

# Newsletter

5<sup>th</sup> May 2021



## ESHER CHURCH SCHOOL

*Christ at the Centre; Life to the Full*

## Head's Lines

Dear Parents and Carers

What another exciting week it has been in school with so many things to celebrate. We watched with anticipation as the House Points were collected in our celebration assembly where Community won by one point! Well done to all the children who received a House Point this week, you are all making a great effort to earn the points for your team. Here is a sample of the reasons children are earning the House points, maybe you could earn one next week for doing something similar.

HOPE	DIGNITY	COMMUNITY	WISDOM
1. Helping another child with his zip before football 2. <b>Taking responsibility:</b> noticing a pile of fallen books and just picking them up; bringing in a coat left on the playground.	3. Being the first to say thank you for their school lunch setting an example for others to follow. 4. For greeting the teacher on the gate with a 'good morning' before having it said to them.	5. Being thoughtful and getting a book for a friend because they thought they might need it 6. Being considerate and helpful: offering to take a ball carrier back to the tennis club.	7. Making a really good contribution during whole-class reading. 8. Making a great effort to learn times tables. 9. Doing excellent work in English when writing letters.

The School Parliament met this week with Mrs Hunter and I have heard about their wonderful ideas including a mufti day for the 27th May with the theme 'What do I want to be when I grow up?' and a school pet ... more news on this to follow!

We were delighted to see our Year 6 children go off for a day trip today to High Ashurst, what a lovely day for such an adventure and what a real treat to allow our pupils to experience an outing after such restrictions on our school offer.

Your child may be talking to you about a new way of reading together, which we have explained in more detail on the following page. I will endeavour to keep you updated with any further curriculum innovations as we move forward

Best wishes  
Caroline McLennan  
Acting Headteacher

## Important Announcement



Cleo cut her lovely long hair so that she could donate her tresses to The Little Princess Trust. They provide free real hair wigs to children and young people who have lost their own hair through medical treatments. Well done to Cleo and what a great new look!

## Dates for the Diary

7<sup>th</sup> May - Year 6 Trip to High Ashurst  
25<sup>th</sup> May - year 6 Trip to Young Mariners  
27<sup>th</sup> May - Y4 Trip to Juniper Hall

**31<sup>st</sup> May** - School finishes for Half Term  
**7 June** - School restarts

5<sup>th</sup> July - Y1 Trip to Brooklands Museum

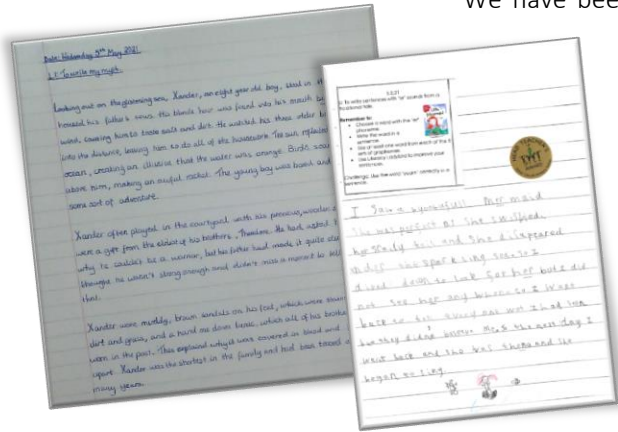
### INSET Days:

28<sup>th</sup> May  
28<sup>th</sup> June  
21<sup>st</sup> July

## Awards

Sophie Y2 - Bronze Maths badge  
Sam Y2 - Silver Maths badge  
Ronan Y2 - Silver Maths badge  
Aanya Y3 - Silver Maths badge  
Brooke Y3 - Bronze Spelling Badge 2  
Benjamin Y4 - Pen Licence  
Bella Y4 - Pen Licence  
Luca Y4 - Pen Licence

# English News



We have been learning about different writing styles this week.

Year 1 have been reading traditional tales to support their learning. One of the stories we read this week was the Little Mermaid which focused on the graphemes that make the 'er' sound. Here is an example of Jack's writing.

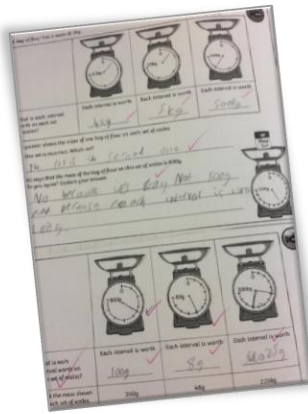
Y5 have been preparing to write their own Greek myths, with a hero overcoming a mythical creature on a quest. This week they began to write their myths with an opening introducing our hero or heroine (they are writing them in the 21st century after all!). Our teachers are loving reading them so far!



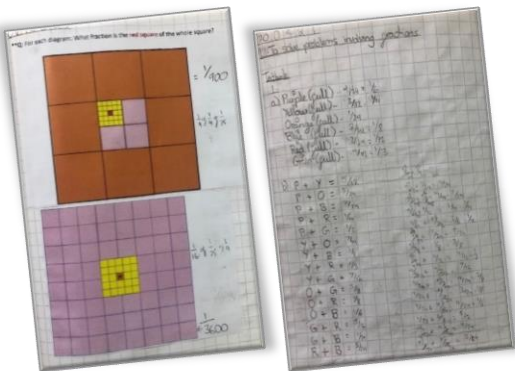
# Mastering Maths and Computing

The children in year 2 have been learning to code using Espresso block coding. Alexander was so confident, he

even worked out how to change the size of his objects by altering the dimensions.



In year 3, the children were reminding themselves about comparing mass and measuring, which was quite useful for their science later on in the week.



Year 6 have been looking at solving problems with fractions. Today they investigated squares in squares, in squares and we challenge the parents to see if they could do it themselves!

# New Way of Reading

Throughout the school, the children have been learning to read through a new approach: **whole-class, choral reading**. They have been brilliant and the teachers are loving it!

We begin with a new text extract (so far, The Treasure Seekers in Year 3, The Lost World in Year 6 to name just a couple of examples) and we follow the same sequence through a series of lessons.

We begin with the teacher doing a 'model read' of the whole text, followed by a 'choral read' which involves the whole class reading at once.

Next read is 'jump-in', where the teacher starts and then gives a signal for the class to 'jump-in' and continue reading.

The next read (pick-up) is quite similar but this time involves individual readers 'picking-up' from the teacher when a signal is given.

The following lessons are devoted to a close study of vocabulary, retrieval of information and making inferences about the text.

The sequence of lessons ends with a set of 'Big Questions' for the children to write their answers. Ask your child about it if you would like to know some more.

## This Week in Geography

Year 4 have been exploring the differences between human and physical features as part of our Big Enquiry, *How can I become a geographer?* They created a working wall showing what we thought a country needs so that it can be habitable.



## Science Update



Year 2 have been learning about pollination and that plants need insects to help them to make more plants. They learned that the pollen needs to travel from the stamen to the carpel and created 3D collages to show the parts. Then, they sowed pea plants using egg cartons as recycled containers to cut down our use of plastic.

Year 3 have been investigating plants this week as well, finding out what they need to grow best.

## Amazing Art

Year 4 have been painting a view from a window, inspired by Matisse.



## Please support us

### ECS School Fund

At Esher Church School we believe that primary education is not just about lessons. Everything we do is designed to contribute to your children's personal and social development, so that when they leave us at the end of Year Six, they are starting to make their own choices about who they are, what they do and believe that they can make a difference in the world. We do this through our exciting 'enquiry-led' curriculum which we compliment with experiences that widen and enrich their learning.



For example, we regularly bring into school visiting groups and professionals - theatre companies, authors, artists and musicians - who provide inspiring workshops that not only stimulate an interest in learning, but help to develop a range of learning styles, creating enjoyable and memorable experiences along the way. In addition, we arrange regular curricular trips as part of each year-groups' termly Big Enquiry, and donations to the School fund also allow us to subsidise these, keeping prices more affordable for all.

Now that trips and activities have resumed, we would be really grateful if you would use your ScoPay account to make your payment.



## Staying Fit and Keeping Well



In PSHE, Reception have been reading the book 'Here We Are'. The teachers pretended to be an alien wanting to come on holiday to Earth and the children had to persuade them that Earth was the best planet! They also told the alien how to look after our planet when they arrived too.



The Reception children have loved starting their swimming lessons with Mr Peet this term and have had fun "jumping in", "blowing bubbles" and "going under the water". They have also enjoyed their Playball sessions.

On Tuesday, we were very lucky to have a coach from Surrey Cricket with us all day delivering taster sessions to the Year 4, 5 and 6 classes. Although the wind was a challenge at times; the children were really enthusiastic and enjoyed drills and games that helped to develop their bowling, fielding and batting skills. It was lovely to have the field full all day of children playing and enjoying sport again!

For any children that don't already - but would like to - play some more cricket, there is a Year 5/6 club running after school on a



Tuesday.

## In the Community

### ECSA



- The fun run is a 3.3km route in Arbrook Woods and you can choose to walk, jog or run it. There are medals for the top 3 boys and girls but it can be done just for fun or as a personal challenge.
- The 10km run starts and finishes near Arbrook Woods with a loop around part of Claygate.
- Both runs can be completed from 1st to 16th May and will be signposted. Once you register for the run, you will receive more information about the route and how to record your time.