

Dear parents,

What a cold snap! The children are still making the most of their learning in and outside the classroom. We are delighted the rugby club will be playing in a tournament soon and Class 2 have started their outside Forest School learning.

Forest School

We are delighted that Class one enjoyed outdoor learning with Ms Levan last term. They learned about food chains, insects and symmetrical patterns on butterfly wings while taking time to observe carefully with all their senses and use natural materials. Here are some of their thoughts:

Thea: I learned to smell and feel and use my senses outside.

Max V: I enjoyed drilling conkers and making a conker chain.

Teddy: I liked painting the butterfly.

Angelo: I learned about conkers. I drew some and made a line of them.

James: I learned insects have a head, abdomen and thorax.

Charlotte: I liked making insects out of clay.

Class 2 have the opportunity to learn using the outside environment this term and we look forward to hearing about their learning in a couple of weeks time.

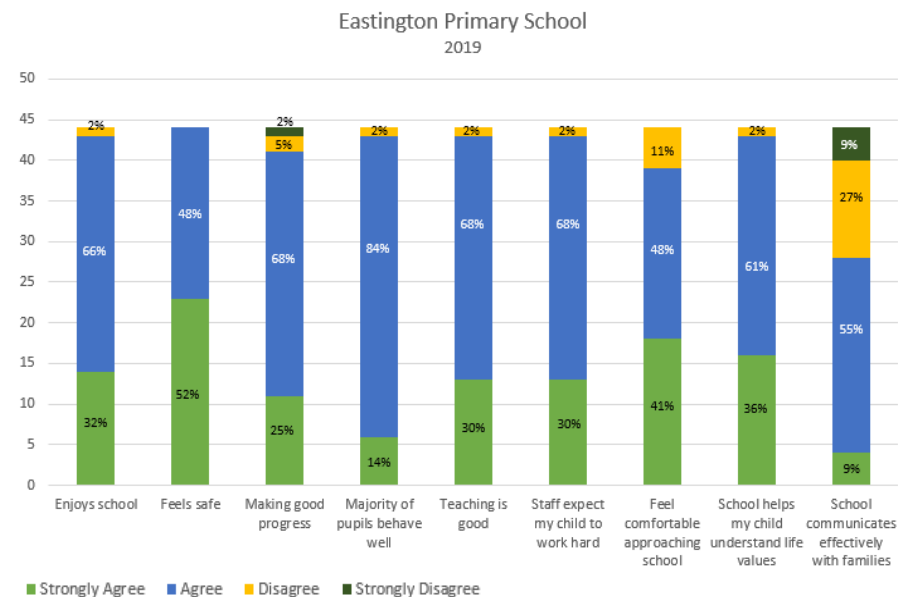
Class 4 Assembly

Class 4 led a thoughtful assembly about Remembrance last week. The children shared lots of interesting facts, thoughtful poems and we learned the symbolism of the red, black and green in the poppies we wear. Charcoal war drawings with a blaze of poppy red hope were shared too. The children spoke clearly and confidently throughout — thank you to Class 4.

Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the parent survey in July and August. We do appreciate the time and views of those who took part. There were lots of positive comments and some things for us to develop too. We strive hard to continually improve and gathering information from you as well as other areas are really helpful in this process.

Though most parents felt school supported children in learning values for life well and several of you commented on this in the survey, a couple of parents thought this could be done better with a focus on kindness. We felt this too as a staff and as a result we have reviewed our school values earlier this year to reflect the whole child as well as values for learning: aiming high together to be—kind, responsible, cooperative, resilient and ambitious. These are underpinning our curriculum and how we work. The School Council have supported this process by gathering ideas and presenting the values so all the children in the school can understand them. Children have used these values to develop class charters to support a positive learning environment. We have explored the school values over Autumn Term in assemblies and PSHCE lessons. It has been great to see the values in action in school and to hear stories from parents of their children using the values outside school already.



Parent Survey (continued)

We have tried to vary the places we take children on trips and have implemented some new services to improve communication with home. Thank you for the overwhelmingly positive feedback on the text service—we will try hard to get the balance right in sending useful information but not too much as we know this is a concern of some of you. The website will evolve over the year—we hope to develop a gallery which reflects the range of school life in the future and share information with regard to our curriculum which we will add to the website soon.

We will look at other issues raised such as sharing more information about Leadership, Governors, increasing male role models and homework over the year too. Thank you again if you took part in the survey.

Anti-Bullying Week

Bullying is when someone hurts the feelings of others, repeatedly, deliberately—usually there is an imbalance of power in the situation too. In the first week of term, we explored the anti-bullying message with the children through assemblies and afternoon class lessons. We discussed 'banter' and how it can be a joke to one person but really hurtful to another. As a school we encourage our children to say if someone is hurting their feelings with their words—a child hearing this should always stop what they are doing—to continue would be to deliberately hurt someone's feelings. In addition we looked at the important role of bystanders in helping a situation by getting help or standing alongside someone who was being bullied. Studies have shown that nearly 60% of bullying stops if bystanders take an active role in supporting a victim. Class teachers explored aspects of the anti-bullying message in their class in ways that were age specific too—the children were really thoughtful and engaged well in their activities. I had several children sent to me for their great kindness and contributions to their class lessons.

Children In Need

The children had a great time last Friday with many bargain books and toys to be purchased at break time and treat cakes to be eaten—all in aid of Children In Need! Overall the children raised £167—we know this will make a real difference. Thank you to Mrs Yorke and the children for organising the event and to everyone who donated items/cakes for sale.



Dates for your diary

We have listed below some of the key dates for your diary.

Autumn Term 2

November

- Mon 4th - First day of Autumn Term 2 for pupils
- Tues 5th - C5 educational visit to Ashmolean Museum (Egypt focus)
- Thurs 7th - Open afternoon for new parents 1:45-3:15pm (please phone Mrs Birch to arrange time)
- Tues 12th - School photographer (individuals and families - school hall)
- Fri 15th - C4 assembly—parents welcome 10am
 - C5 Children In Need: 'Bring and Buy' and cake sale
- Tues 19th - Open morning for new parents 9:30-12:00 (please phone Mrs Birch to arrange time)
- Wed 27th - PC Weedon (local School Beat Officer) : Role of the police assembly for all children
- Fri 29th - C3 assembly—parents welcome 10am
 - Tag Rugby Festival Y5/Y6 TBC Mr Meloscia will inform those involved

December

- Tues 3rd - Flu immunisation
- Fri 6th - School Council enter Christmas Tree Festival in St Michael and All Angels church
- Thurs 12th - KS1 Nativity 2pm and 6pm
- Mon 16th - Christmas Dinner—children welcome to wear Christmas jumpers-£1 donation to PA welcomed.
- Weds 18th - KS2 performance 6.30pm (updated eve perf time of 6.30pm)
- Thurs 19th - KS2 performance 1:45pm and 6.30pm (updated eve perf time of 6.30pm)
- Fri 20th - Final day of Term 2**

Spring Term 1 : 2020

January

- Mon 6th - INSET — For staff
- Tues 7th - First day of term for children**
- Fri 10th - C4 Creative dance /drama day. Parents welcome for performance at 2.50pm
- Thurs 16th - Y3 and Y4 swimming weekly lessons commence
- Tues 28th - Y3/4: Skillzone Educational Visit: Fire Safety—1.00pm-3.45pm
- Wed 29th - Y5/6: Skillzone Educational Visit: Fire Safety —1.00pm-3.45pm

February

- Thurs 13th - Fire Safety Education with the Fire Service—Class 1 and Class 2



Thank you for your continued support,
Zoe Avastu

Aiming high.....together