

Essendine Primary School News - December 24

December 2024

Head of School Message

Dear Families of Essendine Primary,

This month the Christmas performances have been a real highlight for Essendine Primary. Our children and staff have worked hard to produce outstanding performances. Thank you to the many parents and carers who came along and supported their children. I'm always astounded by the skills and talents of our children. Well done everybody.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday break and look forward to seeing you all back at school on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Please remember to check at the end of this newsletter for important dates next term or on our website.

Thank you!

Monthly updates, news and events in and around your school community



In this monthly article:

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PINES AND NEEDLES



We have received our fabulous Christmas tree from @pinesandneedles and it looks amazing 🎄To get 10% off your real Christmas tree (up to 7ft) use code SCHOOL10 online, or at any of their pop-up stores across London. https://bit.ly/3Uqb0Z #pinesandneedles

The children really enjoying decorating our tree and well done to the students for their amazing hand made decorations!

Thank you Heathrow Express

A huge thank you to Heathrow Express for kindly donating our Xmas Crackers for our Christmas lunch this Thursday. We can't wait!



Year 1 Uber Boat Trip



The children had a wonderful trip riding the Uber Boat down the Thames looking at all the sights they have been learning in their topic!





Our Climate Committee

We had our third meeting for the Environmental Parliament for Westminster. Since we are looking at the importance of bees for the environment and how we can help them, we went around the school to plant flowers to provide them with a source of food. Bees are one of the most important insects for pollinating plants. By providing flowers for them we are able to contribute to fighting climate change by increasing the number of plants that grow from bees' pollination.















6JT Visit Lords Cricket Ground

Lord's Cricket Trip

This term, 5/6T and 6JT visited Lord's Cricket Ground to find out about the history and significance of this world-renowned sports ground. The children participated in a history workshop and then got to test their cricket skills in the indoor cricket centre!


















PADDINGTON
RECREATION GROUND
Christmas
LIGHT SWITCH ON
FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER
16:00-18:00





On Friday 6th December, a group of children from Years 4, 5 and 6 went to Paddington Rec for the ceremony to turn on the Christmas tree lights. The children sang Christmas songs and represented Essendine brilliantly. Thank you to Miss Arapi and the staff who accompanied the children, and the parents for coming along and supporting.

Volunteers at Essendine



Thank you to our wonderful team from Visa, who not only read with our children in KS1 but donated a number of books to our reading areas! Thank you!











Christmas Productions



Years 3 and 4 Christmas performance

This term the Year 3 and 4 children rehearsed and performed their Christmas production – 'A Dancing Christmas Party' – to the school and their parents and carers. They even invited the children of Hallfield over as special guests to watch as well!







Spelling Bee



This term, KS2 were invited to compete in our federation Spelling Bee at Hallfield. The children were impeccable role models and showed great sportsmanship during the final. We are pleased to say that all the hard work in class has paid off as both Year 5 and 6 at Essendine were the overall winners. A special mention also to **Malik** (5/6T) who was the overall winner of the competition.





School Day

Drop off

At 8:45am the main school gate opens.

Nursery and Reception children are taken by their parents to their classrooms via the EYFS front gate on Essendine Rd.

Children in Years 1-6 go straight to their classroom through the main gates.

At 8:55am class starts and the gate closes and all parents/carers must be out so that we can secure the site.

Pick up

At 3:25pm the main gate opens to parents.

Nursery, Reception children collected from the EYFS classrooms via the EYFS Gate on Essendine Rd at 3.15pm .

Y1-Y6 children are escorted to the collection area in the playground where parents will be waiting.

You must collect your children or arrange for a responsible adult (over 16 years-old) to do so. If you are asking someone else to collect your children, the school needs to know. This is in the interest of your children's safety.

Only Year 5 and 6 children are allowed to go home by themselves, once written authorisation has been received.

The school gate closes at 3:40pm and any children not collected will be taken to the Front Office area. Late penalties are issued for lateness beyond this time.

Medication

We would like to remind parents/carers that any medication for children must be brought to the office, where you will be asked to complete a consent form. Do not give any

medication to class teachers or children. Please also remember to update the office with any changes regarding your child's medication and any changes in illness/medical conditions.

Attendance Guidelines

This term you were emailed about some important changes to the Federation attendance policy.

From this September, there is new statutory guidance, that schools have to follow now, in order to tackle the growing rise in absence in our schools: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance

You should also take time to read the attendance policy regarding penalty notices and fines for parents, as there are significant changes to this process. Information about school attendance can be found on our website:

www.essendine.org.uk **under the Parent tab.**

Attendance



Whole school attendance so far this term is currently at **93.1% This is below the national benchmark of good attendance at 96%.** Let's keep working on it together.

Next term's Library Visit Dates



Our children love visiting our local library.

Next term's library visit dates are as follows:

January

Thursday 9th AM – 2M

Thursday 9th PM – 3R

Friday 10th PM – 6JT

Thursday 23rd AM – 4C

Friday 24th PM – 5S

Thursday 30th AM – 1R

Friday 31st Pm – 5/6T

February

Thursday 6th PM – 4B

Thursday 13th AM – 2M

Thursday 13th PM - 4C

Friday 28th PM – 6JT

March

Thursday 6thAM – 1R

Friday 7th PM – 5S

Thursday 13th AM – 3R

Friday 14th PM – 5/6T

Thursday 20th PM – 4B

Book Fair



Thank you to everyone who supported the school and their own learning by buying a book from our school book fair. It was brilliant to see so many conversations about books and so many families supporting their child's reading. A special thank you also to the wonderful Year 6s and staff members who volunteered their time to help run the book fair. In total, we managed to raise over £500!


READ





The Wriggly Nativity

In EYFS, we focused on The Nativity Story. We were familiar with the story and the characters from performing and singing in our “Wriggly Nativity” Christmas show. A big well done to all our little actors and actresses!









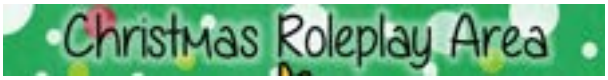








EYFS



We got creative in making Christmas cards and decorations for the Christmas tree.

Our new role-play area was a Christmas workshop where we dressed-up, decorated the Christmas tree, ensembled toys, and wrote letters to Santa.


Santa's
DEAR
SANTA
Please bring
ESENTS




Santa's
Workshop


















Who has spots?







Wrap Around Care

You may have seen at the main gate this Wednesday some guests from JAG, who will be running our after school wraparound provision from January. We look forward to welcoming them to Essendine in 2025. Thank you!

Dear Families of Essendine and Hallfield,

We know lots of parents require wraparound care for their child/Children before and at the end of the school day.

Both schools have long established breakfasts clubs that many children attend.

However, I'm excited to let you know, that we have been able to secure funding from the Department of Education to develop after school care for our pupils in both schools.

From 8th January 2025, after the Christmas holidays, Junior Adventure Groups (JAG) will providing this wraparound care from the end of the school day until 6pm, everyday at each school site called 'Stay and Play'.

The funding we have received, will allow us to offer the wrap around care at a reduced rate for a short Period to establish the provision.

Attached to this newsletter is a flyer which tells you a little bit more about JAG and the wrapround they provide.

We will be emailing you in the next week with information for each school, about how you access a free trial 'Stay and Play' session with JAG, and also booking information for the future.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



What is the JAG Adventure Programme?

At JAG, we are passionate about helping the next generation navigate their world. We do this by providing world class experiences and programmes that add depth and richness to children's learning beyond the classroom and school curriculum.

Our Adventure Programme gives children the opportunity to develop life skills and explore their interests through specially designed experiences and activities, based on their key development pillars.

Rise then Shine:

Running every morning during the term. Times and prices can be found via our website below.

Stay and Play:

Running every afternoon during the term. Times and prices can be found via our website below.

Want to find out more or book your next adventure?

Chat with one of our Activity Leaders at your nearest JAG club, or visit our website for more information:

junioradventuresgroup.co.uk

Book now!

@junioradventuresgroupuk

0333 577 1533

Amazing Before & After School Experiences!

Unlock your child's potential at JAG with our Adventure Programme



Choose your next adventure

Each adventure category gives children the opportunity to discover new skills and explore their interests, all while having fun and creating friendships for life!

Morning Programme

RISE THEN SHINE

Our morning programmes are now called 'Rise then Shine'.

'Creating the best start to the school day'

Fuelling children's curious minds and growing bodies to set them up for their best day ahead.

Afternoon Programme

STAY AND PLAY

Our afternoon programmes are now called 'Stay and Play'.

'Where friendships are made'

Creating meaningful connections and friendships by providing children with a place to stay and have fun after school.



Global Kids

Embark on a journey to become a better global citizen and protect our planet through developing essential life skills and exploring the world around us.



Flavour Fest

Explore the tasty world of food and nutrition through fun and interactive experiences created to develop healthy habits.



Power Teams

Join in fun games, thrilling challenges, and exciting group activities to build team skills for life.



Wellbeing Warriors

Discover a range of activities specially designed to help you feel good by boosting happiness, mindfulness, and wellbeing.



Super Sports

Super fun and sporty sessions designed to develop essential skills for a lifetime of active living.



Brain Boosters

Crack codes, solve puzzles, and engage in captivating games and science experiments. Explore the wonders of the world with hands-on STEM activities.



Creative Inventors

Let your imagination soar as we engage in creative activities that combine expressive arts, materials and crafts to fuel your inner inventor and unlock your hidden talents!

Help for Families in Westminster



Children's University Info

Thank you to the parents who attended our recent coffee morning about Children's University. Please see below the array of activities that you can participate in, in our local area.

There are many benefits to getting your child involved in out-of-school activities. Visiting different places will support the learning done in the classroom. Below is a list of free things to do in London on the week-ends or during the holiday period. Many of the venues regularly offer children's workshops or sessions that can be booked via their website.

- The National Maritime Museum
- The dinosaurs in Crystal Palace
- Brockwell Park

Free things to do in East London with kids

- The V&A Museum of Childhood
- Hackney City Farm
- Victoria Park
- Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

Free things to do in West London with kids

- Duke's Meadows

Happy Holidays!

Miss Mossman

(Children's University Lead)

- Free things to do in London - Zone 1
  - The Changing of the Guards
  - The Sky Garden
  - The Princess Diana Memorial Playground
  - The Natural History Museum
  - The pelicans at St James' Park
  - Watch Tower Bridge open
  - The street performers in Covent Garden
  - The V&A Museum
  - The fountains at Somerset House
  - Picnic in the park
  - Ride the Routemaster
  - The Design Museum
  - The Ceremony of the Keys
  - The British Museum
  - The Royal Academy
  - The Appearing Rooms at the Southbank Centre
- Free things to do in North London with kids
  - Visit Platform 9 ¾
  - The fountains at Granary Square
  - Camley Street Natural Park
  - Highgate Woods playground
  - Kenwood House
  - Hampstead Ponds
  - Regent's Canal
  - Coram's Fields
- Free things to do with kids in South London
  - The Horniman Museum

Family Film Screenings at The Garden Cinema



The Garden Cinema, in Covent Garden, hosts family film screenings on Saturday and Sunday mornings and on weekdays during the school holidays. The screenings are 'Pay What You Can' and on Sundays there is also a free post-film activity. Upcoming highlights include Paddington in Peru, The Chronicles of Narnia, The Muppet's Christmas Carol, The Polar Express, Wonka, and Beauty & The Beast.

The full programme can be found here: https://www.thegardencinema.co.uk/season/films-for-the-family

Contact details:

Molly Cowderoy, The Garden Cinema

Email: molly@thegardencinema.co.uk

Website: www.thegardencinema.co.uk

Parking around Essendine Primary

We have had a number of complaints recently from our neighbours regarding double parking and idling on Essendine Road, particularly during pick up and drop off times. Please be considerate of our neighbours. We will be working with WCC parking to enforce restrictions to parking in line with local regulations. Thank you.



Winter Health Advice for Parents

There are simple steps all parents can take this winter to keep their children well and reduce the spread of stomach bugs and winter illnesses.

- Teaching good hygiene habits – handwashing and good respiratory hygiene
- Knowing when to keep your child at home and when to send them to school
- Stopping the spread of stomach bugs
- Getting vaccinated – flu vaccination and checking they are up to date with their routine vaccinations

Please can you share the link to these tips with your parents: UKHSA issues health advice following the half-term break - GOV.UK Parents may also find these other resources useful:

- UKHSA's e-bug resources for all ages can help you to explain and discuss hygiene habits and their importance, to your child or teenager.
- NHS UK also provides easily accessible guidance for parents to help manage winter illness at home.
- UKHSA's A to Z list of how to manage specific diseases is aimed at schools and local authorities but can also be used by parents and carers.

Thank you as always for your support in keeping our school communities safe and well.

Uniform

The school uniform varies depending on your child's age. For health and safety reasons jewellery, other than a wrist watch, is not allowed. Hijabs should be plain navy blue or white. The essential uniform, which your child needs to have, is in BOLD and can be found on our website too.

EYFS Pupils (Nursery - Reception):

- **Navy blue Essendine jogging pants or shorts**
- **White Essendine T-shirt**
- **White or black socks**
- **Black shoes (no trainers)**

Key Stage 1 Pupils (Year 1-2):

- **Essendine navy blue polo shirt**

- **Essendine sweat shirt or cardigan**
- **Black, navy blue or grey trousers with white or black socks**
- **A navy blue and white check dress with navy, grey or white tights**
- **Black shoes (no boots or trainers if possible)**

Key Stage 2 Pupils (Year 3-6):

- **Black Blazer**
- **White smart shirt (not a polo shirt)**
- **Dark Grey V Neck Jumper or Dark Grey Cardigan**
- **Tie in House colours**
- **(Kilburn Park = Green / Elgin = Red / Shirland = Blue / Morshead = Yellow)**
- **Black smart Trousers with white or black socks**
- **Black smart Skirt with navy, grey or white Tights**
- **Black shoes (no boots or trainers if possible)**

The PE uniform for all children consists of:

- **Navy blue Essendine jogging pants**
- **White Essendine T-shirt**
- **Black pumps or Trainers**

Ordering

Essendine School Uniform can be ordered online from Stitch Design where you can register for an account using the schools postcode (W92LR). Place your order, pay online and receive items within 2-5 working days:

Uniform swap

Ask at the office about uniform swapping events, which we will organise throughout the school year.

Alternatively, please contact the reception desk for a current price list and hard copy of the order form.

Free School Meals Application

All children in full-time education are given universal free school meals at school but they may be entitled to food vouchers during school holidays. You can apply for free school meals if you receive any of the following benefits:

• Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

• Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

• Income Support

• Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

• Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

• Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 • The guarantee element of State Pension Credit

If you think you are entitled to Free School Meals please make an online application via www.westminster.gov.uk/education/free-school-meals or otherwise speak to Anne in the office. Thank you

Meet our Family Navigator



1 - Andy is with us now on Monday afternoons, please speak to Nairuz if you'd like any further information.

Coffee Mornings at Essendine



Essendine Primary School

Coffee Morning Timetable- Jan/ April 2025

We are delighted to offer coffee mornings every Tuesday morning. Please take a close look on what is on offer and join-we would love to see you there! We are in the process of developing a parent resource room to facilitate all these events and more. Please speak to Nairuz for any information.

Coffee Morning Timetable- Jan/ April 2025

Date/ Time	Title	Agency	Focus Group
Tuesday 07/01/2025 9:00-10:00am	Healthy eating	Westminster Schools Health Services School Nurse	All
Tuesday 14/01/2025 9:00-10:00am	Housing Support	Cardinal Hume Centre	ALL
Tuesday 21/01/2025 9:00-10:00am	Rights respecting	Essendine Primary School Mr Seymour- Deputy Headteacher & School Council	All
Tuesday 28/01/2025 9:00-10:00am	Getting ready for SATs	Essendine Primary School Miss Tracey- KS 1&2 Leader of Learning	Year 6
Tuesday 04/02/2025 9:00-10:00am	Quality First Teaching	Essendine Primary School Mr Clarridge- Assistant Headteacher	All
Tuesday 11/02/2025 9:00-10:00am	Reading for pleasure	Essendine Primary School Miss Tracey- KS 1&2 Leader of Learning	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6
Tuesday 25/02/2025 9:00-10:00am	Launching opening the parents' room	Essendine Primary School Mrs Mafrica (Head of School)	All
Tuesday 04/03/2025 9:00-10:00am	Courses at Westminster Adult Education Services	Westminster Adult Education Services	All
Tuesday 11/03/2025 9:00-10:00am	Emotional Intelligence	Westminster MIND Services	All
Tuesday 18/03/2025 9:00-10:00am	Multiplication Tables Check	Essendine Primary School Mr Clarridge- Assistant Headteacher	Years 2,3 & 4
Tuesday 25/03/2025 9:00-10:00am	Oracy (Speaking and listening skills)	Essendine Primary School Miss Tracey- KS 1&2 Leader of Learning	Reception class Years 1&2
Tuesday 01/04/2025 9:00-10:00am	Holidays Activities and Food	Westminster HAF Services	All

Office

Opening Times:

8:00 AM TO 11:30 AM.

1:15 PM TO 4:30 PM

Access outside these times is by ***appointment only/emergency***.

Breakfast club starts at 8am please arrive before 8.20am

IMPORTANT: Please inform the office if your contact details have changed, so that the details are up to date. This includes any changes of address of phone numbers, including emergency contacts.

Packed Lunch

It is easy to create an appetising packed lunch every day for your child. You should try to give them nourishing foods that are good for them. ***Sweets, biscuits, crisps, chocolate and fizzy drinks or any food high in sugar are not allowed as part of a healthy packed lunch. Fast food is also not suitable for packed lunch.*** *Nuts are not allowed in school. The only hot meals served are school meals from the school kitchen. Water is available at mealtime.*

Our school is a nut free zone no nut based food/May contain nuts items allowed for packed lunch.











Maida Vale Library-Homework Club

Homework Club at Maida Vale Library, Sutherland Avenue, W9 2QT

Do you need help with your homework? If so come to our Homework Club for help from our team of dedicated volunteers. It runs every Tuesday in term time from 4.00 until 5.30 pm.



Drama Buzz for Children - Mayfair Library

Back by popular demand following the huge success of its first run, Drama Buzz returns to Mayfair Library for another 10 exciting weeks/ This is a **free** 10-week programme for ages 5-11, where creativity blooms and confidence grows.

Over the programme, children will embark on a creative journey jam packed with music, songwriting, theatre inspired by nature and wellbeing techniques to support your child's emotional development.

Delivered by Finn Kebbe from Little Wild Theatre, a professional actor/musician and facilitator, children will have the chance to learn from an expert in the field whilst they devise their own stories, write original songs, and collaborate to create a final performance that they will share with family and friends at the end of the program.

Participants will be welcomed to the beautiful Mayfair Library Rooms, overlooking the lovely Mount Street Gardens - the perfect setting for children to unwind after school and make new friends.

Venue: Mayfair Library – 25 South Audley Street London W1K 2PB

Dates/ Times: Weekly on Monday | 4.30-6pm Starting 4 November

To book or for further information please use this Eventbrite link:

https://Drama-Buzz-MayfairLibrary.eventbrite.co.uk

Contact details:

Mayfair library

Tel: 0207 641 4908/4505

Local Library information





Upcoming Dates/Reminders



Friday 20th December-last day of Autumn Term: 2pm finish

Monday 6th January 2025-school closed for children

Tuesday 7th January 2025- first day back for children 8.45am start

Friday 14th February 2025- last day of term-normal finishing time

Monday 24th February 2025-first day back after half term break

Monday 31st March 2025- School closed/Inset day

Friday 4th April 2025- last day of term finish at 2.00pm

Monday 21st April 2025 Easter Monday/Bank holiday-school closed

Tuesday 22nd April 2025- first day back for children for Summer Term