



# Ellington Primary News

*Believe and Achieve*

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a fantastic start to the half term with the children starting new topics and studying new texts in English. I have been so impressed with gymnastics in PE, the children have made incredible progress. This half term, we are having a real focus on handwriting and times tables. TT Rockstars battles have commenced again and we are introducing a new times table reward system in school. If you can support with handwriting and times tables at home, this would support us massively. We have lots of events coming up this half term and it is only 44 days until Christmas!

## Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week 2022 is happening from Monday 14th - Friday 18th November and has the theme 'Reach Out'. Bullying affects millions of lives and can leave us feeling hopeless. But if we challenge it, we can change it. And it starts by reaching out. It doesn't stop with young people. From teachers to parents and influencers to politicians, we all have a part to play. Reach out to someone you trust if you need to talk. Reach out to someone if you know they're being bullied. Reach out by being the change you want to see. It takes courage, but it can change lives. So, this Anti-Bullying Week, let's come together and reach out to stop bullying.

Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week. In 2022 it will take place on Monday 14th November. We are all encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique and spread kindness!



**Peer Mentors** - In school, we have a number of children who are trained Peer Mentors. They are available for their peers every single breaktime in school. They will listen and support their peers no matter how big or small their problems are. Please remind your children that they can find the Peer Mentors in the studio at every breaktime.

## Miss Nicholson

I am delighted to announce that earlier this week, slightly earlier than planned, Miss Nicholson gave birth to a beautiful and healthy baby GIRL. I am sure you will join us in sending congratulations to her and her family.

## Children in Need

Next Friday November 18th, is Children in Need. To mark this occasion, all children can wear something spotty or Pudsey related. In return we ask for a £1 donation, all of which will go to Children in Need. During the day, the children will take part in a range of activities.





## FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

The 2022 World Cup begins on Sunday 20th November with England playing their first game on Monday 21st November. The game is against Iran and begins at 1pm. It is very, very rare that England play in a World Cup during the school day and we want to mark this occasion by allowing the children to watch the game in school and wear something red, white or blue on the day.

### School Photographs

This year, we are having school photos taken on Monday 13th February. With the mounting costs of living we are all facing, we have decided to have the photographs taken in the new year so that you do not have the added financial pressure of buying school photographs before Christmas.

### Diary Dates

Armistice Day	11th November
Anti-Bullying Week	W/c 14th November
Odd Socks Day	14th November
Children in Need	18th November
Christmas Jumper Day	8th December
Christmas Film Night	8th December
(whole school)	4:30pm–6:30pm
Christmas Dinner	14th December
KS1 Nativity Performance	15th December
(9.30am)	
KS1 Nativity Performance	16th December
(9.30am)	
EYFS Christmas Show	19th December
(9.30am)	
EYFS Christmas Party	19th December
Year 1/2 Christmas Party	20th December
Year 3/4 Christmas Party	21st December
Christmas Carol Concert	21st December
(9.15am)	
Year 5/6 Christmas Party	22nd December
Christmas Carol Concert	22nd December
(9.15am)	
Break up for Christmas	23rd December
Return to School	9th January

### Safeguarding

On November 28th, we have the NSPCC visiting our Year 5 and 6 children as part of the Speak Out, Stay Safe programme. The programme helps children understand:

- abuse in all its forms and how to recognise signs of abuse
- that abuse is never a child's fault and that they have the right to be safe
- where to get help and the sources of help available to them

You can find out more information by clicking [here](#).

### Attendance 31.10–11.11

Reception	91.8%
Year 1	97.4%
Year 2	97.2%
Year 3	93.5%
Year 4	96.2%
Year 5	93.2%
Year 6	100% ★
Whole School	95.4%
	<b>Up From 93.7%</b>

Mr Hodgson—Headteacher

## Nursery News

This week we have been very busy as usual. The children were excellent during our Stay and Play Harvest day. Thank you for your fantastic support.



We had lots of fun at the Halloween Disco.



Our story for the first week back was The Three Little Pigs.

We really enjoyed testing out our science and design skills by making the different houses. We used the electric fan to see which houses would blow over. Then we sequenced the story and retold it. We had lots of fun watching ourselves on the big screen telling the stories. Everyone tried very hard to remember the key parts.



We have enjoyed stories from some secret readers. Claire, the health visitor came to tell us about her important job and read us a super Whiffy Wilson story. Mrs. Emery, the cook came to tell us about her job and read us one of our favourite stories about Morris Mole. They were both very impressed with the nursery children and thanked them for listening so well. Watch out for our next newsletter for more readers. If you would like to take part just let me know.



## Reception News

Thank you very much to the families that came to our Reception Harvest Stay and Play morning. We had a fantastic morning singing our Harvest songs and doing lots of different activities in our class.



We had a fantastic time at our Halloween disco. We danced, played party games and had some food.



We have been learning all about Bonfire Night. We talked about how to keep ourselves safe on Bonfire Night, watched some videos of fireworks and talked about the sounds that they make. We then drew a picture of what we thought fireworks look like and wrote the different sounds that they make such as pop, bang and fizz, using our fantastic phonics knowledge!



This week we have started a new topic called 'Tell Me a Story'. We will be reading and learning about a range of different stories over the coming weeks. Our first story is Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We sequenced the story and Mrs Cook recorded us retelling the story. On Tuesday, when we got back from phonics, there was a letter telling us to go to the hall. The letter was from daddy bear and it said that he left us some porridge to try. In the letter it asked us to write a description of the porridge. We did some fantastic writing!



Linking to the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears we have also been looking at the cottage where the bears live. We have been comparing the bears cottage to houses from the past and houses in the present. We drew a picture of what our home looks like.

Well done to our Reception superstars for all of their hard work!

## Year 1 News

We have had another fantastic couple of weeks in Year 1. Thank you so much to those parents who are reading regularly with their children at home. Please remember that the most important book to read are their phonics Book Bag Books. Please try and read these three times a week to build on fluency and recall. We are going to have a big push on reading this half term in Year 1. Children that are reading their phonics books at least 3 times a week will receive dojo points and when they acquire a certain amount of dojo points they will be rewarded.



In Maths we have been working on measuring. We have done lots of work on weight/mass, length/height and capacity/volume using non-standard measures. The children loved the practical lessons going around and weighing/measuring the length of objects found inside the classroom.



This week I have given the children their usernames and passwords for Times Table Rock Stars. Please use TTRS as much as possible to help embed times tables.



We have started our new topic lesson in History. We have learnt that history is the study of the past. We have been looking at how shopping has changed over the years. The children loved learning about the different shops and were amazed that there haven't always been supermarkets!

## Year 2 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an incredibly busy start to the Autumn 2 half term. Thanks to all parents who brought their children to the KS1 Halloween Disco on the first day back. The children had a fun if spooky time!

Here is a quick overview of some of the learning we have completed these last two weeks. In Maths we have been learning to add three addends (numbers). This has been interesting work, we have been using tens frames and counters as well as number lines to do this as well as recognising that the addends can be added in any order. In addition (pun intended) we have also been learning to add and subtract two numbers that involve bridging 10. We are having a big push on Times Tables this half term. We are completing Times Table Rockstar worksheets to help build these skills and we are setting up Times Table battles between classes for those children that can access this at home. Children's log ins are in their orange homework books.

In English, we have been looking at the beautiful picture book *The Tear Thief* by Carol Ann Duffy. We had a fantastic time re-enacting the story using drama techniques which you can see in the pictures below. We first thought about how different characters would move before acting out a script of the story. We have also been generating vocabulary that we will use in a character description next week. We have also been writing sentences with adverbs to describe how *The Tear Thief* moves.

- In our final History lesson on the Great Fire of London, we looked at some of the buildings that were rebuilt after the fire. We are now starting our first Geography unit of the year based around farming.
- In Science we have now completed our unit on working Scientifically by working on recording results and drawing conclusions. We are now starting a new unit looking at everyday materials.



## Year 3 News



Over the last two weeks, we have been enjoying getting stuck into our new book in English lessons, which is the classic 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl. We are working towards writing a letter in the voice of Miss Trunchbull and it is great fun replicating some of the language she uses about the children! Our first Matilda session was spent in the library (Matilda's favourite place in the world), exploring items from the story.

In maths, we are continuing to strengthen our understanding of 3-digit numbers. This week, this included creating a huge unmarked number line on the MUGA and estimating where we thought different 3 digit numbers should be placed. It is a tricky skill to master but the class are working hard on it as usual!



Have a look at some of our early sketchbook work from our new art unit all about prehistoric art! This work was by Isaac, Ava, Eryn, Oscar, Amelie I.

This ties in with our new history topic about the Stone Age, Iron Age and Bronze Age.

We have also started a new topic in RE called 'People of God', which is stories from the Old Testament showcasing figures who set a good example of behaviour and listen to God.

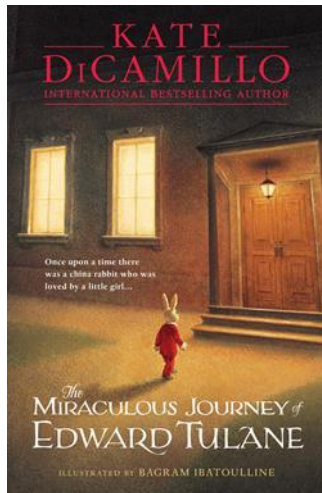
In PE this half term we are developing our gymnastics skills, and we are already performing confident routines using balancing skills.



## Year 4 News

Over the last two weeks, the children in Year 4 have been working incredibly hard with all the new units of work we've started.

In English, we have been challenging ourselves by writing a narrative based on "Ruin". We've created ruined cities that have been the victims of a virus, war or natural disaster where our character must make a plan to reveal the evil minds behind it. Are they successful? Well, we have been working on cliffhangers to keep our readers entertained. This has certainly stretched our vocabulary, as has the new class novel we started: *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo.



Maths has introduced us to rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000, with which the children have done really well. They have also excellently recalled their knowledge of addition and subtraction and can now apply this to 4-digit numbers.

Throughout our afternoon lessons, we have been exploring how animals are adapted to their environments in science; climate zones around the world according to certain lines of latitude; Hinduism and their deities; as well as expressing our opinions of fruits in French.



## Year 5 News

The children have made a great start to autumn 2 term. In English we have been reading *Journey to Johannesburg* by Beverley Naidoo which follows the life of a young girl during South Africa's apartheid. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about apartheid where we have explored the meaning of apartheid, propaganda, the African National Congress Party, Nelson Mandela and the Soweto Uprising. The children are creating a non-chronological report all about the fight against apartheid!

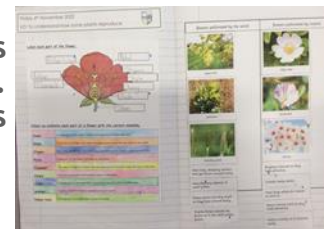


In maths we have spent two weeks learning all about money. We have been exploring quantities of money as pounds and pence, comparing money, ordering money and also calculating change that from various amounts. Having a good understanding of addition and subtraction has helped the children progress through this unit of work.



In history, our new topic is Early Islamic Civilisation. Alongside this, we have been focusing on the religion of Islam in our Religious Studies lessons. The children have learnt where Islam was first started and who was the founder. We have been learning about the importance of Baghdad and the role of mosques for Muslims. We then explored the life of The Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) and identified the main reasons why the Islamic empire spread.

We have started our science topic; living things and their habitats and we have started by exploring how different plants reproduce. Hopefully, we will be able to grow our own plants using the stems of a geranium plant!



With a very busy half term ahead of us, the children have continued their excellent attitude towards their learning. We have been focusing on our school values of resilience and respect recently and I have been impressed with the children's behaviour and effort to show these values each day.

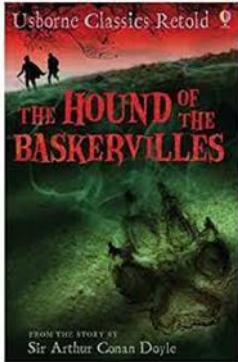


Another great week in year 5.

Mr Todd

## Year 6 News

It's been an action packed few weeks in Year 6 (as always). In our English lessons, we have started to research and write a biography of Sir David Attenborough. He's a very interesting person and we have found out lots about him already - for example, his passion for natural history was sparked when, age 7, was gifted a dried seahorse! In reading, we have started our new class novel. It's a classic - *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. So far, we are intrigued by the curious case being investigated by Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson. We have been using our inference skills to build up character profiles of the two sleuths.



In maths we have been revising the concepts of factors, multiples, primes and cubes. This will really support us in the coming weeks when we will be tackling long division and long multiplication.

We have started our new geography unit - The North and South Poles and have done lots of retrieval practice to make sure we know the 'Sticky Knowledge' needed - such as the continents of the world and about lines of longitude and latitude. Similarly, in science, we have been revisiting learning from Year 4 about living things and their habitats.

Our new Design Technology unit is very exciting. We have been designing mini waistcoats, which will have a Christmas theme and be hand sewn by us. Watch this space to see our progress. Miss Gray was very excited by the choices of festive fabrics!

