



Englefield CE Primary School | Newsletter

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A note from the Headteacher

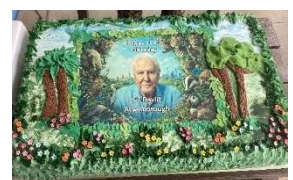
Wow! What a busy first half of our Summer term we had, but what fun we had too! I think it was safe to say that our special 'David Attenborough' day, designed by our very own school council, was a resounding success. Seeing the children's faces full of wonder and excitement was lovely and getting to share those photos and the children's experiences with parents at Celebration Assembly was a wonderful end to the day. We also had a great end to the term, with a successful trip to Thirtover for Year 3/4. I know the adults had a great time and returned fully worn out from all the fun activities, I hope parents had a quiet night on that Friday, due to sleepy heads! It is going to be another busy half-term leading up to the Summer holidays, so please do check the dates to see what is coming up!



The hi-light of our term was the special day we held to commemorate the 100th Birthday of Sir David Attenborough. We invited an expert from Wild Science to bring in a small range of animals for the children to touch, hold and learn about. These included a snake called Sir Edmund, some giant cockroaches, Barbara the tree frog, a tortoise (who got to meet our very own Pebbles) and some super soft chinchillas. During the day, the children also enjoyed exploring our school pond, using nets to do some pond dipping where they found 6 newts amongst other creatures. **Year 5/6** dissected some owl pellets collected from the Englefield owls, and were fascinated to find small rodent skulls and bones, which they identified and classified using anatomy maps.



The children loved talking about their day with friends during our whole school picnic, where they were surprised with an amazing, giant cake made by one of our talented parents from Fabu-lous Cakes. It was delicious! We then topped the day off with a House competition, where children in each of our houses together to create their house animals using only natural items they found on our school grounds. The resulting art was brilliant!



'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.' **Matthew 13: 31-32**

Dates for the Diary...

May

25th May: HALF TERM HOLIDAY

June

3rd June: FS2 Assembly

4th June: SEN Chat (3pm)

5th June: Year 3/4 swimming begins

8th June: MTC and Phonics Check begins

10th June: Englefield Countryside Day for Year 3/4

10th June: Kwik Cricket at Bradfield

11th June: Year 5/6 French Play at St Andrews

12th June: Celebration Assembly (9am)

12th June: Year 5 Maths Orienteering at St Andrews

15th June: Whole School Trip to Bracknell Forest

18th June: FS2 Stay and Play (9am)

19th June: Class Reps Meeting (9am)

22nd June: KS2 Hockey Taster Afternoon

23rd June: Small School Cricket Competition

26th June: SPORTS DAY

29th June: Bikeability

Year 3 and 4 ended the term with a fantastic, fun-packed 2 night residential to Thirtover. After the children were given a tour of the site, they played on space hoppers and took part in some circus skill activities, learning to juggle and spin plates amongst other tricks. They then worked in groups to complete an orienteering challenge across the Thirtover site. Using maps and compasses, the children had to locate different letters and stamp their card to show they had found each one. The children definitely found it challenging but persevered. They then completed a scavenger hunt in pairs, looking for a variety of items such as 'something that shows an insect was there'. They did incredibly well at it, despite the rain! A chip-shop supper that evening helped to warm them up!

Day two was fun-filled from the get go, with children starting the day with soft archery, which they loved and despite the technicality involved, were surprisingly good at. After a quick cake break, we then went to play on the grass sledges, where we learnt that the heavier the sled, the faster it went!! After lunch the children took part in low-ropes and we were really impressed with the team spirit they showed as they worked together and encouraged each-other. By the time we got to have a go in the Bumper Balls, we were all exhausted – nonetheless, the children all had a go and cheered each other on yet again. In the evening the children were given a newspaper fashion challenge by Mrs Henna, before singing songs and making smores around the campfire.

Unsurprisingly, the children all slept in a lot longer on the last morning, and some even had naps as we made our way to Beale Park for the final part of our trip. They can't wait until next year already!

Well done to **Year 6** on finishing their SATs last term. They all worked so hard and we were incredibly proud of their resilience. They loved receiving their leavers hoodies shortly afterwards and are now busy getting ready for their end of year production with Year 5. We can't wait to watch it!



We would like to say thank you to Professor Laurence Hardwood who attended school before half term to show us some beautiful butterfly specimens and talk to us about his passion- butterflies. Each class now has caterpillars to watch transform, and he has encouraged us to take part in the Big Butterfly Count, which you can find out about here: <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/about>



Last term we had a '**Governors Day**', which was a chance to build stronger relationships with the children, staff and parents. The governors spent the day meeting and greeting parents, learning in the classrooms with the children, observing our OPAL play scheme at breaktimes, talking with our different pupil groups such as School Council and tasting our delicious new school dinners with the children. It was lovely to have them join us for the day and we hope to hold another similar day next year.

"Do everything in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14



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