



17 December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you are all well and looking forward to some family time over the coming break.

This term has been long and challenging but also uplifting in many ways. **I am so proud of how the children and young people have managed, despite all the disruption to their lives, and how staff across the board have worked tirelessly to support and reassure them.** There is no doubt that the character and heart of the Maiden Erlegh Trust community have shone through.

Adversity does not build character, it reveals it.

Undoubtedly there will be more changes ahead, but we will support the pupils and students throughout and make sure **our dual priorities of safety and maintaining the best education possible are at the forefront of our decision-making.** You will have heard that the DfE will be giving all secondary schools access to rapid coronavirus testing from January. This is a positive step but there still remains a great deal of detail to be ironed out, *so we may all need to be patient a little longer in the new year.*

Attached are some highlights of what has been going on across the Trust (*you can find more in the schools' newsletters and social media*). I must, however, highlight our work with and for young carers. These are a precious group of children and young people, whose generosity and hard work (though they do not necessarily see it as that) often goes under the radar. All of our schools are very mindful of supporting these individuals and two of our schools have recently had work accredited in a Young Carers Award



- Maiden Erlegh Reading – silver
 - Maiden Erlegh School – gold
- and*
- One student from Maiden Erlegh School has won an individual award from the Berkshire Masonic School Charity for her work in supporting Young Carers – congratulations Laura!



So, I close this note and the term with **a huge thank you** to the **staff, pupils and students** across all of the schools, as well as **those working for them in the central functions** and **those serving as Trustees and LAB Members.**

I must also express my thanks to you, the parents – your support, patience, emails and messages of encouragement have been so important in keeping up morale. **I am sincerely very grateful to everyone.**

I wish you a safe and happy break, and let's look forward to a healthy, positive and kind 2021 (with some of the good bits of past normality returning soon, and possibly some elements of an even better normality alongside them).

There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.
C.S. Lewis

Yours faithfully

Miss M Davies
Chief Executive Officer

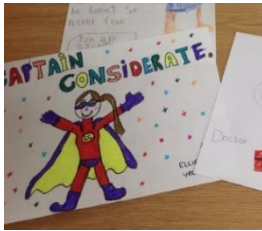
NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

GREAT HOLLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Anti-Bullying Week – As part of the anti-bullying week activities in school, the children were invited to take part in Odd Socks Day on 16 November to celebrate what makes us all unique. Dennis the dog sent us this picture of him taking part as well!



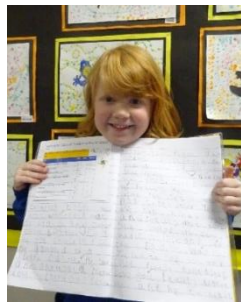
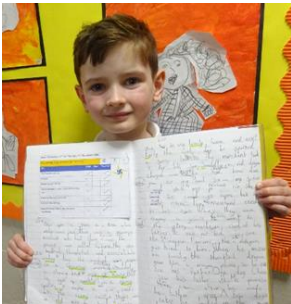
There was also an anti-bullying poster competition for all years. Younger children were asked to design their own anti-bullying superhero, while older year groups were asked to create anti-bullying posters to display around school.



Children in Reception have been reading the story of 'Stickman' and have made their own stickmen in class.



Year 1 & 2 have been learning about fairy tale stories like Beauty and the Beast, they have been retelling the story and have written their own fairy tales.



Year 3 have been learning about magnets and forces in their Science learning, they have applied what they have learnt to make magnetic track games and puppets with moving parts.

Year 4 have been learning all about volcanoes, which included some experiments to create their own volcanic eruptions on the school field. They have also been learning about plants and used food colourings to show water travels through them.



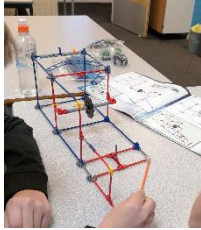
Years 5&6 are exploring their topic of 'Space' and have created some fantastic space-themed artwork and cross-stitch Space phone cases.

We have been unable to invite parents in to share our Christmas performances, but we have recorded the performances. The videos will soon be available to view on the school website.

CRANBURY COLLEGE

Pupils and students are working with @SurreySatro on a range of STEM projects.

There has been baking, art, Christmas hat making



The Hospital School, based on Dolphin Ward, has also been getting into the Christmas spirit.

CHRISTMAS CREATION (Y2 PUPIL)



POP ART INSPIRED (Y10 STUDENT)



Fantastic literature displays:

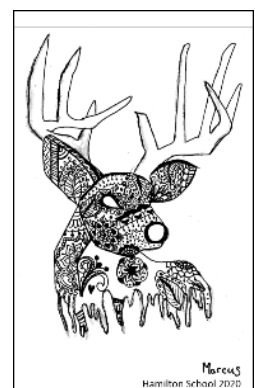


HAMILTON SCHOOL

Welcomed the announcement that work has started on its new accommodation in Bulmershe Road ready for September 2022.

“The support we have received as a family from the school was brilliant ... It’s been lovely seeing “my little boy” back and not the street boy that I normally see and for that I would like to say thank you”.

Also I’ve attached a rather lovely pen and ink drawing of a stag created by ML in Year 10 – very Christmassy!




MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL IN READING

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading received confirmation from the Careers and Enterprise Company that it meets all 8 Gatsby Benchmarks for good Career Guidance.

The school has been designated a LELE school, recognising our inclusive ethos.

Huge focus on Anti-Bullying work under the title “Bullying: Let’s talk about it....” and a high profile for national anti-bullying week: whole school anti-bullying charter, focus in lessons and assemblies and new ways for students to report and share their concerns.

Very active student leadership team (in all years) in supporting charity work e.g.: packing 48 shoe boxes of Christmas goodies for CIRDIC (Churches in Reading Drop in Centre) for the homeless.

The school’s entry was selected as one of the 100 images displayed as part of the Duchess of Cambridge’s & National Portrait Gallery’s digital [Hold Still 2000](#) exhibition. 

Strong support for Black history month across the curriculum areas.

All students in foundation have taken part in a very successful BEBRAS Computational thinking challenge in IT.

Four students have been selected for the prestigious Kelly Holmes Trust “Unlocking Potential” mentoring scheme (only 80 places offered across the country for more disadvantaged and vulnerable students).

Crisp packets to blankets – recycling project, turning crisp packets into thermal blankets for the homeless.

Very strong attendance in the second half term (jumping up 5%) and well above national and local averages, coupled with an excellent attitude to learning across the school (special mention for Year 11 and their fantastically successful PPE series).

As the school have been unable to do their usual Christmas Arts Gallery, the Arts team have created our own online version, entitled “Into the Light”. Check out the video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1Kx7ZFPJM>

LEARN EQUALITY

LIVE EQUAL



BERKSHIRE TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE

Berkshire TSA held its first ever virtual Train to Teach event on 26 November. There was huge interest, despite being held virtually. Berkshire TSA colleagues usually enjoy interacting with prospective applicants and delegates and answering queries in person, however under the COVID restrictions, safety comes first. We received very positive feedback following the event with attendees finding the session very informative. If you have any questions about training to teach, or wish to find out about the school direct route and more, please email: mesteachingschool@maidenerleghtrust.org .

Alternatively more information can be found in the first edition of the Teaching School Newsletter which has been launched this month and can be found using the link below.

[BERKSHIRE TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE - NEWSLETTER](#)