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Newsletter: 6. 10th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,



Our week started with a literal bang as nearly 700 spectators enjoyed the fantastic EFSA run fireworks event. As usual, our EFSA team surpassed themselves in creating a wonderful community atmosphere. Beautiful lighting, great music, hot chocolate, glow sticks, burgers and lots of happy faces – what more could we want? Thank you to the team who worked so hard to make this happen and to the many volunteers we had – you all make a difference. Now we have our 'Christmas market' vibe generated by the new wooden canopies and lighting the team are full steam ahead preparing for the Christmas Fair. Please make sure Saturday 9th December is in your diaries. Thank you as well for the generous amount of donations for 'jazzy jars' that have come in this week. If being at the fireworks inspired you to be more involved with this great team – please let Aiman, our EFSA chair know. EFSA is run by you, for you and our children so please get involved where you can.

School Council update



Earlier this week our School Council, along with Mrs Cachra and Miss McClenaghan visited the Foodbank based at Emmanuel Church. It was an opportunity for the children to see first-hand what happened to all of the items that were generously donated by the school community throughout Harvest. Reverend Nina explained to the children the importance of foodbanks, how they operate and how they are used by members of the community in need at any given time. The children were very interested in hearing these stories and examples. The best bit for many of the children was helping to sort and organise all of the items ready to be collected by families. Towards the end of the visit, when asked how the children might treat food differently, having now visited a Foodbank, one of the School Council Reps said that he wouldn't waste as much food as he currently does, and another said that she would like to donate items regularly because

there is so much need. The Reps returned school feeling inspired and shared their learnings with their classmates.

Friday 17th November - Children in Need

Next week, we will be supporting Children in Need, the organisation that supports thousands of local charities and projects throughout the UK. With a SPOTacular theme, the children across the school are invited to come dressed in non-school uniform, wearing something 'spotty' if they have it. The School Council will be leading the assembly, alongside Mrs Cachra, to talk to the children about the aims and work of Children in Need. There will be an option on School Gateway for you to contribute towards this charity, every little helps.

Sports update



We were very excited to discover that Shakai, one of our Sycamore pupils had been chosen as a mascot for the UEFA Champions League match where Arsenal played Sevilla. This is a great honour and we are very proud of the fantastic job he did.



Congratulations to our basketball team who played with real spirit and determination in their first basketball tournament. Competing with other local schools at Croxley Danes the team, consisting of, Tio, Gabriella, Alisha, Paige, Luca, Thomas, Ozzie, Jonathan and Aayan, played 5 matches in total. Mr Davies and myself were really impressed with how quickly the children changed

tactics, developed skills and learnt from every match they played. We came 5th in the tournament and are very proud of our achievement. Next week our year 5 children will be taking part in cross country, again competing with other local schools. What a great opportunity for our children to experience. Thank you to the parents who supported us last night by ensuring the children got to the event and were subsequently picked up.

Curriculum news

Enjoy a snapshot of our curriculum in action.



CEDAR

Cedar were very lucky to have Kushi come and visit to teach us all about Diwali. Kushi made an incredible powerpoint and read the children a fantastic story. All of Cedar then got to colour in rangoli patterns and make rangoli patterns out of rice! A big thank you to Kushi for all of her hard work and teaching Cedar something new!



Another big thank you to Deeyan's mum for being Cedar's first mystery reader! The children absolutely loved the story and roaring like a dinosaur!

Oak

Oak children had a great time re-enacting the Viking invasion of Lindisfarne to help them better secure their understanding of this key event in history. They developed their DT skills by creating the swords and shields that they used in the battle.

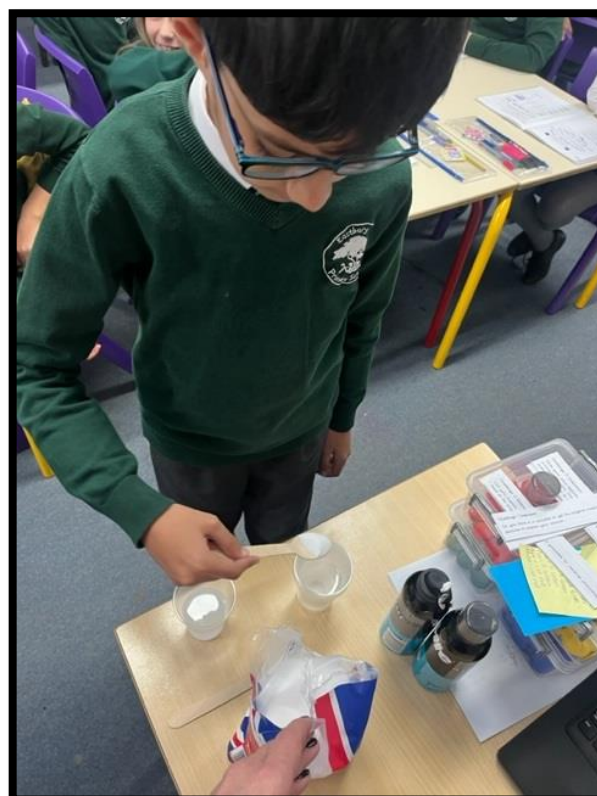
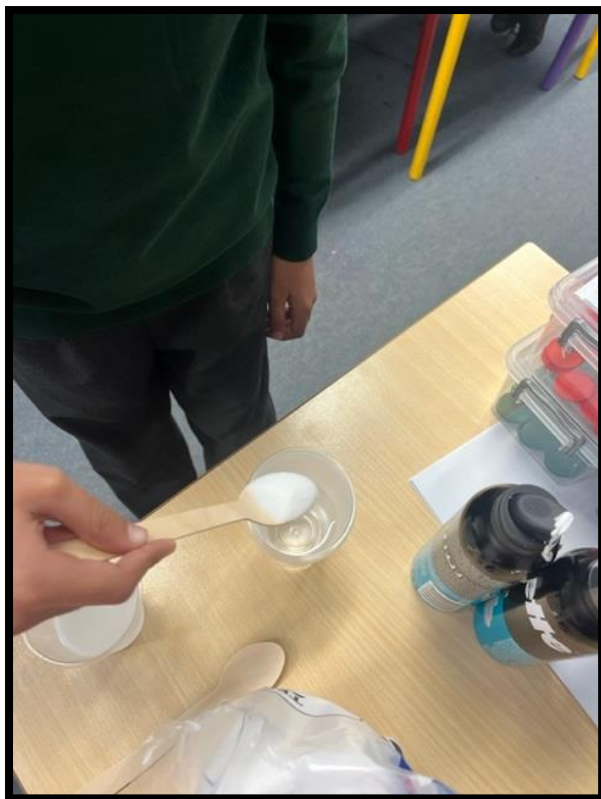


KS1 go local!



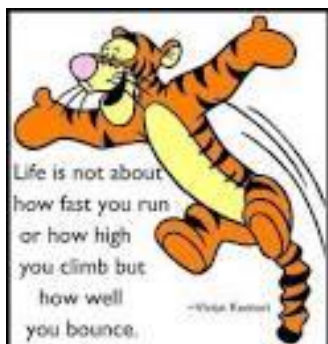
This week Year 1 and 2 had the chance to put their classroom geography learning into action when they visited their local area of South Oxhey to demonstrate their learning in the real world. After learning the skills to read a simple map and identify human features, they began a local study. The children were so excited to see landmarks known to them. They followed their map and ticked off key features. LIDL the favourite landmark was found and the trains were also a highlight! After lots of exploring and walking they found our final landmark - the play park. They played, had a well-deserved lunch and reflected on their learning. What a day for Year 1 and 2. I bet they slept well! Thank you to the team and our volunteer parents for giving 90 children this wonderful learning opportunity. We are also grateful to the local Sea Scout group for allowing us to use their building as a space to eat lunch.

Year 5.6 chemists in action



Our new topic 'All Change!' is linked to materials and the chemical reactions and changes that occur when we change variables. This week, we began our learning by thinking about our prior learning in KS1 and LKS2 and what we knew about materials already. We then explored whether materials were reversible or irreversible by melting chocolate, dissolving salt in water (hot and cold to compare the role of temperature), spraying shaving foam and shaking lemonade bottles. As well as being great fun, as scientists this helped us generate further questions to investigate. We are very much looking forward to developing our skills as Chemists over the coming weeks.

Our values



Congratulations to those children who received certificates in last week's celebration assembly. They were nominated by the peers and staff for standing out in demonstrating our value of **respect**. Our next value will be **resilience**. One of my favourite quotes is a Tigger quote which is very apt for this value. The key message for our children will be to support them to develop the ability to bounce back, not be defeated when things go wrong. This may be when they make a mistake in their learning, when they are playing a football match and things are not going well and many other challenging situations. To be able to cope when something goes wrong and move forward is a wonderful value for us to be focussing on. This link will take you to a really useful blog from Stormbreak -

[Resilience](#)

Anti-bullying week

Next week is Anti-bullying week and the theme is 'make a noise about bullying'. Our school assemblies will be focussed on this theme and children will take part in some class activities. We are starting the week with Odd Socks Day – please allow your child to wear odd socks – the more colourful the better. This is to help reinforce the message that we are all unique, all different and all welcome. Further information can be found on this link [Odd Socks Day](#)

Parents Evening reminders

- Make sure you have booked a slot
- Meetings will take place in the hall. Please come through the main entrance.
- Arrive a few minutes early to look through your child's work whilst you wait
- Please make sure your children are supervised if you bring them
- Our Governors will be serving tea and coffee

Attendance

Willow	Pine	Larch	Chestnut	Oak	Sycamore	Spruce	Elm	Maple	Cedar B	Cedar A	Total
98.6%	97.9%	97.3%	97.3%	97.2%	96.8%	96.7%	95.7%	95.3%	94.1	89.6%	96.2%

Well done to those classes who have been above our target of 96.5% attendance. Punctuation has improved this week with 1 hour and ten minutes of lost learning and 7 late arrivals.

Reminders

Please support us in our expectations on supervision before school. The children are not allowed on the equipment before school. Please make sure you ask your child to wheel their bike or scooter onto the school premises. Unfortunately one of our children was hurt by a scooter that was being ridden on the playground last week.

This is a link to our Amazon wishlist – thank you to all the parents who have sent gifts to us.

[Amazon wishlist](#)

Remembrance Assembly



Many of our families will be taking part in acts of remembrance over the weekend, including our military families. We were very lucky to have Major Williams from the Northwood Base come in to school to talk to our KS2 children. Major Williams gave a really interesting talk about the many different ways acts of remembrance are carried out around the world. The children were very engaged and had many questions to ask. Thank you to Mrs Williams, our Sycamore teacher, for organising this assembly.

Maple Assembly

Our Maple class assembly took place this morning and they delighted their audience of parents and friends. Led by Miss Burton and Mrs Moran the children thoroughly enjoyed sharing their learning this term through a mini drama based on a parent visit to our school. The assembly showcased a wide range of talents, including our emerging T-bone players, some great acting, singing and back stage support. Well done Maple you were a real credit to yourselves and we are very proud of you.

Wishing all our families a lovely weekend and for all our families who are celebrating Diwali this weekend

Happy Diwali!

Best wishes

Miss Ormonde