

Sowing the seeds for a flourishing future

Issue 2 – October 2024

Englefield CE Primary School Newsletter

The first half of this long autumn term is drawing to a close. We can now all relax and have a well deserved rest ready for the lead up to Christmas!

FS2 have earned their week's break after completing their first half term in full-time school. Well done FS2! It has not been all hard work though, they have also taken part in many fun and exciting activities. This week we had a visit from the fire brigade and some lucky children got a chance to hold the hose and feel how powerful it is.



In class they have been creating Jackson Pollock style artwork and Learning about Rosa Parks as part of Black History Week. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus for white passengers in 1955. Her bravery led to the desegregation of the city buses and set in motion the civil rights movement in the US.



Year 3 and 4 have been studying *Leon and the Place Between* by Angela McAllister this half term. It has inspired some great writing and also this collage. They wanted it to reflect the impression of the book and the magic of Abdul Kazaam, the magician. First of all, they practised some collage techniques and looked at the work of some collage artists, both contemporary and from the past. This helped to inspire them and hone their skills! They worked as a team to build up the layers of collage display each week. We hope you like it!



We had an interesting start to the day when the fire alarm wouldn't turn off following a routine early morning test. It was still ringing when Early Birds arrived for breakfast so they went into the staff room which was the quietest room in the school and wore headphones to block any sound out. They were absolute stars!



Woodland Learning is always fun but this week it was made even more fun by Mr Menhenitt who clearly needed chasing away! Thank you Mr Menhenitt for making their day!

Would you like to join the fun? If you think you might like to help out with Woodland Learning, please pop in to the office and sign up. There will be a form on the wall from Monday 4th so you can just pop your name down next to the date you can do. Its great fun, a beautiful setting and a free workout at the same time.



Bassistry Arts

Each year we are visited by Marcel and Philippe who put on workshops for the children. They practise increasingly complicated rhythms using body sounds, learn a song with some movement and finish by using the instruments to build a rhythmic picture.



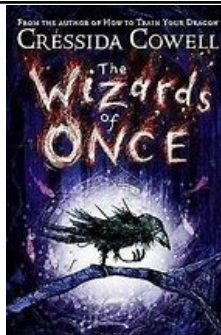
The children absolutely love getting involved and moving to the rhythm. In the end of day performance, everybody was happy to get up and show what they had learnt - even the parents got involved!

Teddy said 'Marcel was really nice and made us feel happy and confident and Philippe was SO good on the drums! He played them really fast!'



Cressida Cowell

Year 5 were delighted to be invited to St Andrew's School to see and hear Cressida Cowell talk about her fascinating life and her tips about being an author. She spoke a lot about the 'How to train your dragon' series and introduced some of her new books. Cressida advised children to add just enough truth to their stories to make them believable.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

- 04.11.24 Pupils return
- 05.11.24 9 - 10am: Stay & Play for FS2 parents
- 08.11.24 3pm: Celebration Assembly
- 14.11.24 pm: 4 x Y3/4 to cross-country at Elstree
pm: Y5/6 to Pangbourne College - food from different religions
- 15.11.24 Children in Need
- 18.11.24 UK Parliament Week
- 22.11.24 3pm: Celebration Assembly
- 26.11.24 Reading Information Evening for Parents**
- 27.11.24 2.45pm: Safeguarding Training for volunteers
- 29.11.24 8.45am: Parent Forum
- 05.12.24 9am: iRock concert
- 06.12.24 9am: Celebration Assembly
3.30pm: PTA Christmas Fayre



Years 1 and 2 have been using the lovely autumn leaves to make woodland art, incorporating what they have learned about symmetry.

They have also been making autumn wreaths while making the most of the dry weather. Colours, shape and textures were investigated and discussed before being used to decorate the classroom in a beautiful autumn theme.

In class they have been focusing on geography and the countries that make up the UK. They found facts and worked in groups to produce posters.



OPAL

Outdoor Play and Learning - a new programme to help play to flourish even more!

Englefield is about to start a programme to improve opportunities for physical activity, socialisation, cooperation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment through improved play. Play is not messing about. It is the process evolution has come up with to enable children to learn all of the things that cannot be taught, while also having so much fun.

There are many proven benefits for schools that carry out the OPAL Primary Programme. We hope that our children benefit from even more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost to disputes between children, particularly around football, fewer accidents and greatly improved behaviour. We also look forward to them learning how to manage risk.

As we improve play opportunities for your children, you may find that we are making changes about how the children use the school grounds and asking you for help with sourcing resources. The children may use more of the grounds, for more of the year. Your children may get a bit messier, be exposed to more challenges and have greater freedoms to play where, with whom and how they like. The experiences we are fostering are essential for children's physical and mental wellbeing and are in line with all current good practice advice on health and safety, wellbeing and development.

For more information, please look at the website (www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk)

We will be sending you a 'bingo card' this half term which shows the types of 'loose parts' that we would like to collect for the children to use for their free play. We would love it if you could try and find something on the card that you could send in after half term - this will get us off to a really good start.

To accommodate the Christmas Fayre, Celebration Assembly on Friday 6th December will be at 9am.