



Sowing the seeds for a flourishing future

Issue 3 - November 2024

Englefield CE Primary School Newsletter

A Message from years 5&6;

We were lucky enough to be invited by the RE team at Pangbourne College to visit and take part in their Religious Food Festival. Delicious dishes to represent five World Religions had been prepared for us to taste.



We got to try some Hot Cross Buns which were very good. They were from Christianity and are usually eaten at Easter. A special gluten-free selection was also prepared which enabled everyone to take part.

Next was Challah bread and apple cake which are usually eaten at Shabbat by Jews. These are typical foods within Judaism.

The tables contained interesting information about the foods and their importance to different religions. There were also religious symbols and some religious artefacts.

For Islam we tried lamb koftas and pitted dates. They are traditionally eaten at Eid which marks the end of Ramadan.

We learned about the festivals of Diwali and Holi and tried some very tasty samosas linked to the Hindu faith. Lastly, there were onion bhajis and sweet potato falafels to celebrate Sikhism. Once we had filled our plates, we were able to sit with Year 7s and talk.

This activity fitted really well with our PSHE learning about 'Celebrating Difference' and was a great opportunity to try new foods from different cultures and religions.



Football Champs!

We would like to share how proud we are of our Englefield football team who 'smashed' their recent competition with an astounding 6 match win! They were invited to take part in the ESFA competition which, if their success continues through the county and regional tournaments, could see them being awarded the title of National Champions. Judging by their exceptional performance, they could be in with a great chance! We wish them the best of luck.



Eight of our Year 3/4 class had a fabulous afternoon at Elstree enjoying cross-country in the autumn sun. There were teams from 12 schools taking part. Luca managed to lead the first runners down the hill towards the finish line where he handed over to next in line. Our two teams did brilliantly and supported each other, as well as pupils from the other schools. We were all very proud of their efforts, their enthusiasm and their good sporting attitudes. Thank you to Elstree for organising such a fun competition and for providing us all with tasty treats at the end.



If there is one thing we can say about autumn so far, it has to be that the weather has been crazy—sunny and warm one day, freezing cold the next. No matter the weather there is always time to



take a moment to appreciate the beauty of the world around us. Here in Englefield its hard to miss the pretty autumn colours and impossible to resist making the most of the fallen leaves. What joy a pile of leaves can



bring to an imaginative playground of children! I think we can all agree that Autumn is a particularly wonderful time of year.

Berkshire Squash

A few weeks ago, a bright yellow wall appeared on our playground ready for three days of squash. All children in Y1-6 had the chance in small groups to learn more about the game, learn some squash skills and play a mini game of squash using the 'wall' (aka squash court). After school, over 20 children and some adults had the chance to play too. For the children, they could develop what they had learnt in their taster session and for the adults it was a chance to do a new, fun sports activity with their children.



Squash is not the popular sport it once used to be - there are fewer courts and fewer young people getting involved in the game. For this reason, Berkshire Squash, lead by Adrian 'Coach' Stahl and Simon Street (Mrs Street's husband) decided to offer us this opportunity. We are very grateful for their enthusiasm, time and effort in helping to organise the three-day taster and for transporting and constructing the squash court - Lego on a much bigger scale!

In November it was Children in Need

The House Captains did a brilliant job organising the day and coming up with ideas that could help us to make as much as we could for this charity. Everyone came into school wearing bright colours and many were carrying teddies and Pudsey Bears. We guessed the name of the Pudsey



(Chester!), ate delicious cakes and listened to our Year 6 band busking in the hall. In total we raised an amazing £407.

We love to Read

There is always such an eager group at the Thursday lunchtime story in the library. Such a lovely way to instil a love of reading...thank you, Mrs Kelley!



Message from West Berks Foodbank

We just wanted to let you know that your recent Harvest Festival donations to West Berks Foodbank weighed in at 180.7 kgs. Fantastic. This is the approximate weight of a donkey! It also means that Englefield C.E. Primary School has donated the equivalent of 379 meals for local people who are experiencing real hardship. Thank you so much for supporting us. It means a great deal.

Holidays are Coming

In a few weeks it will be Christmas and the children are already buzzing with the anticipation of fun and festivities, we really do have so much to look forward to! KSI will be putting on their nativity and are already filling the school with the sound of Christmas while learning the songs for the play. We are looking forward to Christmas Fayre, Christmas hampers and our annual tradition Christmas carols around the village on Monday 16th December. In school we will have our Christmas fun run, Christmas jumper day, Christmas dinner and the highlight of the season – The Christmas Panto! This year will be Pinocchio at the watermill, they always make it such a magical experience for the children. As we always do we will end the term with the whole school performing in our lovely Christmas Service at St Marks to remember the true meaning of the season before heading home for the holidays.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Updated term dates are on our website. For further dates, please see the website at the start of next term.

5th December	9am: iRock concert
6th December	3.30pm: PTA Christmas Fayre
10th December	2pm: Baarmy Bethlehem 2pm: Douai Abbey Carols - Years 5 & 6
11th December	9.15am: Baarmy Bethlehem
12th December	Pinocchio at The Watermill
13th December	Christmas Jumper Day/Santa Fun Run/Christmas Dinner
16th December	6-7 pm Carol Singing in the village - all welcome
17th December	3.30pm: PTA Hamper Raffle
18th December	3pm: Thank You Tea for helpers 6pm: Candle lit carols at St Mark's - whole school
19th December	9am: School Music Concert 2.30pm End of term
22nd December	9 Lessons and Carols at St Mark's - choir singing