

Essendine Primary School News - February 2025

Head of School Message

Dear Families of Essendine Primary,

Welcome back to Spring Term! I trust you all had a lovely break and are looking forward to a busy but exciting term ahead of us. Hopefully with some warmer weather shortly.

We have lots of events coming up in the second half of the Spring term, such as World Book Day, Science Week and Neurodiversity Week. Many trips have been planned across the school, including a visit to Lords, Forest School, British Museum and Poet Workshops to name a few, as well as, exciting visitors into the school.

Please do look out for our coffee mornings every Tuesday. Mrs Breich has added below, all the variety of courses/training sessions that we would love you to be involved in at Essendine. Please do let us know if there are any topics or services you would like to know more about.

On Friday 28th February we will invite you to a parent consultation after school on either the Tuesday 18th or Wednesday 19th March. The message will include a link for you to book an appointment on any of those days. Parent consultations are an excellent opportunity to

discuss how your child is progressing since your last parent consultation and to find out what future targets your child will be working on in class.

A reminder too, that as part of the Stay and Play Club launch, JAG is offering parents the chance to try the new service for free! **Claim your child's free session at Essendine Primary School below:**

Use code: TRYESSENDINE

Offer ends Wednesday 30TH April, 2025

Thank you!

Lisa Mafrica

Head of School

Coffee Mornings at Essendine

Thank you to the parents who joined our coffee morning this week, where we discussed the Avenues Youth Project and after school activities for children. We would love to see more parents at our future sessions.

To help us plan for next term, we will be sending out a survey next week where you can highlight which topics you would like us to cover. Your input is invaluable.

Please see below the list of coffee mornings for the rest of this term:

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

New Family Room:

We are glad to announce the launch of our family room which is specially designed to provide a comfortable and relaxing space for meetings with students, parents and other professionals. We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Almshouses to fund these new spaces and we are extremely grateful for their support.

New Training Room:

We are still working on designing our new training room. This space is a dedicated setting for coffee mornings, workshops and training sessions. The room will be equipped with special resources and equipment in order to support training.

This term our ESOL and IT skills classes are still running every Monday 1:15pm-3:15, places are available for new attendees. Please feel free to express your interest to the Office Team. We would love to see you there! Mrs Breich

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

In this monthly article:

School Day

Medication

Year one DT smoothie

Year 3 and 4 girls football team

Circus skills Year 1

4Bs Tea Party

Volunteers

Attendance

Library Dates

Wrap Around Information

Coffee Mornings- Spring term

Upcoming Dates

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

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 **Attendance is 92.6% This is below the national benchmark of good attendance at 96%.** Let's keep working on it together.

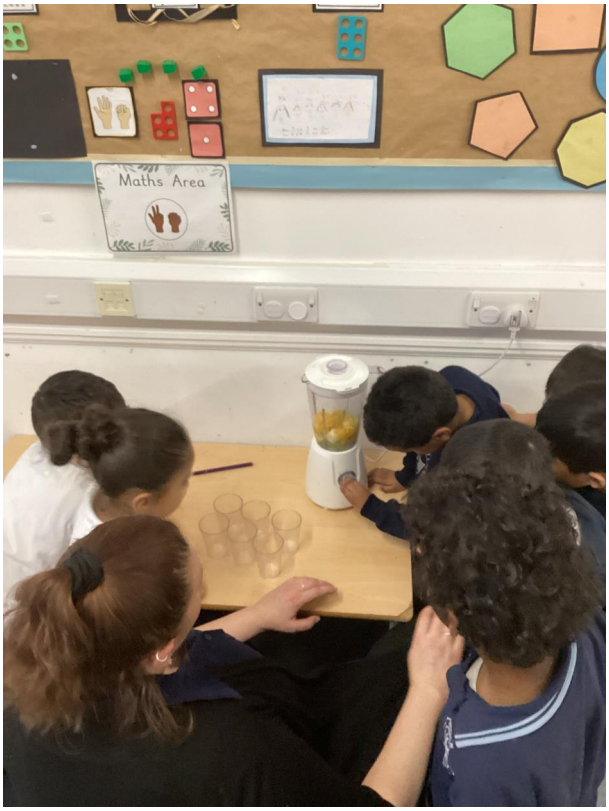
DT Year 1



As part of our DT topic on healthy eating, Year 1 have studied about why fruit and vegetables are good for our bodies and minds. To conclude this term, the children prepared their own smoothies in small groups. Everyone took a turn to cut the fruit they had selected, then they blended them and taste their smoothies. As a final task they gave some feedback on the tasting with an explanation for their choice.






Maths Area


Maths Area

Years 3 and 4 Girls Football Team



The girls of Years 3 and 4 were invited to a football tournament in Pad Rec. They played amazingly, showed great sportsmanship and teamwork and made it all the way to the final! We are very proud of how well they did.







Circus Skills



Year 1-5 children had a very exciting visitor - Wolfie who is a circus performer! Wolfie spent time with each class showing them different circus skills and teaching them how to perform themselves. Everyone had such a good time with children reporting that it was really 'fun', and they might join the circus too!
















Year 2 Art




















BE
WITH EXERCISE





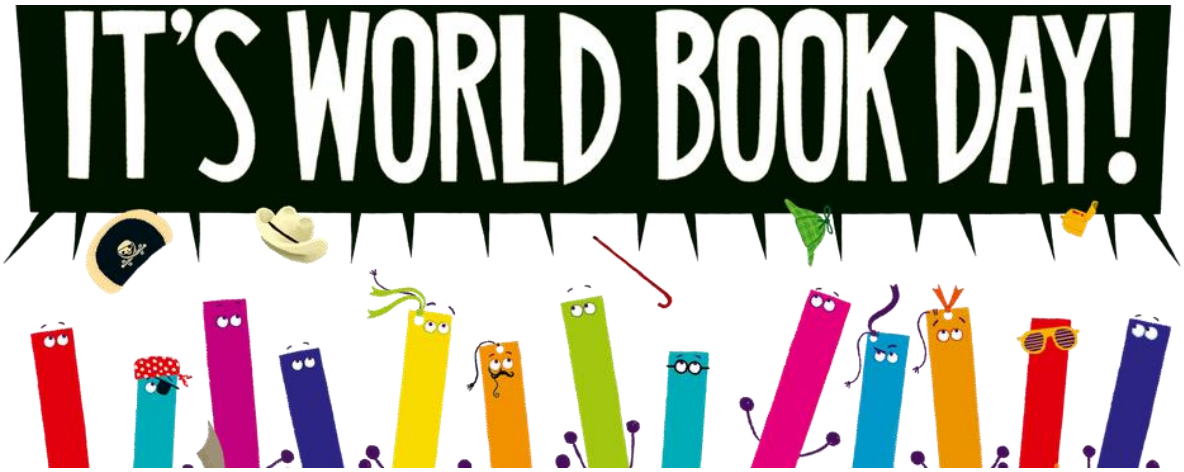

Year 2 Art




BE
WITH EXERCISE



Thursday 6th March



World Book Day is next week and the teachers have prepared some exciting activities for the day to inspire reading!

As always, we encourage children to dress up as their favourite book characters. If your child is going to Forest School, they can still come in in their book character outfits. If you would like to send a spare pair of shoes or jogging bottoms for them to change into before they go to Forest School then please do this in a labelled plastic bag. They will be able to change before going and change back on return.

As always, each child will receive a World Book Day £1 token to be redeemed at a retailer of your choice. To find your local retailer visit this website:
https://www.booksellers.org.uk/wbd

4Bs Reward Tea Party

At the end of each half-term, our school hosts a special celebration to recognize children who consistently demonstrate respect for the 4Bs.

This event is a way to appreciate and reward those who always make positive choices. During the celebration, children enjoy refreshments, participate in games, and have fun dancing with their peers











Vodaphone Volunteer Team

Thank you so much to the Vodaphone volunteer team that we had in over half term.

They were a large team who worked hard painting some rooms, corridors and tidying resource cupboards. We are very grateful to be working with Paddington Basin Partnership this year again, who are instrumental in continuing to help us improve and maintain our school. They kindly donated 200 pounds worth of resources to support their day as well!

We have a few teams planned for this term too, and we are looking forward to them doing some gardening in preparation for summer. Watch this space!











Science Week



Science Week is taking place from Friday 7th – Friday 14th March. During the week, the children will complete activities related to this year's theme, which is 'Change and Adapt'. Parents and carers of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children are invited into school on the morning of Tuesday 11th March to take part in a science lesson with their children. Parents and carers of EYFS children are invited into school in the afternoon of Thursday 13th March.

Schedule:

Tuesday 11th March

Years 5 & 6 – 09.30-10.00

Years 1 & 2 – 10.00-10.30

Years 3 & 4 – 10.30-11.00

Thursday 13th March

Nursery & Reception – 14.00-14.30

SATs

With SATs approaching in May, we are really proud of the hard work the Year 6s are putting in already. To support your child at home, please ensure they are spending at least 1 hour on Century a week and completing their weekly CGP books. Some children will be sent home with additional homework daily, so please check with them to make sure they are completing this too. Thank you!

Family Film Screenings at The Garden Cinema



The Garden Cinema hosts family film screenings every Saturday & Sunday morning 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 films include: The Wild Robot, Moana 2, The Red Balloon, Wicked and The Tales of Beatrix Potter.

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: https://www.thegardencinema.co.uk/season/films-for-the-family

Next term's Library Visit Dates



Our children love visiting our local library.

This term's library visit dates are as follows:

February

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

Westminster Family Hubs

Workshop

Westminster Family Hubs and the Parent Carer Panels are pleased to be collaborating with the awarding winning charity 'Kidscape'. Kidscape is a bullying prevention charity, supporting children and their families across England and Wales to challenge bullying and to have happy, healthy relationships.

As a parent or carer, are you looking for help with bullying?

Get advice about bullying from an award-winning charity

Learn practical ways to support your child in a bullying situation

Be empowered to work with your child's school or the organisation involved

For further info see: kidscape.org.uk/advice/advice-for-parents-and-carers

Time: 10am

Date: Friday 7th March 2025

Venue: Queen's Park Family Hub, 88 Bravington Road, W9 3AL

'The Family Hub Parent Carer Panel meets monthly – anyone can come along to chat or share your thoughts about how the Family Hubs might serve you and your family best. No need to book, refreshments and a cuppa always available.'

For more information about joining a panel please contact Carolyn Ross (cross@ westminster.gov.uk / 07971 616262)

Stay and Play

A reminder the new after-school club is open in school. Please access your free trial session before the end of April.

Please read below for more information.

Thank you!

Discover a fun-filled after school care programme with **Junior Adventures Group at Essendine Primary School**

Junior Adventures Group (JAG) is the UK's leading provider of Before and After School Programmes offering fun and affordable childcare delivered in a safe and supervised environment. Their staff are expertly trained, DBS-checked to an enhanced level, first aid qualified and experienced in and passionate about the activities they offer.

New to JAG? Click here to start your adventure with us today!

✓ Activities designed for all ages and interests

✓ Create lifelong friendships over exciting adventures beyond the classroom

✓ Delivered by a team of expertly trained professionals

✓ Weekly Children's Meetings to put them in control of their experience

✓ Promotes fun, curiosity and mindfulness

✓ Healthy After School Snack available each day

Essendine Primary School's Club Page: https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/find-us/essendine-primary-school/

JAG's Adventure Programme

Underpinning our Stay and Play club is The Adventure Programme which is comprised of seven action-packed adventure categories. Backed by research into child development, and created in partnership with experts, the Adventure Programme provides children with the opportunity to learn essential life skills and have great fun exploring their interests. Find out more about the Adventure Programme here: https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/term-time/.

Stay and Play Clubs – running every afternoon during the term

Stay And Play

Times: 15:30 – 18:00 - Price: £10:00 (including food)

Times: 16:30 -18:00 – Price: £6.50 (including food)

The fun continues after school at our 'Stay and Play' afternoon programmes. Kids can dive into more fun activities, building lasting friendships and creating memories beyond the classroom, all before heading home for quality family time. Find out more at: https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/term-time/after-school-club/

Claim a Free Session Stay and Play Session on JAG!

As part of Stay and Play Club launch, JAG is offering parents the chance to try the new service for free! Claim your child's free session at Essendine Primary School below:

Use code: TRYESSENDINE

Offer ends Wednesday 30TH April, 2025

Booking Information

JAG offers a number of flexible payment options available for families where you can make adhoc bookings or secure a regular spot at our clubs with our instalment plan options. You can find out more here: https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/parent-support/payment-options/

To book, please login/create an account and secure your place online at: https://bookings.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login

Please follow the quick step guide below:

• Register a Junior Adventures Group account

• Please confirm that you have read the Terms and Conditions

• Add your desired After School location as Essendine Primary School

• Add your child(ren) to your Junior Adventures Group account before attempting to make a booking

• Ensure all the Consent questions, Collector, Emergency Contacts and Doctor details are added.

• After this, click on Book Activity to make a booking.

• Select the dates you wish to book!

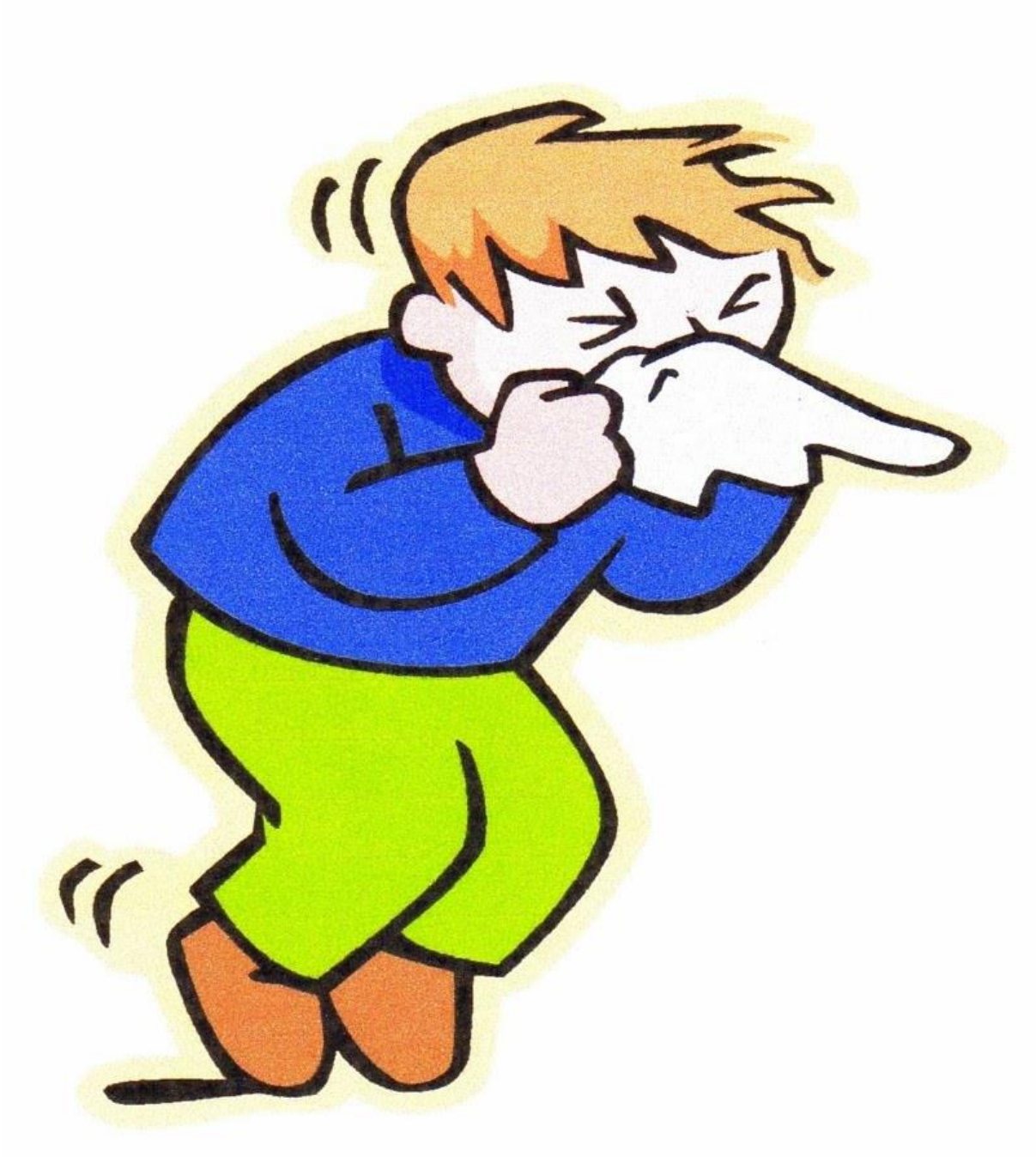
It’s that easy! For more information about Junior Adventures Group Clubs, please visit some further key web pages below…

Parent Support: https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/parent-support/ Our Story: https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/our-story/ New to JAG: https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/parent-support/new-to-jag/

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

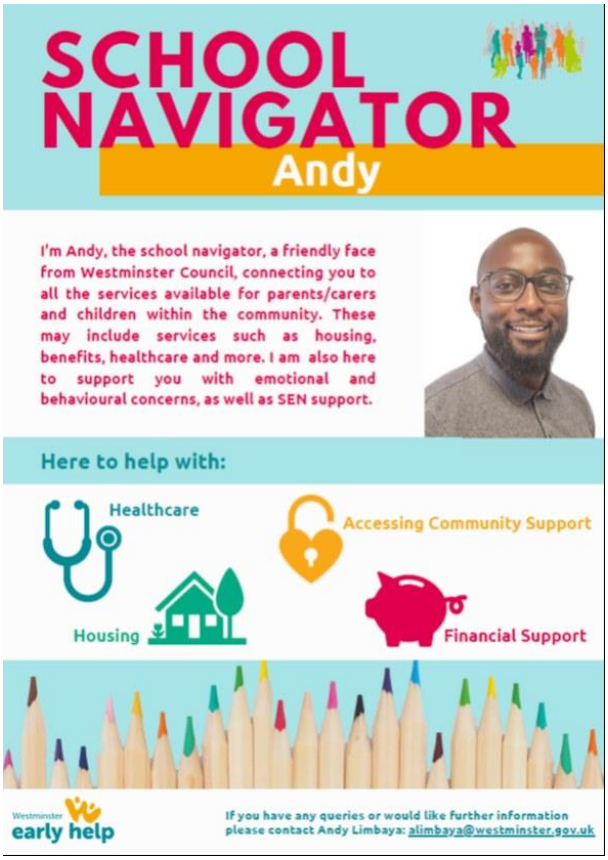
• Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

• 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

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 or salt 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 subsequently no foods that may contain nuts or similar allergens are also not allowed. 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.









THIS SCHOOL IS

NUT FREE



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.

Local Library information

Children and Young People's Library Service



There's more. Here's a snippet of the support which is also available to your school.

Local Library Support

- An allocated Children and Young People Librarian
- Children's Library card sign-up - 20 libraries and Archives available to visit
- Collection of inclusive and diverse children's fiction and non-fiction books and other information resources
- Study spaces, PCs and WIFI access
- Digital resources for children
- Literacy and cultural activities
- School readiness support for Under 5s
- After school activities - Homework clubs / study support

School and Class Support

- Institution library cards for classes to borrow items each term
- School class visits each term (including introduction to libraries, activities linked to curriculum and preparation for school transition)
- School Archives visits and takeover days
- Volunteering and work experience opportunities for children 13 and over, and young adults

Reading Programmes

- Annual Summer Reading Challenge programme
- Annual Teacher's Reading Challenge programme

Get in contact now at schoolslibraryservice@westminster.gov.uk

City of Westminster

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

Get in contact now at schoolslibraryservice@westminster.gov.uk



Schools Library Service

The Schools Library Service supports the bi-borough libraries and archives' purpose to help people to Read, Learn and Connect. It does this by supporting schools' library collections and encouraging a culture of reading for pleasure, in order to improve children's educational and life prospects.

What does our service offer?

Our professional Schools Library Service librarians offer the following to schools in Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, and other boroughs.

- Advice service by Schools Library Service lead adviser
- General book audit and library refresh
- Diversity audit of school library and classroom collections
- Collection development of school library and classroom books
- Schools Library Service CPD programme
- Specialist programmes to promote reading and learning for pleasure

Get in contact now at schoolslibraryservice@westminster.gov.uk

To find out more, visit our website

How do we do this?

By placing children and young people's education at the heart of our service.

City of Westminster

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

Get in contact now at schoolslibraryservice@westminster.gov.uk

Upcoming Dates/Reminders



Tuesday 18th March & Wednesday 19th March- parent/teacher meetings- booking is now open

Monday 31st March 2025- school closed for children-Inset day for staff

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

A full calendar is on our website.