

Essendine Primary School News - November2025

Head of School Message

Dear Families of Essendine Primary,

As we move through the second half of the autumn term, November has been filled with energy, curiosity, and a wonderful sense of momentum across the school. Our students continue to show enthusiasm in their learning, and it has been a pleasure to see them growing in confidence and taking pride in their achievements. This month has brought many opportunities for the children to explore new topics and deepen their understanding in class. We are delighted with the positive attitude they bring each day, and we greatly value your ongoing support at home—whether through reading together, encouraging good routines, or simply discussing their day.

As the days get shorter and the weather turns colder, please ensure children come to school dressed warmly and ready for the season. We also have several events planned in the lead-up to the break, and we hope many of you will be able to join us. Please continue to check our website calendar and the board at the front gates for important updates and weekly information.

Lisa Mafrica

Head of School

Upcoming Dates:

Thursday 4th December: EYFS Performance 9:30am

Tuesday 9th December: Year 1/2 Performance 2pm

Friday 12th December: Year 3/4 Performance 2pm

Thursday 18th December: Year 5/6 Performance 2pm.

Tuesday 16th December: Christmas Lunch for chldren

Friday 19th December: Last day of term. **1pm finish for all children**

Christmas Break: Monday 22nd December 2025- 5th January 2026-school closed

Tuesday 6th January 2026-First day back for children

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

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Parent Information

We're excited to let you know that, once again, **Pines and Needles** has kindly donated a beautiful Christmas tree to our school.

They are also offering parents and staff 10% off Christmas trees from any of their London pop-up stores and online shop. Please quote

the following code:

Discount Code: SCHOOL10

Christmas Performances

As we approach our Christmas performances, we are very much looking forward to celebrating the children's hard work and sharing these special moments with you. To ensure the safeguarding and privacy of all pupils, photographs and video recordings will not be permitted while the children are performing. This is a vital measure to protect families who have specific safeguarding concerns and to ensure that every child can participate safely and with confidence. At the end of the performance, there will be an opportunity for you to take a photograph of your own child in a designated area. Staff will be available to guide parents to ensure this process is smooth and safe for everyone. Please note that if any parent or carer takes photographs or recordings during the performance, you will be asked to delete them immediately and will be required to leave the event. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping all children safe. Thank you for your understanding and for helping us maintain a secure and enjoyable environment for all.

Tesco and Essendine-LAST CHANCE!

Please vote for our school at any of the Tesco stores listed below before January! It is an amazing opportunity for our school to gain some much needed funding to upgrade our garden space. We believe at Essendine that outdoor learning is more important than ever, to help ensure our curriculum is rich and stimulating for the whole of the school.

2026 Strutton Ground Express Express SW1P 2HY

2299 Covent Garden Express Express WC2E 9EQ

2377 Dean Street Express Express W1D 3RF

2410 Goodge Street Express Express W1T 2QB

2601 Dominion London Express Express W1T 7RQ

2717 Cliford Road Maida Vale Express Express W9 1SY

2722 Euston Road Express Express NW1 3AU

2726 Baker Street Express Express W1U 6FY

2757 Mayfair Express Express W1J 7UP

2861 Maida Vale Express Express W9 1UP

3012 Paddington Express Express NW8 8EX

3093 Regent Street Express Express SW1Y 4LR

3276 Paddington Express Express W2 1JX

3466 Bayswater Express Express W2 3RL

3467 Royal Hospital Road Express Express SW3 4HN

3478 Old Brompton Road Express Express SW7 3DY

3482 Trafalgar Square Express Express SW1A 2DR

4447 Queensway Express Express W2 6LS

4620 Marble Arch Express Express W2 2EH

4683 Baker St Express Express W1U 8EW

4850 Covent Garden Endell Street Express Express WC2H 9H

J 4901 Victoria Express Express SW1V 1RX

5177 Monck Street Victoria Express Express SW1P 2BW

5190 Marylebone Melcombe Street Express Express NW1 6AE

5565 Lisson Grove Express Express NW1 6TU

5714 Pimlico Express Express SW1V 3EN

5878 Fleet Street Express Express WC2R 1DA 6668 New Cavendish Express Express W1W 6BE

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

Opening Times:

8:00 AM TO 11:30 AM

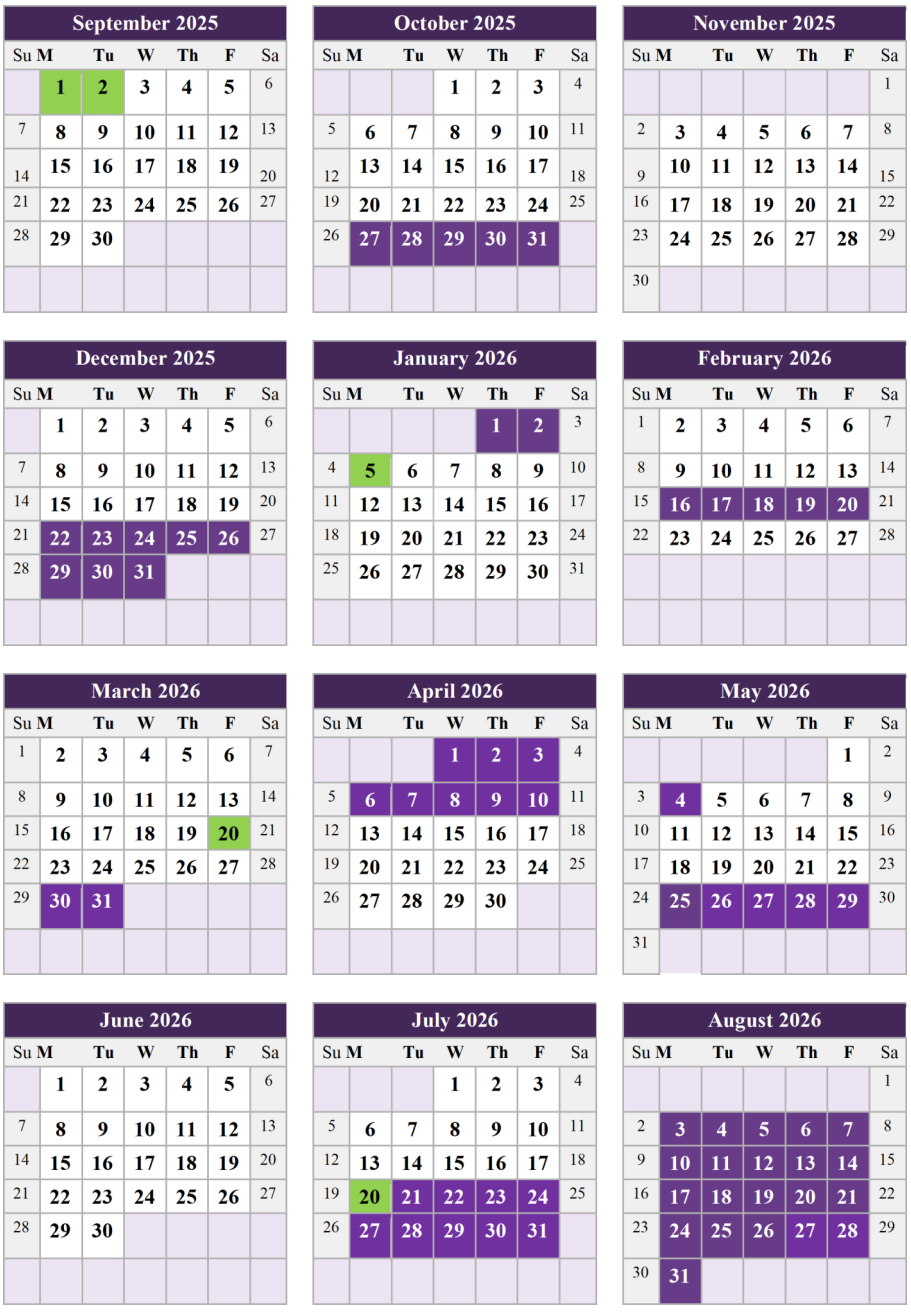
Office is closed between 11.30am and 1:15pm

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

2025-2026 School Calendar



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

Parents' Information Sessions Timetable- September / December 2025. Please join our sessions, which normally are only 30 minutes. Any questions please ask Mrs Breich.

meetings			**Parents Phase**	
Tuesday 09/09/25- 9:00am Years 1&2		**Wednesday 10/09/25- 9:00am Years 3&4**	**Thursday 11/09/25 Years 5&6**	
Date/ Time	**Title**	**Agency**	**Summary (what to expect?)**	**Year Group**
Tuesday 16/09/25 9:00- 9:30am	Hook Day	Essendine Primary School Ms Tracey (AHT)	-Start to topic -Classroom activities -Ways to help at home	All
Tuesday 23/09/25 9:00-9:30am	Welcome to new parents	Essendine Primary School Miss Robinson (AHT)	-Roles and responsibilities -School information sharing	All
Tuesday 30/09/25 9:00-9:30am	Applying for secondary schools (1)	Schools' Admissions Team/ Local Secondary Schools	-Process of the online application -Introduction to local secondary schools	Years 5&6
Tuesday 07/10/25 9:00-9:30am	School attendance and punctuality	Westminster Schools' Attendance Team	-Working together to improve school attendance -New government guidance/ Penalty notices	All
Tuesday 14/10/25 9:00-9:39am	Self-care and Relaxation	Westminster MIND Services	-Strategies to self-care -Relaxation techniques -Mindfulness	All
Tuesday 21/10/25 9:00-9:30am	Applying for secondary schools (2)	Essendine Primary School Ms Tracey (AHT) Mrs Breich (DSL)	Practical support: -completing / submitting online applications with parents	Year 6
Tuesday 28/10/25	**Half- Term**			
Tuesday 04/11/25 9:00-9:30am	Sleep hygiene	School Nurse	-Importance of sleep -Bed time routines -Worries at bedtime	All
Tuesday 11/11/25 9:00-9:30am	Advice and Support for parent of children who have special educational needs	Westminster IASS	-Your rights under the SEN system -EHCPs, school placements, annual reviews -confidential advice tailored to your child's/ family's needs	SEN
Tuesday 18/11/25 9:00-9:30am	Managing challenging behaviour	Westminster MIND Services	-Rules and boundaries -Rewards and consequences	All
Tuesday 25/11/25 9:00-9:30am	Westminster Family Hubs Services and activities	Queen's Par Family Hub	-Services for parents and children (housing, health, CAB…) -Family Hubs' timetables	All
Tuesday 02/12/25 9:00-9:30am	Publishing writing	Essendine Primary School Mr Claridge (AHT)	-See your child's writing -expectations for writing -Take part in a publishing lesson	Years 3&4
Tuesday 09/12/25 9:00-9:30am	Christmas Holidays' activities for kids	Westminster HAF Services	-Wide range of local activities for kids – all ages -Free school meals	All

Attendance

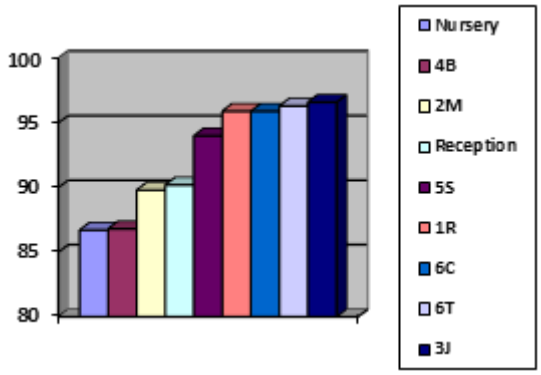
Whole school attendance so far this term is currently at **Attendance is 92.4%. This is below the national benchmark of good attendance at 96%.** Let's keep working on it together.

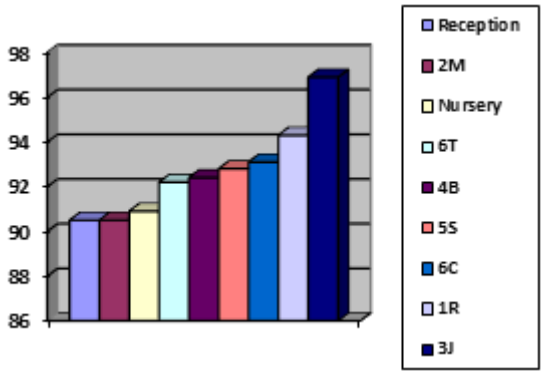
Monthly Attendance Update - November 2025

Our Attendance Policy has been updated following the new government guidelines, for more information, please visit the school's website- Key Information- Policies- Attendance Policy

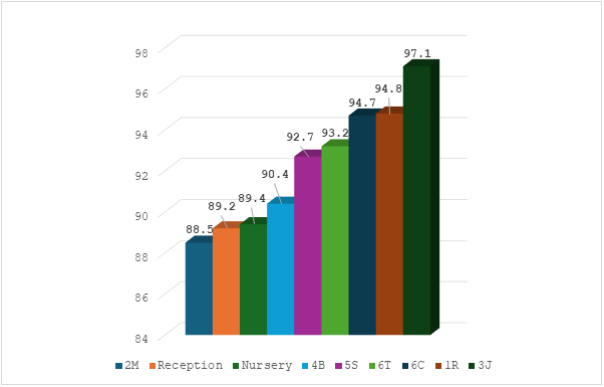
Please find below our school attendance record for all classes – November 2025

Group	% Attend
2M	88.5
Reception	89.2
Nursery	89.4
4B	90.4
5S	92.7
6T	93.2
6C	94.7
1R	94.8
3J	97.1
Totals	92.4





Well done to 3J for scoring best attendance of the month with a record of 97.1%!



Whole School Events

Art Competition

Front Cover Competition – Queen's Park Family Hub Family Cookbook

They are making a new *Queen's Park Family Hub Family Cookbook*. It will help families cook **healthy meals on a budget**. They would like **children to design the front cover** for our cookbook!

They are looking for bright, happy pictures that show:

- Families cooking together
- Healthy foods like fruit and vegetables
- Low-cost foods such as pasta, rice, beans or tinned tomatoes
- A kitchen scene or cooking at home
- Colourful, welcoming drawings that make families want to open the book

Prizes will be given to children whose pictures are chosen for the cookbook.

Your artwork might be on the **front cover** or inside the book!

All children are welcome to take part.

Have fun, be creative and show us your best healthy-eating picture!

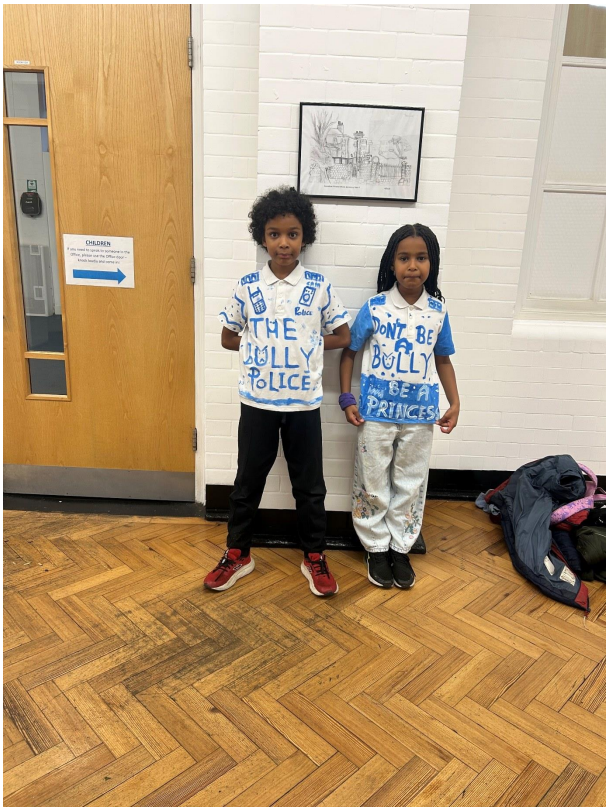
You will need hand all art work to your class teacher by the 12th December, with your name and class written clearly on the back.

Good luck!

Anti -Bullying Week

The theme for this years Anti-Bullying Week was, 'The Power of Good.' We had a poster competition, wore odd socks and had a blue themed day. The children also took part in role play activities where they showcased how they can use their power for good and to help stop bullying.





Poet Visit

We were delighted to welcome **Joshua Seigal to KS2**, who delivered an exciting and inspiring workshop all about his poetry and his journey to becoming a poet. He captivated the children with his performances and shared valuable insights into the creative writing process. Joshua also introduced a new national competition, **The Young Poet Laureate**, and encouraged our pupils to take part. We can't wait to see the wonderful poems they produce!



EYFS Nursery/Reception

We've been learning lots of nursery rhymes in EYFS. We've been performing them and exploring the characters in them. We also learned about fireworks night and made some lovely artwork, looking at the colours and shine in the fireworks.



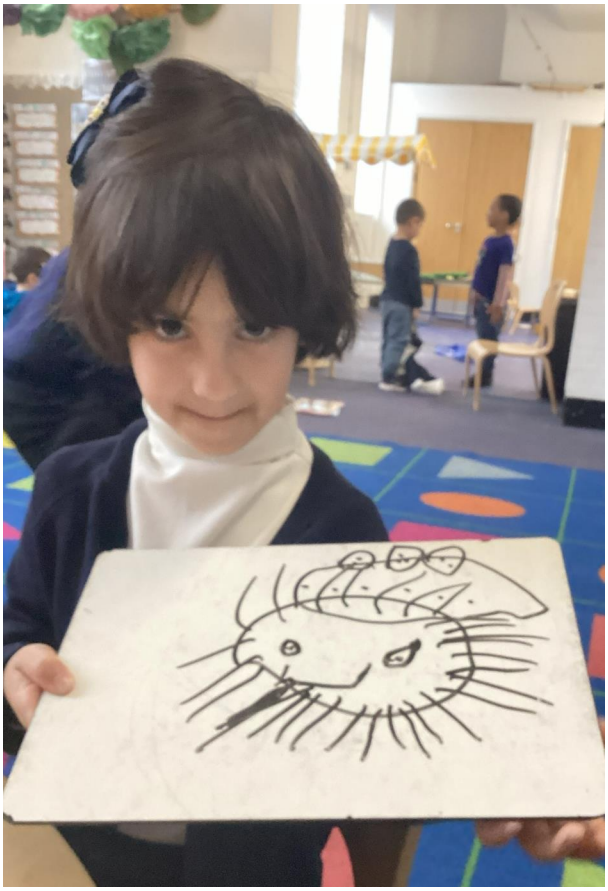
1 - Humpty Dumpty



2 - Incey Wincey spider









3 - Counting cubes











4 - Receptioon at Work






Can you paint circles?





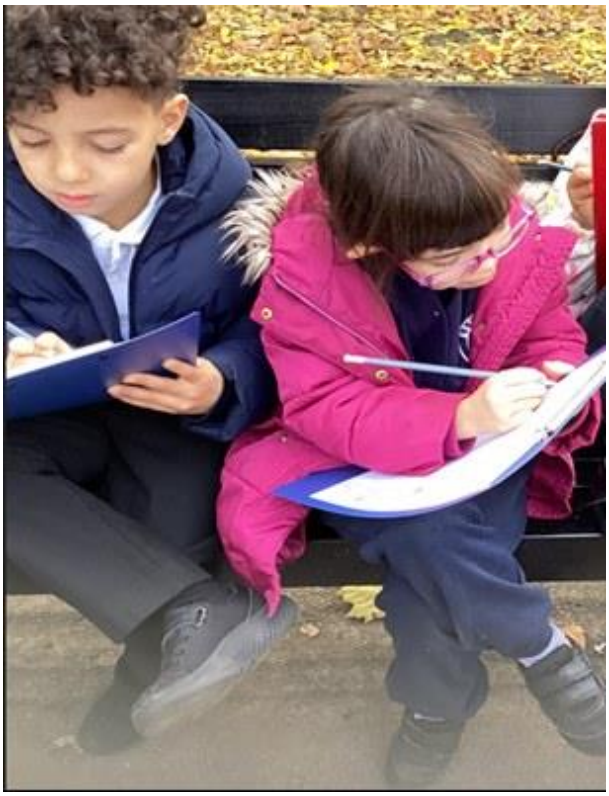
KS1 -Years 1 and 2

Year 1 went on a fantastic trip around London to discover some of the city's most important landmarks. Their journey began with an underground ride to Canary Wharf, followed by a trip on the Uber Boat from the pier. Along the river, the children spotted many iconic sights, including The Shard, Tower Bridge, The Tower of London, The Golden Hinde, Tate Modern, St Paul's Cathedral, the London Eye, Big Ben, and the Houses of Parliament. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to see the places they have been learning about in class.

Year 2 also enjoyed an engaging trip this term. They visited Paddington Rec as part of their Science learning, exploring living things and their habitats. The children investigated local wildlife, observed different environments, and deepened their understanding of how animals survive and thrive in their natural surroundings.



5 - Year 1 at Paddington Rec







Year 1 Uber Boat Trip

Year 1 went on a trip around London to discover important landmarks. The class first made their way to Canary Wharf by underground then they took the Uber boat at the pier. They saw the Shard, Tower Bridge, the Tower of London, The Golden Hinde, Tate Modern, St Paul's Cathedral, the London Eye, Big Ben and the parliament.




SMOKING







Lower KS2-Years 3 and 4

Year 3 and Year 4 have continued this term with a trip to Forest School at Paddington Rec, where they have explored the natural world, taken part in outdoor learning activities and created beautiful artwork inspired by nature.

3J also enjoyed a memorable visit to the Floating Classroom, where they travelled along the canal, spotted different species of birds and took part in exciting hands-on workshops. These experiences have helped deepen their curiosity, creativity and understanding of the world around them.















Sports Inspired

Year 3 and 4 Sports Inspired: Year 3 and 4 went to Mobely Sports Centre for the Sports Inspired Initiative. We competed in a variety of activities like judo, dancing and rugby. Our students made us proud in the way they tried every activity and showed excellent sportsmanship. One of our teams showed such great sportsmanship that they won the trophy for Team Spirit, for the second year in a row. Our Years 3 and 4 were gracious losers and humble winners. We were very proud of them.





Upper KS2-Years 5 and 6

It's been another exciting and action-packed term for Year 5 and Year 6! Both year groups welcomed a visit from our local police officer, PC Friend, who spoke to the children about online safety and how to stay safe in the digital world.

Year 6 have taken part in a netball tournament at Paddington Rec, showing great teamwork and sportsmanship. They also visited the Westminster Lord Mayor's office in Victoria, where they had the chance to ask thoughtful questions, learn about the history of this prestigious role, and even hold the ceremonial mace! Year 6 also took part in a wellbeing workshop, creating adverts to showcase their favourite ways to look after themselves — from talking to a friend, playing football and listening to music, to many other thoughtful ideas.

Meanwhile, both Year 5 and 6 have been continuing to get ready for our upcoming school production of A Christmas Carol. We can't wait to see their talents shine on stage!



6 - Year 6 Wellbeing Workshop









Volunteers

As part of our Safety Week, we were pleased to welcome volunteers from **Heathrow Express**, who led a special assembly on safe travel by train. The children were fully engaged and learned important messages about staying aware, following safety signs, and behaving responsibly near railways. We are very grateful to the team for giving their time and expertise.





Children's University -November Update

Are you looking for some new extra-curricular activities to participate in during December? Here are a few for you:

Southbank Winter Market

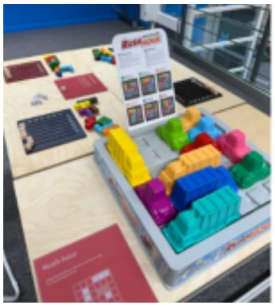
What? A Must-Visit Experience in London

Where? Set along the picturesque **River Thames**.

Who? Children of all ages

Cost? Entry is free!

What? Maths World is London's first maths discovery centre. It has interactive hands-on exhibits. It turns numbers, logic and problem-solving into real-life adventures.





Where? Arches, 6 Burrell St, London SE1 0UN

Who? Children of all ages

Book here

[MathsCity Tickets, Products, Bundles, Membership Plans, Gift Vouchers - Buy Online]

Stay and Play with JAG

Junior Adventures Group




Amazing
After School
Experiences
STAY
PLAY






Amazing
After School
Experiences



Contact Us

junioradventuresgroup.co.uk

0333 577 1533

@junioradventuresgroupuk @junioradventuresgroupuk

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

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/