

WORDS FROM THE WOODLANDS

10.11.23



As I sit in my office on this bright autumnal morning, I can hear the joyous sounds of our youngest children in KG engaging in the wonders of 'flipper-flappers' – for those uninitiated in the flipper flapper world, this involves movement with brightly coloured scarves. The children love it, as do the adults, and the movement to music is not only fun but is also building coordination, core strength and flexibility. Everything that our

children do at school has a purpose in improving them in some way whether academically, socially, emotionally, physically, creatively, imaginatively or confidently, to name just a few. And I feel so lucky that we are able to encourage our children to develop themselves in such a holistic way.

It has been wonderful to see the children return to school well-rested and ready for the exciting half term ahead. This is always a jam-packed time of year as we prepare for our Christmas productions as well as practise for the end of term carol concert – which is a truly magical experience.

We culminated our first half term with our Harvest Festival. I was overwhelmed with how generous you all were with your donations and our Y6 children were able to donate 60 bags overflowing with a range of products to share between our two charities: CHESS and Brentwood Food Hub – we have received thanks from both venues who truly value the contribution that we made. I cannot fail to mention the fantastic performances our children put on for our Harvest Festival production. It goes without saying that our Performing Arts team's drive, passion, and commitment, create these amazing experiences for your children and I, for one, was incredibly moved by the messages that they so eloquently conveyed. I just want to reiterate some of my highlights: The Pumpkin song, written by Mrs Maddox, so beautifully sung and soon to be available to listen to on our website, the Y2 and Y6 joint piece involving letters of HARVEST cleverly reshaped to form words that linked with mime was incredibly powerful as they told of the plight of the earth; the delight and focus of our Rec and KG children with their scarf dance was gorgeous and I constantly have to remind myself that these children are only 3, 4 or 5 years old, the pun-tastic lines from Y5 that were wonderfully interwoven with a serious message, and of course the West End standard production of the numbers from our upper school. I was lost for words and in awe of what they had all achieved in such a short space of time. I hope that you enjoyed it as much as I did and are looking forward to the Christmas productions at the end of the term.



While we were off enjoying ourselves over half term, the school was still a hive of activity. I want to recognise the tremendous efforts that our site team put in to keeping our school looking lovely, but particular mention to Mr Andrews who has been tasked with 'projects'. He has re-built the bridge over the pond, re-decorated key areas of the house that were in much need of some TLC, he took on board the children's views about safety and parking lines and worked with the children to create our safe zones and parking bays, and the list will no doubt get longer as I find new projects for him to get his teeth into. He is currently busy resurfacing the area under the pergolas so that the children can still use them throughout the winter when the ground gets muddy. Thank you Mr Andrews, and all the site staff for all your hard work and effort.

I would like to welcome our new members of staff - we have two new Midday Assistants who have recently joined our team: Mrs Cresswell and Mrs Cook. I know that they have been enjoying spending time with your children already. I would like to congratulate Mrs Brown on her appointment as Teaching Assistant with our Reception class and I look forward to all the wonderful things she will be involved with over the year.

Our key message to our children this year is that Hutton Manor is 'Going Green' and children discussed all the different things that this entails: being more eco-friendly, outdoor learning, enjoying nature, thinking about climate change, green for 'go' - ready to learn, personal growth, getting to green in our zones of regulation, and 'being more Willow' as was mentioned by one rather proud member of Willow House. With that in mind, I wanted to share with you that our maintenance team are also part of our 'Going Green' pledge and I can now share that all the equipment they now use around the school is battery powered rather than petrol. Well done maintenance team for leading by example.

We have been looking at a range of activities across the school this week linked to Diwali and Armistice day. Mrs Booth started off the week with a themed assembly on light and festivals - including Diwali, Hannukah and Christmas, Mrs Clews and Mrs Lott's class have produced some lovely Diwali lanterns and diyas, as well as Remembrance day poems, Miss Amelia has been teaching children Bharatnatyam and Bollywood style dancing, while I saw Miss Boutilier's children proudly showing their parents their wonderful poppy pictures, to name just a few.

We have an exciting couple of weeks ahead. This Friday we are welcoming The Dogs Trust into school and our children from Y1-Y6 will be spending time learning all about dogs. I'm sure that your children will be full of lots of brilliant facts after this event. Next week is Anti-Bullying week and Mrs Lott and Miss Archer will start the week off with an assembly for all the children. There will be opportunities for children to reflect on what bullying is and what it isn't, the different ways that people can be bullied and what they should do if they or someone they know is feeling bullied. Bullying is taken very seriously at Hutton Manor; we always encourage children to speak up - or use their worry boxes - to let us know if there is a problem. Fortunately, incidents are few and far between here at Hutton Manor as we invest so much time into creating a supportive environment where children learn to use our core values to become kind, caring and supportive citizens. Any incidents that do happen are an opportunity for us all to learn and



reflect on our practice and behaviour. If your child mentions anything at home then please always encourage them to speak to an adult in school. We can't help, if we don't know.

The end of next week is Celebration Assembly, followed by Friends of Hutton Manor meeting - please do come along and join us as all help is greatly appreciated. We will also be celebrating Children in Need at Hutton Manor this year - our School Council are busy preparing for this and are in talks with their classes for their ideas and inspiration. A letter was sent to you via parentmail to outline the activities for the week.

Thank you, as always, for your unerring support.

Mrs Burkert

Coming up at Hutton Manor

- 10th Dogs Trust visiting Years 1-6
- w.c 13th Anti-bullying week
 - Parent Consultations
- 17th Celebration Assembly
 - FOHM meeting
 - Children in Need day
- w.c.20th ISEB tests for Y6 children
- w.c. 27th Assessment week
- 29th Open Classrooms
- 1st Dec Celebration Assembly
 - National Swimming finals at Stratford