



Ellington Primary School



News Bulletin #14

6th May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had a fantastic Easter break and enjoyed the bank holiday weekend. We have a short but busy half term with lots going on! Although it doesn't feel like Spring, I hope the weather improves and we can have the children outside lots over this term. Nursery and Reception had a fantastic trip to Whitehouse Farm last week! All classes across school will have a trip during summer term and our aim going forward is for every class in school to have one trip per term.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Family Picnic

In collaboration with the PTA, we would like to invite you all to a family picnic on the afternoon of Friday 27th May to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We are hoping for good weather which will allow us to all celebrate outdoors together with a variety of activities. All families are invited to attend with their own picnic. We will have face painting, cake, sweets and ice cream stalls. Dress code is anything related to the Union Jack! More details will be shared in the coming weeks, but please save the date. We hope it will be a great way to end the half term. Please note, this is 'just' a picnic and we intend on having a summer fair in July.



Wheels to School

In Autumn term, we had some successful weeks with the wheels to school initiative. In order to support with the traffic congestion, (and because it's fun for the children!) we will be re-introducing this starting from next week, Monday 9th May. With the weather improving, the children all have access to the school field at break times. So, we will allow the children to use scooters or bikes on the yards, ONLY if they bring a helmet. We would like the children to travel to school on foot or wheels every day if possible but we will need to rotate classes using the yards. The children can use bikes or scooters on the following days on the school yards:

Monday - Early Years (Nursery/Reception)

Tuesday - Key Stage One (Years 1 and 2)

Wednesday - Lower Key Stage Two (Years 3 and 4)

Thursday - Year 5

Friday - Year 6



SATs

This half term, both our Year 2 and Year 6 children will be completing their SATs. Year 6 will be completing their tests on the following dates:

Monday 9th May

Tuesday 10th May

Wednesday 11th May

Thursday 12th May

Year 2 do not have to complete their tests on any particular days. They will complete their tests in small groups at various points later in the half term.

As with all work and tests in school, all we ask is that the children try their best. We appreciate and understand the impact of Covid-19 over recent years and just ask for each and every child to give 100% effort, as they normally do.

Year 4 & Year 6 Residential

We hope the children are looking forward to their residential in the coming weeks. Any balance payments are now due. For year 4, please may we ask monies to be in school by Monday 9th at the very latest, so that we can confirm numbers with Rock UK. Final payments for Year 6 are due Friday 13th May.

Extra Curricular Clubs

Our new after-school clubs started this week. We hope your child/children have enjoyed the range of clubs available this year. Any feedback is welcomed as we will be planning ahead for next year's clubs soon!

Pupil Absence

If your child is absent from school, this needs reporting to school by calling the school office on 01670 860769 before 9:15am. If your child is absent from school and we do not know why, this will be marked as an unauthorised absence.

School Dinners

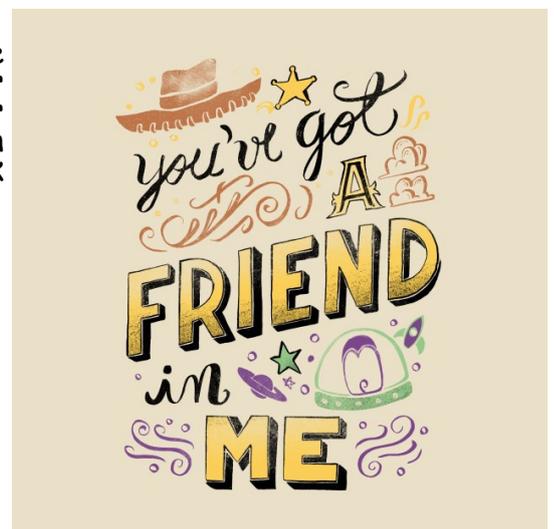
The Summer 2022 menus have been updated on School Grid and you can now order in advance up to the half term holiday. You can view the menus on our website [here](#). We will be started on Week 2 from Monday 16th May.

Peer Mentors

A fantastic group of children from Years 4, 5 and 6 have completed their training block and are now qualified peer mentors. Moving forward, they have decided to offer drop in sessions for all children. In assembly on Wednesday, the mentors explained how this will work and they are all so keen to support their peers.

Best Wishes,

Mr Hodgson
Headteacher



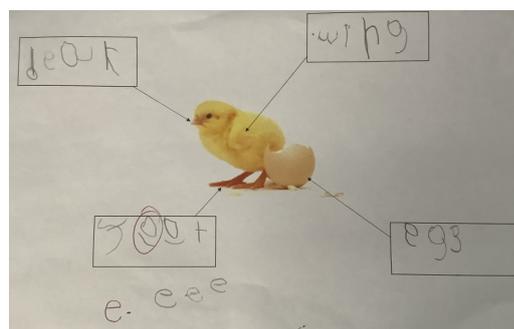
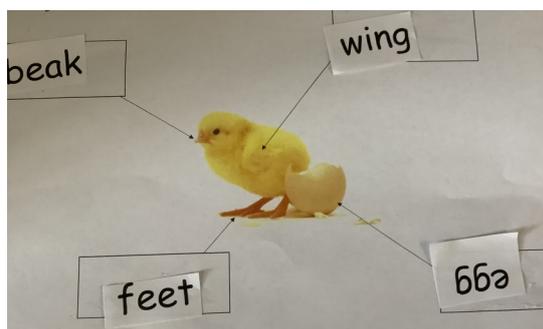
Class News!

Nursery

We have had a fantastic start to our summer term in Nursery. We have had some amazing new starters in afternoon Nursery. Once again the children have shown their kindness and have been very welcoming to their new friends, well done guys! Last week we were so excited to go on our very first school trip to the farm where we saw all sorts of different animals. We were brave and held lots of the smaller animals and we were lucky enough to see a baby lamb being born while we were there! The children were so well behaved and really enjoyed their day. Back at school we enjoyed talking about and drawing pictures of our favourite animals, we made some pigs and some sheep using different materials and then we made bunny and chick biscuits too!



Last week we had some eggs arrive in our classroom in an incubator to keep them warm and this week all seven of the eggs hatched into beautiful chicks! We absolutely love the new arrivals and were even lucky enough to watch one of them hatch. The children thought it was very clever how the chicks managed to get out of their tough shells using just their beaks. We have been very careful with the chicks when we have held them and have helped to look after them really well. Please have a look on your child's School360 journal to see a picture of them holding the chicks. We have made collages to show the lifecycle of a chicken and labelled parts of the chick trying really hard to hear the initial sounds in the words beak, wing, foot and egg. Some of us even had a go at writing the labels, fantastic!



Reception

We have had such an exciting time in Reception over the last few weeks. We went on our very first school trip to Whitehouse Farm. We went on a big bus which was so much fun. At Whitehouse Farm, we were very brave and had the chance to hold different animals such as a mouse, a rat, a rabbit, a guinea pig, a cockroach and even a snake. We then went on a tractor ride to see the animals in the field. After our packed lunch, we got to feed some big animals including sheep, goats, cows, donkeys and horses and then bottle fed a baby lamb. We finished off our day by playing in the park. It was a fantastic day and Reception were all superstars!

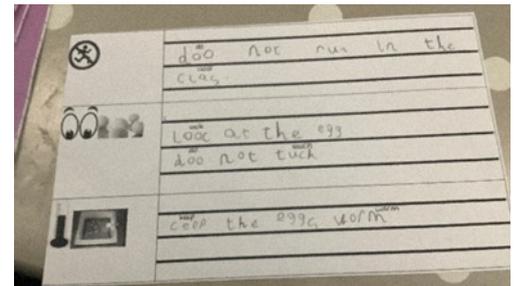
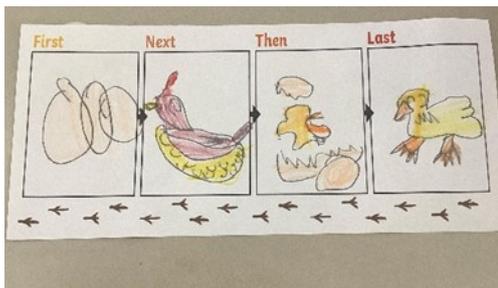
When we got back to school we had lots of discussions about the farm and the children were so excited to share their best part of the day. In literacy, the children drew a picture and did some writing of their favourite part of the trip.



Reception continued.

We have had an exciting arrival this week...

The children drew a picture and did some writing of their predictions of what could be inside the eggs. We have had lots of different ideas... a chick, a baby dinosaur, a lizard, a penguin, a turtle and a platypus. The eggs eventually hatched and they were baby chicks. In literacy, we wrote some rules of how to keep the chicks safe in the classroom. We have also been learning about the lifecycle of a chick. We drew a picture and wrote what happens at each stage. Mrs Cook is super impressed with the children for their fantastic writing!



In maths, we have been learning about numbers to 20. We have been playing lots of different games including adding games, subtracting games, bingo, ordering, counting and representing numbers to 20.



Year 1

Year One have been busy as usual. In English lessons we had a strange thing happen. The book corner was all cordoned off with police tape. We were all very intrigued. We looked on the big screen and saw that a mysterious creature had crash landed near our classroom. The character was an alien called Beegu. We have really enjoyed sharing the story. We made Lost Posters to help her family find her. In our Mathematics lessons we have started our work about multiplication and division. We made arrays with the fruit and worked out how many rows and how many columns each array had. We have looked at problem solving statements and had to work out if they were true or false. We have continued to explore the 2 x table. We needed to use this knowledge to solve problems.



We have finished our topic about the Great Fire of London but we had good fun looking at the photographs from when Samuel Pepys came to visit us. He had to leave his house in his night gown. We had some fantastic questions and recalled lots of information from the diary he wrote. Mr. Robinson was very impressed.



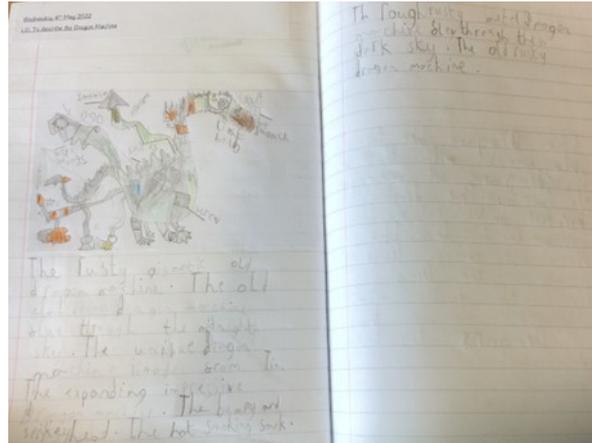
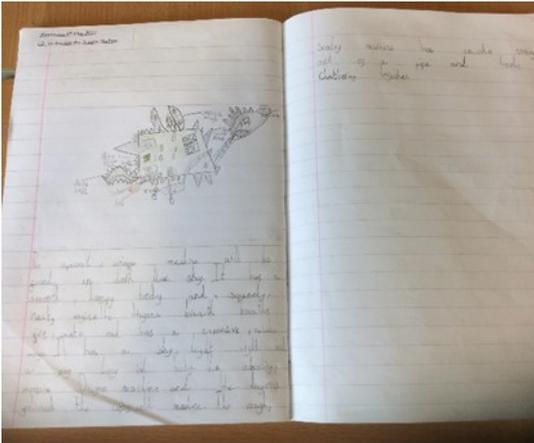
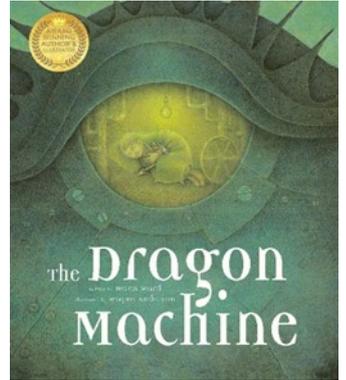
Our new History topic is about Victorian school times. The children were amazed by the facts describing the punishments that schools could give to their class! We are hoping to have a day where we can dress up and visit the old school in the local area.

In Science we have been finding out about our new topic about plant parts and had a great time looking outdoors for different plants. We labelled pictures of plants and already had some good knowledge about the different parts. We made observational drawings and labelled them. We enjoyed making perfume and potions.



Year 2

We've had a busy two weeks in Year 2. We have started our new class text, *The Dragon Machine*. Year 2 used their amazing reading detective skills and immediately noted their familiarity with the author and illustrator- Helen Ward & Wayne Anderson who also wrote one of our class texts, *The Tin Forest*, which we studied earlier this year. We have been making comparisons between the books using a Ven diagram. This week, children have been designing, labelling and describing the machine- they have produced wonderful work. We are now beginning to plan instructions on how to capture the mischievous dragons!



In maths, year 2 have been working hard with measurement, mass and capacity. They have enjoyed a range of practical activities and challenges during the lessons. In maths, as well as throughout the school day, we have been working hard to tell the time to the nearest five minutes. We really appreciate all of your support helping the children practise telling the time at home too!

During our afternoon lessons, we have begun our new history topic, *Magnificent Monarchs!* We have been exploring key vocabulary and learning the meaning of 'power' and 'rule'. They have loved learning about past monarch's and their power. Alongside this, in art we have been exploring and analysing pictures of past monarchs.

In science, we have begun our 'Animal Survival' topic. They really impressed us with their prior knowledge of animals and their habitats. In R.E, we are learning about Hinduism. This week, we have used drama to retell the story of Rama and Sita.



Year 3

Year 3 have worked super hard the last few weeks.

In English, we have been exploring our new text - '**The Nothing to See Here Hotel**'. We have been exploring ambitious vocabulary to describe a 'horrible hotel'. Year 3 have done a brilliant job at using figurative language to create imagery about this fantastically weird hotel. We have been producing some excellent writing using our knowledge of the 5 senses to help us draft a customer review for Trolliday Hotels!

In maths, we have been learning how to represent fractions as decimals. We have also been able to apply our knowledge and understanding of fractions, helping us to solve more challenging word problems. They have done a fantastic job presenting their work with fractions in their books.



We have had fun learning about carbon footprint in Geography this week! This lesson created a really fun discussion about the link between global warming, climate change and how 'greenhouse gasses' are impacting our earth. To show their understanding, Year 3 worked in pairs to create an informative poster about the ways we can reduce our carbon footprint, presenting the information in their own creative way.

We have started our new art topic called 'Beautiful Botanicals'. So far, we have been focusing on observational drawing to create initial sketches of fruits. We had to try our very best to create similar shapes, textures and sizes as well as sketching fruit from different angles.



Year 4

We had a brilliant start to the summer term after a chocolate filled Easter holiday! In English, we wrote our published myths, which were littered with fabulous vocabulary, modal verbs, subordinate clauses and a whole host more; [you can read it here](#) - it will blow your socks off! We followed this up with a spot of editing and this week we have started a brilliant new book called, 'One Plastic Bag' by Isatou Ceesay. We all loved the message that the book gave to us about taking care of our environment. We watched a YouTube clip, of some live coverage, of a little boy in the Philippines that dives into rubbish filled water to try to find recyclable things that he can then sell at the market; the empathy and concern expressed by your children was extremely humbling. I was super proud of them. I am really looking forward to reading their stories next week based on our class book. In maths, we kicked off the term with some tricky word problems! They all did amazingly well trying to solve them. The favourite day, was when I hung them around the school grounds and they had to hunt for them as well as solve them. In science, we have a new topic entitled 'Living Things and their Habitats'. We had brilliant fun lifting logs and looking in trees to find a range of mini beasts to complete our venn diagrams. I've never seen wood lice run so fast! This week, we have been drawing our own branching databases with a range of animals; some of which we needed to research because we had never heard of them never mind know any facts about them. In RE, we are looking at Hinduism. We have learnt about the Brahman and the three gods that make up the Brahman, and this week we have learnt about the Hindu beliefs about reincarnation. We are all hoping to have good karma so that we come back as something nice because we don't fancy being reborn as a fly. In languages, we wrote some simple sentences on whether we liked or did not like particular sports. Our topic, 'Ancient Civilisations' has had us exploring the Ancient Sumer. The ancient who, I hear you ask. Sumer was an ancient civilization founded in the Mesopotamia region of the Fertile Crescent situated between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. They are deemed to be the creators of civilisation. We have produced some excellent fact files about the Ancient Sumerians. In the following weeks, we will move our learning to the Ancient Egyptians! What a brilliant start to the summer term.



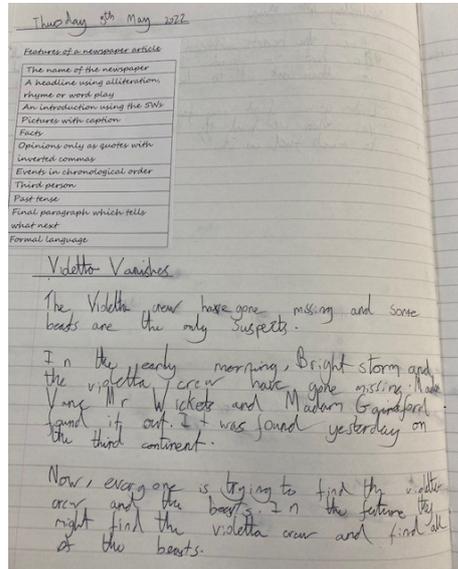
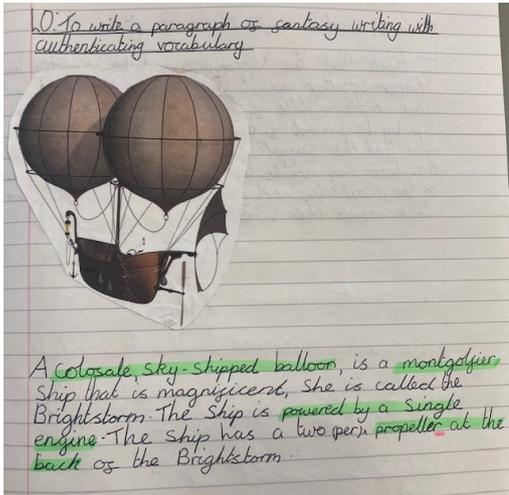
Year 4 Continued.



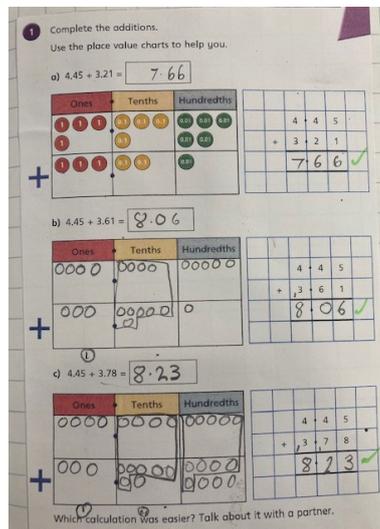
Year 5

Year 5 continue to settle in to our new routine.

In Literacy we have continued our writing based on our class text - Brightstorm by Vashti Hardy. We have become journalists, planning and writing a newspaper report about the disappearance of an expedition crew.



In maths, the children have push themselves hard this week in our study of decimals. We have been multiplying and dividing decimals by 10, 100 and 100, and adding and subtracting tenths and hundredths using place value grids and written methods.



Our new topic is Groundbreaking Greeks. We begun by studying maps to compare ancient and modern day Greece, and have progressed to analysing primary and secondary sources for their reliability as sources of information.

Year 6

In Year 6, we have been working really hard since we returned from the Easter holiday. All the staff are really proud of how much progress they have made in so many areas of the curriculum, and they should be very proud of themselves!

In maths, we have learnt about ratio and we have continued to revise some key topics including fractions, decimal and percentages.

In English, we have written exciting chapters for a suspense story. We are now researching owls for a non-chronological report linked to our current text 'Skellig'.

We have started a new topic ('Maafa'). So far, we have been considering the geography of modern Africa and beginning to research and write fact files on a country.



A large part of the topic will be studying the history of the Transatlantic slave trade. The 'Knowledge Organiser' in the children's homework files outlines the key learning for the topic.

We are preparing to start our new topic in Science on 'Light Theory'. This week, we have been drawing mind maps to share the knowledge that we already have about light.



Over the last two weeks, we enjoyed an informal PE lesson where we played 'Rounders'. In PE lessons we are thoroughly enjoying tennis. Mr. Robertson even let us take a tennis racket home to keep playing!

Diary Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
KS2 (Year 6) SATS	Monday 9 th - Thursday 12 th May
Queen's Platinum Jubilee Family Picnic	Friday 27 th May
Break up for May half term	Friday 27 th May
School Closed - Additional Bank Holiday due to Queen's Jubilee falling during half term	Monday 6 th June
Return to school	Tuesday 7 th June
Year 4 Multiplication Tests	WB Tuesday 7 th June
Year 4 Residential	Wednesday 22 nd - Friday 24 th June
Sports Week	Monday 27 th June - Friday 1 st July
Year 6 Residential	Monday 4 th July - Wednesday 6 th July
Summer Fair	Saturday 9 th July
Sports Day	Monday 11 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