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Newsletter: 11. 9th February 2024

Dear parents and carers,

What a whirlwind of a time we have had at Eastbury Farm. As you all will know we had our OFSTED inspection last week, this was a section 8 inspection which is ungraded but a check up on the school. The report won't be out for a while but as soon as it is received it will be shared with parents.

We have enjoyed two stunning class assemblies, starting with Larch last week and Willow this morning. Each assembly was very unique to the class and were a tribute to the learning that takes place over time. As always, children in both classes presented beautifully and with great confidence. Each assembly was engaging in its own way and a credit to the children in each class. We are always so proud of the children when they have this opportunity to perform.

We have had a different but worthwhile week as we mark Children's Mental Health Week, with our own take on Feeling Good Week with our Regrown Project. A huge thanks to Mrs Holt for organising such a meaningful week. We've had a range of visitors and speakers, workshops and activities with themes from climate justice to wildlife rescue.

Our first experience of Shabbat!



Chestnut, Larch and Elm got to experience their first Shabbat through stories, songs and a real life Friday night dinner! Miss Jenshil showed us how a Jewish family would set up a traditional Shabbat table. This included the candles, wine or grape juice for the children and Challah bread. Everyone enjoyed their Friday night experience and there were lots of requests for extra Challah!



Congratulations!

Well done to Raeya who has been awarded a very special Brownie award. Raeya has received the Brownie Bronze Award, an award that is not easy to earn. Raeya had to undertake activities and tasks in two different areas to qualify for this. It is great to see her hard work and effort rewarded.

We love to celebrate success out of school so please come and share whatever this might look like.

Our panel of judges



We were delighted to be successful in our application to take part in The Royal Society Young People's Book Prize. We were sent the six shortlisted books and our reviewing panel set about their task. Our panel, consisting of Jamie, Husayn, Evie, Amelie, Katarina, Kyle, Isa and Noah gave up lunchtimes to read and discuss each book. Lots of reading and

reviewing took place at home too. The judging panel then met for a final discussion agreeing the number of points for each book in each category: ease of reading, interest, look and feel, inspiration. It was a tricky decision, and our top four books were very close, but our overall winner and our nomination is Deadly and Dangerous Animals by Ben Rothery. All these books will be joining our school library. The overall national winning book will be announced in March so watch this space to see if our panel picked a winner!

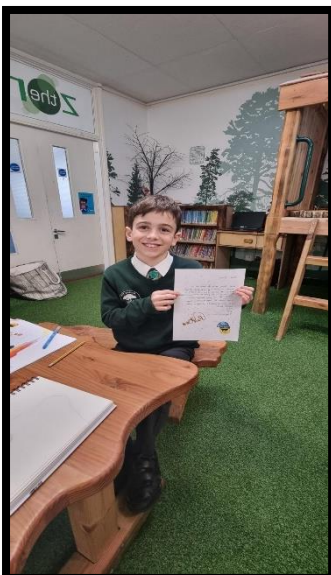
Geography



On Tuesday 30th January, year 3 and 4 had a zoom with Sarah Lurcock, who is the director of the South Georgia Heritage Trust, linking to our learning about biomes in Geography. Sarah has lived on South Georgia for many years and shared with us her photos of the wildlife, plants and climate in this biome. The biome in South Georgia is tundra. She explained how humans had impacted the area e.g. by bringing rats on whaling ships. Sarah helped us locate South Georgia on the map – did you know that if you put your finger on South Georgia and rotate the world, your finger only touches South Georgia and the ocean?

A big thank you to Sarah for taking the time to speak to us and answer our questions!

Spanish



Thanks to Mrs Gonzalez, children in year 5.6 have the opportunity to have Spanish penpals. Children correspond in Spanish with other children from a school in Spain. The Spanish school is in Pontevedra, Galicia, in the northwest of Spain.

Netball league

Our netball team stayed top of the league with a 9-1 win away at Greenfields on Thursday afternoon. Eastbury Farm started the game quickly and raced into a 5-0 lead by the end of the first quarter, with all five points being scored by James. Although Greenfields pushed hard as the game went on, some combative defending and excellent interceptions ensured that they had few shooting opportunities. James and Ayaana then scored a further four points between them to secure the win. Well done to the whole team for excellent teamwork and a great performance, and thank you to Mrs Webster for training and managing the team.



DT experience



Four of our Year 5 children were invited to spend the day at St John's School learning about what it takes to be an engineer. The children learned about biomimicry, which is looking to nature to solve engineering problems, and how to fuse aesthetics and function to create a wobble bot. In pairs, the children made a motor with a component to make it vibrate, then made a shell for their motor inspired by an animal, using recycled materials. There was a competition at the end to see which wobble bots could make it out of a ring fastest and one of our Eastbury Farm pupils was on the team that came second! Thank you to Miss Morley for accompanying the children, who all did us proud.

Additional music lessons now available in school



Hertfordshire Music Service

Start your musical journey today →

Making Music Improving Lives

Registration now open for music lessons

Instrumental and vocal lessons

- ▶ Music lessons are available during the school day at hundreds of schools in Hertfordshire.
- ▶ We also provide lessons in the afternoon, evening and on the weekends at our 12 music centres across the county.
- ▶ We offer various lesson types and durations. Please visit our website for more information.
- ▶ Financial support is available to pupils receiving certain benefits, to help with the cost of lessons.
- ▶ As your child progresses on their musical journey, they will be invited to join ensembles or music groups that perform regularly.




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Just a reminder to parents that if you would like your child to learn the trumpet or trombone, we can now offer these through Hertfordshire Music Service to be delivered in school.

Attendance

| Sycamore | Spruce | Maple | Oak | Pine | Chestnut | Willow | Elm | Larch | Cedar A | Cedar B | Total |
|----------|--------|-------|-------|-------|----------|--------|-------|-------|---------|---------|-------|
| 100% | 99.0% | 98.3% | 98.3% | 97.2% | 96.9% | 96.6% | 96.1% | 95.7% | 93.9% | 91.8% | 96.9% |

Lots of our classes are in the green this week which is great news. Please keep this up.

This week we lost 2 hours and 22 minutes of learning. Overall there were 13 late marks.

Wishing all our families a lovely weekend

Miss Ormonde