



ESHER CHURCH SCHOOL

Christ at the Centre; Life to the Full

Esher Church School, Milbourne Lane, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9DU Tel: 01372 463 139 e-mail: info@esherchurchschool.org.uk

ECS news

"The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Exodus 33:14

Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parents

Today marks the end of the strangest term any of us could ever have imagined. We have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of gratitude from parents and children; what a wonderful way to go into a summer break -thank you.

All of our children have impressed us so much with the way they have managed themselves. It has been wonderful to see all the children back in school—at least for a short time—enjoying themselves with their friends again. Our year 6 children have done an incredibly impressive job; although they had to miss out on many of the activities they would normally enjoy at the end of their time at school (the ball, their prom party, residential trip etc) they have remained positive throughout. They wrote, acted and produced a phenomenal leavers' assembly based around a future school reunion where the now grown up children revealed all they were achieving in life. It was lovely to hear about their ambitions; of course there were a good many professional sports stars alongside an historian currently researching into how Tutenkhamun's tomb came to be, the lead designer for the Lego company and a even a professional snake wrestler! We also recreated the usual Bible presentation by saying a few words about each child's contribution to our community before rounding off with the Leavers' song and some wonderful drone footage of the children in their 'bubbles' spelling ECS (thank you to Maddie in Year 5 and her dad, Stuart, for filming and editing this—it was amazing). It was lovely to hear that the parents enjoyed it so much; there wasn't a dry eye in the house as they watched the assembly in groups remotely. A special mention must go to Mr Munro and Mr Anderson for the extra hours they spent filming and editing the production to make it so brilliant.

Thank you to all of our year 6 parents who have contributed so much over their children's time at ECS—we have several families whose youngest child is moving on this year. Please do get in touch from time to time and let us know how you are all getting on. You remain very much part of our community.

Our Year 6 children will certainly be remembered for a long time for their hard work, their sporting and creative prowess and especially their positivity in the face of adversity. Thank you year 6; as you move on to your secondary schools, our prayers and very best wishes go with you.

Our Vision:

To be a safe, happy, loving community where excellent teaching inspires children to learn and explore, care for each other and believe that they can make a difference.

A number of parents have asked how I anticipate school will look in September. As mentioned in previous newsletters we are certainly anticipating a return to a school with a much more normal look and feel to it. The guidance I have at the moment indicates that all children will be back in school full time and that we will be able to offer a full curriculum, Breakfast and After School Club services, and potentially other co-curricular clubs too. We will keep you updated about this throughout the summer break, including information on the measures we are taking to minimise the risk of Covid-19 transmission whilst ensuring that the social and emotional wellbeing of our children is protected. So in short, there will be some differences to the day (staggered start and finish times, staggered lunch breaks, lots of extra handwashing throughout the day to name a few) but in the main it will be 'business as usual'. The Government seems quite determined to get schools fully up and running again so I would be very surprised if this guidance were to change significantly even if there are signs of a 'second wave' approaching.

I hope this is great news for all of you. We are certainly looking forward to seeing all the children back in school. I know they will be enthusiastic about learning and playing together again.

In the meantime, I wish you all a wonderful summer. Enjoy the break, let's hope the sun keeps shining, and stay safe.

Best wishes



Cathy Bell
Headteacher

A Massive thank you...

...to all those who have gone above and beyond in service to the ECS community this year. Despite the challenging circumstances, class reps have managed to deliver gifts, get cards signed and hold classes together throughout the last few weeks. We also received a wonderful selection of cakes and treats from the ECSA this week to see us through until the end of term and beyond. To all our reps, ECSA committee members, governors and all other volunteers who have so selflessly given up their time throughout the year to support our school, we are truly grateful—thank you.

Holiday Club

We are looking forward to seeing all those children who are registered for places at holiday club over the next two weeks. We have put additional measures in place to ensure the club runs safely and have included lots of outdoor activities within our programme. Please remember to apply suncream before the children come into school and to bring a sunhat and refillable water bottle with you each day that you are at club.

Looking for a short term job?

You might have thought that other viruses might give us a bit of a break now we have Covid-19 to worry about—but sadly not. The NHS have asked if we can advertise for staff to give the Nasal Flu Immunisation to children in schools between September and December—see the poster on the right for more information.



Nasal Flu Givers Needed

Children and Family Health Surrey are looking for Nasal Flu Givers to give the Nasal Flu immunisation to children aged between 4 and 10 years over a 9 week period (Sep-Dec) throughout schools in Elmbridge.

To apply please visit the NHS Jobs website.
Job Reference: 074-B5708-9

Closing date: Monday 29th June

For information please contact
miranda.noakes@nhs.net



This week's highlights

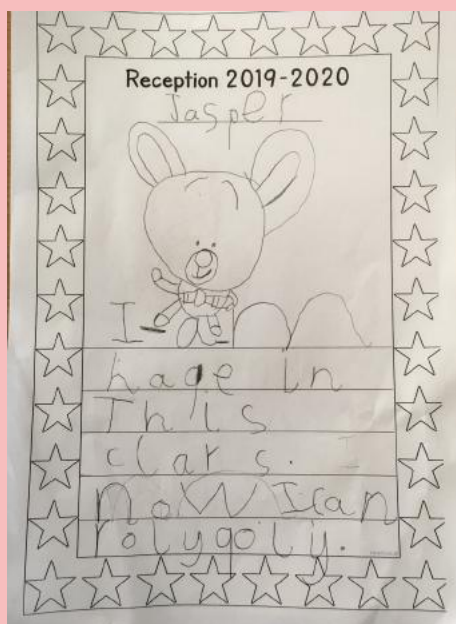


As they couldn't play together in real life, the Reception children drew these lovely pictures of themselves playing with their Big Friends—they also made cards for each other—they were full of lovely messages.



Jasper drew some amazing Mr Men to match his amazing bag! -

And in his writing he shared with us that he is happy in his class and can now do a roly-poly—well done Jasper.



This is how to do it when you need a football pitch in a hurry!
Well done Jamie.



This week's highlights

The way to cool off during a warm week of hard work.



Key worker children just chillin' in the shade with Mrs Jones—we're all happy to see her back from her maternity leave.

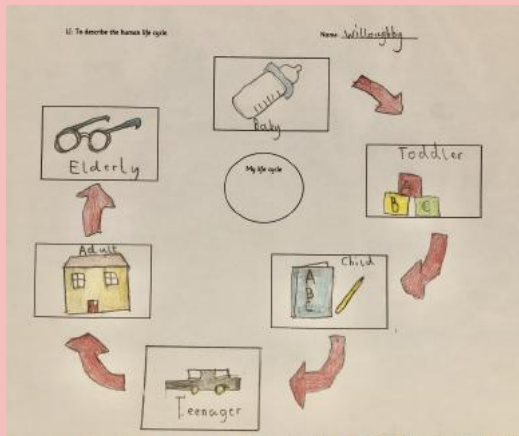


And the 'sh' and 'ee' sounds all in one as Mr Happy bubble children wrote the word 'sheep' and illustrated them beautifully.

This week's highlights



Year 1 children designed their own mode transport for the future then used their designs to make a prototype out of Lego—and wonderful design and technology skills from Keira and Hector who mad prototypes of their futuristic transport at home.



Willoughby in year 2 has drawn his life cycle. Aren't the drawings amazing?

After doing a reading comprehension about making a miniature garden, Ethan decided to make his own. Awesome job Ethan!



This week's highlights



Year 3 have also been doing some practical activities to investigate volume and capacity, as demonstrated by Lottie and Tom. I wonder what the volume of that wonderful watermelon beach ball is? Perhaps one for their older brother Sam to work out.



Kimberley in Year 3 has made this wonderful model out of recycled materials.



Lovely dioramas made by the Year 4 children in school, as they were tasked to create a scene from the snimation 'Flat

This week's highlights



It was lovely to see our Year 4 children for their celebration on the field this week—we've missed you.

This week's highlights



And of course it has been a big week for Year 6. Well done on a fantastic Leavers' Assembly—and thanks for being so awesome during your time at ECS.

Thank you to the whole year 6 team for making sure the children's last few weeks in school were very special—it took some ingenuity (as the pictures of socially distanced shirt signing show!)

Mr Munro looks quite at home in charge of the barbeque—which, along with a fantastic waterfight, made for a fantastic last day of term.



Notices

West End Esher Cricket Club

West End CC will be running cricket camp throughout the holidays. Full information can be found on their website <http://www.weecc.co.uk/w/>

Surrey Arts - Instrumental Lessons at Esher Church School

Surrey Arts provides school-based instrumental and vocal tuition for children in the county. Pupils can be taught in school and receive 10 lessons each term. Surrey Arts also offers a wide range of ensembles in which your child can play as soon as they are ready.

If you are interested in your child taking lessons at school, we need your application soon.

Please apply on-line at the Surrey CC website:

<https://online.surreycc.gov.uk/esuite/esuite.nsf/openonlineform?openagent&fcunid=006DD740AF85249E8025728B005E8EBF>

Surrey Arts - Music homepage:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/arts/music>

Piano lessons are available from Amanda Allen at the school from September for children from Year 3 upwards. Amanda has 17 years experience at ECS enjoying positive relationships with pupils, parents and staff alike. Children can be prepared for ABRSM exams or other repertoire for fun. Do call 07791 025913 for further information.

Singing lessons are also available from Lisa Hartley. Please contact the office for more details.

Extra Support

We appreciate that things aren't easy for any of us at the current time and there may be even more pressures on families as lockdown continues to ease. If you need additional support with anything please contact us—we will continue to check our emails throughout the holiday period. Do not think that your family needs may not be important enough to seek help—we will do all we can to support you. You can contact the office on office@eshurchschool.org.uk

Free School Meal Eligibility

If you think you might be entitled to free school meals please get in touch with our office staff urgently. We can check your eligibility quickly with just your name and National Insurance Number. This week I have been able to arrange for £360 worth of food vouchers to a family who contacted us after the note in last week's newsletter because their circumstances have changed during the Covid-19 outbreak.

You may be eligible for free school meals if you are now eligible for any of the following:

- 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 guaranteed element of Pension Credit
 - 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)
 - Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

During the outbreak the government are also temporarily extending free school meal eligibility to include some groups (subject to household income) that have no recourse to public funds, including:

- children of Zambrano carers
- children of families with no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- children of families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 **who are also** subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction
- children of a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

If you think you might be eligible for free school meals please contact the school immediately. It is easy for us to check and we will be able to get vouchers to you if your child is at home during the school closure. Furthermore the school will receive additional funding to further support your child's education which can be used to support extra curricular activities, trips etc too.