

Essendine Primary School News - February 2026

Head of School Message

Dear Families of Essendine Primary,

Welcome back following the half-term break.

I hope you were able to enjoy some quality time together and that the children have returned refreshed and ready for the weeks ahead. Although this is a shorter half-term, it is certainly a very busy one. There are many important events, activities and opportunities planned across the school. Please remember to check the school calendar and the A-Frame each week for updates and key information so that you don't miss anything.

In a few weeks, we will be holding our Parent Evenings. A booking link will be emailed to families shortly, allowing you to select a convenient appointment time. These meetings are an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress, celebrate achievements and talk through next steps. We look forward to seeing you there.

Attendance and punctuality continue to be a key focus for our school. Every day in school matters, and even small amounts of lost learning time can quickly add up. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that children attend regularly and arrive on time, ready to learn. Strong attendance makes a significant difference not only to academic progress but

also to confidence and wellbeing. Further details regarding each class's attendance can be found later in this newsletter.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and partnership.

Kind regards,

Lisa Mafrica

Head of School

Upcoming Dates:

w/c Monday 2nd March-book parent evening time

w/c Monday 9th March-last week of clubs

w/c Monday 16th March-NO CLUBS this week and for remainder of term

Tuesday 17th March and Wednesday 18th March-parent evenings

Friday 20th March-Inset Day for staff- **no children. No JAG**

Friday 27th March- last day of Spring term-1pm **school closed. No JAG**

Monday 13th April- first day back for Summer Term

Monday 4th May-Bank **holiday-school closed**

Thursday 7th May- school closed -Polling Station for Elections

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

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Parent Information

Nursery places for September 2026 are now open

If your child was born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023, they are eligible to start nursery in September 2026. To find out more or to enrol your child, please speak to Anne in the school office.

Your Local Library is Maida Vale Library

Explore your local library and enjoy a safe environment to read, learn and connect.

Membership is free! Sign-up online or at your local branch.

Dive into a world of stories and activities beyond the classroom!

- Enjoy access to more than 20 libraries within Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea.



- Children can borrow up to 20 items at a time including books and board games.
- Join reading challenges to support literacy levels during the school holidays.
- Use study spaces and enjoy free wi-fi and access to computers.
- Participate in fun activities such as craft sessions and Lego Club.

Games Night and more!

- **Libraries**

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF

City of Westminster KENSINGTON

AND CHELSEA

Nucleo

Did you know that Nucleo runs in our school?

Nucleo is the only organisation of its kind in the country - a FREE, immersive, ensemble-based music education charity. We run in Essendine School six days a week (after school and on Saturdays), and our students attend ensemble-based music learning sessions 3-4

times a week. We work with children and young people aged 0 to 20, and we teach all standard orchestral instruments – violin, viola, cello, double bass, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, French horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba and percussion!

Nucleo's programme is free to participants, and instruments are provided. We currently have a waiting list of around two years, but we prioritise places for Essendine Primary pupils, so if you are interested in joining our programme, please sign up for our waiting list at the link below. We would be delighted to welcome you as soon as we can!

If your child already plays an instrument, we may also be able to offer them a space much sooner, as they could join one of our more advanced groups. We offer ensembles for students from complete beginners, to beyond grade 8.

We are very proud to deliver our programme at Essendine Primary School, and would love to hear from families who may be interested in joining Nucleo!

Office Opening Times-please note the change made to closing time in the office

Opening Times:

8:00 AM TO 11:30 AM

Office is closed between 11.30am and 1:15pm

1:15 PM TO 4:00 PM

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

Breakfast club starts at 8am please arrive before 8.20am

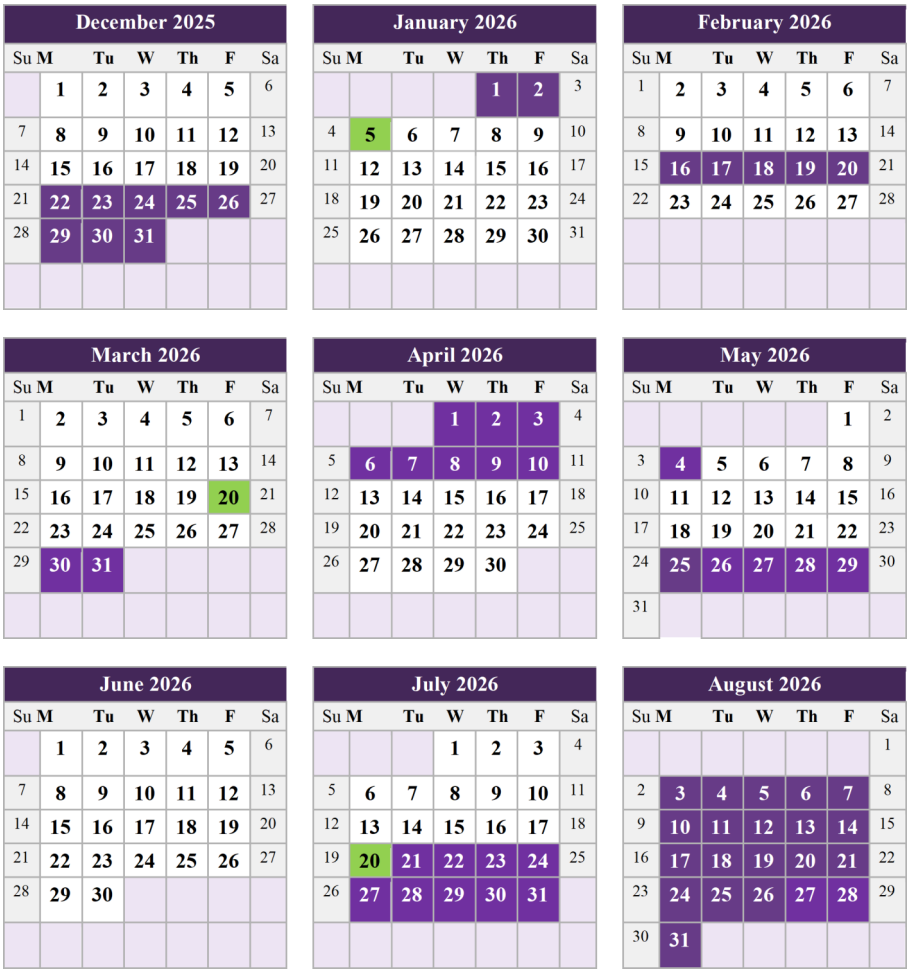
2025-2026 School Calendar



September 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



SCHOOL IS CLOSED ON THE DAYS THAT ARE SHADED

INSET DAY (open to staff only): 1 & 2 September, 5 January, 20 March & 20 July

SCHOOL CLOSED

Start of the 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.

Medical Updates

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.

Parking



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.

Packed Lunches at Essendine





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.

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.

Please ensure all jumpers/blazers are clearly labelled with your child's name, so it can be returned promptly if lost.

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.

Parent Information Sessions: Spring Term

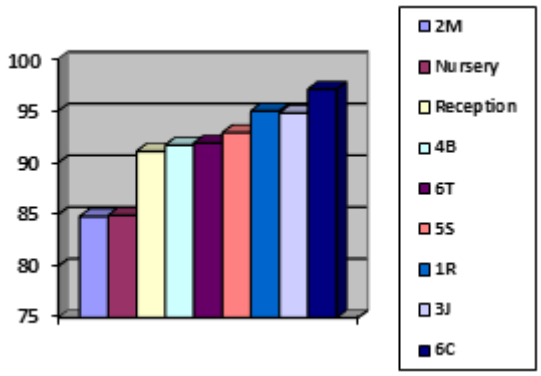
Parents Phase meetings			
Monday 12/01/26 - 9:00am EYFS	Wednesday 14/01/26 - 9:00am Years 3&4	Thursday 15/01/26 Years 5&6	Friday 16/01/26 Years 1&2

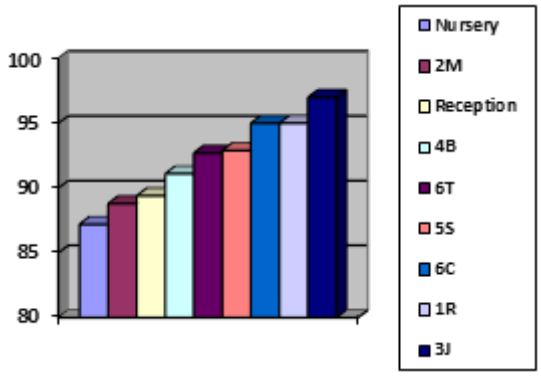
Date/ Time	Title	Agency	Summary (what to expect?)	Year Group
Tuesday 13/01/26 9:00- 9:30am	SEN	Essendine Primary School Miss Robinson (AHT)		All
Tuesday 20/01/26 9:00-9:30am	SATs and wellbeing	Westminster MIND		Year 6
Tuesday 27/01/26 9:00-9:30am	Phonics	Essendine Primary School Miss Tracey (AHT)	-How we teach phonics at Essendine -What we asses and what the phonics screen is -How to support at home	Nursery Reception Y1
Tuesday 03/02/26 9:00-9:30am	Healthy breakfast	School Nurse	-Importance of healthy food -choices -Breakfast ideas -Snack swaps -Fussy eating -Money-saving tips	All
Tuesday 10/02/26 9:00-9:39am	Internet safety	Essendine Primary School- Mr soutter		All
Tuesday 17/02/26	**Half- Term**			
Tuesday 24/02/26 9:00-9:30am	Housing Q&A session	Cardinal Hume Centre- Housing advisors	Q&A session -moving from temporary to permanent accommodation? -Housed far away from school? -Overcrowded?	All
Thursday 05/03/26 9:00-9:30am	Understanding early writing development	Essendine Primary School Miss Tracey (AHD)	-What early writing is -Fine motor and gross motor skills -Examples of real early writing stages	EYFS KS1
Tuesday 10/03/24 9:00-9:30am	Writing strategies at home	Essendine Primary School Miss Tracey (AHD)	-How to encourage talk before writing -Modelling writing in everyday life -Phonics in writing — what "using sounds" looks like -Creating a writing-friendly home environment	EYFS KS1
Tuesday 17/03/26 9:00-9:30am	Writing in the classroom- parent child workshop	Essendine Primary School Miss Tracey- Miss Robinson (AHD)	- Writing at Essendine - Visit classes and work with your child	EYFS KS1
Tuesday - 24/03/26 9:00-9:30am	Kensington Palace		-Introducing the Kensington enrichment project -Q&A	All

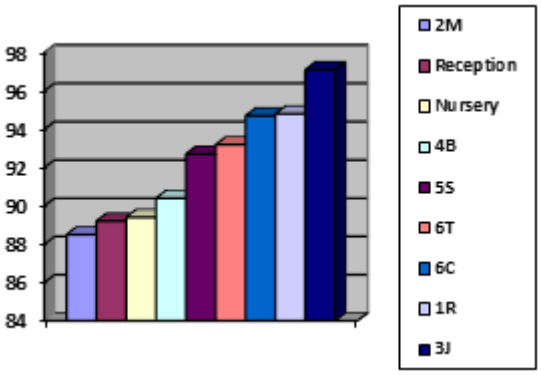
Attendance

Please find below our school attendance record for all classes- February 2026

Group	% Attend
2M	83.9
Nursery	87.5
Reception	90.8
5S	91.9
4B	92.3
6T	93
3J	94
6C	94.8
1R	95.8
Totals	91.7



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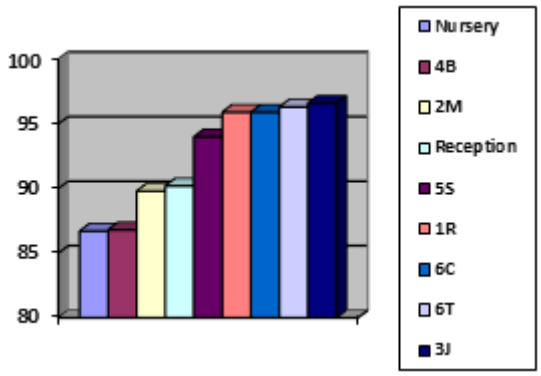
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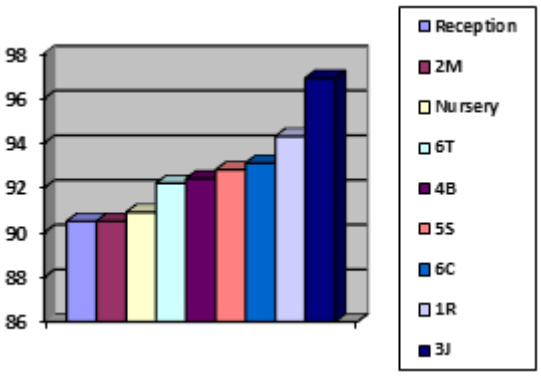
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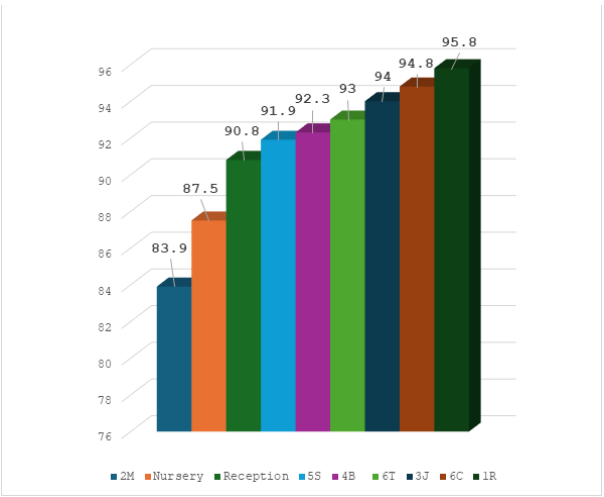
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Whole School Events

Lord Mayor's Visit

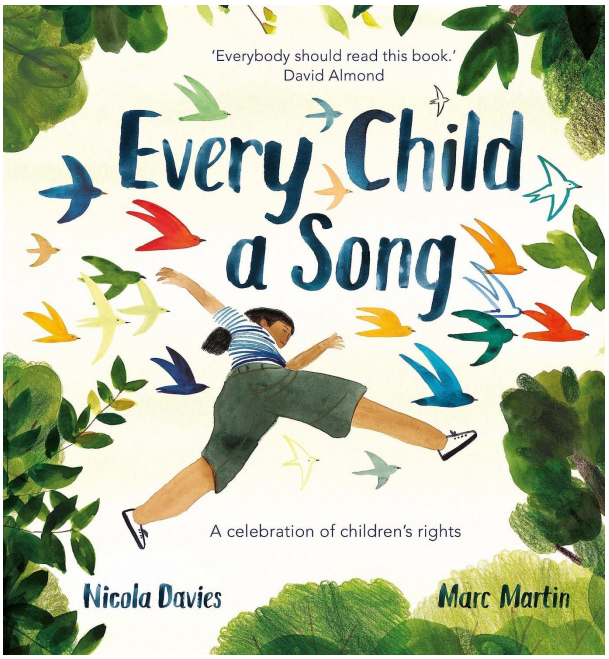
We were delighted to welcome the Lord Mayor to Essendine Primary this month. The children thoroughly enjoyed a special assembly, where they learned more about the role of the Lord Mayor and the importance of serving the local community. Following the assembly, members of the School Council had the opportunity to meet with the Lord Mayor to ask thoughtful questions and share their ideas. They represented our school exceptionally well, demonstrating confidence, curiosity and pride in their roles.







National Storytelling Week



In the final week of February, the school has been taking part in National Storytelling Week, with children drawing inspiration from the book Every Child a Song. Through this powerful text, pupils explored children's rights and reflected on the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Using these ideas, children have created thoughtful sentences and personal reflections to represent who they are and what matters to them. Selected pieces will be entered into a shared competition across Hallfield and Essendine, celebrating pupil voice, creativity and the importance of every child's story.

4Bs Tea Party

A number of children were delighted to attend a special tea party this month, having been selected by their teachers for consistently demonstrating our 4Bs. Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Resilient, Be Responsible. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate those who always strive to be their very best. The children thoroughly enjoyed this well-deserved treat.

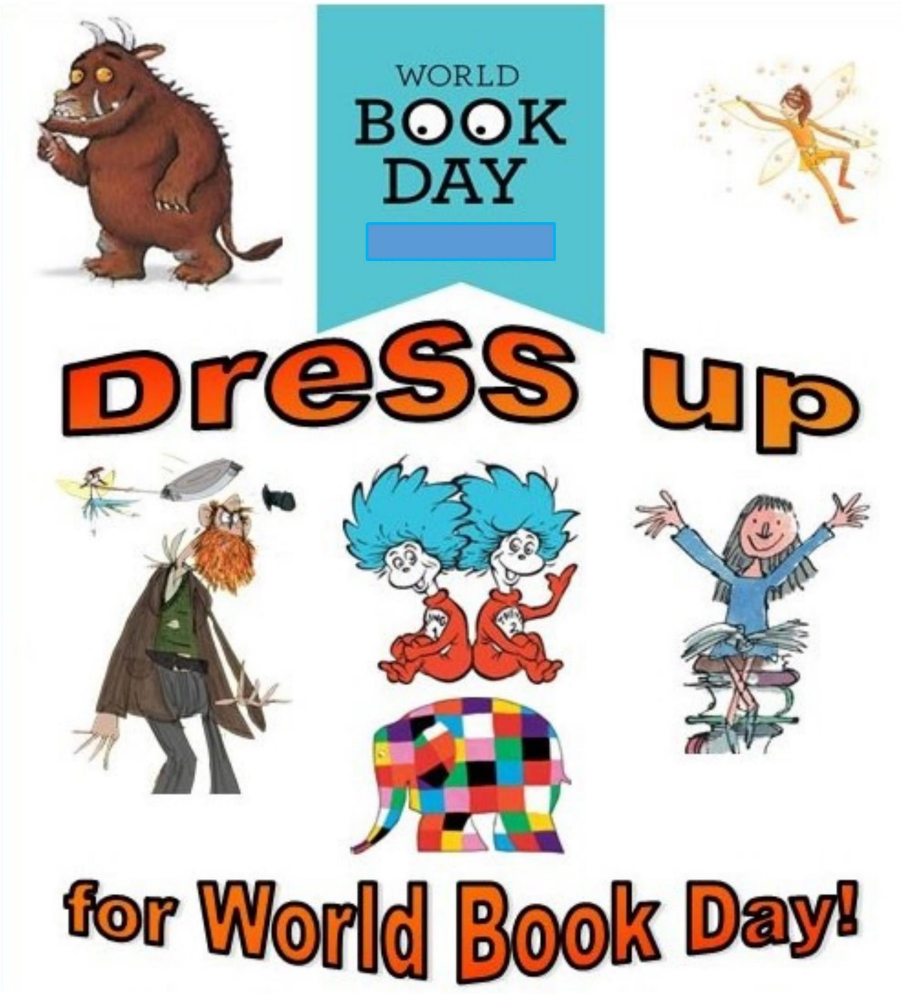




Science Week

Science Week will take place during the week commencing 9th March 2026 and will be filled with exciting, hands-on activities for all pupils from Nursery through to Year 6. Throughout the week, children will explore a range of scientific concepts through experiments, investigations, and themed challenges designed to spark curiosity and creativity. The highlight of the week will be a special session where parents and carers are invited into school to take part in a science lesson alongside their children, offering a wonderful opportunity to learn together and celebrate the joy of scientific discovery as a community. This will take place on Tuesday 11th March – times to be confirmed later.

World Book Day: Thursday 5th March 2026



Maida Vale Library

MAIDA VALE LIBRARY CLASS VISITS – Spring term

Tuesday 3rd March 2-2.30pm- Year 1R

Wednesday 4th March 10-10.30am- Nursery

Wednesday 18th March 10-10.30am- Reception

Thursday 26th March 2-2.30pm -Year 6C

EYFS Nursery/Reception

In EYFS, the children have continued their 'Once Upon a Time' topic and have been learning about different stories. We learned about Goldilocks and how she stole the porridge and we have talked about a massive turnip that grew from the ground! Nursery have had lots of fun role playing in the castle, pretending to be Kings and Queens and Reception have been learning about Little Red Riding hood and the naughty wolf. We've had lots of re-creating this story. Our favourite thing this month was sharing our stories with our families during our 'Teddy Bear Breakfast.' Our parents/carers loved eating the food we'd prepared.








Goldilocks and the Three Bears



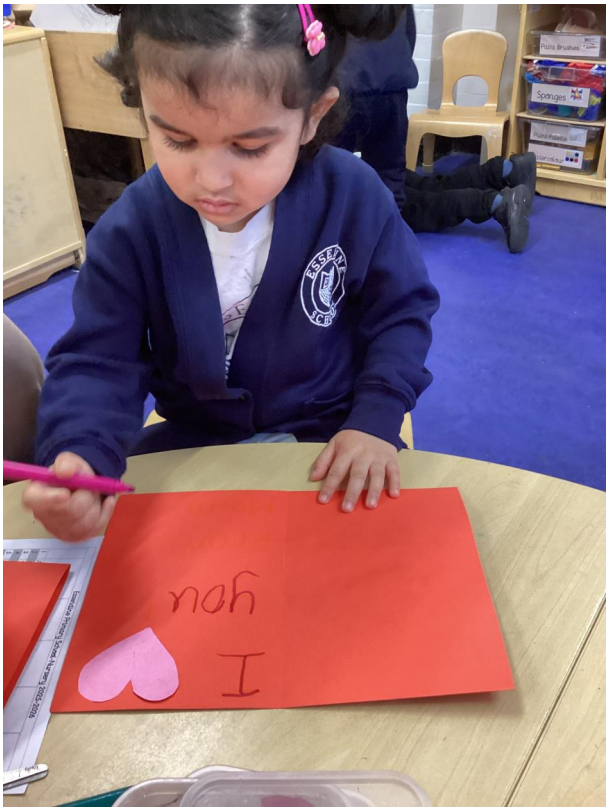





Can you make a Chinese Dragon puppet?


Can you make a Chinese lantern?





Reception-Kensington Palace

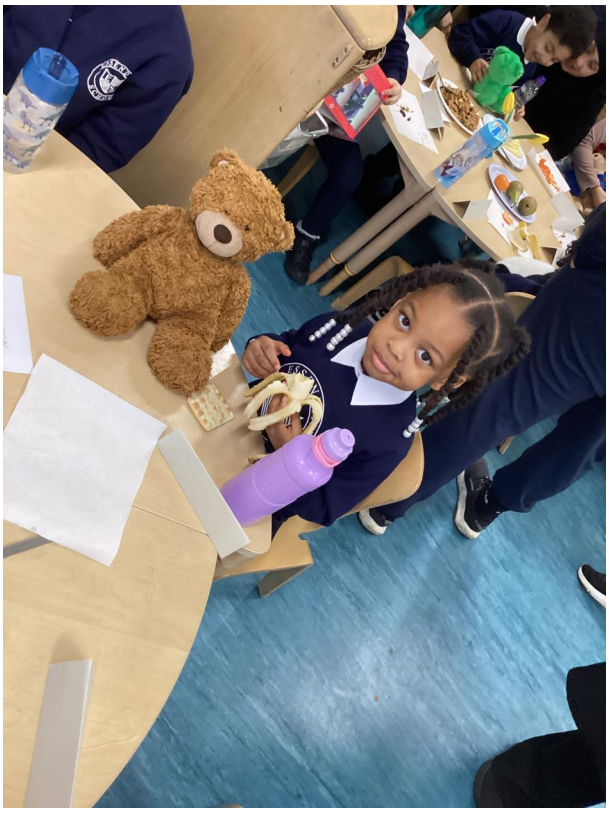
The reception children loved visiting Kensington Palace. They enjoyed looking at the big rooms and learning about kings and queens. It was a fun and exciting day for them.





Teddy Bear's Picnic











KS1 -Years 1 and 2

As part of their DT curriculum on healthy eating, Year 1 has worked on making their own smoothies. They tasted food, selected ingredients and then prepared their smoothies in groups of 5. Each child cut some of the fruit, put it in the blender and even switch on and off the blender. After the preparation, all children drank their smoothies and wrote a short review on their product to decide if they like it or not.







We took part in the “Changing Power of Kings & Queens” workshop. We learned how kings and queens had different kinds of rights in the past.



Lower KS2-Years 3 and 4

Year 3 and Year 4 have enjoyed a wide range of enriching experiences this term. Year 3 explored the British Museum as part of their Ancient Egyptians topic, bringing their learning to life through the study of artefacts, especially the animal mummies and hieroglyphs. Year 4 visited London Zoo to support their Science and Geography work, investigating different animal types, habitats, and skeletons, with a highlight being the chance to meet goats at the

petting zoo. Both year groups also took part in the Sports Inspired Day at Mobley Sports Centre, where our school proudly won the Sportsmanship Award for the third consecutive year; the children demonstrated excellent teamwork while trying activities such as taekwondo, fencing, cricket, and judo. Additionally, Year 4 spent a day at Forest School, exploring Paddington Rec, using mapping skills to discover information about local plants, and choosing hands-on activities such as gardening, fire-building, or shelter construction. Across all these outings, the children showed great enthusiasm, curiosity, and pride in representing their school.

London Zoo

Year 4 had a trip to London Zoo to support their learning in Science and Geography. We looked at the different types of animals and looked at different benefits each had for their habitats. We also tried to work out what types of skeletons they had and how they were each suited to survive in different ways. We even got up close with some goats at the petting zoo which the kids loved

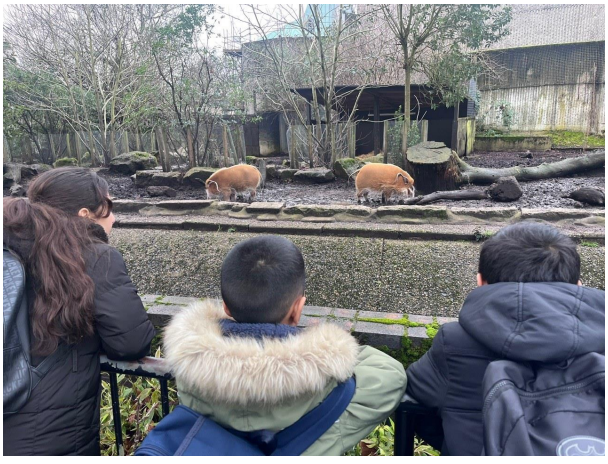


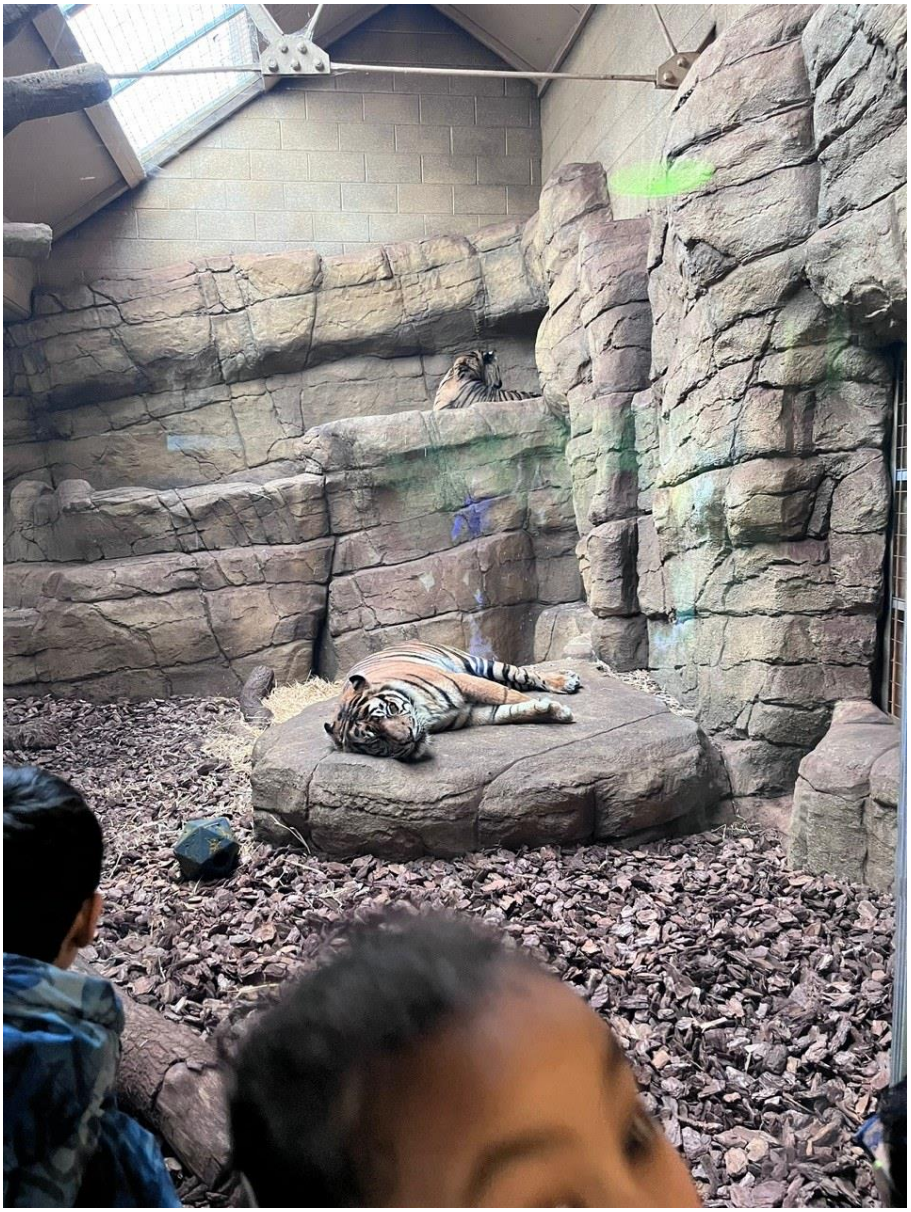





A TIGER'S TALE
Meet Hari











British Museum

Year 3 visited the British Museum to enrich their Ancient Egyptians topic. There they studied artefacts and brought their lessons to life-they particularly enjoyed the animal ‘mummies’ and the hieroglyphs.













Sports Inspired

For the third time in a row, our school has won the ‘Sportsmanship Award’ at the Sports Inspired Day at Mobley Sports Centre. The kids were amazing and all showed great teamwork and encouragement towards each other and the other schools. They tried a lot of new activities such as taekwondo and fencing as well as some other favourites like cricket and judo. We are very proud of how Year 3 and 4 represented our school.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Year 3/4 Girls Football

Well done to the girls on your fantastic performance in the recent football competition! Your teamwork, determination, and positive attitude on the pitch truly stood out.





Forest School

This trip to Forest School was a day of exploration. The kids were able to explore a new area of Paddington Rec and learn about nature and plants. They used mapping skills to find questions and answer them about the plants in the park. Then the kids had a choice of gardening, building a fire or building a shelter. It was great to be out in nature and the kids had a wonderful time.















Upper KS2-Years 5 and 6

Year 5 and Year 6 have been working hard on their *Extreme Earth* topic. This concluded with impressive pop-up books and thoughtful science work exploring the Moon and its phases, including how it changes across the 28-day lunar cycle.

Year 6 have had a fantastic term, ending with some memorable experiences. They thoroughly enjoyed their trip to see The Lion King in London. The show's stunning costumes, music and staging made it an unforgettable experience. Over the past six weeks, pupils also took part in the Go Live Theatre Project. Working with the project team, they explored their own wishes and personal aspirations through drama, culminating in a powerful final performance for parents and families.


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THE LION KING





Lunchtime Football

Beginning just before half term, selected children in year 6 have been chosen to take part in a weekly football session from an external coach. The qualified coach comes from 'Nexaim Football' and will be hosting sessions, where the children take part in a mix of games and drills, for the foreseeable future. Thank you to the coach for providing the children with such an enjoyable experience!




the now cafe
FORZA
FORZA

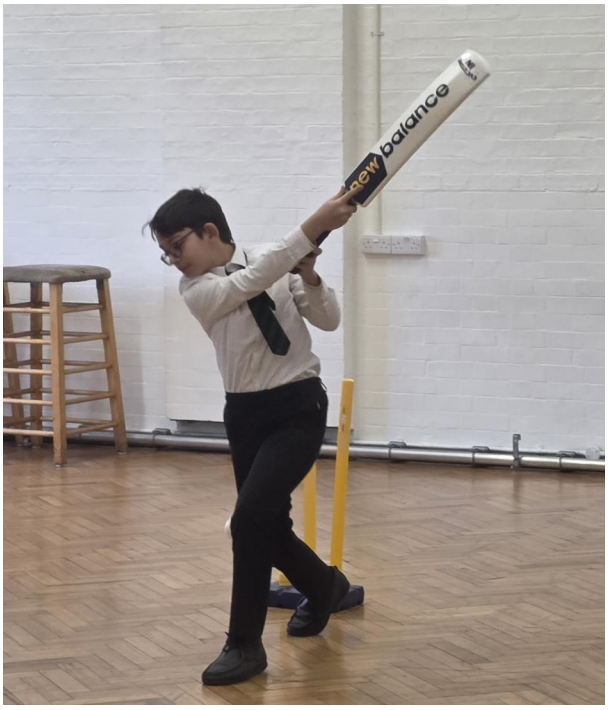




Volunteers

We would like to thank Go Dharmic for generously donating sports equipment to our school – the children are already enjoying using it during playtimes and PE lessons. We are also planning a number of volunteer days in partnership with the Grand Canal Partnership, so watch this space for updates in next month's newsletter!







Climate Change Committee

In the coming weeks, the Climate Change Committee is going to be launching some internationally recognised days to help raise awareness of the human impact on the environment. They will be organising and promoting days such as World Recycling Day and Earth Hour.

There will be more information from the Committee members soon.



School Council Updates

The School Council have been working hard to promote pupil voice and have chosen the next **Right of the Month**. This month's focus is the right to be protected from violence and harm. This right is especially important in schools, where every child should feel safe.

The School Council recently led a whole-school assembly explaining why this right matters and what it looks like to feel safe in school. They shared clear examples of safe behaviour, and reminded pupils who can talk to if they feel worried or unsafe. By promoting kindness, respect and strong anti-bullying messages, they are helping to build a community where everyone feels protected, valued and supported.



Gardening Club

The Gardening Club were busy planting bulbs earlier this year, and it’s lovely to see the first signs of spring starting to appear.













Children's University

Hi Everyone!

This month we celebrate 4B and 3J achieving the most extra-curricular hours taken part in, by pupils in their class. A special mention also given to Yara in 5S for her fantastic effort in participating in a variety of activities after school and on the week-ends.

Looking for a different Museum to visit? Why not go to the John Soanes Museum! It is a magical old house with moving walls, twisty, stairways and a spooky room under the floor. It is also crammed full of things from the past.

The nearest tube is Holborn (Central and Picadillly lines)

It is **free** to visit and is open 10 am – 5 pm, Wednesday to Sunday (last entry at 4:30 pm)

Click on the link below for more details:

John Soanes Museum



Stay and Play

Stay and Play with JAG

Junior Adventures Group



Contact Us

junioradventuresgroup.co.uk

0333 577 1533

@junioradventuresgroupuk

@junioradventuresgroupuk

SCAN ME

Scan here to see
JAG in action

Junior
Adventures
Group

Flexible Childcare for Busy Families

Managing childcare should feel straightforward — even when plans shift.

🔄 **48-hour cancellation policy**

Cancel within 48 hours and receive a credit back to your JAG account.

🗓️ **Ad-hoc bookings available**

Book additional sessions within our rolling eight-week window — ideal for changing work patterns or one-off commitments.

👨‍👩‍👧 **Sibling savings built in**

A 5% sibling discount is automatically applied at checkout for bookings that include two or more children.

💳 **Flexible ways to pay**

Flexible payment options available, including Klarna via Apple Pay (eligibility applies).

Times & Prices

Make a booking

North Paddington Youth Club

North Paddington Youth Club North Paddington Youth Club runs a range of holiday events for children and young people. They also host Thursday evening clubs for children aged 8 years and over. For more information, please visit or contact them at **229 Lanark Road, London W9 1EA**, or call **020 3875 0412**