



Ellington Primary School



News Bulletin #5

@Ellingtontweets

19th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now well into the second half of the Autumn term with the weather getting colder and the mornings darker! The children have enjoyed a busy few weeks with different events happening in school.

We had a visit from Pegswood Fire Brigade who spoke to the children about fire safety, particularly the dangers of fireworks and bonfires, and the children all had a close look at the fire engine.

Today, the children have enjoyed wearing something spotty or Pudsey related and have raised a grand total of over £200 for Children in Need. Thank you!



Christmas Activities

Unfortunately, due to the current Covid-19 guidance for schools, we will be unable to have Christmas nativities this year. I appreciate this will be disappointing for you as Christmas is such a special time for children and seeing your children in nativities is such a memorable experience. We will however, be having Christmas parties for each class and also holding a whole school carol service outside on the last day of term. (All dates for upcoming activities are always at the end of the news bulletin)

The PTA had planned to hold a Christmas Fair this year and had some fantastic ideas. However, even though this is not possible, they are still running a Christmas raffle. This isn't your usual school Christmas raffle though; the prizes are as follows:

1st Prize: £1000!

2nd Prize: £250 Amazon Voucher

3rd Prize: £100 Asda Voucher

There will also be some Christmas hampers for prizes.



Tickets will cost £2 each and each child in school will bring home two books of 5 tickets tonight, to sell. All profits raised by the PTA go back into school to support all children.

Please can all stubs, cash and unsold books be returned to school by Monday 13th December as the draw will take place on Thursday 16th December.

Changing the school day to finish at 3.15pm

From September 2021, the school day began at 9am and finished at 3pm, with play times and lunch breaks, this meant the children had the following teaching time in school:

<u>Year Groups</u>	<u>Teaching hours per day</u>	<u>Weekly Total</u>
Reception	4 hours 25 mins	22 hours
Key Stage One	4 hours 35 mins	22 hours 50 minutes
Lower Key Stage Two	5 hours 5 mins	25 hours 25 minutes
Upper Key Stage Two	5 hours 15 minutes	26 hours 15 minutes

After three weeks we decided to open the doors at 8:50 each morning with registration moving to 8.55. This has allowed an extra 25 minutes of teaching time per week.

From January, we will be extending the school day so it finishes at 3:15pm.

By extending the day to 3:15pm and starting the day at 8:55am, along with a slight change to dinner times, teaching time in school will be:

<u>Year Groups</u>	<u>Teaching Hours per day</u>	<u>Weekly Total</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Reception	4 hours 55 mins	24 hours 35 minutes	2 hours 35 minutes
Key Stage One	5 hours 15 mins	26 hours 15 minutes	3 hours 25 minutes
Lower Key Stage Two	5 hours 25 mins	27 hours 05 minutes	1 hour 40 minutes
Upper Key Stage Two	5 hours 35 minutes	27 hours 55 minutes	1 hour 40 minutes

Nursery hours

Nursery sessions will remain at 3 hours per session but the timings will be slightly different. Morning Nursery will run from 8.45am - 11.45am. Afternoon Nursery will run from 12.15pm - 3.15pm.

Extra-curricular clubs

A new selection of after school clubs will begin in January 2022, running from 3.15pm until 4.15pm.

Any changes to wraparound care will be shared in the next few weeks.

Reception Class 2022

You can now apply for a place in Reception for September 2022. Please call the school office for more information.

Nursery Parent Consultations

On Monday 22nd November, there are parent consultations for Nursery. If you haven't already booked an appointment, please do so by calling the school office.

Assembly Awards

Every Friday we have an achievement assembly. In assembly each teacher selects children for certificates for Star Writer, Star Reader, Star Mathematician and Star of the Week.

Some rewards have already been established but going forward the children will be rewarded in the following ways:

Star Writers will sit at the 'top table' each Friday during lunch time, with me unfortunately!

Star Readers will have 'hot chocolate with the head'.

Star Mathematicians will take home a class trophy to show off, but return the following week.

Stars of the Week get the 'best seats in the house' in assembly, where they can sit at the front, watch assembly and have some treats!

Head Teacher's Award: Each week, I recognise one or two children who have gone above and beyond. They get a dip in the prize pot.

From today, the winners of the certificates will be shown on the school website.



TT Rockstars/Times tables

We continue to have a big focus on times tables in school. All children should be regularly practising their times tables. They play a huge part in a child's mathematical development.

In school, we are having weekly 'battles' between classes. The class who win the most battles over the course of the year, will be rewarded with a trip out of school, however, all children in that class must contribute. The great thing with times tables is that the children can spend just two or three minutes a day working on these. They can complete a section in their times tables book or complete a quick game online with TT Rockstars. They might even just recite their tables when walking to school. It all helps!

School Lunches

I know that I keep repeating this message but can I once again ask for your support in ordering your child's school lunch at home?

From January 2022, we will stop taking lunch orders in school for children and all meals must be ordered from home. Children who haven't ordered a meal at home must bring in a packed lunch.



Parent Class Meetings

Thank you so much to the parents that came to our parent class meetings. The teachers worked incredibly hard to prepare for these meetings in their own time and we hope that you found these useful. The presentations from the class teachers are all on the school website in the class pages.

Unfortunately, some of the classes had very few parents attend. Years 3, 5 and 6 had extremely low numbers at the meetings. In order to be a successful school, it is essential that school and parents/carers work together. We aim to run lots of events during the year and we need to work together for the benefit of the children.

Feedback from the questionnaires handed out has been greatly received and all comments appreciated. The school cook, Mrs Emery, is fantastic and is happy to adapt/change the lunches on offer. Updates regarding changes to school dinners will be in the next news bulletin.

Anti-bullying week

This week has been anti-bullying week where the focus has been on 'One Kind Word'. We have explored the impact of saying just one kind word and thought carefully about how we treat others. We have also discussed the fact that it isn't just Anti-bullying week, bullying isn't acceptable or tolerated ever.

Best Wishes,

Mr Hodgson
Headteacher



#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

Class News!

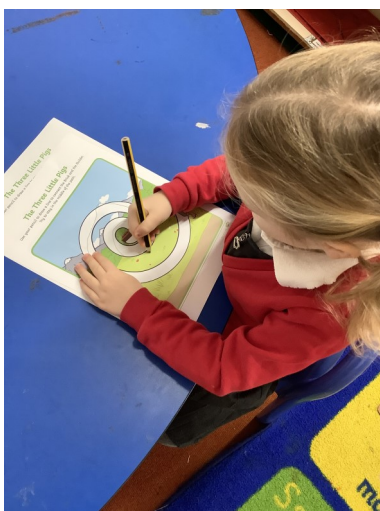
Nursery

What a busy time we have had in Nursery lately! The children have enjoyed starting our new topic 'Tell Me a Story' where we will be looking at a range of traditional tales and nursery rhymes. Over the last two weeks we have been doing lots of work based on the story of the Three Little Pigs. We loved listening to the story and particularly enjoyed the part where the Big Bad Wolf burnt his bottom coming down the chimney! We have made pig biscuits, made pigs with some homemade pink playdough, retold the story using a story map and decorated some houses using the materials that the Three Little Pigs use in the story, we loved using the straw but our classroom was in such a big mess afterwards! Luckily we are super at tidying in Nursery so we all lent a hand to get it all picked up.

In maths we have continued our work on recognising numerals to 5 and working hard to match quantities without counting first! We have also been thinking about ordinal numbers and how they tell us the order of events, just like in the story of the Three Little Pigs.

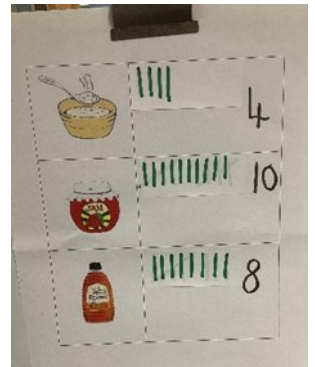
In PE we have continued our work in gymnastics. We have been practising our gym walk and gym sit and even showed off our forward rolls!

Please check our School360 learning journals to see regular updates of what your child has been up to!

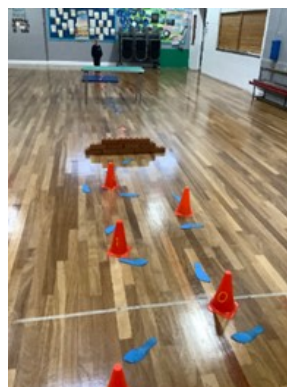


Reception

We have started a new topic called 'Tell Me a Story' this half term. 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 used character masks to retell the story. On Monday, when we got back from playtime there was a note on our board telling us to go to the Studio. When we got to the Studio there was a letter, 3 bowls, porridge, jam and honey. The letter was from daddy bear and it said that he left us some porridge to try and we could pick which topping we wanted. We made a chart to see which was the favourite topping. In the letter it asked us to write a description of the porridge. We did some fantastic writing!



In Maths we have been learning about an artist called Wassily Kandinsky. Kandinsky used many different colours in his work and especially used triangles and circles. After looking at his work we then created our own Kandinsky style artwork. We also made an obstacle course and had to safely complete the course whilst using positional language such as through, under, over and around. We have been looking at different ways to represent numbers 4 and 5 with objects from our classroom.



Year 1

Year One have been very busy working hard. We have really been enjoying our new story

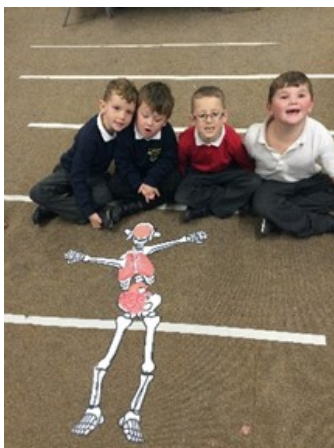
The Robot and The Bluebird. We have enjoyed drama, music and dance lessons based on the story. We made thought bubbles to describe how poor Robot was feeling. We have been finding out about how he has a broken heart. Esmae brought a new heart for the robot. We found his friend in the wildlife garden and the children have been finding out about bluebirds. We looked at how we can help the birds over winter. We decided to make new bird boxes and Mr. Robinson the caretaker is going to help us to make some more for the school grounds. The kits were kindly donated and we are looking forward to making them. We have also had some great news. Tesco have responded to an appeal from Mrs. Pirie through school and we have now been given £500 pounds to spend on our wildlife garden.



The children have enjoyed finding out about 3D and 2D shapes in maths. We have labelled shapes and found out about their properties. We are looking forward to make models with them and testing which shapes roll and which slide.

Our science focus has been finding out about animals and humans. We are looking at how they adapt to the change in seasons. We were very good at identifying which animals hibernate and which animals migrate.

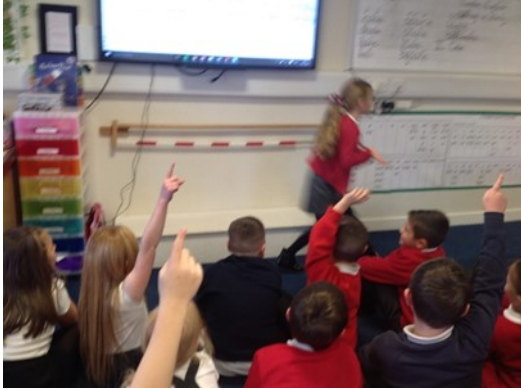
We have also been continuing our work about the human body. We labelled pictures of the parts of the body and enjoyed trying to put the skeleton together as a challenge. We had some interesting ideas.



Year 2

In English, we have started our new class book *The Tear Thief* and we are loving it! The book has already brought curiosity and wonder to our classroom. The ending of the book made us feel a little sad for a certain character, which led us to having a great discussion about the feeling of 'empathy'. Zak made a wonderful comment, *'if the book makes you cry it must be good!'*

Children have produced amazing work so far. We used 'role on the wall' to create a word bank of effective vocabulary and have learnt more about adverbs. The children had a fantastic time playing charades to guess the adverb for the action!



In maths, we have been continuing to work on our addition and subtraction skills using a range of different methods. We are continuing to practise the column methods and applying what we have learnt to solve tricky word problems. Year 2 are trying really hard with their times tables, we are practising daily in school and I can see many are accessing TTrackstars and loving it at home now too!

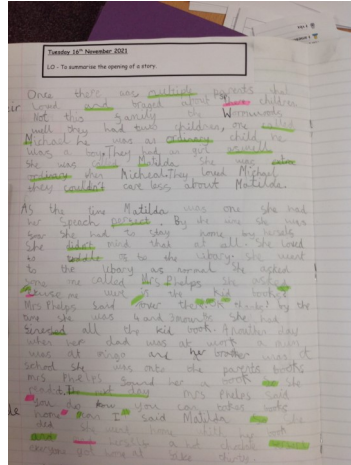
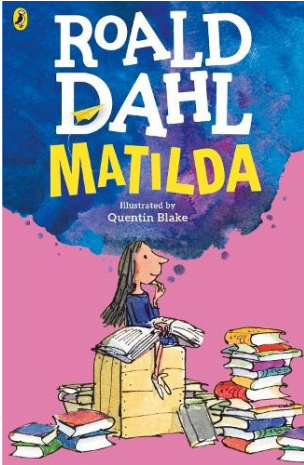


In art, we have been looking at primary and secondary colours. We used our knowledge of colours and shades to paint a 'fiery' background which we will then build upon to create a silhouette picture of *The Great Fire of London*. Children have also worked hard on their sketching techniques and have produced fantastic sketches of London buildings.



Year 3

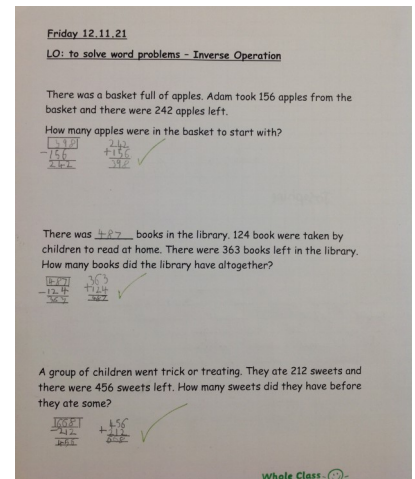
We began this week with Odd Sock Day for anti-bullying week in school. The children have had an anti-bullying assembly and have also taken part in activities linked with this throughout the week.



In English we have moved onto our new class book: Matilda, which we will be studying for the remainder of the term. The children have been learning some key reading skills, drawing inference, summarising and reading play scripts which will be our main focus during this term.

We finished our topic on the inverse operation for addition and subtraction last week. The children have been working hard on using the inverse operation to work out missing number problems. They have also used this method to answer problem solving questions.

In maths we have now moved onto Statistics. We have started this week looking at interpreting data from pictograms and have made our own pictograms using given data. We have also created our own bar charts on paper and on an online computing programme during our computing session. We are using different scales as well as understanding and interpreting data from these charts.



We have continued our study of Rocks in science and this week carried out an investigation to categorise different rocks into Igneous, Sedimentary and Metamorphic. Please ask your child about these groups and how each type of rock is formed.



Thank you so much for your support at home for our 2 week reading challenge. The children have enjoyed sharing what they have read and shown a love for reading. Please continue reading at home as much as possible.

Year 4

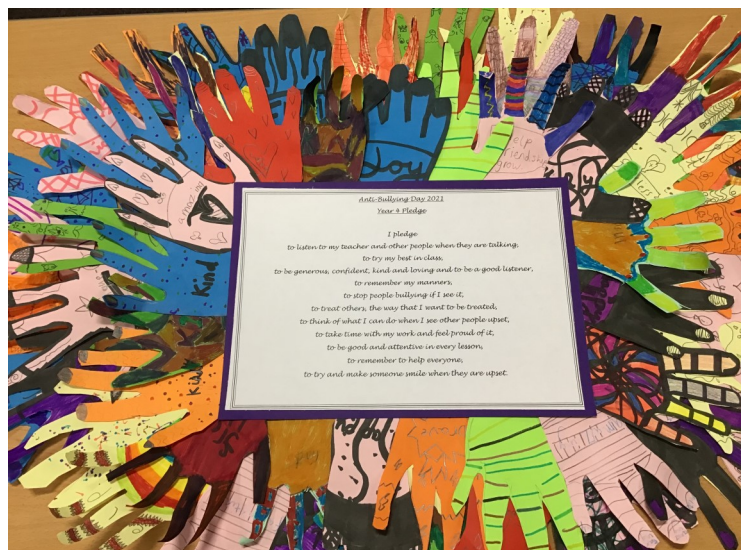
What a busy two weeks we have had! Last week in English, we were researching some amazing facts for our Viking non-chronological reports; which Mrs Rusby was super impressed with. This week we have been editing pieces of text by correcting the spelling and punctuation, together with adding some fabulous vocabulary, for example - tumultuous, roused, sauntered, gargantuan and resplendent - yes I know - WOW! In maths, we have worked jolly hard on measuring angles; protractors are tricky little tinkers! In science, we have been learning that sound is made by vibrations. Picture the scene; twenty nine children with their fingers on their throats saying "Aaaahhhhhh!" We did have great fun trying to make a wooden harmonica though.



In French, we have learnt the names of some animals and foods. Our Viking topic work has had us looking at what the Vikings wore and ate which helped with our non-chronological reports. In RE, we have been blown away again by the story of Moses and the ten plagues; the children couldn't decide if getting boils was worse than millions of locusts eating all the food. For Diwali day, we had brilliant fun making Diwali lantern and learning about the story of Rama and Sita which Diwali celebrates.



For anti-bullying week, we have made a pledge which not only looks at how we can stop bullying and helping those that feel they are being bullied, but also our attitude to school learning. You can see from the photo that the children had some wonderful ideas and then they drew around their hands to decorate and chose one of the words that really spoke to them - kindness, caring, sharing, being brave are just a few. We also watched a short video clip about a creature being bullied by some horrid crows; we googled our own strange creature and wrote a story based on that. Once they are finished, we'll pop a few on the next newsletter. What a fabulous and industrious two weeks!



Year 5

Year 5 have continued to work hard and are embracing the wide variety of lessons that take place through the week. A definite highlight is our weekly rugby slot with coach Bear - we are learning all sorts of key skills for team games through the fun games he plays with us and have learnt so much already.

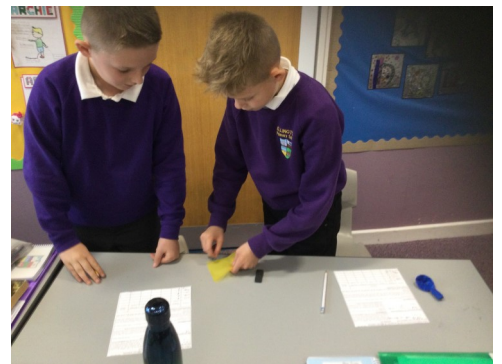
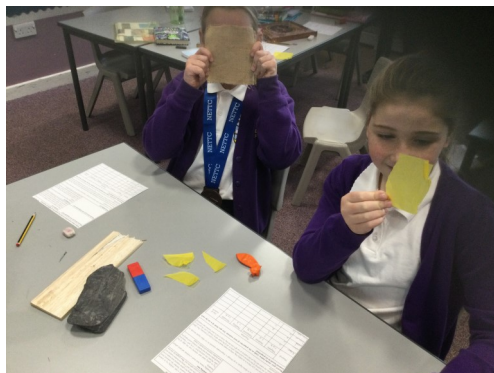


Swimming has also got off to a great start and we will no doubt make a huge amount of progress over the next two half terms of swimming lessons.

In English lessons, our work on 'Anglo Saxon Boy' is continuing but we had a break from this book on Remembrance Day, when we learnt about the HMS Hood and wrote recounts, letters and poems afterwards. In topic our Saxon work is continuing, and we enjoyed learning about Anglo Saxon crime and punishment.

In maths we have moved onto a unit of work on multiplication and division. Later in the year, we will focus on formal written methods for multiplication and division, but over the next couple of weeks we are working on our general understanding of multiplication and division by learning about factors and multiples, square and cube numbers, and using place value knowledge to help us multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000.

We have been enjoying practical work in science, where we have tested the properties of various materials, as shown in these pictures:



Cornet lessons are still going well, and we are now playing proper melodies together. Hopefully we will soon be ready to share a video with you! In computing lessons we are using a variety of online tools to help us create effective posters and make our own vector drawings; so many new skills to grasp! In French, we are becoming more confident asking and answering questions about ourselves and Mrs Richardson is so impressed by how willing we are to have a go at tricky French pronunciation.

Year 6

Year Six have been continuing our study of the circulatory system in science, focussing on how the bloodstream absorbs water and nutrients from the food we eat. In topic, we have continued to study the Battle of Britain, and looked at one particular event when a German bomber was rammed by a very brave pilot to prevent it bombing Buckingham Palace. On the 11th November we learned about the story of Percy Burton, a very brave pilot killed as he downed a German Messerschmitt. In PE, under the guidance of Mr Robertson, the children have been forming shapes with their bodies in gymnastics (pictures below). They have also started rugby coaching, with a professional rugby coach from Newcastle Falcons.

In literacy, having finished 'Goodnight Mr Tom', we have now moved on to another great children's book set in wartime Britain: 'The Machine Gunners' by Robert Westall. The last two Fridays have been test days: we did a mock reading comprehension test, and a mock SPAG test. The children's scores mostly showed very satisfying improvement, with most children in increasingly good shape for next year's SATs tests in May.



Cookery Club

Whisks were at the ready on week two for these budding cooks as they whisked the death out of some angel delight. Angel delight I hear you say, but once it had been combined with bananas, whipped cream, chocolate brownies and toffee and chocolate sauce it was a Banana Bonanza of delight. Lots of happy children left the classroom eager to get home to dig in.



Week three had everyone chopping with sharp knives! Crudites were prepared and beautifully presented on a silver platter (!) then onto Cucumber Raita and Creamy Jalapeno Dips. There was much grating then squeezing for the raita and a whole combination of ingredients were chopped, grated and mixed for the Jalapeno Dip. These were presented in decorative containers (plastic cups!) then carefully placed on the silver platters which were then adorned with tortilla crisps. The smell of freshly cut vegetables and coriander had the classroom smelling divine - classroom however, did not look divine! Having checked with some of the children the next day, they all had thoroughly enjoyed eating everything! What could be in store for next week...



Diary Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Christmas Jumper Day	Friday 10 th December
EYFS Parties	Monday 13 th December
Christmas Dinner	Tuesday 14 th December
Years 1 and 2 Christmas Parties	Tuesday 14 th December
Years 3 and 4 Christmas Parties	Wednesday 15 th December
Years 5 and 6 Christmas Parties	Thursday 16 th December
Whole school Carol Service (Including Nursery)	2pm - Friday 17 th December
Break up for Christmas	Friday 17 th December
Return to school	Wednesday 5 th January