

# A Year in the Life of Little Hadham Primary School

Hello to everyone from what seems like a great distance. I can certainly say this has been the most unusual and testing year of my teaching career, and I suspect this is true too for many of our staff, parents and each and every one of you. Yet there is has been a great opportunity here to build stronger families and a stronger community, even while physically distant, finding new ways to communicate and care for each other.

Let's have a little look back on this year at Little Hadham primary School

## AUTUMN TERM

The first month of term has been a busy and exciting one. It was election time again and we were super impressed with all our Year 6 pupils and our school council applicants. Our captains this year were Louis, Lola, Lilia and Cameron. They took to the role head on and were always looking for jobs to do and ways to make the school even better.

Friends Christmas Bazaar: Thank you to the Friends Little Hadham School and to all those who supported our Christmas Fayre. We managed to raise in excess of £3,000 from the event. This is a terrific achievement and the money will be put towards important new projects for the school. It was extremely well-attended and proved to be a very enjoyable afternoon.

Pantomime: the whole school watched the Rhodes Theatre Company's production of 'Sleeping Beauty'. It was a great show and the children really entered into the spirit of the occasion. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to see a professional theatre performance and we are sure it will inspire them with future drama productions in school.

Christmas Productions Beech Class (year 1 and 2) gave two superb performances of their performance. We all enjoyed another stunning production. All performances were very well attended and the children truly excelled themselves.

Ash and Saplings Concert. It was lovely to welcome the parents and grandparents of children in the Early Years at the end of term for a concert. The ad lib from the children was particularly delightful and had the audience in hysterics.

## SPRING TERM

This term was the start of a new sport here at Little Hadham. The children in Lime and Willow have had their first session of Boxercise with Mr Edwards. They learnt lots of techniques such as how to stand correctly and how to jab, cross and do an upper cut! They now know how to be safe during boxercise and know we are only to use these techniques in PE sessions.

Also, we started our yoga sessions. Yoga provides pupils with skills to enable them to take time out to consider their choices. It can give them techniques they can use to calm themselves and deal with feelings of uncertainty, stress or Sadness. Yoga lessons also contain a strong element of team work and emphasises the importance of needing other people to achieve shared goals.

Globe Theatre: The children at Little Hadham had an inspiring story teller from The Globe come and deliver an amazing version of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. All the children learned the plot of this

romantic comedy and also became familiar with all the characters from Oberon, the King of the fairies, to Puck, the mischief maker, to Nick Bottom the weaver.

Then they took part in different workshops which is a great fun way to get to know the works of Shakespeare. You could see they were really enjoying it from the energy they put into their workshops!

Our last day before lockdown... SPORTS

What a wonderful afternoon we all had together, playing sports and giggling! There was a fabulous selection of sports such as; 'mini Olympics', 'dodgeball', 'basket ball' and 'relay races'. What a wonderful way to end the unusual few weeks we had! It was so lovely to have such a laughter filled afternoon and no words can express how much we have missed these amazing children.

Since Lockdown...

Our children were given a home learning pack, their learning has been uploaded daily on the pupils' pages of the website, and was clearly explained by your children's teachers. This worked very well with lots of positive feedback. The children sent their learning in to the teachers via email and were able to keep in communication this way.

On June 1<sup>st</sup> we welcomed back our Year 6 and Year 1 children much to our delight. Although it was not 'business as usual' ... it was a very good start! It was so lovely to hear the school beginning to fill up with cheerful chatter again. Our adopted model of keeping pupils and staff in 'bubbles' (ie keeping the same group of pupils and staff together and not mixing with others) worked well and we have stringent social distancing in place and hygiene is paramount ie regular hand washing, sanitisers available and regular cleaning of communal areas.

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>

We planned on the safe return for all year groups on a part time basis. All children will be able to attend school for two days each week. Also, we continued to provide work on-line like have been doing since the start of the lock down.

### **Awards and achievements**

Little Hadham Primary school has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award and the eTwinning School Label 2019-2020 in recognition of our work to bring the world into the classroom and our exceptional work in international education. Our school leads and participates in many international projects as well as a whole school project 'Alice in Wonderland - Discovering our roots' which is a two-year project in the framework of ERASMUS Plus Programme. This academic year, we have received by the British Council six Quality Labels for our International Projects in Maple and Willow classes, one National Award (1 out of 10 in UK) and one European Quality Label.

### **In more detail:**

#### **FULL ACCREDITATION OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD 2019-2022 awarded in June 2019**

We have been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of our work to bring the world into the classroom and our exceptional work in international education.

The International School Award encourages and supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A whole school approach to international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- Year-round international activity
- Involvement of the wider community

#### **ETWINNING SCHOOL 2018-2020 awarded in March 2019**

In recognition to our international work, we have also been awarded with the eTwinning School Label 2019-2020 and this is a great achievement by the eTwinning team in our school! Only 8 schools in 2018 in UK were awarded this title; eTwinning schools have a high visibility at European Level and form a European network of eTwinning leading schools to inspire the future development of eTwinning.

eTwinning Schools are recognised as leaders in their areas and transmit their expertise on:

- Digital practice
- eSafety practice
- Innovative and creative approaches to pedagogy
- Promoting continuous professional development of staff
- Promoting collaborative learning practices with staff and students

Becoming an eTwinning School provides recognition of the innovative work that our school has implemented in the promotion of citizenship, cultural awareness and digital competence. It also recognises the work we have done to develop a culture of collaboration within and beyond their schools, local communities and countries.

#### **QUALITY LABELS by the British Council for our International eTwinning work in 2019-2020**

This academic year, we have already received six Quality Labels for our International Projects in Maple and Willow classes:

- Our world, my world & Nuestro mundo, mi mundo – May 2020
- ABCD project – Achievement, Belief, Culture, Democracy – April 2020
- Grammatication – The Simple Past: Birthdays and holidays – April 2020
- Our tree of wishes – April 2020
- HanDS – Democratic Schools – April 2020

#### **EUROPEAN QUALITY LABELS in 2019-2020**

- SOS project: Sharing our smiles – October 2019

#### **NATIONAL AWARD - September 2019**

The project 'SOS - Sharing our smiles' received a National Award (1 out of 10) at the UK eTwinning Conference in September 2019.

Finally, as I said to staff, if anyone had told us last September that there would be virus that would lockdown most countries in the world, that schools would shut and that we would be working remotely, that public exams would be cancelled etc, we would think that it was the stuff of science fiction. But no, that has been our reality and we have coped amazingly as a community!

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this last year at school. Hopefully next year it will be back in the hall with some nice refreshments!

Best wishes

Sinead Connolly