



Ellington Primary School



News Bulletin #8

14th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been great to return to school this week after an unwanted extended Christmas break. It seems as though Covid cases may be beginning to plateau slightly and we may be able to return to normal in the not too distant future. In school we remain cautious and we adopt guidance from Northumberland County Council. We will constantly keep you up to date with any changes that may occur.

The children have settled back into their routines brilliantly and have been a delight. Before Christmas, the staff spent time training for a new English curriculum in school. The aim of this is for the children to develop essential skills to enable them to write confidently and independently in a range of genres. We have also launched a new foundation curriculum from Years 1 to 6 with a variety of new topics for the children to study. We are working on updating the website to reflect the changes. Your child should have a knowledge organiser in their homework folder which will detail some of the essential knowledge that they will need to know in their current topic. Looking over this regularly at home will be very beneficial. We hope that there will be opportunities for parents/carers to come into class this term and look at books with their children.

ClassDojo

We are now using ClassDojo across the school to share whole school news and specific class information. Nearly 70% of families are now connected but if you are not connected, you will receive an email today inviting you to join. The App can be downloaded for free to a mobile/tablet and is a great way to keep in touch and up to date. If you have any problems, please ask your child's class teacher or Mrs Dyer in the school office.

School Lunches

Thank you for your support in ordering school lunches from home. The vast majority of lunches are now ordered from home, however, not all. Please help by ordering lunches from home, the increase in this has already helped staff massively.

After-school clubs

New after school clubs begin from next Monday 17th January. Most clubs were oversubscribed again but we hope to add additional clubs after half term. We will also have additional sports clubs when the weather improves in summer term.

Additional Tuition

This term, we will be offering free additional tuition to some children in school. Further information will be sent home in due course.

PE Kits

Thank you for all of your orders for the school PE kits. We have just taken arrival of the kits and will distribute these early next week.

PE

This half term we have additional PE lessons for Years 1, 2, 3 and 4. Years 1 and 2 will have dance lessons on a Monday afternoon with a dance instructor. Years 3 and 4 will have rugby coaching with Newcastle Thunder on a Friday afternoon.

Years 1 and 2 can come to school in their PE kits on a Monday and Thursday for their PE lessons.

Years 3 and 4 should come into school in their PE kit on a Tuesday for their PE lesson but wear uniform and bring in a rugby kit to change into on a Friday.

Year 5 are continuing to go swimming this half term and this will switch to Year 4 after half term.

Reception, Year 5 and Year 6 will also have opportunities for additional PE lessons and specific sports coaching as the year progresses.

Future events

Below you will see some important dates for the remainder of the academic year. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to do many events that we had hoped to do in Autumn term. Going forward, we hope that we will be able to hold a number of events in school to share with parents/carers such as:

- Stay and play with our Early Years children
- Stay and Share with KS1/2 children
- Open lessons
- Class Assemblies
- Achievement Assemblies
- Themed weeks/Enrichment events
- Plays/Shows
- Sports Week and Sports Day
- PTA events

We also hope to ensure that each class experiences a school trip once every term.

Best Wishes,

Mr Hodgson
Headteacher

Class News!

Nursery

Happy New Year! It has been so lovely to see the children and hear about their Christmas holidays. It sounds like they have all enjoyed their time with their families and have been spoilt off Santa! We also welcomed some new friends to afternoon nursery and I am so pleased with how well they have settled and how welcoming our current children have been.

Since we have returned we have been reading the story 'The Gruffalo's Child' by Julia Donaldson (she is fast becoming one of our favourite authors). Last week we thought about the changing season and how winter is now here. We discuss signs of winter including what we wear now it's super cold outside and we went to look for these signs around our school grounds. We found lots of trees with no leaves, some trees that keep their leaves all year round, some holly, lots of ice, and some berries. We were even lucky enough to get some snow on the day too! We melted some ice in our classroom to explore how it changes. The children worked so well together, I am so proud of them!

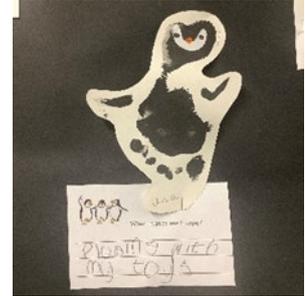
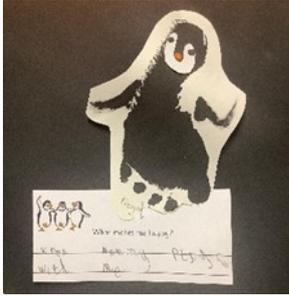
This week we have been thinking more about the characters in our story. We had a go at describing The Gruffalo's Child through some shared writing, where the children contributed some wonderful ideas. We have also discussed whether the characters are brave or not brave and to help us talked about times when we have been brave, lots of us talked about falling over or riding our bikes and scooters.

In maths we have been looking at 2D shapes, including squares, circles, triangles, rectangles and ovals. The children were amazing at explaining how they knew the names of the shapes by counting the number of sides and/or corners. We have also been learning lots of number songs to help us count backwards from 5. We love 5 current buns but our favourite has to be 5 little monkeys! Perhaps you could have a go at singing some number songs at home.



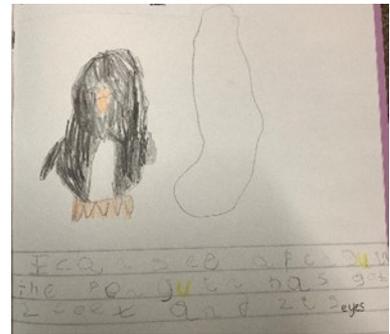
Reception

Reception have had a busy two weeks back at school after the Christmas holidays. In PSHE with Mrs Vardy the children wished each other a Happy New Year and then talked about what makes us feel happy. Our footprints were then made into happy penguins for our display. We have also loved dancing to the 'Happy' song from 'Happy Feet'



Our new topic for this half term is 'Amazing Animals' where we will be exploring Artic animals and dinosaurs. In our outside yard we found a box with some snow around it addressed to Ellington Primary School Reception. Inside the box was a penguin. We were all very confused at how the penguin got to our school. When we went back into the classroom there was a story called Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers. Miss Robinson started to read the first couple of pages to see if we could solve the mystery. The story started by telling us that there once was a boy and one day a penguin arrives on his doorstep. The boy decides the penguin must be lost and tries to return him.

Is this why the penguin has arrived at our school? We had a class discussion about penguins and what we already know about them. In Literacy we followed step by step instructions to create our own penguin and then wrote a description. Miss Robinson was super impressed with the children for their amazing writing!



We also did some observational paintings of penguins.

In maths we have been looking at ways to represent zero by comparing it to other numbers. We have also been looking at composition of numbers to 5.



Year 1

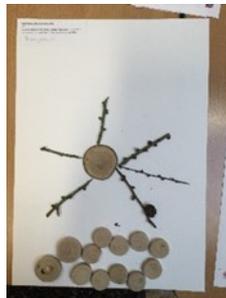
Year 1 have returned to school with lots of enthusiasm. They were very keen to help Mr. Robinson the caretaker when he told them about something interesting in the wildlife garden! Some strange mounds of earth had appeared so we set off to investigate. The class quickly worked out that they were mole holes. When we returned to our class we looked on the camera and saw a small mole.

The next day Morris the mole arrived at school. We have decided to find out information about moles to make a fact file to send to Stewart the wildlife expert. We listened carefully to the BBC Teach video all about moles and were very keen to find out more. We have been asking and answering questions about moles. We enjoyed reading about them. See if we can tell you some facts about moles.



We really liked the story Mrs. Mole I'm Home by Jarvis. We have looked at speech bubbles, found out about contractions and looked at using apostrophes for missing letters. We have been wearing mole costumes and acting out the story of Morris and his journey home. We have sequenced the story and have started to look at adding time conjunctions to our plan. We predicted which character Mr. Mole would meet next. We have brought home a story sequence to help us to learn to tell the story. Please can you help us to learn it for next week?

In our artwork, this week we have been learning about line, shape and pattern. We also looked at weather symbols and created our own transient art pictures to go with our topic rain and sunrays. We made our own images using natural resources. We thought it would be a great idea to design a spare pair of glasses for Morris so we have put that on the plan for next week.



Our geography topic is Bright Lights Big City. We were very interested to find out about the Queen and the role of a monarch. One child made us smile when he told us that the Queen sat on her throne knitting all day! We also looked at a map of the UK and talked about the different countries we could see.

Year 1 Cont.

In our Maths lessons, we have been continuing to learn about counting on and have enjoyed playing games with dominoes and dice. We are working hard to learn to count in 5's and have been very enthusiastic with our Super Movers counting song and routine.

We have brought home some Knowledge Organisers in our homework folders so that we can share what we are learning about with our families at home.

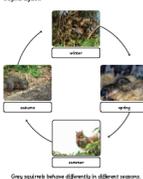
Seasonal Changes

Seasons
There are four seasons in the United Kingdom. These are winter, spring, summer and autumn.

Trees
There are two main types of trees. Deciduous trees have leaves that change colour and fall from the trees in autumn and winter. Evergreen trees shed old leaves and grow new leaves all year round. This means that they keep their leaves in winter.



Animals through the seasons
The temperature and the hours of daylight in each season affect how animals behave.
In spring, many animals give birth to young or lay eggs.
In summer, young animals grow and learn how to find food.
In autumn, animals prepare for winter or migrate.
In winter, some animals spend more time in their nests or hibernata until spring. Then the cycle begins again.



The Sun
The Sun gives Earth heat and light. People need sunlight to make vitamin D, which keeps our bones healthy. However, we must protect ourselves from too much sunlight because it can damage our skin.



The Sun and the seasons
The Earth travels around the Sun once every year. This journey makes the seasons.



Bright Lights, Big City

United Kingdom
The United Kingdom is in Europe. It is made up of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The capital city of the United Kingdom is London.



Physical features
The landscape of the United Kingdom has many different physical features.



London
As well as being the capital city of the United Kingdom, London is also the capital city of England. It is the largest city in the United Kingdom. There are eight million people live in London. The River Thames is the main river that runs through the city. Other rivers include the River Lea and the River Great Ouse.

Landmarks
A landmark is a feature, such as a building, that can be seen from far away. A landmark can help you to identify your location. London has many famous landmarks.



Weather
The United Kingdom has four seasons. There are spring, summer, autumn and winter. The weather can be very warm and sunny in the summer. In the winter, the weather can be cold and rainy. There can also be lots of snow in winter.

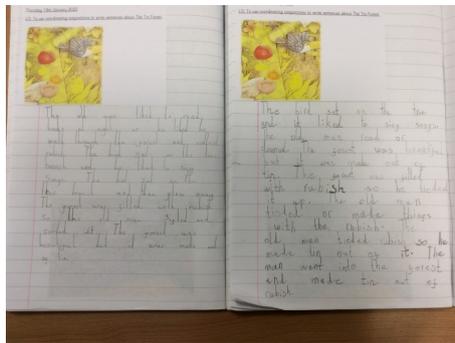
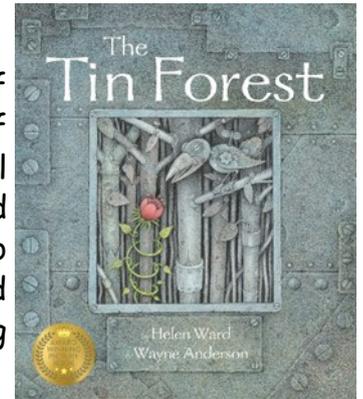


We are really looking forward to our P.E lessons this half term and start an extra dance lessons next Monday. Thank you for your excellent support.

Year 2

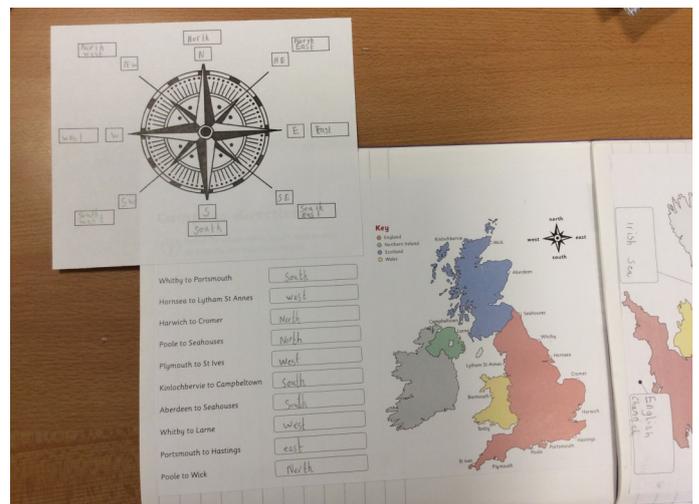
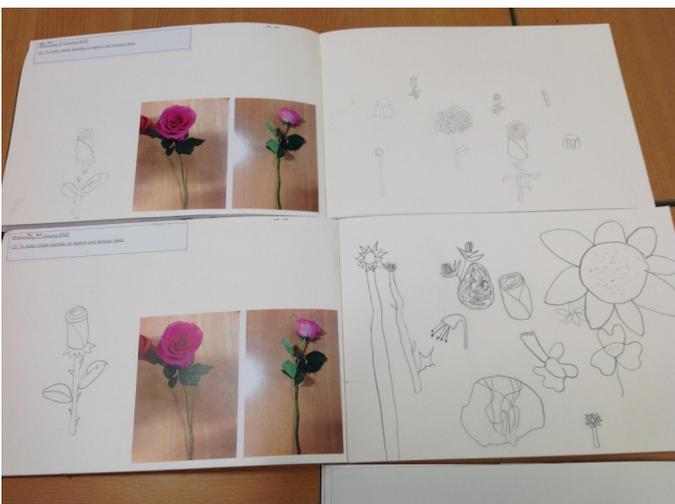
Welcome back and Happy New Year! It was lovely to see so many happy faces back on Wednesday. Year 2 have settled back in well and have impressed me with their hard work as always.

In English, we have started our new class book *The Tin Forest*. We were very intrigued by the red flower and why the rest of the book was grey. Year 2 have enjoyed reading the beginning of the story and learning about the old man that lives in a small house that looks out onto...rubbish! Children have immersed themselves in the book and experienced what it would be like to look out on a load of junk! Children have written expanded noun phrases to describe the classroom debris and used coordinating conjunctions to extend their sentences this week.



In maths, we have revised and consolidated our previous learning on money and have now begun to explore multiplication. We have looked at equal groups and have had some practical hands on experience of making and adding equal groups. Year 2 enjoyed using a range of manipulatives to create and represent equal groups, they have also used dice to challenge their partners to match the number sentence to the pictorial representation.

We have begun studying our new Flower topic in art, and Year 2 really impressed both Mrs Mallaburn and myself with their concentration and eye for detail with their observational sketches. In science we have been exploring materials and their properties. Year 2 worked hard to find out how the shapes of solid objects can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching! Finally, we have finished off this week with some excellent compass skills and map work! We are really looking forward to delving deeper into our new 'Coastline' topic!



Year 3

In Year 3, we have started our new science topic: Skeletal and Muscular Systems. We have been exploring the role of the skeleton and we have learned the scientific names of the main bones in the human body (ask your child to name them!). We all participated in a team challenge where we had to reconstruct a skeleton model and label all of its bones - the fastest team were the proud winners!



In English, we have been exploring our new class text - *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. We have been producing some excellent writing using our knowledge of imperative verbs to help us write clear instructions about how to reassemble the Iron Man after his nasty fall. In maths, we have been learning how to multiply 2 digit numbers by 1 digit numbers using mental and written strategies.

In music, we have been learning about beats and rhythms. Using this music theory, we were able to use crotchets and quavers to write our very own piece of music. We even got the chance to perform our 4-beat rhythms on a ukulele!



Year 4

What a busy week! We seem to be cramming in lots of lovely learning. In English, we have started reading a wonderful book called *The Boy who Grew Dragons* by Andy Shepherd whereby a little boy finds a dragon fruit and you guessed it, a dragon hatches from it. We looked at a range of weird and wonderful fruits; unfortunately there were no dragon fruits to be had in any local supermarket but I did find jack fruit - what a mixed reaction! Umm to YUK! We are basing our writing on the book and this week we have written a diary entry that must include a range of figurative vocabulary and be laden with emotive language. In maths, we've been reading a range of scales and switching between units of measurement - quite tricky.

Science brought squeals of delight as we found out whether gas weighed anything. The experiment entailed everyone shaking cans of pop, weighing it and then if they'd tapped it correctly then opening it without it fizzing everywhere.



We have a fabulous new topic, *Misty Mountains, Winding Rivers*. We have learnt the technical vocabulary for all things relating to rivers such as meanders, tributaries and interlocking spurs. In French, we recapped on being able to name body parts and classroom equipment. In Art, we followed a step by step guide on how to draw a mountain and lake landscape; as you will see from the photos, they were a huge success that the children were very proud of. In RE, we learnt about the Parable of the Sower and rather than writing about it, we made a few disciples and acted out the story and we rounded off the week with our new music lessons - cornets.



The children were thrilled when they were able to get a sound out of their cornet. The children should be very proud of themselves as they have worked tirelessly this week.

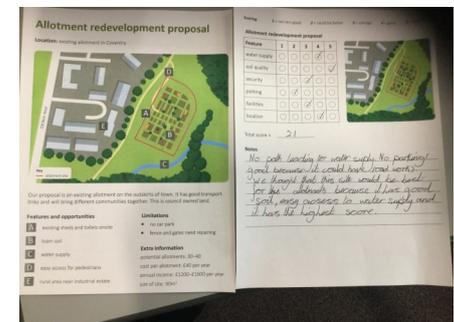
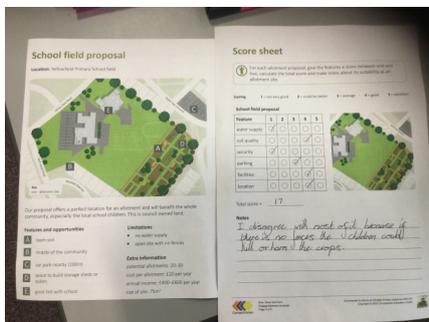


Year 5

Happy new year!

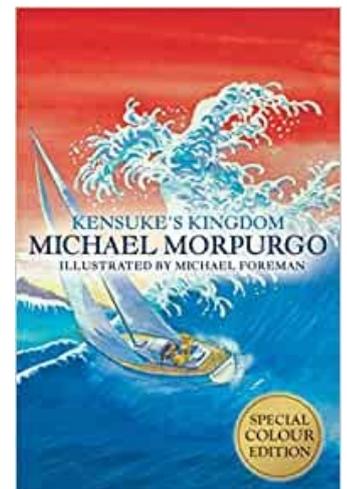
It has been great to get off to a good start in year 5 after the Christmas break, and we have got straight into our new topic for this term, which is called 'Sow, Grow and Farm'.

As an introduction to the topic, we worked in groups to assess plans for new allotments. We showed excellent cooperative teamwork skills to look at the advantages and disadvantages of different sites.



Linked with this work, we have been learning about food webs in science and tasting fruit and vegetables in preparation for work on seasonal food in DT lessons (with mixed results!) We are also starting to work on skills in art in using line, light and shadows in drawing work, and in a few weeks we hope to have some fantastic pictures of fruit, vegetables and flowers to share, showcasing these new skills.

In English lessons we have started a new book, 'Kensuke's Kingdom' which we are really enjoying.



In maths, we working on formal methods for multiplying, and have just started learning the method for long multiplication. We are showing a lot of perseverance as this method has so many steps, and showing a lot of pride when we have mastered it.

Swimming continues to go well in PE lessons and we have been excited to start exploring some physical programming kit in computing lessons called 'Crumbles'. Keep an eye on future newsletters to see what we are able to create with this kit!

Year 6

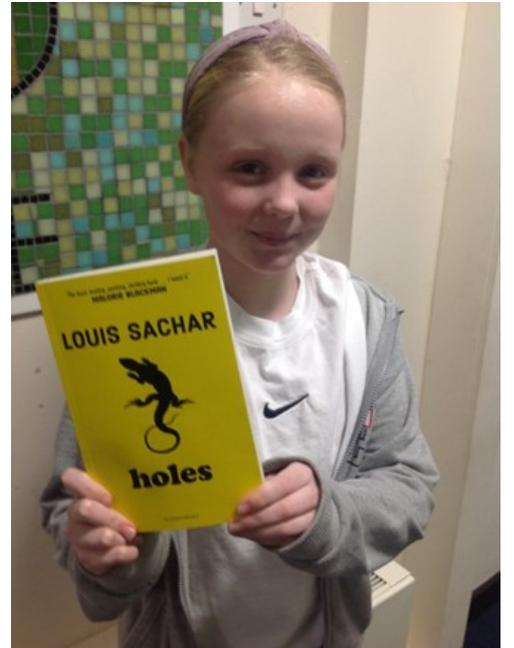
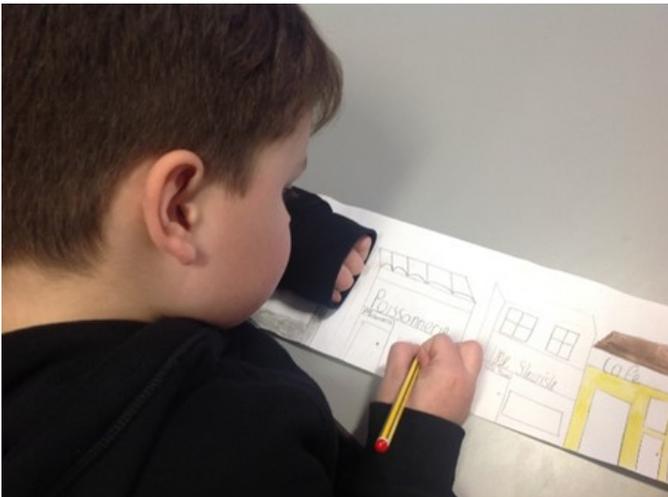
The children have settled in well after the Christmas break. We have started a new topic: Frozen Kingdoms. We will be studying the climate, topography and wildlife of the polar regions. This week, we were looking at the similarities and differences between the Arctic and the Antarctic. If parents are able to, it would be very helpful to allow the children to watch the BBC series 'The Frozen Planet', which was first broadcast a few years ago. We will not have time in class to watch more than a few short clips from the series.

In literacy, we have started a new book, Holes, by Louis Sachar. It's a much-admired tale set in a juvenile correctional facility in Texas. The children seem to be enjoying it.

In maths, the children have been doing really well dividing fractions using the KFC method (ask them to demonstrate it to you if you like).

In French, we are studying shops and shopping, looking at the names of different shops.

In PE the children have started doing dance with Mr Robertson.



Diary Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Break up for February half term	Friday 18 th February
Return to school	Monday 28 th February
World Book Day	Thursday 3 rd March
Red Nose Day	Friday 18 th March
Parents Afternoon	Wednesday 23 rd March
Break up for Easter Holidays	Friday 8 th April
Return to school	Monday 25 th April
KS2 (Year 6) SATS	Monday 9 th - Thursday 12 th May
Break up for May half term	Friday 27 th May
Additional Bank Holiday due to Queens Jubilee	Monday 6 th June
Return to school	Tuesday 7 th June
Year 4 Multiplication Tests	WB Tuesday 7 th June
Year 6 Residential	Wednesday 15 th - Friday 17 th June
Year 4 Residential	Wednesday 22 nd - Friday 24 th June
Sports Week	Monday 27 th June - Friday 1 st July
Sports Day	Monday 4 th July
End of Year Reports	Friday 15 th July
Year 6 Leavers Assembly	Wednesday 20 th July
Break up for summer	Friday 22 nd July

Please note that we will be adding many more events to the calendar over the coming weeks and months.

Parking

As you will be aware, parking around school is very difficult in the morning and at home time. Please be a considerate parker and do not park blocking resident's drives, on the corner of junctions, on the yellow markings outside of school or on the keep clear writing.

If you can walk to school, we would encourage you to do as much as possible. If you travel by car, parking slightly further away from school and walking for a few minutes would massively help.

We will be reintroducing wheels to school on a permanent basis when the mornings and evenings become lighter and the weather improves.

