



# ESHER CHURCH SCHOOL

*Christ at the Centre; Life to the Full*

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## ECS **news**

*"God has shown us how kind he is by coming to save all people." Titus 2: 11-12*

Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Parents

Thank you so much for all your patience and support as we have 'honed' our end of day arrangements and managed to incorporate swimming and some co-curricular activities into our weekly schedules. I almost daren't say it but I feel things are settling down and that the systems in place are working much more smoothly day by day and it is lovely to see the children learning confidently in their new year groups.

Whilst most people are doing their best to stick to the rules, I have had a number of concerns raised by parents about lack of social distancing at the beginning and end of the school day. I ask you to be mindful that those around you might fall into vulnerable categories, or might be living with those who do. It is important that we do our bit to protect everyone. Please therefore ensure that you remain 2m apart from other parents at drop off and pick up and please wear a face covering if you can. In addition, please make sure that your children are not running around between groups of parents and entering their family space.

It is just fantastic to have all the children back in school with us and we really want to keep our school open for everyone. We therefore need to do everything we can to ensure that our staff are protected too. Whilst we have always operated an 'open door' policy and try to make ourselves available to talk to parents when we can, clearly this is not as easy in the current climate. I ask you please, if you need to speak to your child's class teacher, to send an email to the school at [teachers@esherchurchschool.org.uk](mailto:teachers@esherchurchschool.org.uk). Emails to this address will be picked up directly by the teaching team, avoiding the need to pass them via the office. Please note that all teachers have access to emails sent to this address and it will not be checked after 5:30pm on school days nor over the weekend. Teachers will endeavour to provide a response within 2 working days.

We appreciate that on occasion parents may need a very quick word with their child's teacher if they are out at drop off or pick up times. If this is the case please make sure that you remain a minimum 2m distance away from members of staff in order to protect yourself and the member of staff. Some of our staff are choosing to wear visors during drop off and pick up times to protect themselves further as some parents are not sticking to the social distancing requirements. Thank you for your understanding.

### ***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.*

We have also received many queries around what to do if your child is unwell. This is clearly a difficult one as, particularly at this time of year, it is difficult to distinguish between symptoms of a cold and those of Covid-19. I have attached a 'What to do if' summary to this newsletter which contains the government advice on the actions to take in different scenarios which I hope you find helpful. If you are in any doubt at all about your child's health please err on the side of caution and keep them at home. Many schools are having to close multiple classes because infected children have been in school and we really don't want that to happen here. We are grateful for your co-operation in this regard.

**A huge welcome:** It has been wonderful to have our Reception children with us for their first full week this week.

Welcome to Deenah-Alice, Vedat Ruzgar, Oliver, Benjamin, Otis, Autumn, Freya, Cameron, Jane, Sebastian, Ryan, Raya, Kayaan, Julia May, Sebby, Mylo, Betty, Florence, Amelia, Evie-Jean, Charlie, Rory, Sienna, Isabella, Henry, William, Hollie, Isabella, Suraya, Isabelle, Erin, Noah, Jake, Otis, Rozenn, Myah, Cara, Rafferty, Rafael, Finnley, Isabelle, Jake, Clara, Lyra, Edward, Rayan, Imogen, Shiloh, Leo, Violet, Edward, Barnaby, Talia, Angus and Scarlett.

We are so delighted to have you all with us and it has been wonderful seeing you learning lots and enjoy the new EYFS outdoor area, complete with shelter, climbing frame and reading nook. I am sure you agree that it looks amazing!



**Help With School Costs:** I urge you to check if your family might be eligible for 'help with school costs' - details can be found by following the link::

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/family/education/school-education/help-with-school-costs/>

If you are eligible for free school meals, even if your child doesn't take them, the school receives increased funding that can be directed towards your child's education. Please see the back page of the newsletter for eligibility criteria. Please do register if you can—it makes a big difference to our school funding which, in turn, enables us to offer more to your children. Thank you.

Best wishes

*CBell*

Cathy Bell  
Headteacher

# Notices

## ECSA Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the ECSA, our Parent Teacher Association will take place via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 14th October at 8pm. All school staff, parents and carers are welcome to join the meeting and it is important that Class Reps join if they can.

As well as making some changes to the committee we will be discussing ideas for fundraising in these strangest of circumstances. You will be able to join the meeting using the link below.

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

## Harvest Festival

We will be holding our Harvest Festival Assembly via Teams on Monday 12th October. We would once again like to support our local East Elmbridge Foodbank by asking the children to bring in one of the following items:

Long Life Fruit juice and juice boxes

Lunch box items

Tinned fish

Fray BENTOS pies / tinned hot dogs

Tinned peas, carrots, potatoes

Instant noodles, microwave rice, etc

Tinned fruit

Rice pudding and custard

Biscuits

As these are the most needed items at the current time. Many local families are struggling with loss of income at this time so it is more important than ever that we play our part, if we can, in supporting these families. If you need support from the foodbank please see the details below.



### Are you struggling to provide food for yourself or your family?

The Foodbank is here to support anybody who is currently finding it difficult to provide food for themselves or their families due to financial or other issues. You do not have to be in receipt of benefits to get help from us.

If you feel that you need support from us, then please call or message us on: 07908 777475 or email [referrals@eastelmbridge.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:referrals@eastelmbridge.foodbank.org.uk) and we can let you know what you need to do for us to be able to deliver an emergency food parcel.

Catherine Heavens  
East Elmbridge Foodbank Coordinator



# This week's highlights

## Phase 1



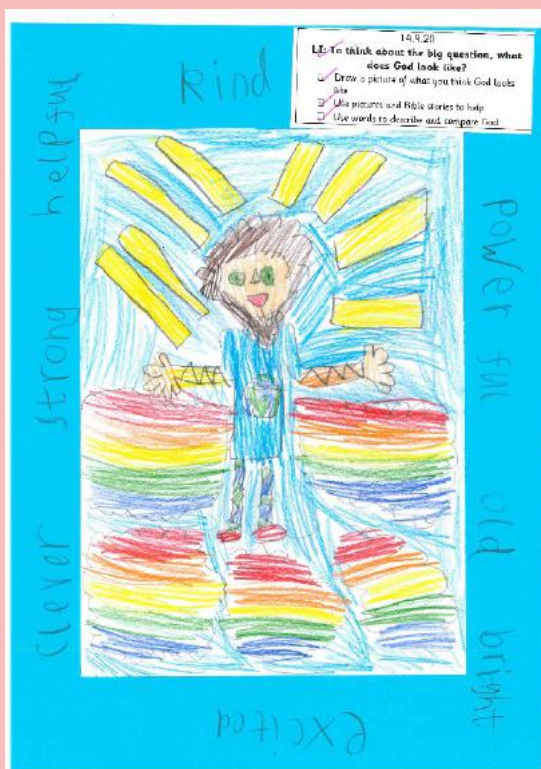
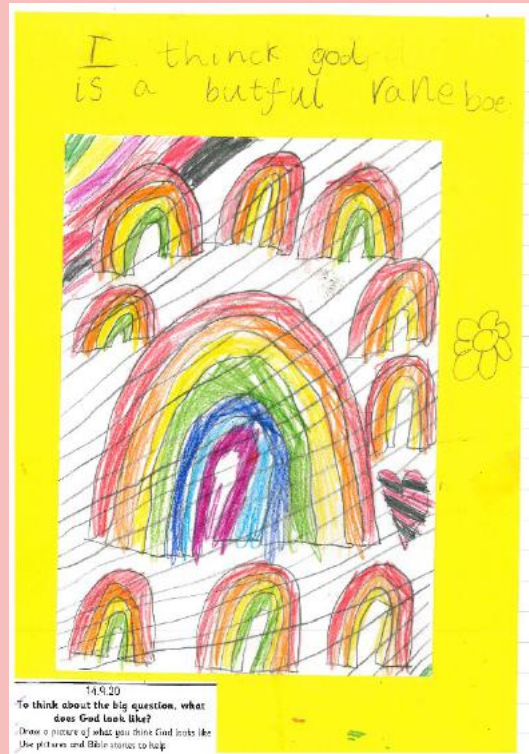
Savannah & Primose from Donaldson repairing the tape to ensure that the playtime bubbles stay secure.



Creative artwork at play time—the Tate Modern beckons!

# This week's highlights

## Phase 2



Tess and Lucy in Blyton Class and Luke in Dahl Class doing some amazing thinking about what God looks like.



# This week's highlights

## Phase 3



Lewis Class began to learn about sound on Tuesday afternoon. They made drums using rice, lentils, pasta, cans and balloons-to give them a better understanding of how a vibrating object causes sound. Next they



Phoebe in Tolkien Class was inspired by our new Rainbow Recognition Boards and made her own including all the qualities we should show to move the pegs up. Thank you Phoebe.



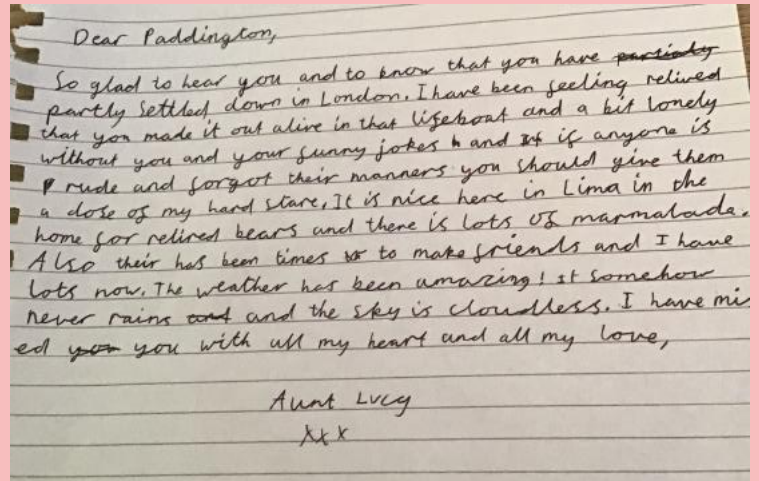
Tess in Lewis Class, proudly modelling her green Blue Peter badge. She achieved it by creating a poster displaying all the wonderful ways in which we can help to encourage wildlife into our gardens such as creating bug hotels and bird feeders. Such an important thing to do—well done Tess.

# This week's highlights

## Phase 3



Maxi in Kipling Class taking a relaxed approach to his goal keeping duties.



In year 4, as part of our English, we are studying 'A Bear called Paddington'. In class we have been writing a letter in character as Paddington in London to our dearest Aunt Lucy back in Peru and for our home learning we wrote replies to Paddington from Aunt Lucy. Here are Luca's and Thomas' in Lewis Class.

Dear Paddington

I am feeling so happy you are safe with a family that can give you a warm, safe house to live in. I have been feeling so sad being away from you since the day you left to depart to London, I wish I could come with you but I am an old bear. I got your letter, I'm so ecstatic that you are doing so many wonderful things. The walking and talking monster things are called humans and each of them have individual names just like yours, Paddington. I'm writing from Lima in a home for retired bears. Here I have a comfortable home and everything a bear like me needs to live. I hope London is not too cold for you my little bundle of joy. I hope you have fun on your shopping expedition, do write me a letter telling me all about it. Stay safe and carry on with your London adventure. There will be lots more places and people to meet I promise, well the explorer said so.

Love Aunt Lucy xxx

P.S. I love you're your new name its very nice.

# This week's highlights

## Phase 3


Dear Aunt Lucy,

London is so far away from Peru and emigrating was not fun. I'm a bit down that I am away from you but life is ~~to~~ good. I bought a blue duffle coat to ~~keep~~ keep me warm. Also I've been given a new name, Paddington.

Guess what! a nice family called the Browns took me in and now I'm staying at theirs. It's amazing and I'm overjoyed. They gave me a warm bed and marmalade, although I almost drowned in a bath but I got out alive thanks to uncle ~~pa~~ Pastors's hat.

London is great, people are so nice and I've already made friends with the pigeons ~~but~~ but the traffic is a horror though the Browns' house is amazing.

Lots of love  
Paddington



To the Kind Aunt Lucy whom raised me as a cub,

The loss of you and wisdom is striking me like a bolt but it tho your wisdom which sent me here. I did ~~st~~ <sup>like a</sup> sneak onto a boat of pure metal. When the boat docked, I ran to a station and moving I saw a moving metal machine. I grew quite scared but moved on. I arrived at a place called PADDINGTON which by the way is my new name given to me by the Browns. The Browns are my adopters.



They are very kind and have a daughter Judy and a son Jonathon, they are both kind.

I had a nice time in the bathroom, I used some cream to draw a map of Peru my style. Then I realised the bath was full. I jumped in. My eyes hurt with soap and I nearly drowned. Well Judy and Jonathon to the rescue.

I woke the next and Mrs Bird the motherly houseworker brought me marmalade in bed, now I'm going on a shopping expedition, whatever that is!

I'm safe.

From your loving nephew  
PADDINGTON



In year 4, as part of our English, we are studying 'A Bear called Paddington'. In class we have been writing a letter in character as Paddington in London to our dearest Aunt Lucy back in Peru and for our home learning we wrote replies to Paddington from Aunt Lucy. Here are Luca's and Thomas' in Lewis Class.



## 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.**

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 it means that 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.