



# Ellington Primary School



News Bulletin #10

@EllingtonTweets

**11th February 2022**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are quickly approaching the end of the half-term with just one week remaining before everyone has a well-deserved break. Covid-19 is still causing us many problems, with a number of children and staff consistently testing positive. However, everyone has continued to work tirelessly and do the very best they can. As the year progresses, we all hope we can go back to 'normality' and the children can experience a true primary school education and everything which that involves.

I hope you are continuing to find the fortnightly news bulletins informative but do please share any feedback with me if you would like to see any changes or additional information. We are in the process of replacing the notice boards around school which we will use to share important information.

We are continuing to experience some parking issues around school. Can I ask that everyone is respectful of the local residents and also that no one parks on the KEEP CLEAR signs. They are there to protect the children.

## Reading

A letter went out last week regarding reading in school. Improving attainment is a major priority in school and reading is key to that. We want to build a culture of reading in school so all children enjoy reading and can read fluently and confidently. However, this cannot be done purely in school. We need to work in partnership to make reading a regular part of school and home life. All children need to bring their reading book and reading record into school every single day. Our phonics programme, reading lessons, comprehension lessons, dedicated reading time and our new library will all support the development of reading but we need children to read, and to be read to, regularly at home too. Please support your child as much as you can.

## Help needed!



On Saturday February 19<sup>th</sup>, the PTA are coming into school to help develop our new library and to give the school a paint! We have the paint and the brushes, but we could really do with some more volunteers. I will be opening up school around 8.30 and any help would really be appreciated, even if you can only stay for an hour or two, at any point in the day. There is lots to do, but the more people we have helping the easier it will be.

## ClassDojo

We now have over 95% of the school connected to ClassDojo! I hope you are finding this a good communication platform.

## World Book MONTH!

March 3<sup>rd</sup> is World Book Day. However, at Ellington, we are going to have WORLD BOOK MONTH! Over the month of March, we are going to run a series of events involving all classes in school. Over four different weeks, we will be having four different reading competitions with lots of prizes available thanks to our PTA. We will also be having author visits, some virtual and some in school. We will of course be dressing up for World Book Day itself and we also have The Sword in the Stone performance coming to school. We will also be opening our library and introducing nearly 1000 new books to the children for their reading pleasure!! All of the information will be shared in detail before half-term.



## Swimming

Our Year 4 children will begin swimming after half term. They will have 16 sessions between now and the end of the school year. Please ensure permission slips and payment (if applicable) is in school by Friday 18th February.

## PE Kits

We are still having some issues with PE kits in school. Due to the change being mid-year we have been lenient this half term but we need all children to follow the guidance after half term:

- Children should wear their PE t-shirt under their school jumper or a plain navy hoodie. School hoodies are available to purchase from Cloud 9 Leisure. However, these are completely optional.  
**Children should not be wearing anything other than a plain navy hoodie, an Ellington navy hoodie or a school jumper on PE days.** Children can bring an additional hoodie/tracksuit top to wear for the PE lesson if they wish, but not all day in school. This should be brought in a bag to school and not worn during the day. We have some spare jumpers in school for children to wear if necessary.
- Children can wear **plain** black/navy joggers/tracksuit bottoms. They can wear shorts underneath or just shorts in warmer weather.
- Trainers can be worn on PE days. **On other days, children should wear black shoes.**
- I appreciate not all children have ordered a new PE kit, that is absolutely fine. For those children, they can continue to wear their house colour T-shirt (or a plain white T-shirt) under their school jumper or a navy hoodie, along with black/navy joggers/tracksuit bottoms.
- **Children cannot wear other clothing than stated above on their PE days.**

We are expecting the order from Cloud9 before the half term holiday for those who placed an order for PE kits in January, and those expecting replacement sizes.

Best Wishes,

Mr Hodgson  
Headteacher



# Class News!

## Nursery

We have been continuing our 'Amazing Animals' topic over the past two weeks. We continued our work on safari animals by finding Africa on the map and talking about how Africa is a hot country unlike the polar regions we previously looked at and we decided the animals would be very different in Africa. Then we finished our unit on safari animals by going on a real safari! We had to put our seatbelts on, make sure we had our binoculars and good looking eyes then we set off. We saw lots of lovely animals including lions, zebra, giraffes and hippos! The children then had a go at drawing their favourite animal that we saw on our safari, using the right colours to colour in carefully. They turned out amazing and some of us even had a go at writing the name of the animal!

This week we have started our unit 'Dangerous Dinosaurs'. We have been loving the story *Dinosaur Roar* by Henrietta Stickland and Paul Stickland. We have investigated new vocabulary in the book such as the word 'meek' and gave actions to remind us of each of the dinosaurs we meet. We have also been on a fossil dig, the children were very carefully with their brushes and swept away the dirt to reveal the bones. We then pieced the dinosaur back together and labelled parts of the body we recognised. We have also enjoyed making 3D dinosaurs with Mrs Goodall.

In maths we have been working on 'fast fingers'. Miss Nicholson shouts out a number and we have to show her how we can make that number using our fingers. We have thought of lots of different ways to show the same number, for example we can show 3 using 2 fingers on one hand and 1 finger on our other hand!

We have also been busy learning about the world around us over the past 2 weeks. We celebrated Chinese New Year by learning about traditions and tasting some delicious Chinese food. We have also talked about staying safe when using our tablets and devices as part of Safer Internet Day. The children had lots of interesting ideas about how to stay safe but our main message was to always check with a grown up if you are unsure.



## Reception

We have had a busy two weeks in Reception. Last week we celebrated Chinese New Year. We looked at the story of *The Great Race* and found out that this year is the year of the tiger so we created our own tiger painting and we also made a Chinese dragon. Miss Robinson was super impressed with our fantastic Chinese number writing but our favourite activity was trying the yummy Chinese food mmmm!



We are continuing our topic of 'Amazing Animals' and now focusing on dinosaurs. We have been reading lots of different dinosaur books and our favourite has been *Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs*.

Last week we received a letter from a Museum saying that a friendly dinosaur was missing and then big footprints appeared on our yard. Miss Robinson checked the cameras and the dinosaur had been in our school yard! We were all super excited and in Literacy we made a lost poster to put around to see if anyone had seen the dinosaur. We have also been learning how to write labels by labelling the different parts of a dinosaur.



In maths last week we looked at dominos and the spots that they have on one side, on the other side and how many spots altogether. This week in maths we have been learning about taller and shorter. We used string to measure how tall we are and compared our height to the other children in the class. We have also been learning about longer and shorter by using pasta and play-doh.



This week we have also been learning about the importance of internet safety. We listened to a story called 'Chicken Clicking' and looked at a power point about Smartie the Penguin who learns how to be safe on the internet. We then drew a picture of our Class Dojo monster and talked about what we can do to be safe when on the internet, iPad, tablet etc.



# Year 1

Year One have had a busy time. We have really enjoyed all of the activities linked to the Chinese New Year that Mrs. Vardy kindly organised. We made blossom pictures, lanterns and Chinese dragons. We sampled different Chinese food. Everyone had a great fun.



In maths we have been learning about place value. We have been using lots of practical resources to help us.



We have also started to find out about measurement. We created our own measurement problems and one team decided to measure all around a book. Great team work.

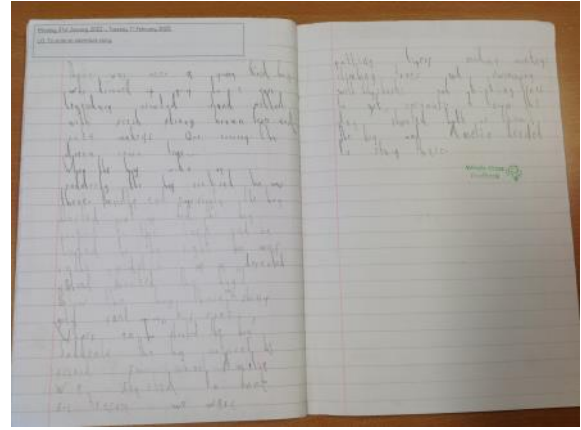
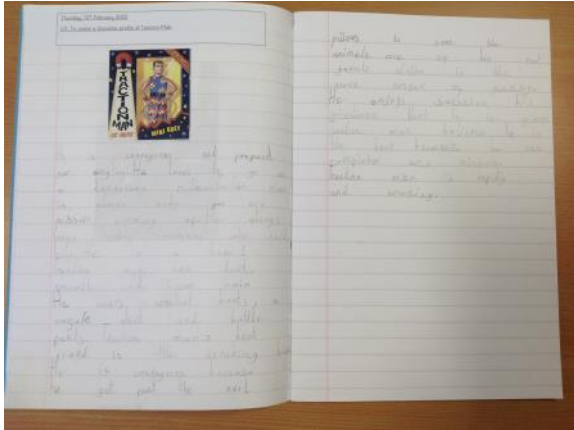
In English we have been finishing our reports about moles. We are sending them off to the wildlife expert.



We have worked really hard in our phonics lessons and have really enjoyed taking turns with our partner to read our books. Our reading challenge is getting off to a fantastic start. Thank you for all of your excellent support.

## Year 2

In English, we finished reading the wonderful Tin Forest. Children adored the book and the beautiful illustrations and produced an amazing final piece of writing. They wrote a sequel to the narrative, and I was blown away by their descriptive language and fantastic



imaginations.

We

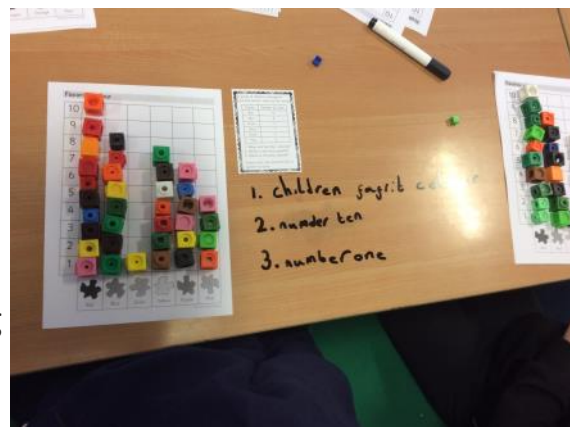


have



started reading our new book by Mini Grey. The book is about a toy action figure that patrols house saving never than stylishly accessorised!

In maths, we have looking and block diagrams! our practical lessons our friends favourite



book called Traction Man about a toy action figure 'those' in need, he is dressed and expertly

at tally charts, pictograms We've had a lot of fun in gathering data such as colour, animals and food



## Year 2 continued.

Year 2 are enjoying their science lessons on 'Uses of Materials', they have been investigating paper, what it is made from and its different properties. They are looking forward to exploring more about recyclable materials next week. This week in Geography, children blew me away with their knowledge of the Coast and in particular the dangers that surround the area. They worked hard to produce an information poster on how to stay safe by the coast.

On Tuesday, we celebrated Safer Internet day, as a class we looked at what 'safer internet day' meant to us and how we could keep ourselves safe online. We had a great discussion around how we use the internet and who can help us in different scenarios. Children had great fun designing their Dojo avatar and writing top tips to stay safe online!

Year 2 are showing an increased enthusiasm towards reading and I'm sure you're aware of how much I love to share new books with them – it has been lovely to see children bringing in books from home to share with me! It's great to see children reading more regular at home and reading the lovely comments in their reading record.





## Year 3

Year 3 have worked super hard this week!

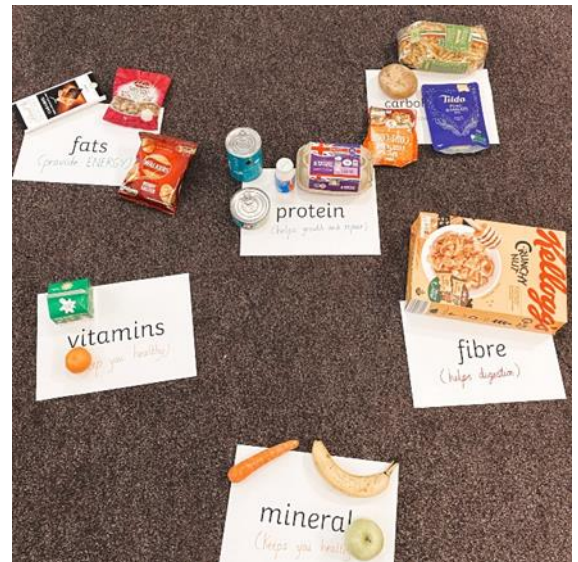
They have produced some fantastic pieces of writing for their own report about the Iron Man stealing local farming machinery. Look how brilliant the presentation of their work is! We are currently working on wanted posters to follow our report about the Iron Man and help the authorities capture this monstrous creature from causing any more damage!

In maths, Year 3 have just completed their topic focusing on money, where they have been learning to add and subtract pounds and pence using a range of different methods. They have really impressed me with their determination to complete money word problems using their knowledge and understanding of £ and p.

In science, Year 3 have been learning about how humans get different nutrients from different food groups...they even helped Miss Smith organise her shopping into the different nutrient groups! Following this, we have enjoyed learning about differences in animal nutrition by comparing animal diets and exploring how we can group animals by the foods they eat. Year 3 demonstrated their understanding of this by creating their very own fact-file on animal nutrition!

In topic, Year 3 have been exploring Stonehenge and discussing why this ancient stone circle is such a significant monument. Ask your child to tell you as many facts about Stonehenge as they can!

Year 3 got crafty last week for Chinese New Year and made their very own tiger mask! As this week was Internet Safety Day, the children have enjoyed using their knowledge of E-Safety to take part in a whole-school art competition. Year 3 had fun bringing their Class Dojo avatar to life for this project and even





## Year 4

We have had a fabulous two weeks at school. The children have been working super hard and they should be very proud of themselves. In English, we have been researching a whole array of weird and wonderful exotic fruits for our non-chronological report writing. We just have to write the published piece and by next week they will adorn the display board in the corridor; if you would like to see your child's fantastic work, please pop in when you drop your child off at school. You will be extremely impressed! In maths, we have worked tirelessly adding and subtracting fractions and we have all mastered the method; some even can solve mixed number fractions - fabulous! In science we carried out an investigation with ice cubes and boiling water to see which would reach room temperature the quickest. We presented our findings in a line graph using a computer program that the children are absolute whizzes at now. In French, we consolidated our understanding of the weather and the children wrote simple sentence about the type of weather it was. In Art, we looked at drawing a mountainous landscape without the aid of a YouTube clip and we are going to assess each other's work! In R.E., Easter came early. We discussed the week prior to Easter Sunday, which is known as Holy Week, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem. The children asked some fabulous questions which will need answering next week. We talked about the Last Supper and then the children enjoyed having a little taste of all the elements from it - parsley, lettuce, apple with cinnamon (should also include nuts and wine), boiled egg, ribs and the firm favourite bitter herbs (horseradish).



## Year 4 Continued.

We continue with our fantastic rugby sessions with Bear from Newcastle Thunder and on Chinese New Year day, the children munching on some prawn crackers and noodles then enjoyed making Chinese lanterns using jars, crepe paper and a tea-light. The children continue to wow me with their continued success in battles against others on Times Table Rockstars and they are all very enthusiastic about the reading challenge and Mr Hodgson has promised us some new books - we can't wait! Another week to go and then a well-deserved break!





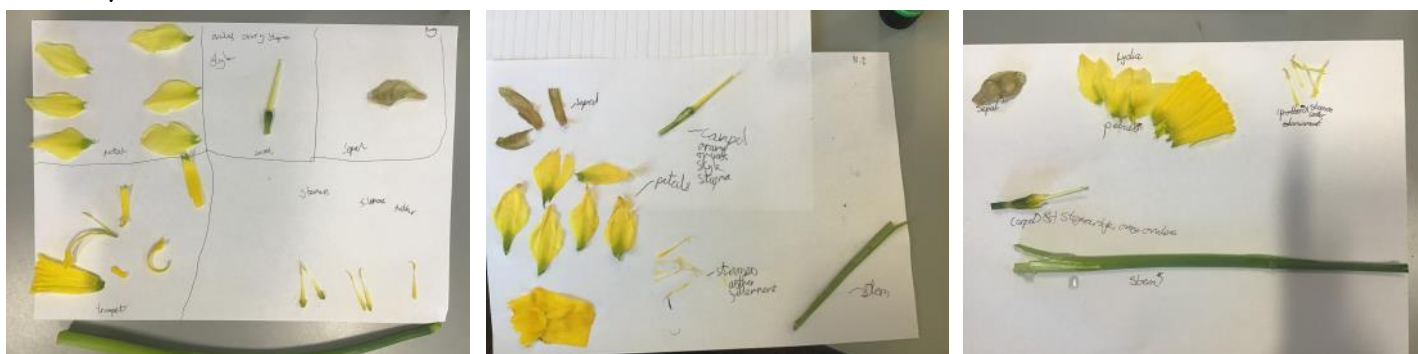
## Year 5

Year 5 have completed a lot of really challenging work over this last fortnight, and have really impressed all of the staff.

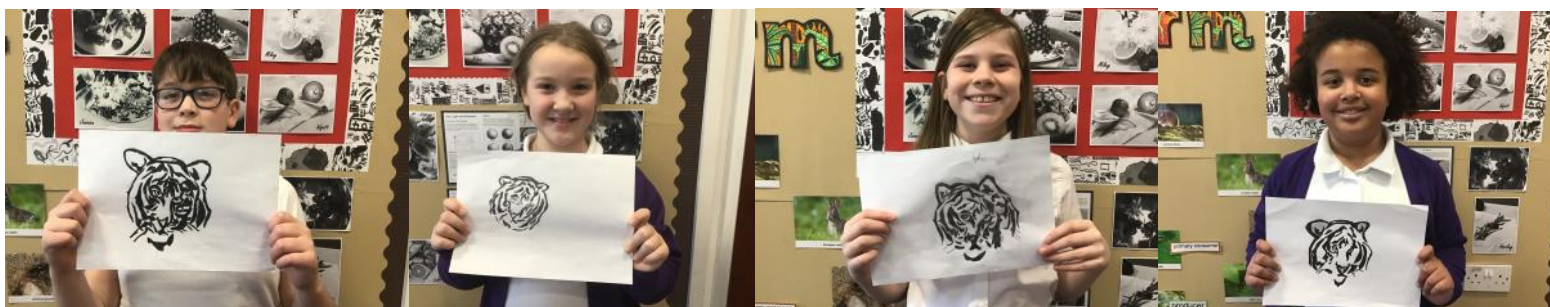
We are beginning to get to grips with fractions now in maths, often using drawings and computer apps to help us visualise what the fractions look like before answering questions. We have just made a start on learning how to calculate with fractions and we are really rising to the challenge!

We have been working hard in English lessons, completing our work on Kensuke's Kingdom with some persuasive letter writing to the Indonesian ambassador about the plight of the orangutans. We have extended our work on Michael Morpurgo as an author, reading extracts from 'Warhorse' and 'Private Peaceful' during whole class reading sessions, and also beginning a new unit of work in English lessons on 'The Giant's Necklace', where we will be working on setting descriptions, learning about personification, similes and metaphors. Mr Fernandes has already been impressed with our turn of phrase!

Recent practical work in science included dissecting daffodils as part of our work on plant life cycles.



We have really been impressing Mrs Richardson with our art skills over the last couple of weeks. As you will have seen on Class Dojo, to celebrate the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Tiger, we followed a tutorial to draw some fantastic tiger faces:



We have also taken some amazing black and white photos, and you can have a close look at all of the children's individual photographs on the Class Dojo 'stories'. We enjoyed thinking about composition, contrast and shape in our pictures.

Our music performance is in the final stages of planning now; we have been learning the parts on different music instruments, we can do the singing parts beautifully and even composed a small section for the instrument part of the performance. Fingers crossed we get it finished in time to record a video before the holidays!

This week is Safer Internet Week, and the class have been discussing the issues in an assembly, as well as taking part in a related art competition and completing computer-based activities on this year's theme, which is 'All Fun and Games? Exploring respect and relationships online.'

## Year 6

These last two weeks we have been learning more about our topic, the polar regions, focusing on the possible impacts of global warming. In English we have finished 'Holes'; the children wrote detailed book reviews on the book, giving their opinions and exploring the main themes of the book. This week they have started reading 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill. The children will be writing a biography of Sir Ernest Shackleton. The children did some exciting art to celebrate the Chinese New Year last week. We discussed the importance of internet safety when the children are online. In science we have been continuing our investigation of circuits and electricity. In PE the children have been out on the field practising their football skills. In RE we continue to explore Sikhism.

From now until the SATs exams in May, the children's timetable has changed slightly to allow more time for a greater focus on English and mathematics in the afternoons in advance of the exams. This will allow the children to achieve their full potential in the SATs.





## Diary Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Break up for February half term	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February
Return to school	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February
World Book Day	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March
The Sword in the Stone Performance	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March
Red Nose Day	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> March
Parents Afternoon	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March
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
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
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
<b>*Year 6 Residential</b>	<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July</b>
Summer Fair	Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>*Sports Day</b>	<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July</b>
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

New/amended events appear in red.

**\*Please note we have changed the date of Sports Day and moved this to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July due to a change in the Year 6 Residential.**