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Newsletter: 9. 18th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is our final newsletter for the term and as always the learning never stops. We have had some fabulous community events, including our early years Christmas production, our key stage 1 'Midwife Crisis', the wonderful key stage 2 carol concert and for our year 5.6 parents, the Victorian afternoon tea. We say 'goodbye' to Miss Burton who has been with Maple class this term and we will be forever grateful for the support and care she has given the children. Enjoy the photos in the newsletter sharing a snapshot of life at Eastbury Farm.

Christmas Fair

A huge well done and thank you to the EFSA team and all our parent volunteers. The Christmas Fair was a lovely community event and just over £7000 was raised as a result! A thank you also goes to Alisha and Annika who donated the full £79 proceeds to EFSA from their stall at the fair. We have some very generous and caring children in our school. I am really pleased to let parents know that EFSA have agreed to fund our key stage 1 trim trail project. This will involve replacing the surface to our existing trim trail and replacing the old apparatus with a new exciting and challenging set of equipment. Initially we asked EFSA for match funding however we now need to earmark the funding we had for a replacement



path from Farm Way. I know many of our parents, quite rightly, were unhappy about the condition of the path. So with EFSA's support we can still ensure our key stage 1 and reception children have the quality of playground equipment that they deserve. Watch this space for updates on the key stage 2 playground. Please bear with us for a short period of time when the access from Farm Way will be closed to allow the works to take place.

A big 'well done' must also go to our enterprising year 6 children, Jonathan, Taran, Lyla and Alisha who raised £40.75 from the Santa's list activity. We will be using this funding to develop further young enterprise activities.

STEM project

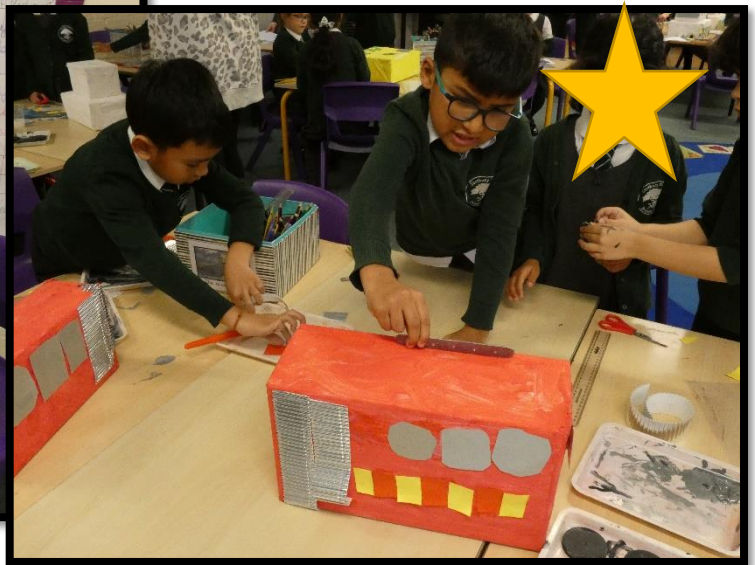
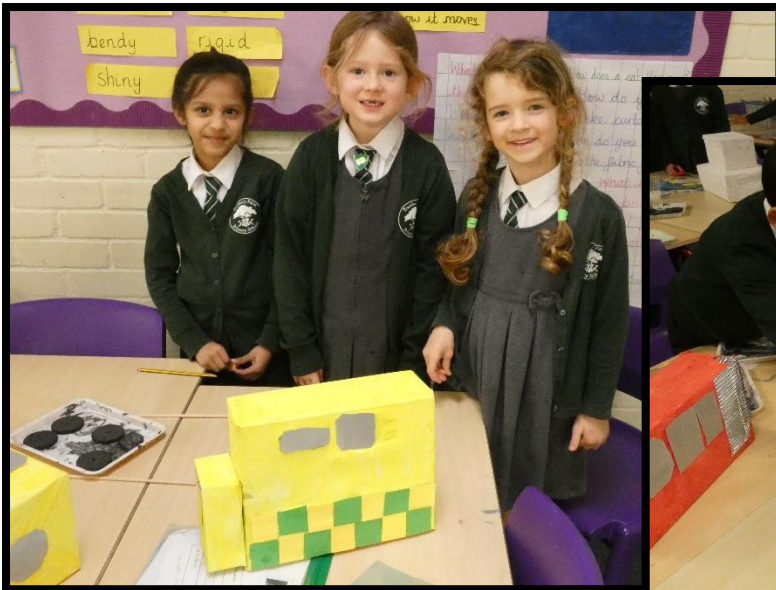
We are delighted to be taking part in an exciting STEM project supported by Enthuse Partnerships to develop our STEM provision in school. This project will be led by Mrs Roberts, Maple class teacher from January '24 and we look forward to further developing our work to support our children to excel in STEM subjects. Please see the press release below for further detail.



On Thursday 7th December, a group of 7 local primary schools came together to launch their Enthuse Partnership. Enthuse Partnerships, developed by STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) Learning, bring together a group of schools to improve young people's attainment and engagement in STEM subjects and develop awareness and understanding of STEM careers. This Enthuse Partnership is working with the local Science Hub led by Mandy Quinton and her team. Heads and teachers from Malvern Way Infant School, Little Green Primary School, Yorke Mead Primary School, Maple Cross JMI, St Peter's Primary School, Eastbury Farm Primary School and Arnett Hills Primary School came together at the launch meeting to share their vision for the 2 year partnership that ultimately will enhance and develop the STEM provision that the schools already deliver.

STEM Learning Advisor to the Partnership, Kate Butler, explains "It's well known that the UK is currently suffering from a huge STEM skills shortage. Enthuse Partnerships are one way that STEM Learning is trying to develop these skills in our school aged children and increase the uptake and interest in a career in STEM. Our partnership schools already offer wonderful opportunities for their learners in STEM. In working more closely and more collaboratively, our partnership schools can be even more impactful and successful in their endeavors to ensure their learners have the necessary skill set and aspirations to follow a career in STEM."

Design Technology at Eastbury Farm



Our key stage 1 children have been busy designing their moving vehicles, working collaboratively to plan and build. Many skills are involved including, measuring, cutting, fixing, and understanding how an axle works. The important part at the end will be the evaluation – what has worked well, what will the children change next time?



Children in year 5.6 have been developing their baking skills as part of design technology. This has included sampling a range of cakes to identify key points when designing a cake. The children then went on to design their own version of a cake using a basic sponge recipe with added flavours. They have mixed, weighed, folded, beaten and baked their cakes. Thank you to Mrs Poptani who came in to school and modelled the skills we were looking for in cake baking. The children then used their own ideas to decorate and ice their

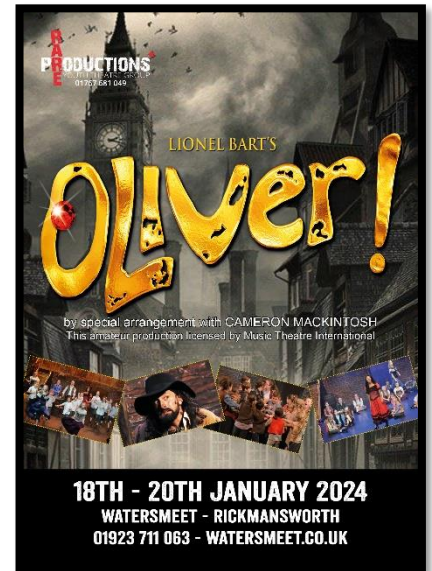


cakes. Our year 5.6 parents were then treated to a wonderful afternoon tea and helped the children with their evaluations. It was lovely to see our school hall filled with parents enjoying the hospitality and the chance to sample their children's work.

Community News



Well done to Melody for being awarded the kindness cup from her Brownie pack. What a great award to receive. It is always lovely when the children share things from home. Whether this is something they had done in the community or taken part in a competition or have a particular interest in something unusual. Evie, one of our year 5 pupils will be performing at Watersmeet in a production of Oliver. We can't wait to hear all about the excitement of being on the stage!



Eco-Warriors update



Our Eco-Warriors led their own assembly last week as part of involving our whole school in the work we are undertaking towards our Eco Schools Green Flag award. What was really impressive was how many different ideas the children in the assembly came up with that would make a difference. These ranged from turning the tap off when cleaning your teeth to getting involved with local clean-up operations. Why not ask your child what little action they might take over the Christmas break to be more environmentally friendly? Perhaps your child will ask you what you might pledge to do!

Christmas Performances



Some snapshots from our EYFS production and our KS1 production. For the children, having the opportunity to perform to an audience is part of our curriculum. It helps build confidence and of course is wonderful for parents to be able to watch!



RE morning



Children in key stage 1 had an immersive experience this week learning more about the Islam religion. Children took part in a range of activities to help them understand more about one of our world religions. Activities included tasting foods from the Quran: honey, dates, grapes and pomegranates, learning about their significance. Children made rosary beads used to practise thankfulness. Children also had the opportunity to dress up, experience the actions of prayer in the Islamic religion as well as explore specific Islamic toys. We welcome first hand experiences for the children of all our world religions and if any of our families would like to share more about their beliefs please let us know.

House point winners!

Congratulations to Green House who are our house point winners for this term. Our new system of house point tokens and tubes has created real excitement amongst the children. On a daily basis they form a great talking point and a good visual reminder to children about their contribution to the community. Once we return after Christmas, the tubes will be reset and let the competition begin! The house point totals are as follows: Green 3530, Red 2984, Yellow 2920 and Blue 2866.



Wellbeing and staying safe on-line over the holidays

It is very possible that your children will receive new devices this Christmas and will be using them on various on-line platforms. This website has a wealth of information to support parents in being secure in knowing what their children are doing, seeing and experiencing whilst on-line. Lots of the information comes in short video clips so it is very easy to use. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Stormbreak, who support children's mental health through movement activities have released some Christmas themed activities for the children. We know that Christmas can be magical but it can also be challenging for some children and families. These resources will help support positive mental health so please have a look. <https://www.stormbreak.org.uk/>

Let's stormbreak!

Join in with one of our Christmas themed stormbreaks with your children at home or school. These are popular stormbreaks you might recognise, with an added festive twist!

[The Magic Hat for self-care](#)
[Christmas cross country for resilience](#)
[Moon and Stars for hope and optimism](#)
[Christmas compliments for self worth](#)
[Christmas Trees for relationships](#)

Create an account with us! It's free and easy to join, watch 100s of free stormbreaks and start collecting digital badges and rewards [here](#).

[Watch our video guide if you need more information and support in setting up your account.](#)



As our community is aware it has been a very difficult term for the team at Eastbury Farm. We are all still devastated by the loss of our colleague Miss Gina Campanini and our thoughts are very much with her family this Christmas. We are also deeply sad about the very short life of Ivy Lilley, the daughter of Mrs Lilley. We will be thinking of Mr and Mrs Lilley this Christmas. Despite the huge level of sadness amongst our team, a team we have remained and I want to say how grateful I am for the staff who have pulled together and supported each other. I am sure you can see from our newsletters that staff have continued to put their everything into creating a wonderful nurturing learning environment for the children. Thank you to our community who have been so kind and who have shared so many messages of support. When we attended Miss Campanini's funeral, her sister shared 'Gina's Mantra' which I would like to share with you. The message is powerful and positive. As we all start to make our reflections for the year ahead please have a read, Miss Campanini lived by this mantra. She had her year of big adventures and lived for every moment. Her family are happy for this to be shared so please share if you'd like to.

Enjoy the festive break and the family time ahead of us.

Wishing all our families a very happy Christmas and positive thoughts for 2024

We will look forward to seeing the children back in school on Friday January 5th 2024

Miss Ormonde

