



# Ellington Primary School



News Bulletin #13

**1st April 2022**

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is the last news bulletin of the spring term and it is hard to believe we only have twelve teaching weeks remaining this academic year! We have many events planned for the summer term and look forward to welcoming you into school for different occasions.

## Health and Safety

In recent weeks, we have had two very near misses involving cars and pupils. Both incidents could have resulted in significant injuries or perhaps even worse.

I have spoken to a number of parents/carers and wider family members who all agree that parking around school is becoming more and more of an issue. Not only that, it is clear that some people are driving at a completely inappropriate speed along Warkworth Drive.



I have again contacted the council to discuss what they can do to support the school. But we need your support with this too. If you live within walking distance of the school, then please walk to and from school. If you do need to travel by car, please consider parking and walking to school.

Please do not park on street corners, yellow markings or the keep clear sign.

The last thing anyone wants is for an accident to happen but unless changes are made, this looks increasingly a case of when and not if.

## World Book Month!

Our World Book Month has been hugely successful and the children have thoroughly enjoyed the different activities. We have had a variety of activities and competitions during the month with lots of different prizes up for grabs. Our school library will be opening very soon, we are just awaiting delivery of some resources. The library will be used by all children from Nursery to Year 6 but we will also be opening up for younger siblings and parent/carers who can use the library before home time and also after school.

I want to say a big thank you to Miss Willcock for organising all of the challenges and events during our World Book Month. All that we ask now, is for the children to read regularly at home but we need your support with this. Please hear your child read five times per week, just ten minutes, five times per week will make a huge difference.

Our sponsored read competition for the month of March ended yesterday. Can all money raised please be handed into school by the end of this term? All money raised will be spent on new reading books for the children.

The winners of our Book Bingo and extreme reading competitions will be announced next Wednesday due to the number of entries. We will also announce the winner of our sponsored reading competition on Wednesday with one lucky winner receiving a £50 Waterstones voucher. Thank you for all of your support throughout our World Book Moth.

### **Parent Consultations**

I hope the parent consultations last week were informative. Unfortunately, Mr Fernandes is still absent from school at the moment so we have been unable to reschedule these appointments. However, they will take place next term.

### **After-school Tuition**

Many groups of children have had access to after-school tuition this term which was funded through the government's catch up funding. Unfortunately, this funding has now been used for this academic year so all tuition for Years 2, 4 and 5 will end after next week, but Year 6 tuition who will continue after the Easter break.

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

On Friday April 8<sup>th</sup>, all Nursery and Reception children will take part in an Easter Egg Hunt in school. Parents and carers will be invited to attend with their children. We will have a Nursery hunt in the morning for our morning Nursery children and an afternoon hunt for our afternoon Nursery children and for Reception. More details will be sent home on Monday.



### **After-school Clubs**

All after-school clubs end this week, with the exception of Reception's Multi Skills club who will have their final session next Tuesday. A new list of clubs on offer will be shared straight after Easter and we will restart clubs for summer term during the week beginning 2.5.22.

Best Wishes,

Mr Hodgson  
Headteacher

# Class News!

## Nursery

Over the past two weeks we have been busy continuing our work on our 'Starry Night' topic. We have read the story 'Peace at Last' by Jill Murphy and enjoyed recreating all of the sounds Mr Bear heard during the night, we even thought he was a bit silly for trying to sleep in the garden! We talked about how he was feeling at certain points in the story and linked these feelings to colours just as we did during our work on 'The Colour Monster'. We thought Mr Bear would have been very grumpy during the night when he could not sleep because we would be grumpy too! The children enjoyed sharing their bedtime routines and, as part of this, we thought about brushing our teeth. We talked about how it is important to brush our teeth to get rid of the bad bacteria. This keeps our teeth nice and healthy so we can eat lots of yummy food- not too much sugar though! We had lots of fun making bacteria out of playdough, putting it on our giant teeth model and brushing it off with our giant toothbrush whilst singing our new song:



*"Brush, brush, brush your teeth,  
In the morning and at night.  
Up and down and round and round,  
Keep them clean and white!"*



We have also been reading the story 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell. The children knew lots of interesting facts about owls, including that they live in trees, they hoot and they are nocturnal! Amazing! We talked about how it is scary when we can't find our grown up and what to do if this ever happens. The children thought it would be best to try and find a police officer if we ever lost our grown up but there isn't always a police officer nearby so we had another think and the children suggested we find someone like a shopkeeper who wears a uniform (green in Asda!) to help us, or a family who have children just like us. We also discussed how important it is that we never leave the place we lost our grown up because they would be looking for us too!

## Nursery continued.

In maths we have continued our work on addition and have looked at size ordering. We set up a Teddy Bears Picnic and the children matched the plates and cups to the correct bear using words such as small, medium and large. The children have also been exploring weight in their play using the balance scales. There was some lovely discussion around what it means when one side is down or up with the children describing each side as heavy or light. We also decided that if both side were 'up in the sky' they weighed the same.



We have enjoyed watching our cress grow as part of our Science Week experiment. This week the children tasted the cress and then we had a vote to decide if we liked it or not. I was very proud of the children for trying something new!



Finally, we have been thinking about the Easter Story and how we celebrate Easter. We can't wait to start our Easter crafts ready to bring home to our families. I hope you all have a lovely Easter break!

## Reception

Over the last two weeks we have been really enjoying our topic 'Journeys' and exploring space. We have continued our learning of the story 'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy. In the story Baby Bear has a picnic on the moon. We talked to our friends about what we would have in our own picnic. In Literacy, we wrote instructions of how to make a jam sandwich and then we followed the instructions to make it. We have also been reading a number of different stories about space but our favourite story this week has been 'Aliens Love Underpants'. We designed our own alien and wrote a description of what it looks like.



In maths, we have been learning about 3D shapes. We matched different items to the correct shape of either a cylinder, a cuboid, a cone or a sphere. Linking to our space theme we also used 3D shapes and paint to make our own rocket print pictures.



In PE with Mr Robertson, we have been enjoying experimenting with a variety of different sports equipment including balls, cones and ladders as well as playing lots of fun team games.



We have also been learning about the season Spring. We enjoyed exploring in our school grounds for signs of spring. We found some flowers starting to grow, daffodils, flower buds, green leaves, a bird's nest, blossom and insects.



## Year 1

Year One have been busy doing lots of assessments over the last two weeks. We have worked extremely hard and everyone has made lots of progress.

In English lessons we have made a new toolkit to help us to write a report about wolves. We have found out lots of information and have started to write the first section of the report. We have written a page of facts. Mrs. Pirie has added everyone to the recognition board for showing resilience because we didn't give up.

In our Mathematics lessons we have continued our work about capacity and volume. We have looked at problem solving statements and had to work out if they were true or false. Everyone could put the capacity bottles in order even when we had these different volumes - empty, nearly empty, less than half full, half full, more than half full, nearly full and full! Poppy set up her own assessment challenge and got each child to do the task. She then made a list on the board of everyone who could order the bottles. Fantastic work Poppy. We have continued to explore the 2 x table and linked this to capacity and volume tasks. We needed to use this knowledge to solve problems. During independent time some children decided to show what they knew about the 2x table using Numicon.

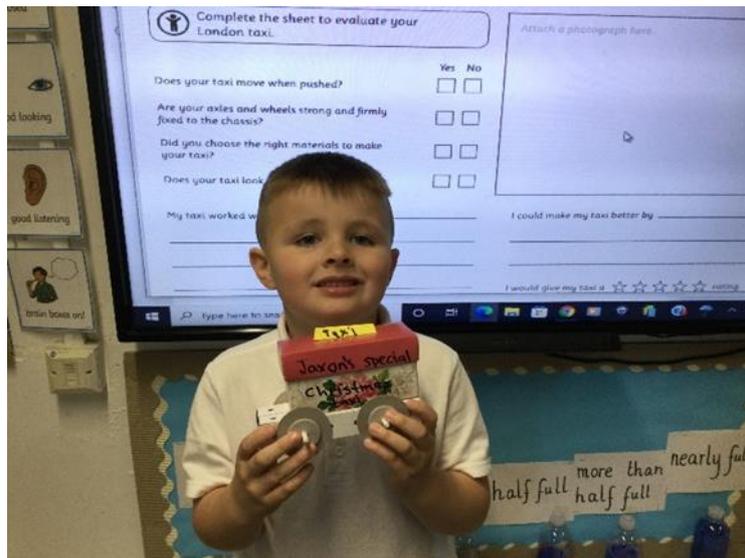


In art work we enjoyed using the chalks and pastels to make wolf pictures. We talked about making them symmetrical.



## Year 1 continued.

In Design and Technology, we have been making taxi models. We explained about the different parts and found the wheel, axle and chassis. We collected the resources we needed. Our prefects helped us to get started. They kindly gave up their break time and were so encouraging and excellent at helping us to solve any problems with our designs. It was fantastic to see. The children were very engaged and talked about everything they had found out in their previous lessons. Well done everyone.

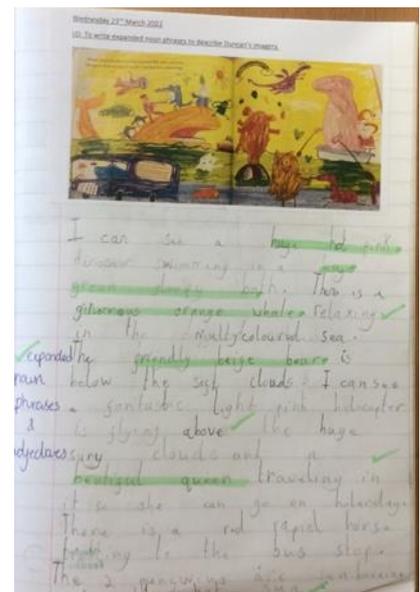
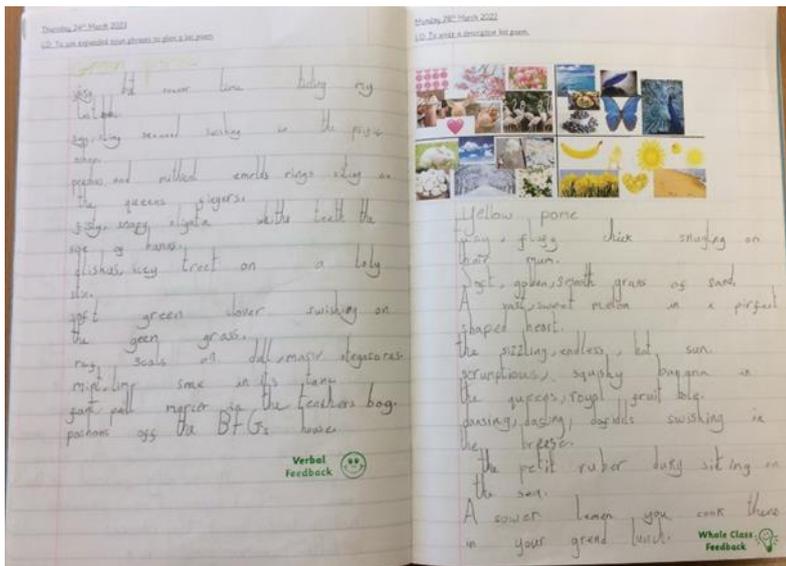


In the next lesson we will evaluate our designs and models.

## Year 2

In English, we have finished reading our wonderful class text: *The Day the Crayons Quit*. To conclude our learning around this text, we learnt how to write list poems based on all of the beautiful colours in the book. Before writing our poems, we studied the features of a list poem and practised using expanded noun phrases to describe an array of objects!

We have started to read and explore our new class text, *The Princess and The Pea*. As always, we began our learning by becoming reading detectives and using our inference skills to predict what the book may be about. We have particularly enjoyed using drama to retell the story.



In maths, Year 2 have been working very hard on fractions. They have had fun in practical lessons finding fractions of amounts and numbers using sweets. They have been focusing on finding  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of amounts. Year 2 have been continuing to work hard on their times tables and number recall. Well done, Year 2.



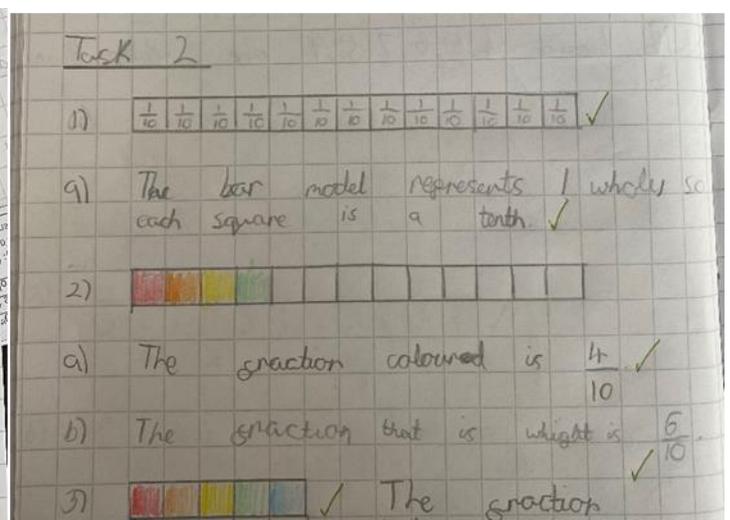
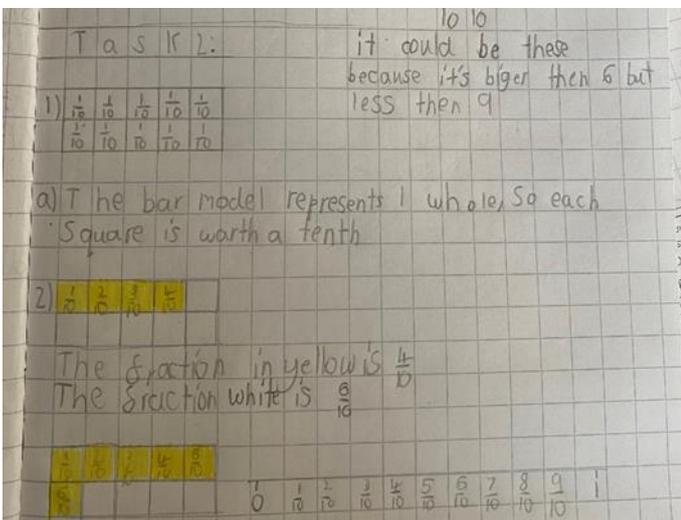
We are having so much fun in our afternoon lessons. Year 2 are continuing to work hard on developing their geography knowledge and skills. This week, we have been applying all the skills taught so far to create our own coastal town. We have worked hard to produce information leaflets about our town explaining why people should visit along with some fantastic drawings of maps and keys.

## Year 3

Year 3 have had another brilliant week.

In English, we have been continuing our writing based on our class text - **The True Story of the Three Little Pigs**. We have been producing some excellent writing using our knowledge of persuasive language to help us convince a judge to let Alexander T Wolf be released from jail, explaining how the whole 'Big Bad Wolf' story was just a BIG misunderstanding!

In maths, we have been learning how to find, recognise and represent unit and non-unit fractions. We have used numicon and arrays to represent equivalent fractions, helping us to solve more challenging problems. They have done a fantastic job presenting their work with fractions in their books (and we have enjoyed seeing some familiar faces incorporated into our 'greater depth' challenge questions!)



Year 3 were excellent scientists this week, writing up a lab report based on their 'Growth' experiment they carried out during British Science Week. They were introduced to some new scientific vocabulary, such as stating their own 'hypothesis' in their report. We were surprised to see how our spring onions had grown in different conditions!

We have had fun learning about capital UK cities this week! Year 3 worked in pairs to create an informative poster about a UK city, presenting the information in their own creative way. They particularly enjoyed researching a range of different UK cities on the laptops and presenting this information in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, learning how to create slides; edit font style and size; search and insert images, as well as adding transitions and animations!

## Year 4

We had an amazing start two weeks ago! Afternoon tea for 130 people - we worked our little socks off that morning making three types of sandwiches, making scones and fifteen biscuits from scratch and we cut cake into mouth-watering morsels! We learnt how to take an order from our customers and then finally 1:30 arrived! What looked like hordes of people arrived, and we were on starters orders. Afternoon teas flew out of the studio and into the school hall. The food was met with 'oohs' and 'aahs' of delight. Lots of lovely feedback was given but the most amazing part was the amount of money that we raised - a whopping £750 in aid of Ukraine! A memory we will never forget.



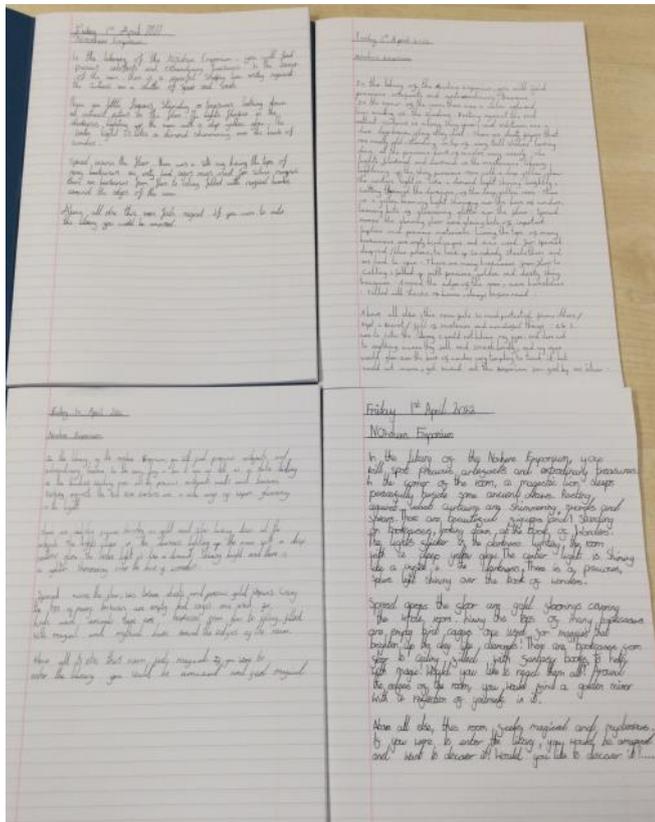
## Year 4 continued

English had us looking at a range of comprehension exercises, where we demonstrated our fantastic understanding so therefore were able to answer some tricky questions. This week we have started looking at myths and we thoroughly enjoyed learning about Medusa and her snake-head being cut off. In maths, we have been calculating area and perimeter of shapes; some of us have even moved on to compound shapes! Topic has had us researching facts about mountains around the world; the favourite is how long ago did they erupt! In R.E., we have been learning about how important Muhammad is in the Islamic faith and rather than writing about Ramadan and the Eid-ul-fitr festival we tried our hand at henna decorated biscuits! Swimming continues to be a fabulous event; we now have lots of little fish! We are all looking forward to the Easter break though, and we are full of hope that the Easter bunny will drop something off at our houses!

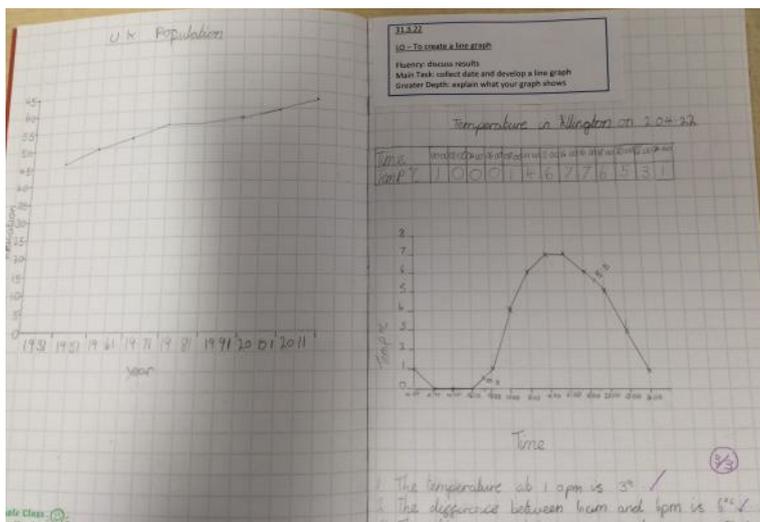


# Year 5

Year 5 have worked incredibly hard over the last two weeks. They have been looking at The Nowhere Emporium in English and are thoroughly enjoying the story. This week, they have produced some brilliant descriptive writing featuring a range of writing devices.



In Maths, they have looked at statistics and have created some bar charts and line graphs to show their findings. They have then analysed the information shown to explain the results.



Next week, the children will be finishing their work on their current topic 'Sow, Grow and Farm' before moving onto their new topic 'Ground breaking Greeks' which will be a fantastic topic to end the year.

## Year 6

In Year 6, we have been extremely busy and working hard over the last two weeks.

We enjoyed being creative and making wonderful Mother's Day cards, using our sewing and drawing skills.



We have continued to revise our knowledge of a wide variety of mathematical concepts. Lessons included converting measures, interpreting timetables, finding fractions of amounts and calculating with fractions.

In English, we have completed our diary entries and have written a review of 'The Highway Man'. The majority of the class gave it a 5-star rating! We started our new book, 'Skellig' by David Almond, with two lessons on inference and prediction. This week we have taken on the role of estate agents to do some persuasive writing to sell the house from the text.

In geography, we completed our newspaper reports about the Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton, which was very well timed to coincide with the discovery of his ship ('Endurance'). This week, lots of children have enthusiastically shared their knowledge about the Titanic as we have started to research the 'Unsinkable Ship' in history.

Our science work has involved using the internet to research the characteristics of polar animals. We will be presenting this information in a fantastic report next week.

In PE we have had fun with games involving working as a team.



## Diary Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Easter Egg Hunt (EYFS)	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April
Break up for Easter Holidays	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April
Return to school	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May
KS2 (Year 6) SATS	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> - Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> May
Queen's Platinum Jubilee Family Picnic	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May
Break up for May half term	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May
School Closed - Additional Bank Holiday due to Queen's Jubilee falling during half term	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June
Return to school	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June
Year 4 Multiplication Tests	WB Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June
Year 4 Residential	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June
Sports Week	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> June - Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July
Year 6 Residential	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> July - Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July
Summer Fair	Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> July
Sports Day	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> July
End of Year Reports	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> July
Year 6 Leavers Assembly	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July
Break up for summer	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July