



# Ellington Primary School



News Bulletin #12

**18th March 2022**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a fantastic two weeks in school and it is great to see that it is finally beginning to look like Spring! We have recently purchased a wide range of new sports and play equipment for the children to enhance their break times outside, I am sure these will be a hit especially in the warmer weather.

We have had some parents bringing dogs into the school grounds. Can I politely ask that no dogs, on leads or carried, come into the school grounds.

## Attendance

Each week, the class with the best attendance wins our attendance award. They get to roll a dice to move around our monopoly board and win different prizes. I will share class attendances each half term in the news bulletins.

The attendances so far this academic year are:

Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
96.41%	94.34%	95.9%	96.08%	93.98%	95.77%	93.21%

## School Dinners

Unfortunately, we still have a number of children who have not had their lunches ordered at home. Class teachers will no longer be ordering any school dinners for children. The system is designed to allow parents/carers to view dinners online and order for their children. You can currently book all dinners up until the Easter holidays. If you don't have the facility to order online, please contact the school office in advance and they will give you a paper copy of the menu. You can then order in advance via the office.

This week, we have had a number of children who have not ordered their lunch and this has led to problems in the school kitchen and a lack of food. All food is freshly cooked to order each day.

**From Monday, no dinners will be ordered in school. We will contact the parents/carers of children who haven't ordered, to bring in a packed lunch.**

We have tried to support with this change since returning to school in January, but we feel as though this is the only option available to us now to ensure meals are ordered correctly at home.

## World Book Month!

Our World Book Month has been a huge success so far. We have had author visits, a whole school performance and three competitions so far. The reason for having a month of events is because reading should not just be celebrated on one day each year. At Ellington, we want a culture of reading for pleasure to be embedded in all children. We now have a big focus on reading within our curriculum. Early Years and Key Stage One have daily phonics sessions, all classes in Key Stage Two have explicit reading lessons following our own reading curriculum.

We have also just added 50 new books to each class library. These books have been carefully selected and are our 50 recommended reads for each year group. The aim is that by the time children leave Ellington, they will have experienced at least 350 different stories.

Our school library will be opening very soon! Unfortunately, some items are taking longer than expected to arrive.

Miss Willcock will be posting details of next week's competition on ClassDojo.

## Parent Consultations

I hope you have found the new booking system for parent consultations a more efficient way to book your appointments with teachers. Some schools are still holding virtual parent meetings but we feel face to face meetings are more beneficial. If you have not booked your appointment yet, please do so as soon as possible. If you experience any problems, please contact Mrs Dyer in the office.

[ellingtonps.schoolcloud.co.uk](http://ellingtonps.schoolcloud.co.uk)

## School Milk

Milk letters were sent home this week. If your child requires milk in school after Easter for the summer term, please have letters returned to school by Wednesday 30th March.

## Children's Cancer Run!

Ellington Primary School has registered to take part in the 39<sup>th</sup> Children's Cancer Run on Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>. It would be fantastic to see lots of children and families taking part in the event. It is easy to register online by visiting [www.childrenscancerrun.co.uk](http://www.childrenscancerrun.co.uk)



Best Wishes,

Mr Hodgson  
Headteacher

# Class News!

## Nursery

Nursery have been super busy over the last two weeks. We have continued our work on our mini topic, Puddles and Rainbows, by looking at the story 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas. The children were brilliant at discussing the emotions that the colour monster was feeling and matching these emotions with the correct colour. We have even been using colours to help us explain our feelings in the classroom! The children gave some great examples of times when they have felt happy, sad, scared, angry and calm and we talked about what we can do when we have feelings we don't like.

Thank you so much for your participation with our weather diary home learning challenge, they have made a lovely display and it seems like the children really enjoyed having a task to do with you at home! There is a photo of the display we have created on Class Dojo.

This week we have started work on our next topic 'Starry Night' where we will be discussing day and night, space and nocturnal animals. The children have produced some lovely art work to represent day and night and enjoyed a visit from Baby Bear when we read the story 'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy. We had lots of fun using Baby Bears box as a rocket ship, a race car, a hideout and even a cat bed! What fantastic imaginations we have!

In maths we have been looking at different ways to represent numbers to 5 including finding the number, matching it to the numicon piece and building the number. We have also been working on our number formation to help us write numbers accurately.

In our outside area we have enjoyed creating a water slide for the toys using a piece of drainpipe. The children thought it looked the toys were landing in a paddling pool and can't wait for the warmer weather to dip their toes into our water tray!



## Reception

We have had another fun and busy two weeks in Reception. Our new topic this half term is 'Journeys' We were very excited to find a box in our yard with a teddy bear in it. Where did the teddy bear come from? Why did it appear in our yard? After lots of great discussion, we found out that it was Baby Bear from the story 'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy. The story is about Baby Bear and his adventure to the moon. Baby Bear finds a rocket, a space helmet and some space boots and sets out on his journey. Last week in Literacy we did some writing of what we would take if we were going to the moon. This week we have been sequencing the story of Whatever Next as well as doing some wonderful writing of the different parts of the story.



In maths we have been looking at the composition of 9 and 10. We really enjoyed playing bingo with our friends. First we picked a picture card, counted how many items that were on the picture card and then if we had the representing number we used a counter to mark it off on our bingo card. We have also been comparing numbers within 10. Our favourite activity was 'Ten Town' where we had to find numicon pieces that add up to 10 to make towers.



A travelling production company came to our school to perform The Sword and the Stone. Ten children were selected to take part in the interactive performance. Eliza from our class was chosen and what a superstar she was on stage!



In PSHE with Mrs Vardy we have been learning about the importance of healthy eating. We tasted some different foods and we could have lots of fruit and vegetables but we only had a little bit of chocolate and pop.



## Year 1

Year One have had a very busy time. In English lessons they have created a class tool kit to help them with their character studies. The children worked hard to think about how Little Red looked. We went down to the wildlife garden to see if we could find the last wolf and warn him that Little Red was on the lookout for him. We found him hiding in the bushes and carefully brought him back to school. We are going to find out facts about wolves so if you can help your child to find any information at home please get them to bring it to share in the class.

We had a super morning watching The Sword in the Stone theatre performance. The children all listened very carefully. Jayden was lucky to be chosen from our class to be a knight in the show. We were all very proud of him.



In Mathematics we have been finding out about capacity and volume. We had to solve a problem for some monsters. They had different labelled beakers and we had to fill them with the right volume of liquid. We found out about full, empty, half full, nearly empty, nearly full, less than half full and more than half full. We created our own monster milk shakes as a treat for working so hard.



In R.E we listened to the beginning of Holy Week and found out about how Jesus was treated like a king when he rode on a donkey to Jerusalem. We found out about how everyone waved palm leaves in celebration. We made our own palm leaves and acted out the story.



## Year 1 Continued.

In History we are still very interested in finding out about The Great Fire of London. We took part in a Who Wants to be a Millionaire Quiz all about what we have learned so far. We only needed to phone a friend once and made it to a million pounds. The class have remembered so much information. We also made maps of how London was rebuilt after the fire making sure that the buildings were not too close together. Next time in History we are going to interview Samuel Pepys to find out more.



In Science we talked about the hours of daylight and answered questions about how these hours change in different seasons. We looked at the power of the sun and how to protect ourselves from it. We came up with ideas for an experiment to show how UV beads would change colour in the sun and how we could stop them from getting too much sunlight. Next week we are going to test out our ideas. We are also taking part in Science Week tasks about growth. We have all planted some seeds in our class plant pot to see what happens.

In Music the children were very good at clapping a pattern. We enjoy moving to the beat and finding the pulse. We have had good fun learning to sing our new song.

We have been working very hard with our reading challenge and lots of the class have filled the bookmark to show how much reading they have been doing at home. Thank you for spending time helping your child to read. It would be especially helpful if children could read their RWI book when they get it on Thursday as some children hand the book back on a Monday without showing how fantastic they are doing each week to their family. Thank you for your support.



## Year 2

We have been continuing to read our class text, *The Day the Crayons Quit*. We have been focusing on the letter from Grey Crayon to find out why he quit! This week we have been We have planned, drafted, edited and published AMAZING letters to Grey Crayon to try and persuade him to come back. Year 2 must have produced wonderful because... he decided to come back! They were all proud of their final published writing and so they should be!



Year 2 have been continuing their learning on shapes. They enjoyed working in partners and groups to sort and classify 3D shapes. They have particularly enjoyed learning some new shape vocabulary- quadrilateral being a class favourite! Year 2 have worked hard to apply their mathematical knowledge to write sentences to explain similarities and difference between shapes.

We are enjoying our topic on The Coastline and we've particularly loved enjoyed learning about the famous Captain James Cook! We have created wonderful fact files about his life. In science, we have started our new topic- Plants and Year 2 have wowed me with their prior knowledge! We have also been working hard to identify and name a variety of plants in their habitats and have started to observe how seeds and bulbs change over time.

## SCHOOL TRIP

Finally, how we could forget about our first school trip, to Seven Stories?! Year 2 loved the whole day-including our very exciting bus ride. At Seven Stories, we were greeted by the very excitable and knowledgeable reading fairy who guided us to the top floor where we began our day with a reading workshop listening too and building our very own reading worlds. We then got to experience a guided tour of The Seven Stories gallery where we enjoyed a range of different story activities from puppet shows to dungeon castles. We then got to visit the wonderful Seven Stories bookshop and purchased some more wonderful books for our classroom. I'm so proud of all the children of how well the children represented our school.



See below for a small selection of our wonderful photographs from the day...

## Year 2 Continued



## Year 3

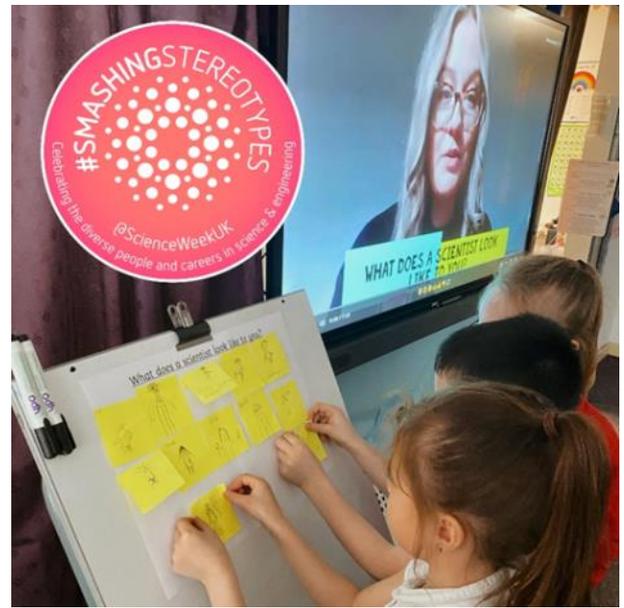
Year 3 have worked super hard this week!

They have produced some fantastic pieces of writing for their own narrative about The True Story of the Three Little Pigs. We can't wait to show you our final display of writing once it's up on the wall!

In maths, Year 3 have been learning how to calculate perimeter of shapes, and recently we have moved onto fractions! We are looking forward to exploring fractions more next week!

### British Science Week

Year 3 have enjoyed having discussions around British Science Week, including what they think it means to be a scientist, what a scientist looks like to them and what skills scientists need to have. We were lucky enough to listen to a real scientist (Miss Smith's sister!) talk about her job in STEM, as well as smashing stereotypes of what a 'typical scientist' looks like. Year 3 have also had the job of growing and nurturing their very own plant. They had to think about what plants need to grow, and decided to demonstrate this by planting a seed in a dark cupboard!

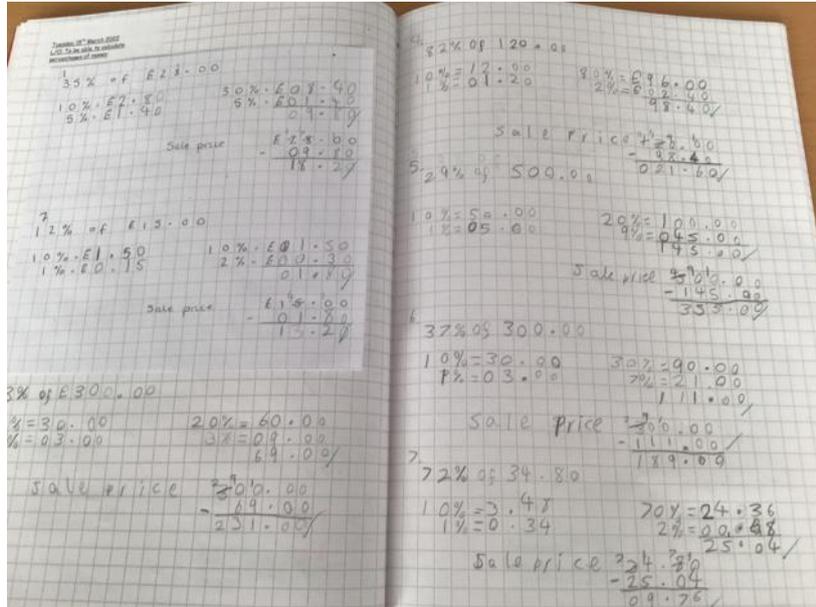


In topic, Year 3 have been exploring their new geography topic all about the planet. So far, we have discussed the difference between human and physical geographical features, we have used grid references to locate places on a map and we have used the eight-compass points to describe the location of different geographical locations using the following vocabulary: North, North-East, East, South-East, South, South-West, West, North-West.

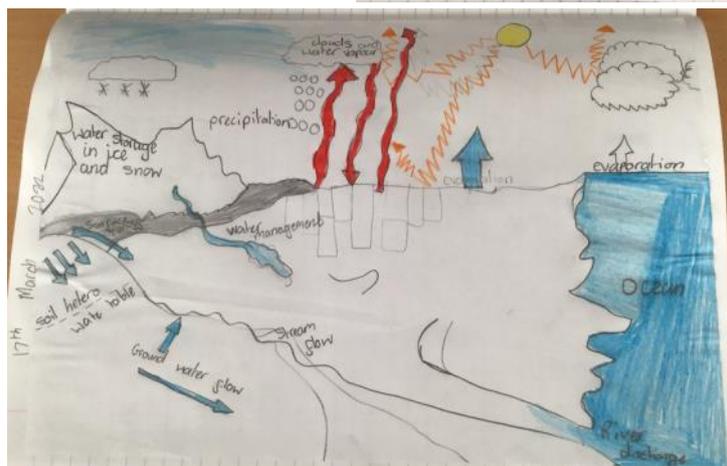
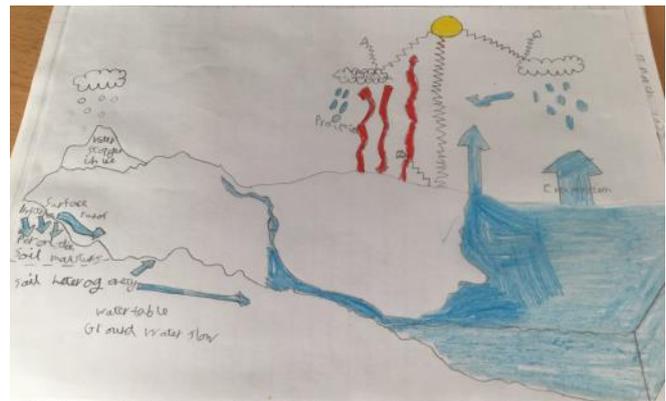
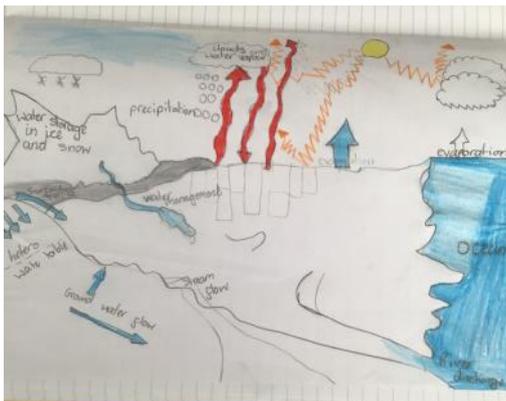


# Year 4

Yet another busy two weeks; how the time flies when you're having fun! In English, we have consolidated our understanding of relative clauses, pronouns, fronted adverbial phrases and subordinate clauses in preparation for our big write based on our fabulous class book, Varjak Paw. Our published pieces will be littered with the aforementioned, and also have the reader (aka Mrs Rusby) sitting on the edge of their seat wondering what is going to happen in our suspense stories. A thrilling read awaits I feel quite sure. In maths, we are all working hard to conquer percentages of money; it gets quite fiddly when there are questions like 39% of £56.00 posed, but we'll all get there in the end.

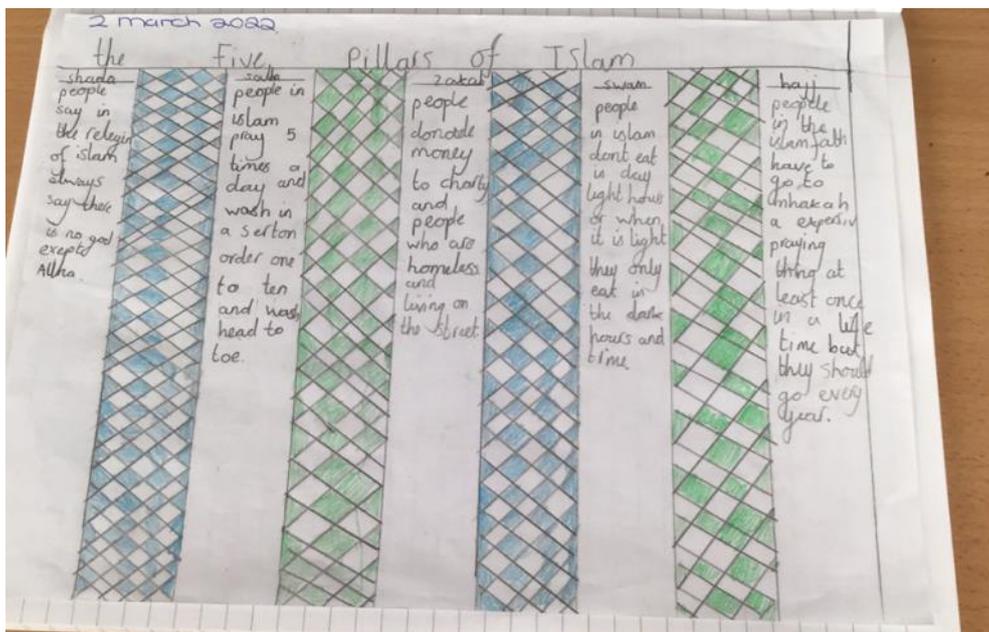


In science, we have been learning about the water cycle and all of the key vocabulary that goes with that and French had us finding out how to ask for certain things when we went shopping. Cornet continues to be a firm favourite with Mr Burns, and the sound is most definitely getting better!



## Year 4 Continued.

For R.E., we have started a new topic; we are now finding out all about the Islamic faith. Last week, it was Wudu, which is their washing ritual that needs to be carried out before each prayer session and this week we have been learning about the Islamic thoughts on angels.



Our topic had use finding out about contour lines on a map and trying to match them up with the shape of the mountains. We have also produced some non-chronological reports that were oozing with facts on specific mountain ranges in the United Kingdom.

We had a fabulous visit from a theatre company and as you will see from the photos that we had some Year 4 as stars of the show.



We are culminating the end of this week with two very exciting things; the first being Comic Relief Day when some very cheesy jokes are no doubt going to be told

How do you know the ocean is friendly - it waves; 😄

and the second, is where we are going to start preparing for our amazing fundraising venture for Ukraine - an afternoon tea made and served all by ourselves! How very exciting!

## Year 5

We have had a busy two weeks in Year 5. In English we are continuing to read 'The Nowhere Emporium' which the children are now really enjoying. In maths we have finished looking at fractions, and are moving on to decimal numbers. This week and next, we are doing our spring term assessment tests: a reading comprehension test, a SPAG test, the spelling test of the 100 year 5/6 words, an arithmetic test, and two maths problem solving tests - you may well have noticed that your children have been a little more tired than usual after school. In art we have been looking at land art - how artists create artworks using natural materials to be found in the landscape. In topic we have been continuing with our study of farming in North and South America - focusing particularly on citrus growing in California, and coffee growing in Peru.

The children very much enjoyed the performance of 'The Sword in the Stone' last week, performed for them by a talented children's theatre group.

Special congratulations are due to Jessica, Alfie, Miley, Zoe, Lydia and Mia. They have all completed their training as Peer Mentors.

In PE the children are enjoying their football training with Mr Robertson.



## Year 6

As ever, year 6 have been working extremely hard over the last fortnight and all of the staff working with them are feeling very proud of what they have achieved and the progress they are making. This is particularly true in maths where we are covering many different objectives in a short space of time, and every member of staff working with a small group in maths has commented on their positive attitudes as a year group. Over the last 2 weeks we have gone over long division, division word problems, calculating with decimals, the order of operations ('BIDMAS') and how to find the mean average. Phew! On Wednesday, we had to go on a scavenger hunt to find answers to our BIDMAS questions!



The class are continuing to work well on *The Highwayman* in English lessons. We have recently planned, drafted and published a diary entry from the perspective of Bess, the Highwayman's lover in the poem. It was also great to join in with the theatre group who visited the school last week as part of our world book month; two years sixes, Josh and Maisie, were selected to be part of the show 'The Sword in the Stone' and did a fantastic job after a very quick rehearsal time! The audience also joined in with all of the songs, and it was a very interactive experience.



Many of the year sixes are keen to share their knowledge in our science lessons, where we are learning about classifying animals using scientific vocabulary. Mrs Richardson was very impressed with our ability to create classification keys to sort polar animals, tying in with our 'Frozen Kingdom's' topic. In geography lessons, we have written non-chronological reports about the indigenous peoples of the Arctic, and have started to find out about the history of Antarctic exploration.

PE this half term is all about developing skills in various team games, which the year sixes are throwing themselves into. We have also been finding out together about Muslim religious practices and traditions in RE lessons on Friday afternoons.

Finally, a big well done to Paige and Grace who completed their Peer Mentor training this week. They have worked hard on this every week and we are very proud of their achievements.

## Diary Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Parents' Consultations	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
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