



# ESHER CHURCH SCHOOL

*Christ at the Centre; Life to the Full*

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## ECSnews

'... but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.' **Isaiah 40:31**

Friday 12 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

What an amazing half term we have had at ECS, full of wonderful learning, fun experiences and a strong sense of our loving, caring community. Whilst we all long to be back together, we know that the future will be brighter if we keep staying safe. We would love to encourage us all to be as 'screen free' as possible this half term so we have some exciting challenges for you to help with that.

**To celebrate world book day,  
we are running a half term  
'Extreme Reading' challenge.**



Where's the strangest place you've ever read a book? What wonderful thing could you do whilst reading your favourite book? ECS is waiting to share your '**Extreme Reading**' experience. Send us a photograph of you reading a book in unusual circumstances and show everyone how reading can be done anywhere and anytime! Get your book, get someone to take a photograph and get caught reading! e-mail your photograph and a caption to the address below and join the **Extreme Reading Challenge**. Remember to stay safe - reading is meant to be fun, not dangerous!

Send your pictures to... [teacher@esherchurchschool.org.uk](mailto:teacher@esherchurchschool.org.uk) with your class name and 'Extreme Reading challenge' as the subject by Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February and they will feature in the celebration assembly that Friday, when we will announce the winners.

### ***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.*

Good luck ... you may even want to try the other challenges as suggested by Miss Brooks. I will attach these ideas with the parentmail. Thank you Miss Brooks, I can't wait to hear all about the fun adventures you get up to at half term.

We hope you enjoyed the online safety assemblies provided this week by Mr Munro, please see a link [here](#) for the latest information around on line safety from the DfE.

Well done for all the wonderful Well being Wednesday photos you have been sending in, It is great to hear that you are enjoying these. We are enjoying seeing your creations. We so very proud of all of you and of Oliver and Freya who have enjoyed other assemblies (Oliver has challenged himself to play his violin for 100 days just like Captain Tom walked 100 times around his grounds and Freya enjoyed the 'express yourself' assembly so much she created her very own outfit!)



Harry M has filled some balloons with water, a rainbow of coloured food dye, and red paper hearts. The balloons have been placed in the garden to freeze. Once frozen he will cut away the balloon and he will have rainbow coloured ice orbs to play with.

Why not try some of these ideas over half term too?

Lastly, we would like to say how very proud we are of the Year 6 children who, despite the current situation, sat entrance exams for selective schools recently. 90% of these children have gained a place at their first choice of school, although we are still waiting for the results from four remaining schools. We are delighted that 40% of these children, have been offered scholarships from different schools, including Sports, Academic and All Round scholarships.

Well done ECS, what a wonderful group of children you are! Thank you to all the children, staff and families for everything. Have a super half term, stay safe and enjoy the reduction in screen time.

Kindest regards  
Caroline McLennan  
Acting Headteacher

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# This week's activities

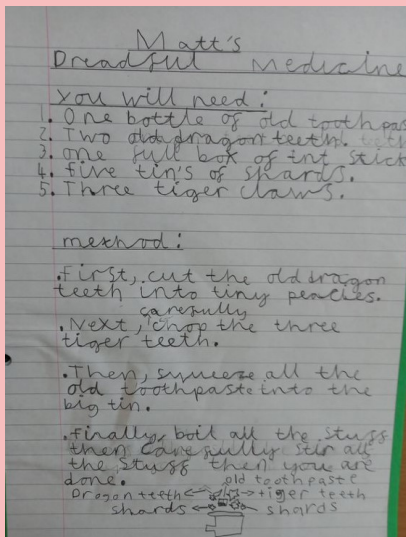
Henry from Year 4 Lewis entertained his family by inventing and making his own board game!



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter to see other activities that have been happening this week.



Year 6 measuring their lung capacity in Science



As part of our learning in English we have been looking at instructional texts. After being inspired by our reading focus on George's Marvellous Medicine, Year 4 have created a recipe book of our very own marvellous medicines. Here are a few examples from our in-school bubble WARNING ⚠ Please don't try these at home!



Lucy's shop, partly assisted by her sisters!



Snow Angels and Harry has caught the moon!

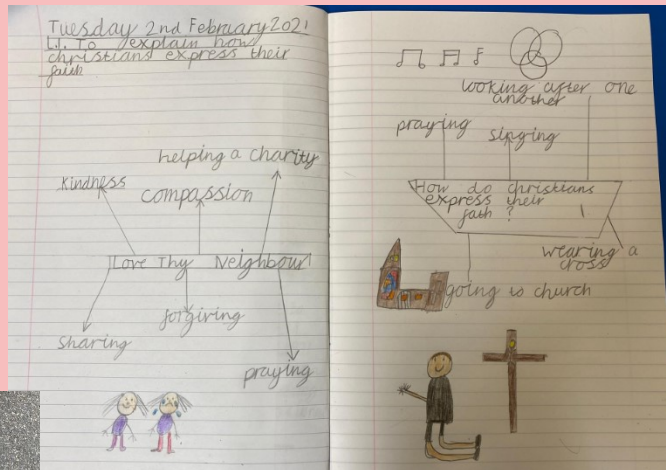




# This week's activities

Year 1 Winter shape poems

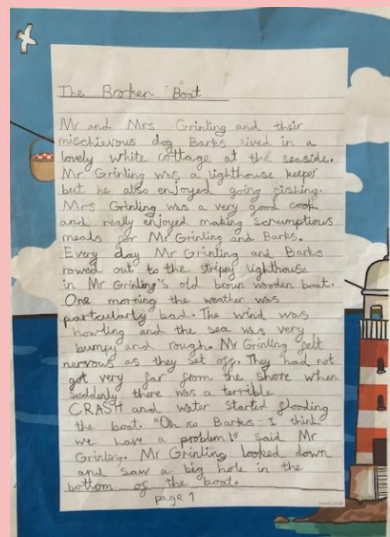
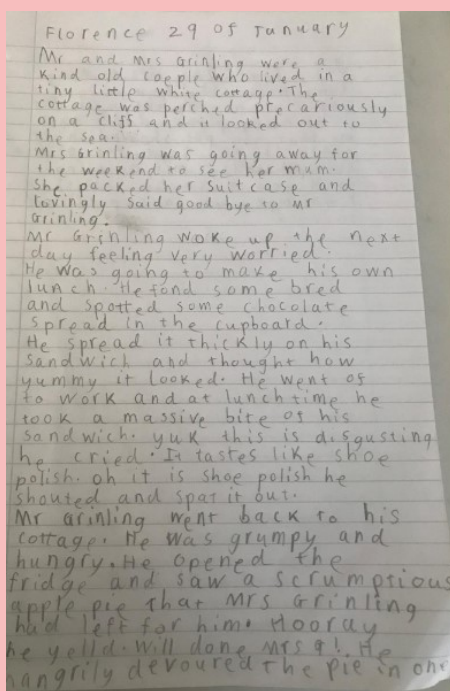
Dexter Yr3 RE



Year 1 went outside to make sculptures inspired by Andy Goldsworthy

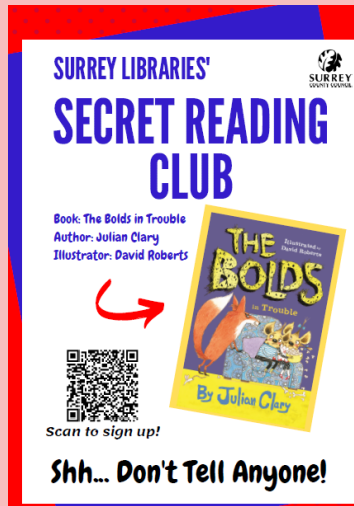


Year 5 enjoying doing some coding on espresso.



Some super story writing

# This week's notices



## Reading

A message from Surrey Libraries:

This is a Reading Club especially for primary aged children. I am aware that it has a closing date of Nov 2020 on the poster but the link is still active until the end of Feb. Maybe a good half term activity?

## Support

Helen Arkell are able to offer free places on our HELP Parents Course to lower-income families. The courses help parents of children with dyslexia to support them at home with reading, spelling, maths and study skills. There are six online 1.5-hour sessions with support slides and recordings available if the parent cannot attend live. This is especially helpful while lots of children are doing their lessons at home. One of the courses starts on 22 February and there is another course scheduled for May. Course and details are here: <https://www.helenarkell.org.uk/news/new-dates-help-course-for-parents-online.php>

## Lent

Esher Parish will be hosting a Lent celebration for children and families on Zoom on Tuesday 16th February at 6pm. There will be a variety of games, a lent reflection and even a pancake tossing competition! We would love to see as many of you as possible join us- don't feel you have to make a pancake to join all are welcome!

Please email me at [dave.whymark@esherchurchschool.org.uk](mailto:dave.whymark@esherchurchschool.org.uk) if you would like to join and I will send you the link!

## Reminders

A reminder to parents to park courteously for our neighbours and not to park on the pavement as this does make it dangerous for pedestrians including our children.

A reminder please when you drop off or pick up child(ren) by car not to park on the pavement, it does make it dangerous for pedestrians and inconsiderate to our neighbours.

# Notices

## 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.

# ECSA news

## **Auction of Promises and Prizes**

The ECSA are planning an Auction of Promises and Prizes in the New Year. This will be an event at which 'promises and prizes' will be donated by individuals, companies connected within our school community or from the local area and beyond which will be auctioned off to raise money for the new Library. Everyone can get involved because every promise or prize donated, no matter how small, will be sold. You could pledge to bake a cake for a special occasion or offer to walk someone's dog. Anything and everything helps raise money for this exciting fundraising event for the school.

**ALL DONATIONS BIG OR SMALL are needed!!**

We are relying on incredibly generous local businesses and individuals to make some fabulous promises. Our aim is to have something for everyone.

Ideas include: babysitting, dog walking, a haircut, the use of a holiday home for the weekend, gardening, cooking a meal, a signed sports shirt, an experience day. Use your imagination - often the best promises are things money can't buy!

If you are able to donate something or have a contact with a business who might, please contact [yourecsa@gmail.com](mailto:yourecsa@gmail.com). Please help us make this a fantastic fundraising event for the school.