



Issue 1, October 2020

Together – we made it! THANK YOU to everyone

I wanted to write to you as we complete our first half-term of the year to say a huge thank you to you all for being such an amazing community to work with. I have strived every day to do all I can to provide the very best for the children, to help them adjust, learn and thrive in these unusual times. I have fought every day to avoid closing the school and I am so very grateful for all of your support to limit the spread of coronavirus in our school community. I am so proud of our school team who have magnificently tackled everything that has been thrown at them with energy and positivity. I have to tell you they are all absolutely exhausted – please know just how hard they have all worked this half-term to support your children – they truly have gone far beyond what is expected of them. Because we work together so successfully we have made great progress in such a short period of time.

I have to say this has to be one of the toughest half-terms I have experienced and I know there could be tougher times to come, however your support and understanding makes what we do possible, so on behalf of all of the children and staff – Thank you... Thank you for keeping to your time, keeping your distance, following our rules and supporting what we do both in school and at home. I know it's hard but we will get through this.

Although things are very different at the moment, we hope that with the updates we share, parents and carers can feel closer to the learning that is happening in school every day. We are not able to have open mornings or exhibition afternoons at present, but we are always here to support you and your children. If you would like to get in touch with your child's class teacher, please either send a note in with your child, or email the school office at ghpsoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org.

Remote Learning – ACT now or be left behind!

As you will be aware, we are using Google Classroom as our provider to offer work for pupils unable to come to school due to coronavirus. You will need to have access to see what learning has been set and to be able to contact teachers for support.

Children in Years 5&6 will have received their Google Classroom login information letters today. If you do not receive your child's login information and have completed our access request form, please email Mrs Wise via the school office and she will get the information to you as quickly as possible. We will be sending out logins for all year groups after half term. If you have not yet responded to the access request for Google Classroom, please do so via the form [here](#).

CALENDAR

26 th -30 th October	HALF TERM
2 nd November	Children return to school
5 th November	Year 1&2 Picnic Planners Day
26 th November	Reception Virtual Open Event for children starting school in September 2021 – 6.00pm, booking is required, click here to book your place
4 th December	Nasal Flu Vaccination for children in Years R-6 – letters will be coming home after half term.
18 th December	End of Autumn Term – school finishes at 2.15pm
4 th January	Start of Spring Term
27 th January	Trust-Wide Inset Day
15 th -19 th February	HALF TERM
22 nd February	Children return to school
1 st April	End of Spring Term – school finishes at 2.15pm
19 th April	Start of Summer Term
3 rd May	May Day Bank Holiday
10 th -13 th May	KS2 SATs Week
31 st May	Spring Bank Holiday
1 st -4 th June	HALF TERM
7 th June	Children return to school
16 th July	End of Summer Term – school finishes at 2.15pm

Driving on the School Site

We are fortunate to be surrounded by good parking very close to the school. I would like to remind you that unless there are special circumstances that have been discussed with the school, there should be no parent cars being driven on our site. Please help us to keep our pupils safe and use the public car parks located nearby.

Social Distancing at Pick-up and Drop-off

Please remember to keep areas around our school clear and not congregate in groups near the school gates. This makes it difficult for other members of our school community and local residents to continue to access the area in safely distanced manner. We must all keep to the social distancing guidance for everyone's safety and wellbeing.

When on site remember – keep your child next to you – please do your best to give each other space – keep to your allocated timings and leave the site quickly once done.



Have a look at the amazing learning showcased below – despite everything we have managed to be as close to normal education as possible. If you do one thing this half term – please read with your children. Reading opens up the world and makes learning so much easier - so whenever you can please read together as this really helps.

Finally, we are delighted to share that our attendance is at 97.1% overall for the half-term. This is fantastic and let's see if we can push it even higher next half-term!

Wishing you all a safe and relaxing half-term break.

Richard Ferris
Headteacher

Butterflies Class

Reception children have been incredibly busy this half term! They have been finding out all about Autumn, including learning about hedgehogs and how they like to hibernate under piles of leaves, although they didn't find any on their Autumn walk around the school! They did find lots of interesting autumn colours of red, orange and yellow and collected lots of wonderfully coloured leaves.





Whilst inside, they enjoyed reading 'The Gingerbread Man' story and have had a try at making gingerbread people. They have also been finding out about Harvest and looking at different fruits and vegetables and the foods we eat. They even made their own jam sandwiches and learned about making some vegetable soup and fresh bread! They've enjoyed stories including 'The Little Red Hen' learned some fantastic Autumn songs. What a busy half term!



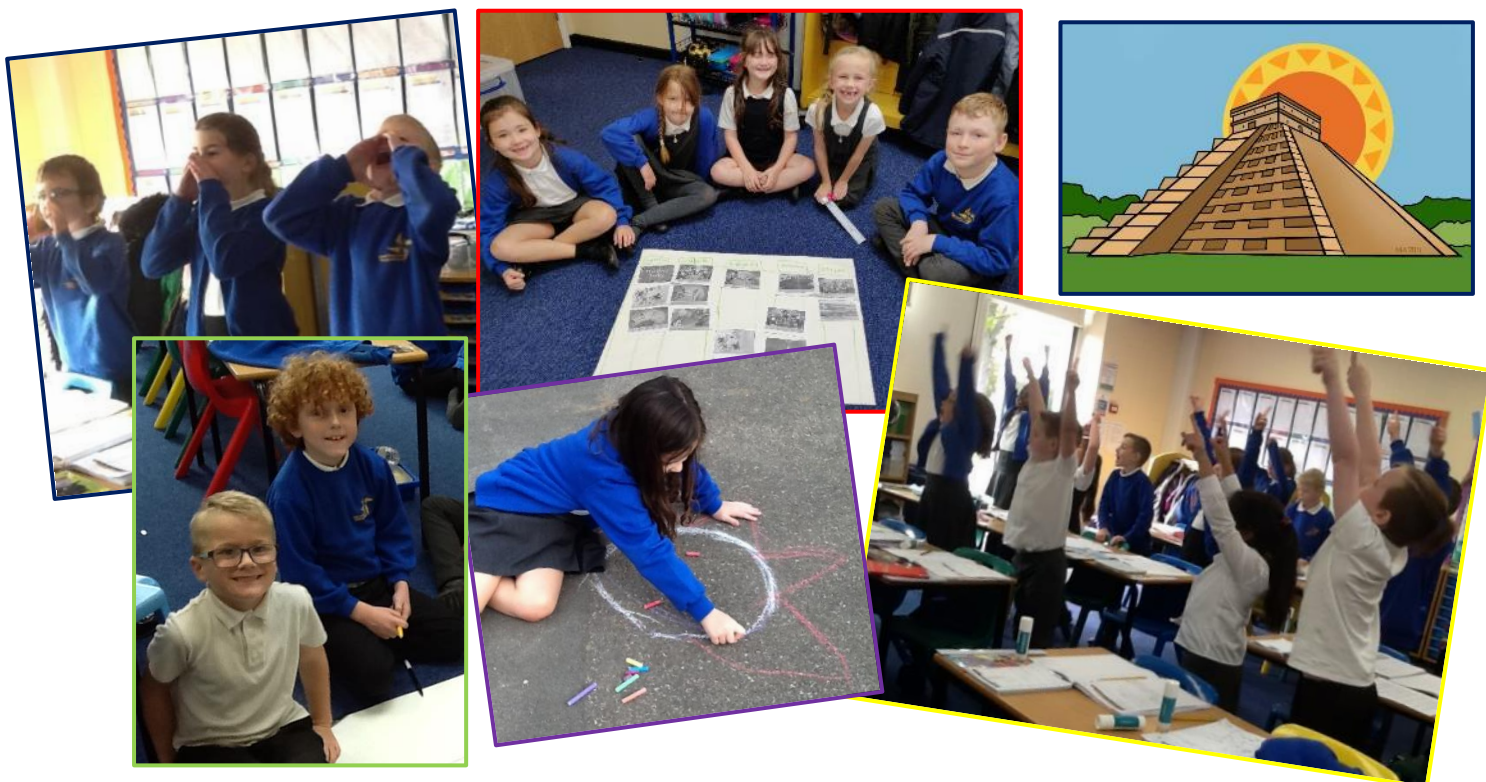
Foxes, Badgers and Hedgehogs

The children in Year 1 and 2 have had a fantastic time learning about the Great Fire of London. Through drama they have learnt to sequence the main events of the fire correctly and know why it spread so quickly. They have learnt about Samuel Pepys and how his diary is a source of information about the fire.



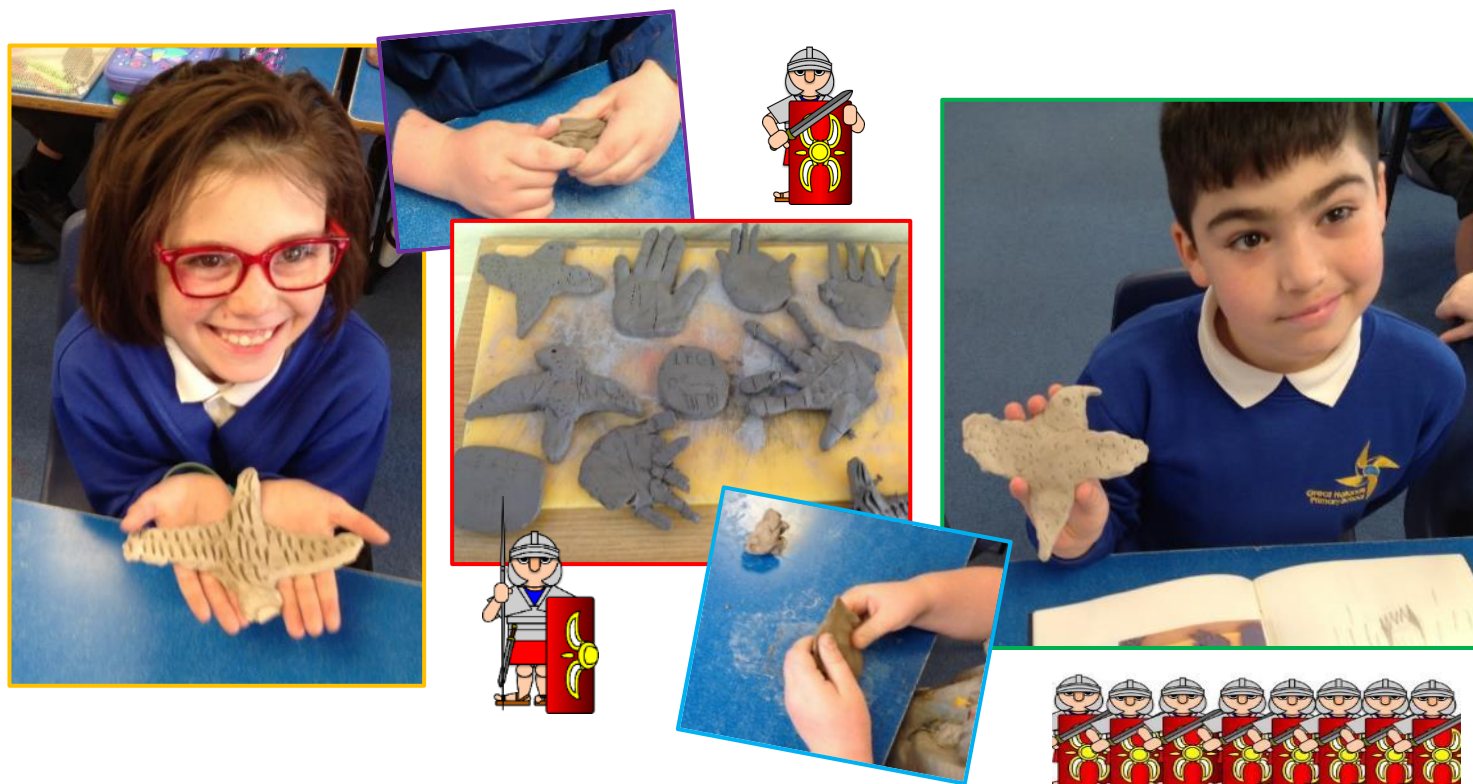
Eagles and Kestrels

In Year 3, learning has been themed around their Mayan topic for the half term. From learning about Mayan civilisation in History, to finding out about the volcanoes and rainforests of Guatemala for Geography. They have learned about the Mayan myth, The Hero Twins, and enjoyed story stepping the text which really supported them to know and learn more by relating the text to the actions they performed.



Falcons and Hawks

Year 4 have been thoroughly engaged this term studying all about the Romans in Britain. They have written some fantastic myths featuring creepy monsters and brave heroes. There have been some messy days in the classrooms when they have been using clay to make their very own Roman standards. In their History work, the battles between Boudicca and the might Roman army came alive!



Tigers, Lions and Panthers

Children in Years 5 & 6 have been learning about classification and have shared some writing and pictures about their learning.

'Classification is when people group things into categories to help scientists know where to place each thing to each categories. The animal kingdom has five categories mammals, fish, bird, reptile and amphibian with Carl Linnaeus creating them and the plant kingdom which also has five kingdoms which are mosses, ferns, grass, conifers and flowering plants.'



'We were doing an experiment to figure out which beak type was best for each type of food source. We did this because Charles Darwin found the finches on the Galapagos Islands and each of the finches landed on different island parts and had different food sources and adaptations to survive or natural selection will take care of them, so some might have dipped beaks and some might have pointy beaks. Charles Darwin found the finches on his five year voyage.'



PE News

This half-term in PE, the children have been looking at different things in their lessons. Year 1 and 2 children have been focussing on basic ball control skills including dribbling, throwing, bouncing and catching, along with looking at the Athletics events of javelin, high jump, triple jump, speed bounce and using the reverse-a-boards in relay races. A special mention goes to Betsy who showed her class how to use a board perfectly!



Year 3 and 4 have been developing their tag rugby skills, as well as doing athletics and cross-country running, with Joshua B (Y4) putting in the fastest time for the whole school on our school course.



Year 5 and 6 have also been practising their tag rugby ball skills and doing cross-country running. Well done goes to Dylan H (Y5) for equalling Joshua in Year 4's time to be named joint fastest for GHPS. Evelynne (Y6) was the fastest of the girls, narrowly beating Darcie by only one second! The children have also been performing the Haka, including an excellent group effort from Olly M (Y6), Fraizer (Y6) and Lenny (Y6).



Unfortunately, there hasn't been any inter-school matches or tournaments this half-term due to current restrictions. If the cross-country tournament had been able to be run next month, Mr Roberts is certain that Great Hollands would have had a very strong team. Well done to Dylan, Denton, Evelynne, Paige, Kasey, Josh C, Darcie, Sarah-Louise, Mark, Joel, Imogen, Dakota, Joshua B, Cairo, Michael, Joshua C, Laura, Lacey, Prabesh, Mason, Tillie, Antonina, Lilly and Isabella. You all would have made the team if there had been a tournament. Fantastic effort from everyone!

Thank you again for a GREAT half-term and we'll see you all on Monday 2nd November!