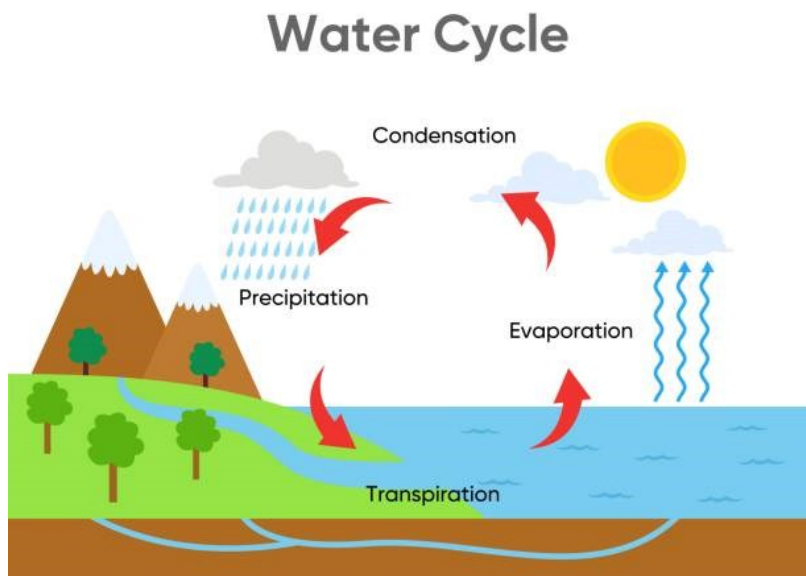


News from Maples

Maples have been writing amazing explanation texts about the Water Cycle as well as something they are interested in.

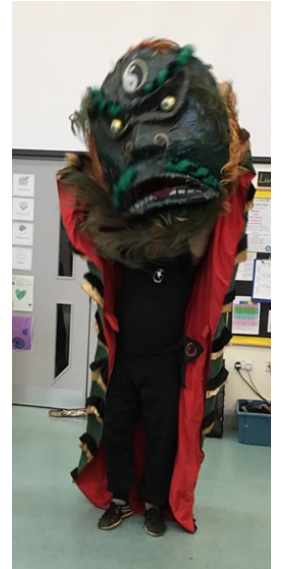
They have been measuring length and area in maths.

We had such fun during our Roald Dahl day!



News from Oaks

In Oaks, we are bringing to a close our Shang Dynasty topic. We had a wonderful time last week when a Kung Fu instructor came in and shared the history of Kung Fu and put the children through their paces in a training session. At the end, he finished the session with a chance to look at the Lion and try to use it to dance with. It was wonderful.



Awards KS1

Willows

River—Aiming High
Aurora—Skills Builder Star



Chestnuts

Lola—Aiming High
Dominic—Listening
Clement—Skills Builder



Awards KS2

Maples

Gracie—Aiming High
Bette—Staying Positive
Ellie—Skills Builder Star



Oaks

Grace—Staying Positive
Bow—Listening
Emma Pg—Skills Builder Star



Attendance

At Park Mead we strive to improve the attendance of our students. Every school day provides opportunities for learning, as well as social and emotional development so it is noticeable when students miss school as it impacts their progress.

Attendance Whole School—Academic Year: 93.20%

| | This Year | This Week |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Willows: | 93.79% | 89.33% |
| Chestnuts: | 93.98% | 95.10% |
| Maples: | 92.38% | 94.84% |
| Oaks: | 93.00% | 85.67% |



Less than 94.9% - Red
95—96.4% - Amber
96.5—99.9% - Green
100% - Gold



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

Willows Forest School

Wednesday 1st February 2023

Willows had been spotting birds last session and had created their own bird feeders with pine cones. They topped up the seeds on the bird feeders so the birds could continue to feed throughout the cold months.

The children played a game called 'Spirit of the Forest'. They each chose to be a bird; a robin, a wood pecker or an owl and had to run and dodge, turning into a tree if they were tagged.

This week the children were introduced to more bird identification. They talked about the colours and patterns on the bird feathers and listened to bird calls to try and identifying them.

Then they found a quiet 'sit spot' and spent 5 minutes quietly watching and listening to birds. They then looked at bird identification sheets, some used their phonics knowledge to sound out and read the captions; *robin*, *green finch*, *song thrush*.

We made a fire and talked about fire safety. We used the fire to make a hot drink to have with a biscuit.

The Impact of Forest School for the children is the knowledge the children have gained from the Forest School experience.

The impact can be seen through the skills, tools used, art and craft activities, observations and knowledge of the fruit, plants trees in relation to the seasons and the skills involved in learning how to play Forest School games.

Then the children played independently, climbing the trees, playing with the birds, making nests and creating in the mud kitchen.

At the end of the session each child shared what they had enjoyed about their session. It was great to hear such good thoughts and witness such great listening skills.

"I liked the hot chocolate"

"I liked playing with the birds"

"I liked making the big nest...it was a circle"

"I liked making food in the mud kitchen...and eating a biscuit with hot chocolate"

"I liked making the fire"

"I liked listening to the birds and sitting quietly"



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