

Essendine Primary School News -March 2026

Head of School Message

Dear Families of Essendine Primary,

March has been another busy and exciting month across the school, and it has been wonderful to see so much enthusiasm for learning both in and beyond the classroom.

Firstly, I would like to thank all the parents and carers who attended our Parent Evenings this term. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to share your child's progress, celebrate their achievements and discuss the next steps in their learning. We greatly appreciate the strong partnership between home and school, which plays such an important role in supporting our pupils to succeed.

The children have also enjoyed some fantastic learning experiences through their recent school trips. Visits to places such as the London Zoo and the British Museum have helped bring classroom learning to life and provided memorable opportunities for curiosity, exploration and discovery.

Of course, one of the highlights of the month was celebrating World Book Day. It was wonderful to see the creativity shown in the children's costumes and to share a collective

love of reading across the school. Events like this help to inspire a lifelong enjoyment of books and stories, which is so important for children's learning and imagination.

Attendance and punctuality remain a key focus for our school. We have seen a slight improvement in attendance, which is very encouraging. However, we must continue working together to reach the national expectation of 96%. Every day in school matters, and arriving on time ensures that children begin the day settled and ready to learn.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. I wish all of our families a lovely Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back next term refreshed and ready for another exciting term of learning.

Kind regards,

Lisa Mafrica

Head of School

Upcoming Dates:

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

Monday 13th April- first day back for Summer Term

Week commencing 13th April - **NO CLUBS**

Week commencing 20th April**- Clubs START**

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

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

Friday 22nd May-last day of half ter. Normal finishing time.

Half term-Monday 25th May-Friday 29th May

Last day of Summer Term- 17th July-1pm school closed. NO JAG

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

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Parent Information

Keeping Your Child in Mind

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to invite you to join our "Keeping Your Child in Mind" workshop delivered by the Westminster Early Help Parenting Team who have a large experience in positive parenting skills.

This a friendly and supportive programme to help you better understand your child's feelings and behaviour, build confidence, and create a calmer family life.

Over 5 weekly sessions, you will:

- Learn how to understand your child's emotions
- Build confidence in your parenting
- Explore positive ways to manage behaviour
- Improve communication with your child
- Share experiences with other parents in a safe and welcoming space

You will also receive a parent booklet and a certificate at the end of the programme.

Start date: Wednesday 15th of April 2026

Time 9:15- 11:15am

Location: Essendine Primary School

Light refreshments are provided.

You are welcome to invite a friend or other parents, even if their children attend a different school.

Places are limited. If interested, please feel free to contact the school's Office Team or speak directly with Mrs Breich.

KEEPING YOUR CHILD IN MIND

In Person Workshop

Children are rewarding, stimulating and fun, but looking after them can be stressful and challenging, especially during the teenage years.

The Keeping Your Child in Mind programme helps parents/carers to work together in ways which support growing children and a calmer family life.

This programme helps us think about what we do, why we do it and how it makes us all feel in the family.

The Five Sessions

Week 1:
Getting to know you / form completion

Week 2:
Self Awareness
The role of parents/carers for children and young people, Managing difficult feelings, Nurturing ourselves.

Week 3:
Appropriate Expectations
Appropriate expectations, Networks of support, Communicating clearly.

Week 4:
Boundaries and positive discipline
Parenting styles, Time to calm down, Problem solving and negotiating.

Week 5:
Empathy
Choosing how to respond, Empathy in practice, Empathy for adults and children.

Westminster early help
Happier, healthier families

FAMILY LINKS
The Centre for Emotional Health

Westminster Early Help Parenting Team



Practical Information

There are 5 2-hour sessions with tea / coffee provided

You need to come to all five sessions: they fit together like a puzzle

You will be provided with a Keeping Your Child in Mind parent booklet and a certificate on completion of the course.

Interested?
Find out more...

Contact Nairuz Breich: 02033290201

Introduction:
Wed 15th April 2026, 9:15am

Training starts:
Wed 22nd April 2026
Time: 9:15- 11:15am

Venue:
Essendine Primary School, Essendine Road, W9 2LR,

ESSENDINE SCHOOL

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

Sign up for the Westminster Family Hubs Newsletter



Please ask parents to sign up to the Westminster Family Hubs Newsletter, see QR code in flyer attached for parents to scan for further information.

Click here for flyer

Contact details:

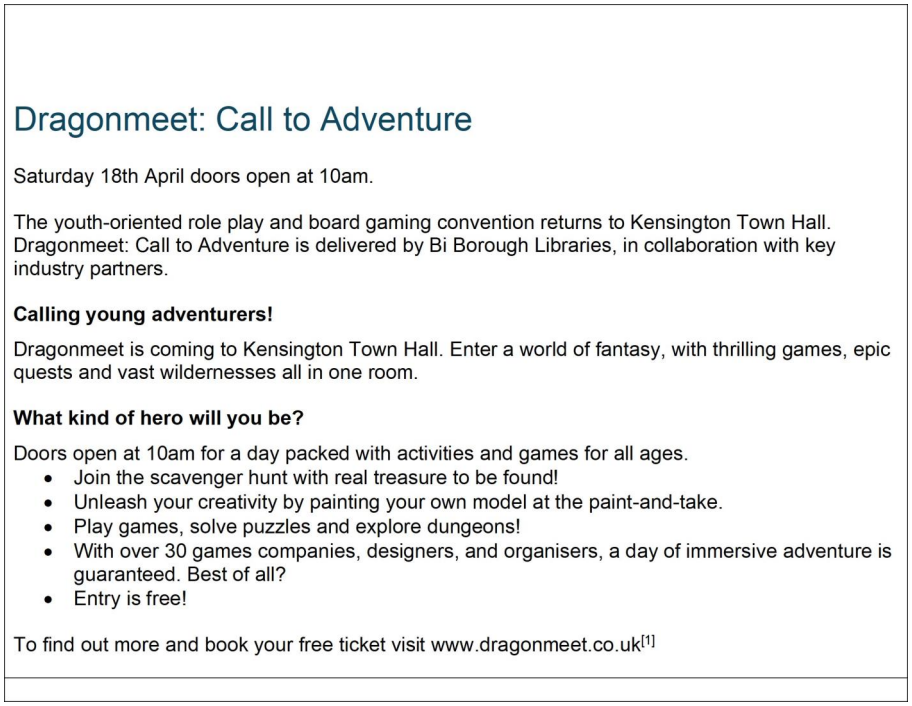
Kat Jarratt

Early Help Development Officer

Email:kjarratt@westminster.gov.uk

Webpage:
https://fisd.westminster.gov.uk/kb5/westminster/fis/advice.page?id=JuKzW6jkEdo

Dragonmeet



Dragonmeet: Call to Adventure

Saturday 18th April doors open at 10am.

The youth-oriented role play and board gaming convention returns to Kensington Town Hall. Dragonmeet: Call to Adventure is delivered by Bi Borough Libraries, in collaboration with key industry partners.

Calling young adventurers!

Dragonmeet is coming to Kensington Town Hall. Enter a world of fantasy, with thrilling games, epic quests and vast wildernesses all in one room.

What kind of hero will you be?

Doors open at 10am for a day packed with activities and games for all ages.

- Join the scavenger hunt with real treasure to be found!
- Unleash your creativity by painting your own model at the paint-and-take.
- Play games, solve puzzles and explore dungeons!
- With over 30 games companies, designers, and organisers, a day of immersive adventure is guaranteed. Best of all?
- Entry is free!

To find out more and book your free ticket visit www.dragonmeet.co.uk[1]

1 - [1] *http://www.dragonmeet.co.uk/*

Nature Champions - Exploring, protecting and enjoying the natural world

This Easter holiday Holland Park Ecology Centre is running our Nature Champions sessions for 8- to 12-year-olds in partnership with Change4Life and the Department for Education. These drop-off sessions are outdoors in our woodland area and include a campfire cooked lunch. We have **FREE funded places** for those eligible for **Free School Meals** and charged places.

Join us in Holland Park for exciting activities including outdoor exploration and play, nature connection and wellbeing, food growing and campfire cooking. The sessions will be outdoors using our beautiful woodland site.

The programme will be different each day and you can choose which days to attend. During these drop-off sessions we will provide a FREE healthy lunch and snacks.

To apply for a funded place, follow this link to complete a form: Nature Champions HAF funded place application form

If you are not eligible for Free School Meals you can book our charged places at £38.10 per child per day, follow this Eventbrite link: Nature Champions on Eventbrite

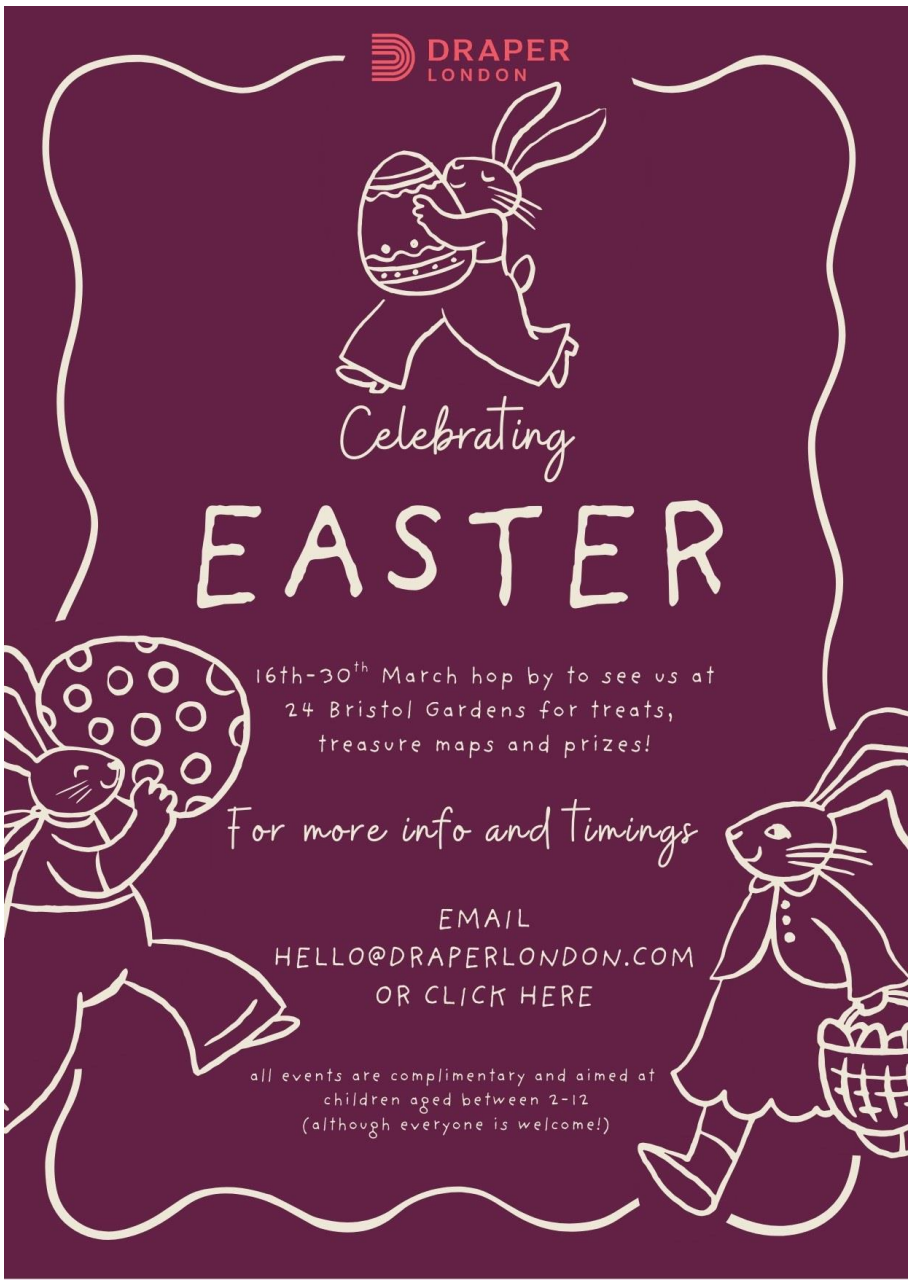
- **Dates:** Tuesday 7 to Friday 10 April

- **Time:** 10.30am to 3.00pm
- **Ages:** 8- to 12-year-olds
- **Location:** The Ecology Centre, Adventure Playground, Holland Park





Easter Fun



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*.

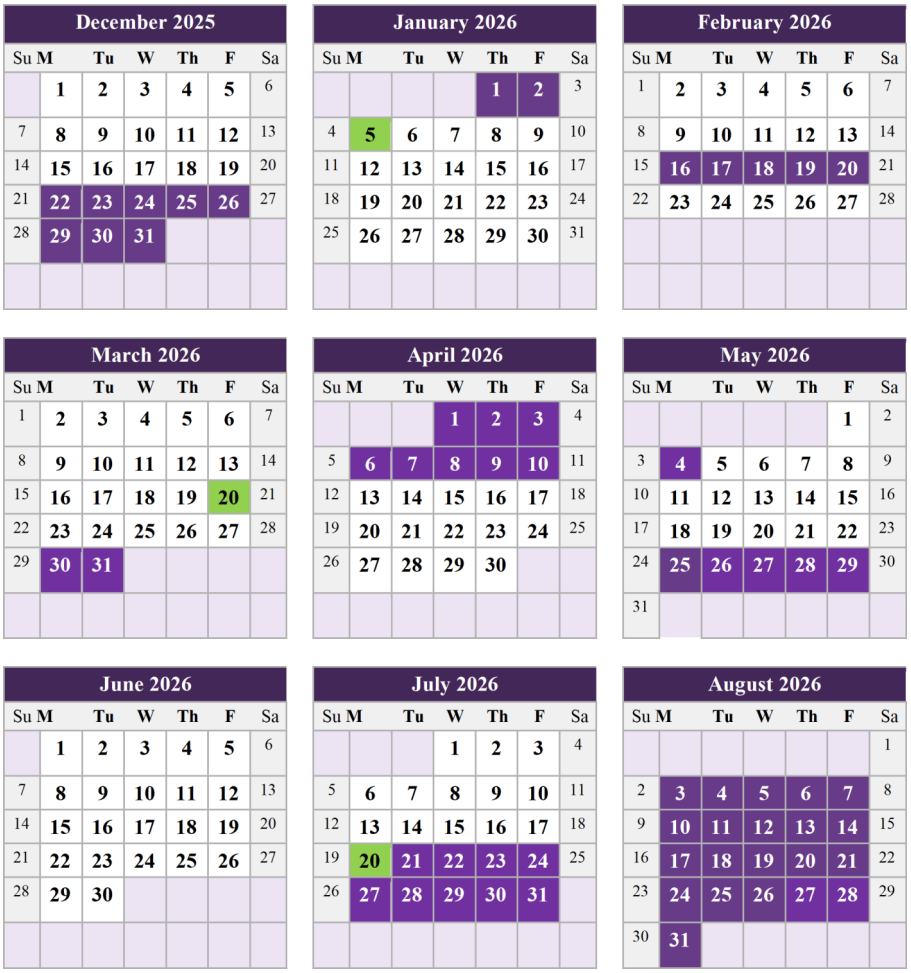
Breakfast club starts at 8am please arrive before 8.20am

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.

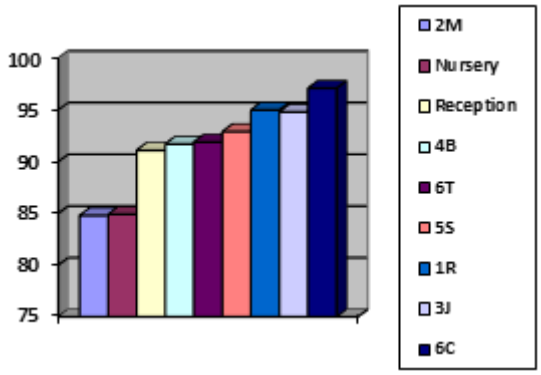
Parent Information Sessions: Spring Term

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 – March 2026



Group	% Attend
Nursery	86.3
2M	88.2
Reception	89.6
4B	92.1
6T	92.7
5S	93.1
1R	94.8
6C	95.6
3J	96.1
Totals	92.3

Whole School Events

March has been an exciting and enriching month across the whole school, with a range of events that have supported pupils' learning, development and community engagement.

Our school celebrated **Science Week** with parents joining us to help in lessons across all year groups. This wonderful opportunity allowed parents to engage directly with their children's learning, while pupils benefited from additional adult support and expertise to explore scientific concepts and investigations.

Children across the school dressed up for **World Book Day** in March, celebrating their favourite characters and stories. This exciting event helped to promote a love of reading and allowed pupils to share their enthusiasm for books with their peers and teachers.

We also participated in **National Storytelling Week,** which provided pupils with opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills, explore different narrative techniques, and engage with stories in creative and imaginative ways.

Our school took part in a S**pelling Bee Competition** with Hallfield School. This friendly inter-school competition gave pupils the chance to demonstrate their spelling skills, build confidence in performing under pressure, and develop a healthy sense of competition and sportsmanship.

Science Week



2 - add photos



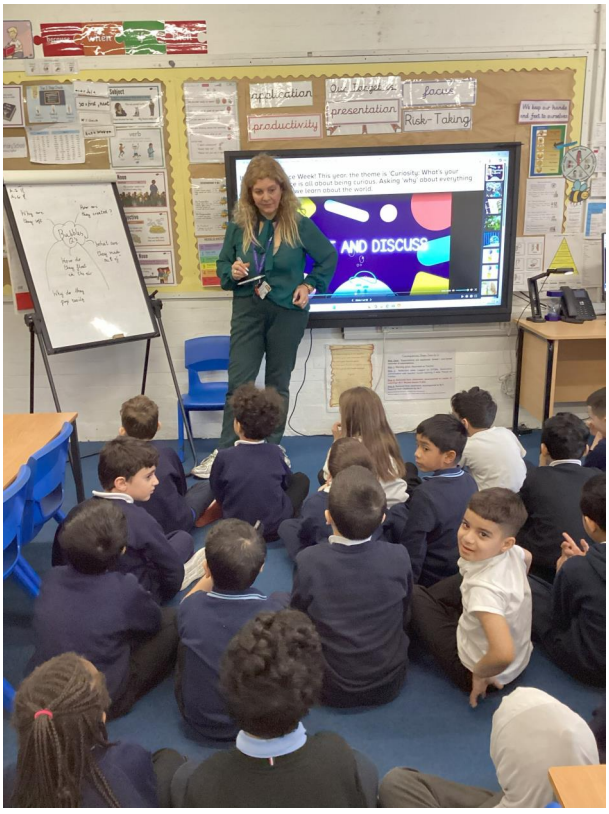





Risk-Taking
Application
Presentation





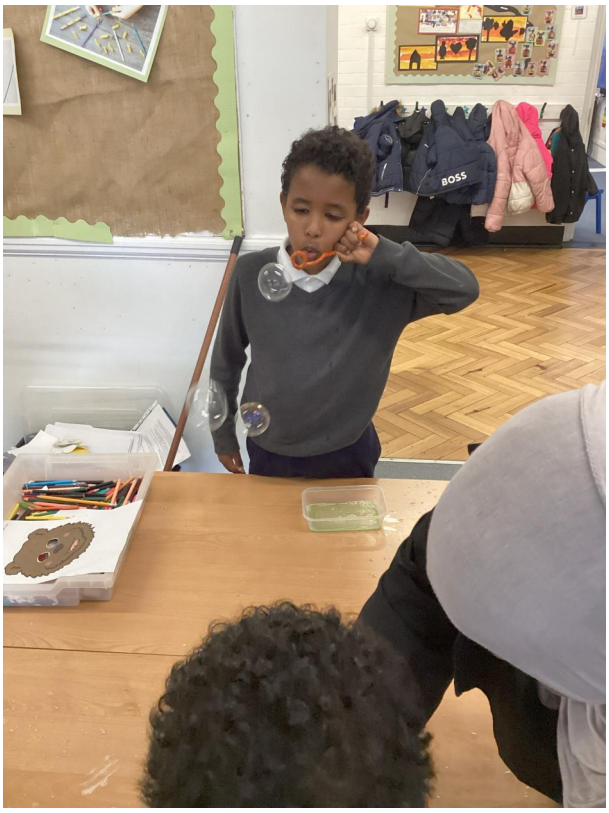

application
productivity
presentation
focus
Risk-Taking
AND DISCUSS




Science
Skills
absorbent
Pattern seeking
Fair testing


Timeline
Recording




BOSS





World Book Day



3 - Add photos








POSITIVE





Spelling Bee

We recently held a Spelling Bee with Hallfield for children in Years 3–6. The top two children from each class represented their year group and were tested on their knowledge of common exception words.

Well done to Dinah and Osman in Year 3; Mia and Ali in Year 4; Mila and Yousef in Year 5; and Malik, Niya, Jessica and Anwar in Year 6 for representing their classes so well.







Storytelling Week

During the first week back after half-term, we held our own 'Storytelling Week', where all children took part in a range of activities focused on telling their own stories. This year's theme was *Soundtrack Your Story*, inspired by the book *Every Child a Song*. It was wonderful to see everyone being so creative as they thought about what makes them important and they could create their own story.

All stories were absolutely fantastic, but there was one overall winner in each year group. These children went on the annual writing bowling trip with children from Hallfield to celebrate their excellent writing.




GO
ALL
IN.


Liquor





Maida Vale Library

MAIDA VALE LIBRARY CLASS VISITS – Spring term

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

EYFS Nursery/Reception

EYFS have had an exciting March! We celebrated ‘World Book Day’ and we had some fantastic home-made costumes which we all enjoyed. Nursery had a turn of going to Kensington Palace and loved pretending to be Kings and Queens which we role played further when we got back to school. We also celebrated Science week and Mother’s Day and enjoyed inviting parents and carers in to do fun activities like making giant bubbles! All of the children love to share these moments with you.






Phonics














Volcanoes


Can you splash paint to make the volcano lava?




Picture Books
L
M
K
MOG'S
Bad Thing




The Churning of the Ocean of Milk











KS1 -Years 1 and 2

Year 1 have been enjoying their exciting topic, London's Burning, where they have been learning about the Great Fire of London and creating artwork to represent this historic event. Year 2 have been learning about Navigating the World, where they have explored significant explorers and learnt about the achievements of figures such as Amelia Earhart.

Both year groups took part in World Book Day and National Storytelling Week, celebrating a love of reading through engaging activities and shared stories.

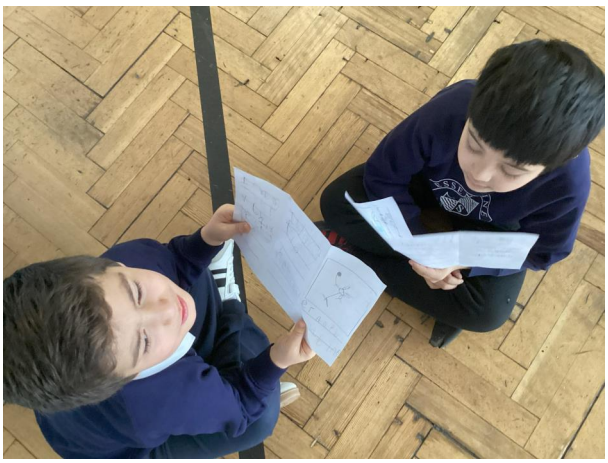












Lower KS2-Years 3 and 4

March has been an exciting and enriching month for our Year 3 and 4 pupils, with a range of activities that have supported their learning, development and community engagement.

Throughout March, Year 3 pupils have attended weekly swimming sessions. These sessions have helped to develop their water confidence, swimming technique and water safety skills, while also promoting health and wellbeing through regular physical activity.

Year 4 pupils have benefited from weekly cricket coaching sessions with a coach from Lord's Cricket Ground. This fantastic opportunity has allowed pupils to develop their cricketing skills, teamwork and sportsmanship while being inspired by coaching from one of the world's most prestigious cricket venues.

Our Year 4 pupils also enjoyed an educational visit to the British Museum in March. This trip provided an excellent opportunity to bring their learning to life, allowing pupils to explore historical artefacts and deepen their understanding of different cultures and periods of history.

Year 4 pupils had the exciting opportunity to visit the Landmark Hotel for a special cookery session. This hands-on experience allowed pupils to develop practical cooking skills, learn about food preparation and nutrition, and gain insight into the hospitality industry.





Upper KS2-Years 5 and 6

March has been an exciting and enriching month for our Year 5 and 6 pupils, with a range of activities that have supported their learning, development and community engagement.

Our Year 5 pupils enjoyed a special World Book Day visit to The Point in March. This trip provided an excellent opportunity to celebrate reading and literacy, allowing pupils to engage with books and stories in a different environment and further develop their love of reading.

Throughout March, Year 6 pupils have benefited from weekly football coaching sessions. These sessions have helped to develop their physical skills, teamwork and sportsmanship, while also promoting health and wellbeing through regular physical activity.

Our Year 6 leaders had the honour of attending a special opening ceremony for a new section of the Paddington Recreation Ground playground. This was a fantastic opportunity

for our pupil leaders to represent the school in the local community and celebrate this exciting new facility for local children and families.










NIKE


WORLD
BOOK DAY
2026
BOY
TOWER
USA




THE POINT
GRAND
UNION
WORLD
BOOK DAY
2026
BOY
TOWER






BOY
TOWER


BOY
TOWER



Volunteers

4Bs Mural

Thank you to our volunteers for the wonderful 4Bs mural in our main playground-we truly appreciate your time and creativity.









Reading Morning

A big thank you as well to our volunteers who spent time listening to children read in Years 3 and 4. They were so impressed by the children's reading skills, confidence, and excellent manners-a real credit to our school.











Sensory Garden

We are also very grateful to our volunteers for their hard work weeding and cleaning the grounds in preparation for summer, as well as helping to develop our sensory garden. Your efforts have made our outdoor spaces even more welcoming and enjoyable for everyone.







EYFS Area-Tidying and Organising

Thank you to the Visa team for sorting and organising resources for our younger children. Your support has made a real difference to their learning environment.




Essendine
Primary School
North Westminster Federation
Telephone: 020 3329 0201
www.essendine.org.uk
Executive Headteacher: Mr Aaron Sumner
Head of School: Mrs Lisa Mafrica
Essendine Primary School
Staff Entrance
Only





School Council

The School Council have been working hard to promote pupil voice and have chosen a new Right of the Month. This month, the focus is **Article 42 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child**, which highlights that children have the right to know and understand their rights.

Throughout the month, pupils will be learning more about what their rights are and why they are important, helping to ensure every child feels informed, empowered and able to have their voice heard.



Children's University

Hello Essendine!

This month we celebrate Class 6C for achieving the most extra-curricular hours taken part in, by pupils in their class.

Are you looking for activities to participate in during the upcoming holidays?

There are lots of FREE reading events, linked to the theme 'Go All In'.

https://goallin.org.uk/whats-on/

https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/libraries/regular-library-activities-for-children

and if you want to escape the hustle and bustle of city life, please visit the **Natural History Museum** gardens. You can follow the story of how life on Earth changed over time in our gardens, from the days of the dinosaurs though to today!



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**