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Newsletter: 7 24th November 2023

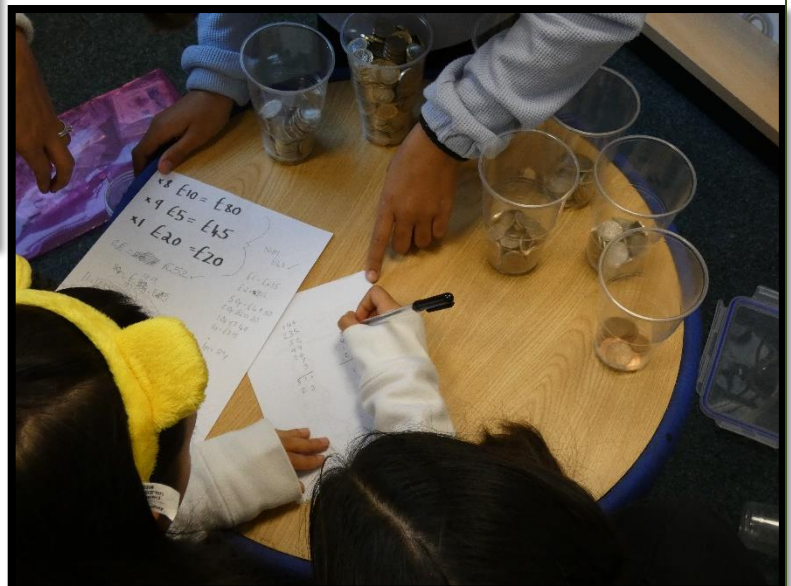
Dear Parents and Carers,

Please enjoy a snapshot of life at Eastbury Farm over the last two weeks.

What an achievement

All of us have been deeply saddened by the very short life of Ivy Lilley, the daughter of Mrs Lilley and I know many parents have shared their condolences. When I was approached by a group of children from year 5.6 Ayla, Kushi, Aari and Amber, who all wanted to do something to show they cared, the idea of a fundraiser for the hospice that gave such care to Ivy was formed. The girls organised, advertised, problem solved and finally on 16th November, held a fundraising bake sale. We were overwhelmed by the number of donations from our community and from the girls' determination to make a difference, they managed to raise £501.79. What an incredible achievement and a wonderful amount of money to donate to the hospice in Ivy's name. For any parents who would like to make an additional contribution the fundraising link is here

[HTTPS://WWW.JUSTGIVING.COM/TEAM/IHEARTIVY](https://www.justgiving.com/team/iheartivy)



£501.79

Sporting news



Another exciting league fixture for Eastbury Farm took place on Monday evening as our football teams battled it out against Greenfields Primary School. It was fantastic to see so much support for the children from both sides. Despite the mud and challenging conditions every player showed resilience and determination along with great sportsmanship. Our 'A' team won 3-0, with our goal scorers being Shakai (1) and Ali (2); our 'B' team won 6-3, goal scorers Oliver (4!), Diego and Gabriela scoring one apiece. Congratulations Eastbury Farm footballers!

There is great excitement on the KS2 playground following the arrival of our new **EFSA** funded table tennis table! Thank you **EFSA** – many hours of fun ahead!

Sharing our cultures and beliefs



We are so lucky to have such a multi-cultural community at Eastbury Farm and that we have parents who generously give up their time to enhance our understanding of the range of cultures and beliefs we have in our community. Many thanks to Reece's mum and Karina's mum who came into key stage 1 to talk about Diwali and allow the children to dress up, dance and explore special resources.

ECO update

Mrs Holt, who leads our team of Eco-Warriors has shared the link to a community hedge planting event at Woodoaks Farm on Saturday December 2nd. This is a free event and the link below will take you to further details and how to sign up Community hedge planting Mrs Holt is working with the Eco-Warriors on the first stage of our journey as part of the Eco-Schools award. Watch out for further updates and the growing impact of the children's work on sustainability. [Hedge Planting](#)

School Council Update

On Thursday this week, Mrs Cachra and our 3 Year 5/6 School Council Reps - Ellie, Diya and Lase spent the morning at the Council Offices in Rickmansworth along with many other local schools. The focus of the visit was Sustainability, thinking specifically about what we are already doing to improve things and what more we could do. The children heard from local councillors and members of the community who were able to share why this is such an important topic. Pupils from Rickmansworth School talked about their Eco Priorities and the power of using their voice to 'put things right'. Our pupils were exemplary role models making valuable contributions throughout the session and they will now share and action lots of what they found out with the rest of the School Council and our Eco Team.



Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mrs Duke in her role as mental health lead wanted to let parents know that they can sign up to Happy News. Happy News is our fun weekly news leaflet for kids and teens, bringing you a roundup of feel-good, funny, strange and uplifting news stories from around the world. Happy News is released every Wednesday to bring you a much-needed boost to the mid-week slump - and it's absolutely free! Please note we are not advocating signing up to the Happy News Plans which are not free but why not try the free newsletter.

<https://www.behappyresources.co.uk/happy-news/>

Wellbeing through dance

We were lucky enough to enjoy a performance this morning by Truefitt Collective Dance Theatre. Using dance they explored positive wellbeing and judging by the laughs and giggles coming from our audience of key stage one and two children, they certainly helped everyone to feel happy! Our key stage 2 children also took part in workshops which from the feedback given were 'brilliant'. We hope to do some more work with Truefitt in the spring term.



Look behind you!!

Attendance

Willow	Sycamore	Spruce	Cedar B	Cedar A	Pine	Spruce	Chestnut	Larch	Elm	Oak	Maple	Total
98.6%	97.5%	95.7%	95.5%	95.2%	95.2%	96.7%	94.7%	94.7%	93.6%	91.7%	88.7%	94.6%

This week has seen a real dip in attendance. Understandably this is the coughs and colds season so there is impact from illness. However in some of our classes, children have been absent for reasons that haven't been authorised so our unauthorised absence has increased this week. Any absence that is not due to illness or another exceptional circumstance is not authorised. Attendance is tracked and monitored and if unauthorised absence reaches a certain point, it is in our attendance policy to make an application for a fixed penalty notice. Support may also be offered by school and our Local Authority Attendance Officer. We had 10 incidences of late arrivals this week, totalling 2 hours and 47 minutes. Late arrivals in to school can be counted as an unauthorised absence depending on the reason. Let see if we can improve these figures for next week.

Sycamore Newsletter

On Friday morning, we were transported to the studios of Mastermind by Sycamore Class as they took the stage and performed their wonderful class assembly. The specialist Mastermind topic was 'learning so far this year in Sycamore Class' of which there was a lot to cover! Well done to all of the pupils for their excellent delivery and commitment to learning, we could all see how hard you are working and enjoying school.

....and finally

I am sorry for the later than usual arrival of this newsletter, however I hope it brightens up your Monday morning. This is a snapshot of life at Eastbury Farm and once written I love looking at the breadth of experiences we are offering the children. Having joined our local sports partnership we are now taking part in many inter school competitions, something parents told me last year that they were really keen for their children to do. Mr Davies, our sports lead, is making sure that across the academic year, all year groups have opportunities to participate in activities with other schools, as well as take part in competitions. Thank you to EISA for continuing to enhance our school playgrounds – the table tennis table has been a real hit and we wonder whether we can find room for another. Our year 6 children, who are already excellent role models and leaders, undertook play leader training with Matt Harrington from our sports partnership recently. This will further enhance our children's sense of responsibility and leadership development. You only have to read about the charity bake sale success to know what providing opportunities for leadership can inspire!

First and foremost we want our children to be happy and confident and underpinning all that we do is our pastoral and wellbeing focus. Led by Mrs Duke, we continue to support children in naming their feelings, to understand when things are not quite right and support them with strategies to help themselves as well as knowing when to speak out. This week's 'wellbeing through dance' performance gave a great message and also created lots of laughter.

Please do your best to send your child into school, even if they are under the weather, Mrs Norgate is more than happy to administer medicine and support your child to be in school. Our current value of resilience links beautifully to much of what we are asking of you and our children.

Here's to a happy week of learning ahead!

Best wishes

Miss Ormonde