

Essendine Primary School News - September 2025

Head of School Message

Dear Families of Essendine Primary,

Welcome to a new and exciting school year! We are thrilled to welcome you and your children to our primary school community, a big welcome to any new families beginning their journey with Essendine. We look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and exciting opportunities. Our dedicated staff are committed to creating a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment where every child can thrive. We value the partnership between home and school and believe that, by working together, we can ensure the best possible experience for your child. Thank you to the many of you who joined our recent parents' events, particularly our phase meetings. If you were unable to join- they can be found on our website.

This month's newsletter is packed with information and showcases the wonderful start our children have had to the school year.

Please make sure to look at our website calendar and the board at the front gates for information and dates.

Lisa Mafrica

Head of School

Upcoming Dates:

Friday 24th October: Last day of term. 3:15pm finish for EYFS, 3:30 for Years 1-6

Week commencing 20th October- No CLUBS

Half term: Monday 27th October-Friday 31st October-**school closed**

Monday 3rd November: First day of Autumn 2 term

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

Tesco and Essendine

Please vote for our school at any of the Tesco stores listed below it is an amazing opportunity for our school to gain some much needed funding. Essendine Primary School Upgrade Garden Space We believe at Essendine that outdoor learning is more important than ever, to 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

Office Opening Times

Opening Times:

8:00 AM TO 11:30 AM

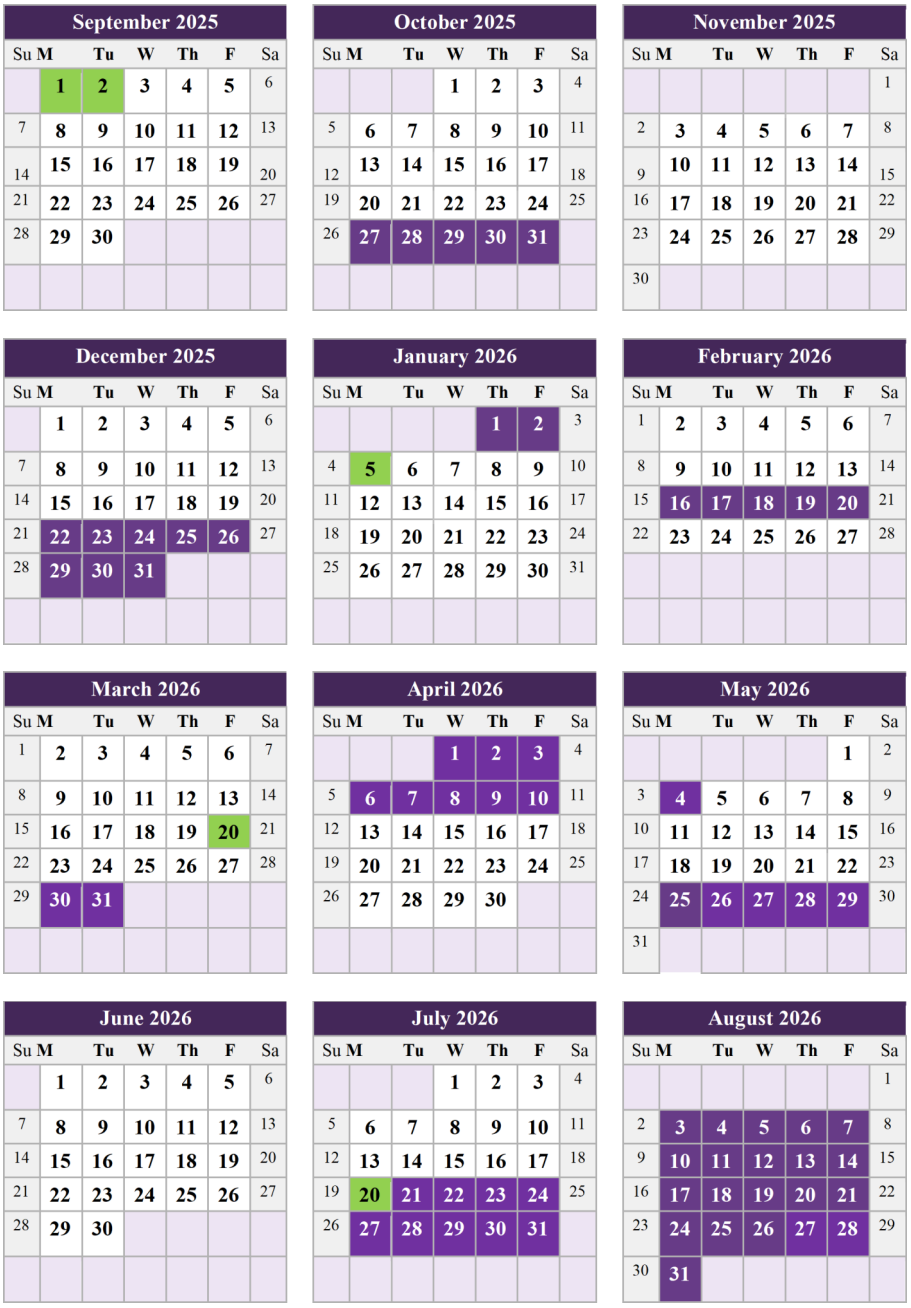
Office is closed between 11.30am and 1:15pm

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

Parents Phase meetings				
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

Films for the Family





Attendance

Whole school attendance so far this term is currently at **Attendance is 92.5 This is below the national benchmark of good attendance at 96%.** Let's keep working on it together.

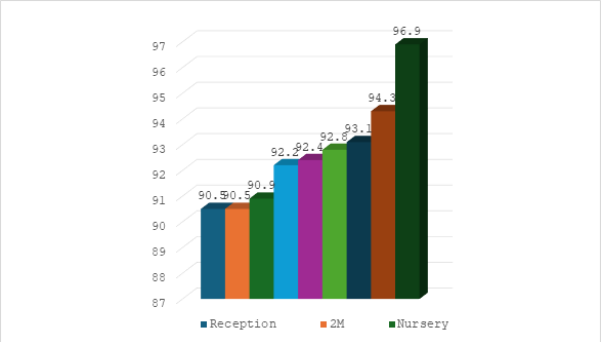
Attendance in September 2025

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 – September 2025

Group	% Attend
Reception	90.5
2M	90.5
Nursery	90.9
6T	92.2
4B	92.4
5S	92.8
6C	93.1
1R	94.3
3J	96.9
Totals	92.9

Well done to 3J for scoring best attendance of the month with a record of 96.9%!



Whole School Events

KS2 School Council Elections

Our new KS2 school councillors have been elected, and they are excited to begin their roles next week!

We asked them what they liked most about Essendine, and here are some of their lovely responses:





Meet our Head Boy and Girl

My name is Anwar and I have been at Essendine Primary School since Nursery (although I missed Year 1). My favourite part of Essendine is playing sports such as football, the kind and supportive teachers and all of the fantastic trips that are planned for us. The best trip I have been on so far was to the zoo! At Essendine, I love all of the different subjects that we are taught, especially maths – I have even won the Maths Bee competition twice. As part of my role, I am looking forward to representing the school in lots of different ways, such as at tournaments and always demonstrating the 4Bs as a role model. Jacob, the previous Head Boy, inspired me and I want to inspire the next generation of Essendine children. Writing and delivering my speech was nerve racking but I am glad that I pushed myself to try my best.





My name is Reetal and I have been at Essendine Primary School since Reception. The best thing about Essendine is going on all of the amazing trips and all of the different experiences that we have. My favourite trip so far was to the Landmark Hotel – we learnt how to cook different meals throughout the year and at the end we got to experience a 5* hotel (and eat cookies!) This year, I am excited for SATS because I will have a chance to show off all of my learning, and afterwards, we will be rewarded with the best trip ever – Sayer's Croft! As part of my role, I am excited to help students and staff with anything they might need. This might include helping children who are struggling with their work, and introducing new adults to

the school and telling them how wonderful Essendine is! I was inspired to be Head Girl because I have always wanted to have responsibility, I am very positive, and very energetic. I learnt some of these skills through being a Peer Mediator.

Maida Vale Libraray Visits – AUTUMN TERM 2025-26

Monday 6th October 2-2.30 – 2M

Monday 13th October 2-2.30 – 3J

Tuesday 21st October 2-2.30 – 4B

Monday 3rd November 2-2.30 – 5S

Monday 10th November 2-2.30 – 6T

Monday 17th November 2-2.30 – 6C

Tuesday 18th November 2-2.30 – 1R

EYFS Nursery/Reception

Our EYFS children have been settling in this month and it has been lovely to have so many new faces join our school! We started the year with our first topic, 'All About Me.' In this topic, we explore families and who we live with. The children discussed their own families through pictures and making family trees. We have read 'Owl Babies' and 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt.' In Nursery, we have made owls using a range of materials and used puppets to role play. In Reception, we have been working together during outdoor learning, working collaboratively and building friendships.



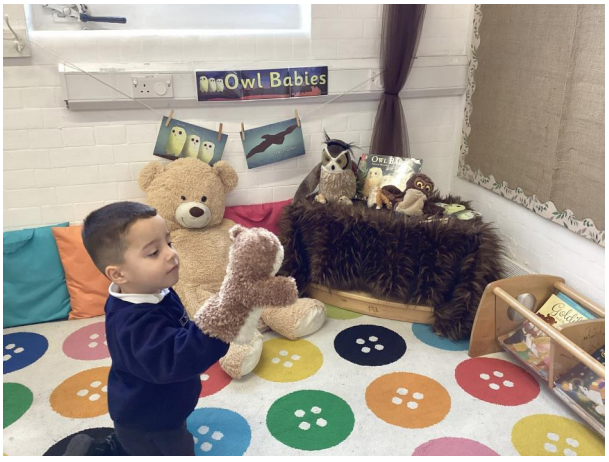







Owl Babies




Owl Babies






Can you paint an owl baby?


dad
Aya




Can you make a hedgehog
out of salt dough?


Can you make a hedgehog
out of salt dough?


Sarah
Patrick
Bill





KS1 -Years 1 and 2

Reading mornings

Our Year 1 and 2 children have settled back into school successfully and are already diving into their new topics. Year 1 are exploring *Toys*, while Year 2 are learning all about *Our Changing Healthcare*. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and curiosity shine through as they begin their new learning journeys.

We are also delighted to share that our *Reading Mornings* have started again. Parents are warmly invited to join us every Monday at 9am to share stories and enjoy reading together with the children.



Lower KS2-Years 3 and 4

Year 3 and 4 have made a fantastic start to the term and have begun their exciting new topics. Year 3 are exploring *Stone Age to Iron Age*, while Year 4 are learning all about *Invaders and Settlers*. Both classes also enjoyed their first trip to *Forest School*, where they had the chance to get hands-on with outdoor learning.

Year 4 have also started their swimming lessons and are making a great splash in the pool! A special mention to Year 3, who have settled into life in Key Stage 2 so well – looking very smart in their blazers and ties, and joining in confidently with KS2 assemblies.









Upper KS2-Years 5 and 6

Year 5 and 6 have settled back into school life with energy and enthusiasm and have both begun their new topic *Marvellous Medicine*. Year 6 have also taken on their leadership responsibilities with great maturity. Roles such as Reading Monitors, ICT Monitors, House Captains, and Head Boy and Girl have all been filled, and the children are already admirably demonstrating the *4Bs* in their new positions.

Year 6 have also enjoyed beginning their netball coaching sessions, showing great teamwork and determination on the court. Alongside this, they had a fantastic trip to *The Floating Classroom*, where they learned about animals and made links to their science work. Meanwhile, Year 5 had the exciting opportunity to take part in a special *AFL lesson*, learning the rules and skills of Australian football.











Volunteers

We were fortunate to have 3 volunteer groups work over the summer holidays at Essendine. They spent a day at our school and included teams from Vodaphone, M&S and Vertex. We are looking forward to Paddington Partnership continuing to work with us this year. Their kind donations and support is extremely generous and invaluable.




Essendine
Primary School























Children's University

Essendine's Children's University

Are you looking for something exciting to do in October? Well, don't worry as your Children's University Board of Trustees have got you covered! Here is a great weekly event that gets you moving and is right near our school:

What is Paddington Rec junior parkrun?

A free, fun, and friendly weekly 2k event for juniors (4 to 14 year olds)

When is it?

It is held every Sunday at 9:00am.

Where is it?

The event takes place at Paddington Recreation Ground

What does it cost to join in?

Nothing - it's free! but you need to register first. Please go to the link below:

register | parkrun UK

The Board of Trustees are also needing to recruit new members. If you are in years five and six and can attend an afterschool club every Monday, please sign up to the Essendine's Children's University Club through Schoolcoms.

Stay and Play with J.A.G

Junior Adventures Group




Amazing
After School
Experiences
STAY
PLAY






Amazing
After School
Experiences



Term 1 in Action!

SOME OF OUR FAVOURITE MOMENTS SO FAR....

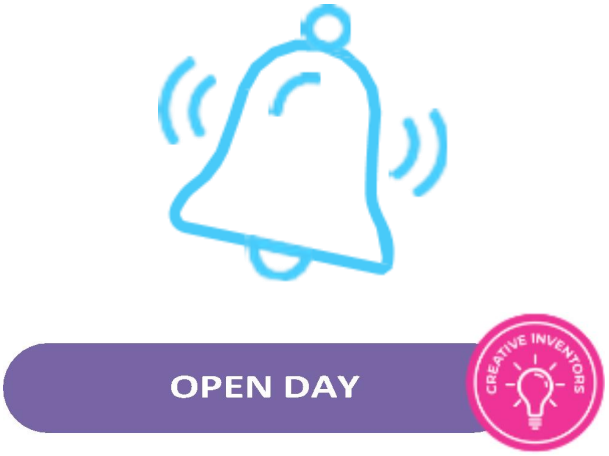


Our dedicated new staff have built strong, supportive relationships with the children, creating a warm and welcoming environment where they feel comfortable exploring and learning.

From brain boosters and puzzles to exciting STEM activities, the children have been fully immersed in hands-on learning experiences. Power Teams has helped them build resilience

and teamwork through fun sports and challenges, while Creative Inventors has sparked their imaginations, allowing them to explore arts, crafts, and innovation.

It’s been wonderful to watch their confidence grow with each new activity.



Parents can still take advantage of St School’s free session voucher before it expires on July 31st, 2025. Simply enter the code **TRYESSENDINE** at checkout to claim a complimentary Rise 'n' Shine or Stay and Play session.

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/