

Essendine Primary School News -March 2025

Head of School Message

Dear Families of Essendine Primary,

This term seems to have flown by and this newsletter is again filled with lots of wonderful work from our students over the month. I'm so proud of our Year 6 students who are continuing to work so hard towards their SATs. Your commitment and enthusiasm is outstanding.

Thank you to the many parents who attended parent evenings last week, it ensures our children are the very best they can be. If you were unable to attend, please let your class teacher know, so that other arrangements can be made.

Following the completion of the last consultation for the restructure of the Senior Leadership Team at Essendine, I am writing to let you know that Nicholas Seymour, our deputy head teacher, will be leaving us at the end of this term – 4th April.

Nick's redundancy is a direct result of trying to ensure that the we are able to maintain a positive budget position moving into the next financial year. It is not a decision that has been taken lightly, but as the school roll continues to fall, we have to be continually prudent in how we manage the budget moving forward.

I wanted to extend my huge thank you for Nick's support – especially as he has been an integral part of the success of Essendine Primary over the last 7 years and the excellent curriculum, teaching and learning that is embedded across the school. I wish him every success in his exciting new role. He will be greatly missed.

Thank you!

Lisa Mafrica

Head of School

Coffee Mornings at Essendine

Thank you to the parents who joined our coffee morning this week. We would love to see more parents at our future sessions.

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**

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

In this monthly article:

School Day

Medication

Year 4 Lord's Trip

Forest School Years 3 and 4

Landmark

Nursery topic

World book day

Governors writing assembly

Young Poets- Year 5

Storytelling week

SATs dates- info

Volunteers

Westminster Academy Trip

STEM

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.

Lord's Cricket Ground Trip

Year 4 were privileged to visit the Lord's Cricket Ground this term. Whilst on the trip they learnt about the history of the iconic venue, had a tour of the ground and even took part in some sessions hosted by the coaches. Thank you to the MCC for inviting us to visit!




ESSENDINE MATCH
LORD'S
LORD'S
LORD'S





Forest School



Years 3 and 4 visited Forest School for the fourth time this year, which is located in Paddington Rec. For this session the children hunted for flowers and fallen fruit, searched for frogs, practised starting fires and analysed some frogspawn. They had a fantastic time and can't wait for their next trip!







Landmark Chefs @Essendine

A fantastic session with the chefs from the Landmark Hotel with the Year 4s.




LET'S GET
COOKING



EYFS Topic - Dinosaurs and Volcanoes

This term Nursery students are learning 'We`re All Wonders' and we read the stories “Dinosaur Roar” and “Going to the Volcano”.

We looked at a dinosaur fact file to learn some dinosaurs' names and began to understand why they are extinct.

We got messy making our dinosaur fossil footprint out of salt dough! We drew our favourite dinosaurs and made a dinosaur skeleton by cutting and sticking pieces together.

We learnt some key vocabulary related to volcanoes. In art, we used different painting techniques like splashing, blowing through straws, and stamping sponge and we also made a 3D model of a volcano.


Can you make a dinosaur out of playdough?




Dinosaurs






Dinosaurs
DINOSAUR ROAR!


5
1
3

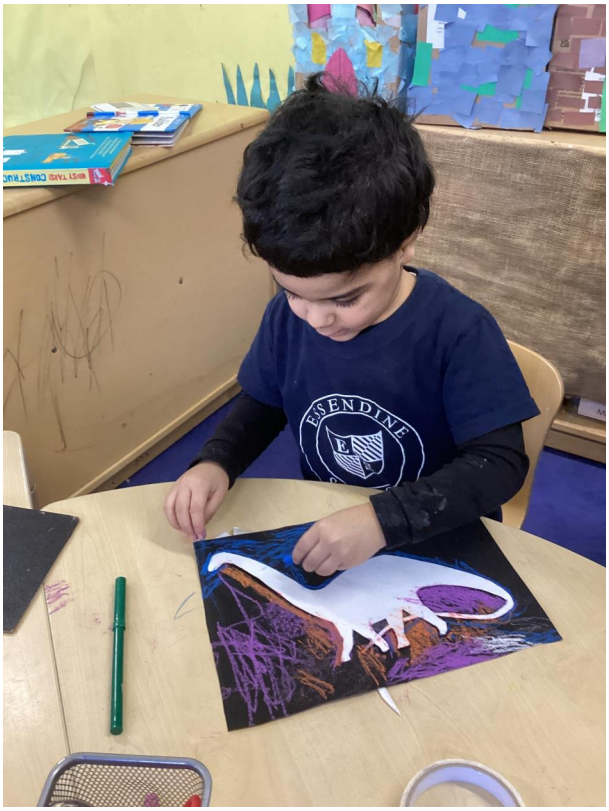

DINOSAUR ROAR!




Dinosaur




ESSENDINE
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Volcanoes


GOING
TO THE
VOLCANO

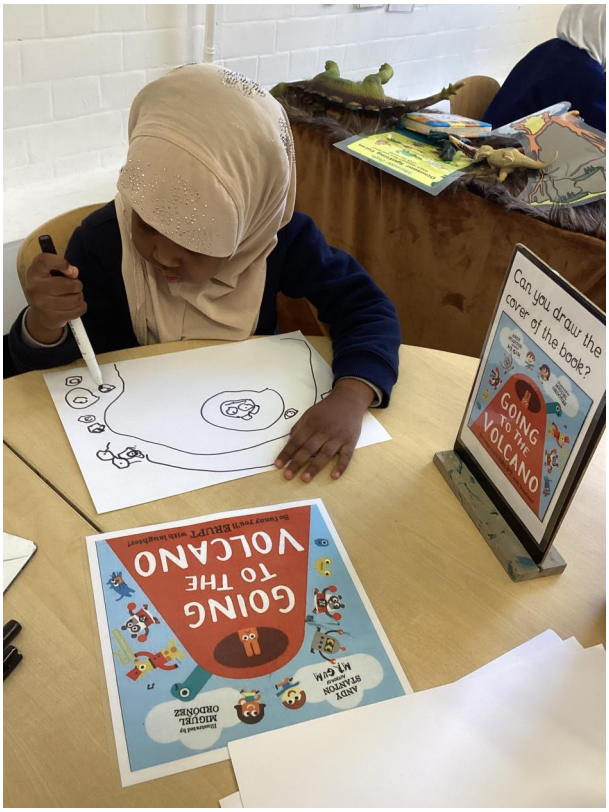

meteor
teeth
fossil




Volcanoes
eruption


Can you make the Numberblocks using cubes?


GOING
TO THE
VOLCANO


Can you draw the cover of the book?
GOING TO THE VOLCANO
GOING
TO THE
VOLCANO





Pancake Day

The children had fun making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday.





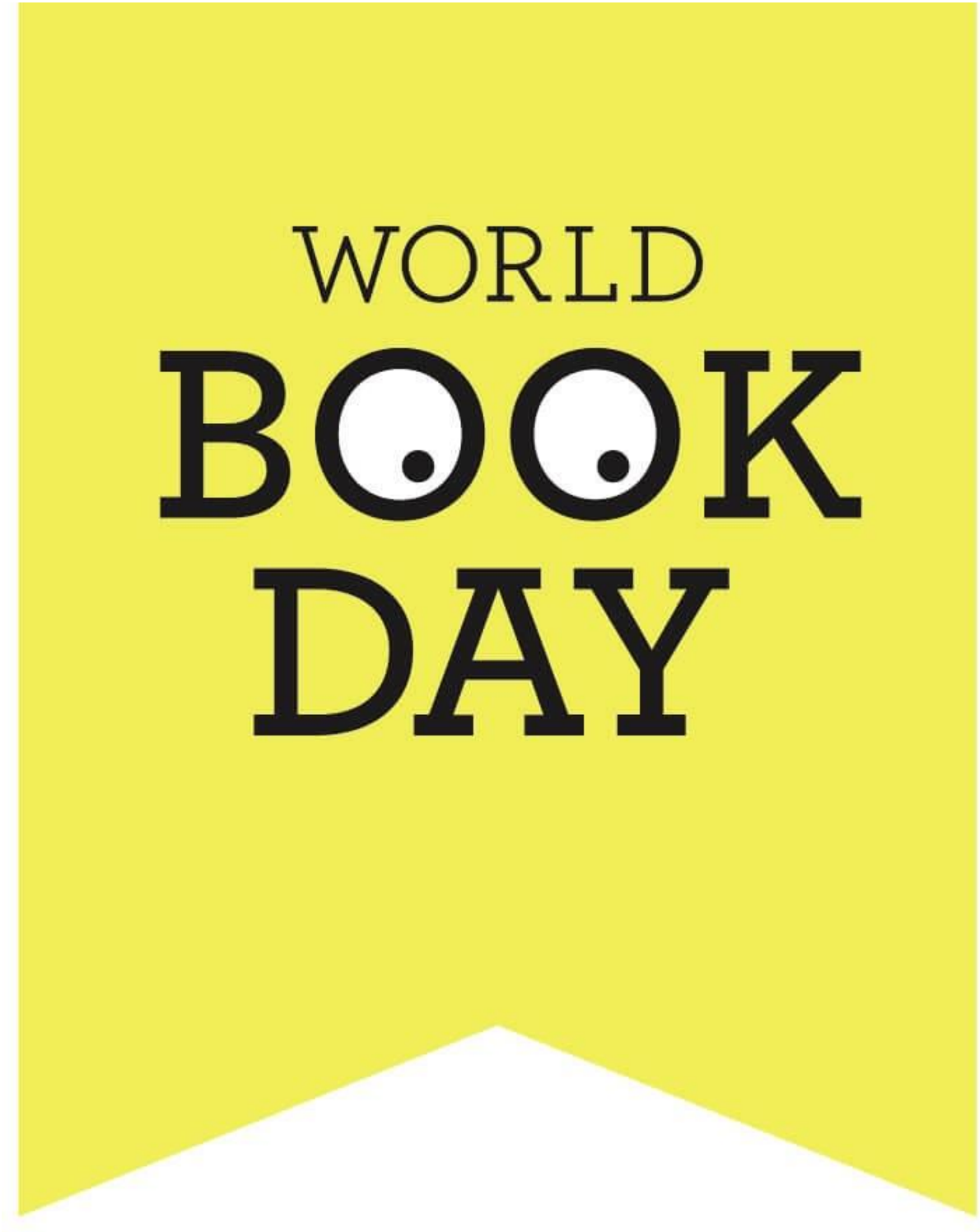








World Book Day



On Thursday 6th March, Essendine celebrated World Book Day! We started the day off with an assembly to celebrate the best ‘book’ outfits and then each class read a story to other children. The children then created their own ‘mini-books’ and became published authors in their classroom. As always, we loved celebrating reading, which we do every day at Essendine!

















Governors' Writing Award Assembly

Across the school last term, all children entered into our Governors' Writing Competition! The children were asked to recreate their school and the local area based on their imagination. Eight winners were announced and awarded medals and a trip to go bowling is being organised!





Story telling Week



As part of the week, children enjoyed reading to children in other classes and sharing their ideas.











SATs Information for Parents

Here are the table of dates for SATs for parents regarding the KS2 SATs tests that will take place from Monday 12th May 2025 to Thursday 15th May 2025.

As always, if you have any questions regarding your child's progress or SATs please speak to your class teacher or Miss Tracey.

Date	Tests
Monday 12 May	English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: questions
Monday 12 May	English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 2: spelling
Tuesday 13 May	English reading
Wednesday 14 May	Mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic
Wednesday 14 May	Mathematics Paper 2: reasoning
Thursday 15 May	Mathematics Paper 3: reasoning

Volunteers

This term our first group of volunteers were fantastic in giving our EYFS a good tidy up after the cold winter months. Our cupboards even got a fresh coat of paint!







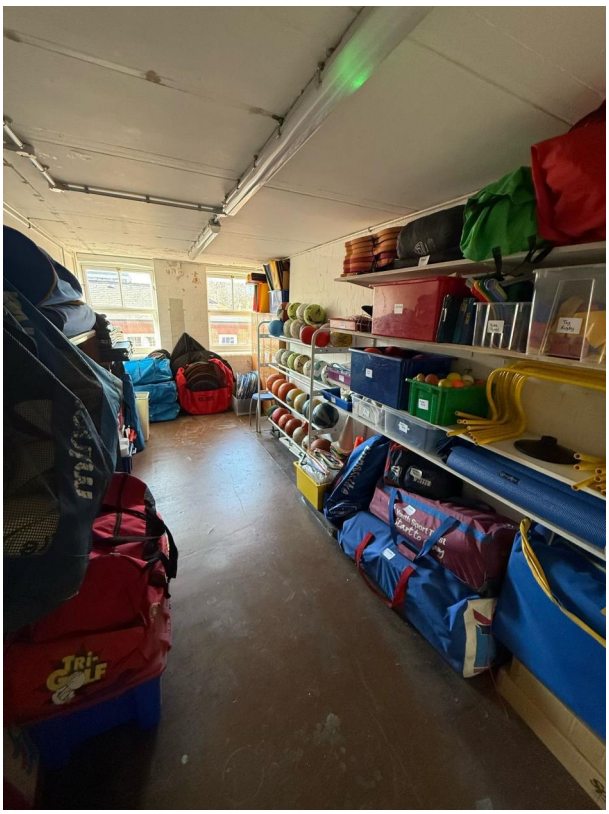
Our second group of volunteers set up a small sand pit in the EYFS area and kindly brought sand to fill the pit. They continued painting a few more sheds and did some general weeding in our main playground.





Our third set of volunteers had a huge task of tidying up and reorganizing the PE resource room!

What an incredible job they did! Thank you heaps to the M&S team!





Our 4th team worked hard one recent afternoon, painting fencing and giving the front of our school a great tidy up. We are extremely grateful to the support from Paddington Basin Partnership. We look forward to them returning in April- where they have already started planning a few exciting days.

Watch this space!







Our Visit to Westminster Academy School

5/6T visited Westminster Academy to learn more about microorganisms and living things. The children engaged in an exciting lesson run by the staff there and were able to use a range of equipment normally saved for secondary school!







STEM



This term, KS1 children have learnt about the range of possible STEM careers, such as an architect or marine biologist. In the classroom, children were taught about a range of careers using new non-fiction texts that were then kept in the library for children to borrow. As part of the project, a special workshop was organised on Tuesday 25th March. Children met different people working at Marylebone station and became architect for an afternoon. The children first observed how bridges were built and analyse the structures of different types of bridges. Then with the help of our visitors, they planned in groups of 5 what bridge they wanted to do. Finally, they built their bridges and tested that they could hold the weight of a wooden train.

As part of the programme, over 200 new books were donated to the school library and each KS1 child was gifted a new book related to STEM.

Paul Canoville Workshops



This term, Year 6 have learnt about Paul Canoville, the first black player at Chelsea Football Club who has overcome racism, poverty, homelessness and injury. Children were given the opportunity to use drama to explore the concept of peer pressure and how to manage this as they go into secondary school. This was wrapped up with a visit to Kensington Library, where the children met Paul Canoville and heard first-hand about his experiences.

Next term's Library Visit Dates



Our children love visiting our local library.

Watch this space for next term's library visit dates soon.

Westminster Family Hubs

'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)

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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.

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

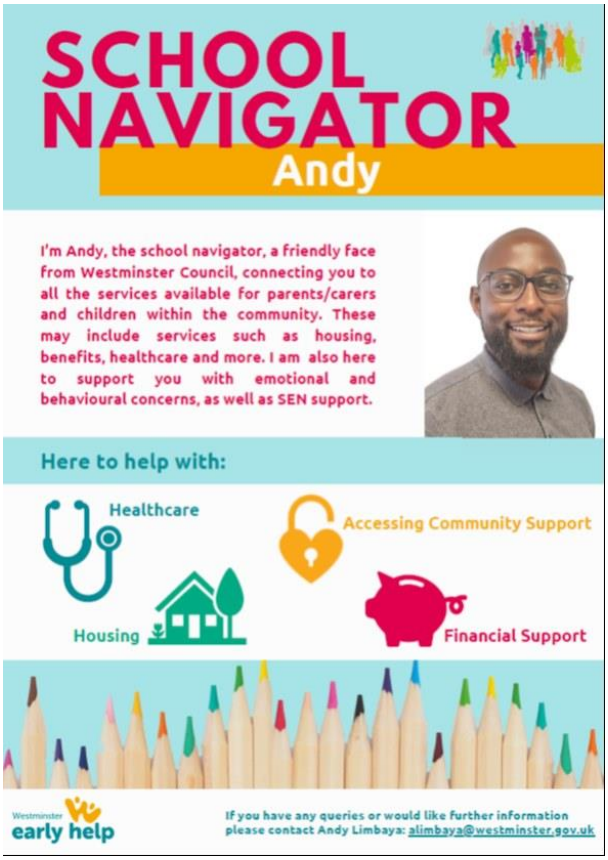
• Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

• 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



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

Monday 5th May 2025-Bank Holiday-school closed

Monday 12th -Thursday 15th May 2025- SATs- Year 6 only

Friday 23rd May 2025- last day of half term-normal ending time

A full calendar is on our website.