



Newsletter

February 2023

Dear Parents

As you will see in the following pages we have welcomed a number of visitors to school in recent months to run some fabulous workshops and give some fascinating talks—and these will continue throughout the year. We hope you enjoy seeing what we have been up to!

We would also like to thank you for your support of our many fundraising appeals recently—for local and national charities and for our PTA.

Congratulations to the families of Ella-Rose in Sunflower Class and Jacob in Buttercup Class who have won the much-admired Valentine's Hampers!

The PTA have kindly decided to donate the proceeds from their Valentine's Hamper Raffle to the Turkish and Syrian Earthquake Appeal. Thank you for the many contributions we have received to the local appeal for help with winter clothing for the victims. These have now been collected and are hopefully now on their way to those in need.

Wishing you all a good half term.

Hillmead School Office

Superhero Day



Inspired by the adventures of Supertato, Sunflower Class held a Superhero Day, tackling a superhero assault course, making superfood smoothies and striking superhero poses.



Ash



Willow



Pine



We marked Black History Month last term with a house day making Freedom Quilts. Children worked in their house groups to make quilt tiles in their house colours, which were then mounted and are on display in the hall as freedom quilts.

The children learned how the quilts are made from strips of old fabric to create asymmetric shapes and symbols, a craft that has been passed down through generations. Some historians think that African-American slaves had used the quilts to share symbols to give clues to help others to escape slavery, although not all agree.

Elm



Beech



Oak



Art Workshops



We're delighted to have invited Suffolk-based contemporary artist Phillippa Gunn to run a series of workshops with a number of our classes over the course of the school year.

Last term Lilac Class were shown how to paint cityscapes—with great success!



Art Workshops

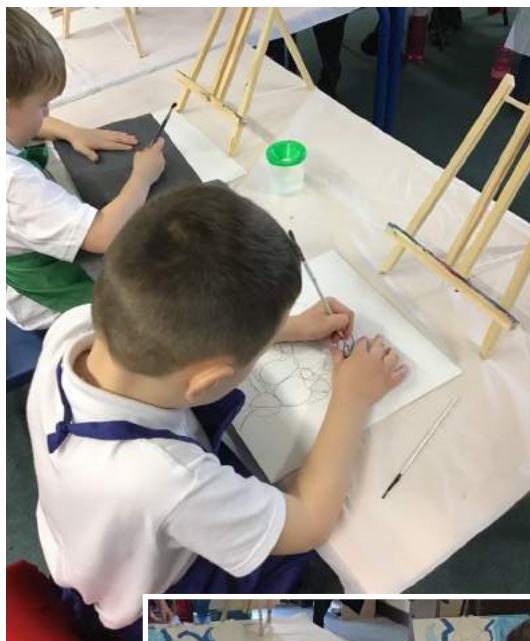


Bluebell Class had been studying pantomimes, so in their workshop they designed a background scene that could be used on a stage.



Art Workshops

Daisy Class looked at the artwork of Giuseppe Arcimboldo for their workshop. They used carbon paper templates of food and a head profile which they transferred onto canvas for painting.



Art Workshops



Buttercup Class produced some stunning silhouettes of Big Ben and the Eiffel Tower set against a beautiful bright sky.



Science Workshops



We are also hosting a series of full-day science workshops for KS2 classes. Buttercup Class had a day learning about rocks and fossils, modelling how rocks are made and creating their own fossils.



Science Workshops



Bluebell Class had a day's workshop on States of Matter, learning about the differences between solids, liquids and gases. They worked with candles and chocolate to change solids to liquids and liquids to solids.

Visitors



As part of Black History Month, Years 5 and 6 had a visit from local author Leah Osakwe, who talked to the children about her experiences and answered a LOT of questions!



Local magistrate Elaine Terry gave a fascinating and very thought-provoking talk to Year 6 recently about the important role of magistrates in the community, helping to demystify the legal system and explain about the work of our local court.

Our Nursery and Reception Classes have both had visits from “people who help us” including our local PCSO and the local fire brigade.





Bishop's Stortford Climate Group recently planted 30 fruit trees to make a small community orchard in Northern Parkland near St Michael's Mead.

As the two nearest primary schools, pupils from Manor Fields and Hillmead were invited to design some artwork of the fruit and a short description to go on plaques next to each tree.

