

Englefield CE Primary School News

We are now over half way through the autumn term and such a lot has been happening in and around school.

Early in the term we welcomed Marcel and Philippe (Bassistry Arts) to school to give each class a music workshop. As usual, we ended the day with an assembly for parents in which the classes performed the songs they had learned and we played Marcel's version of 'Name that tune'.



The Year 6 children have completed their Bikeability training in readiness for cycling safely to their secondary schools next year. This training is provided by the local authority and is an excellent way of keeping our pupils safe whilst encouraging a healthy lifestyle.

Our Year 5/6 class are currently learning about World War II. As part of their topic, they visited Hughendon Manor, the former home of Benjamin Disraeli, where they learned about life during WWII, including toys, games, clothing and growing your own food. They also learned about solving codes. Everyone agreed that it was one of the best day visits they had been on and we strongly recommend it to others.

At the end of September we were delighted to host the Ufton Court Charity Cycle Event. The grounds were buzzing amid the early morning set-up and start. Then, as the cyclists returned, there was a more relaxed atmosphere as cyclists and their families enjoyed pizza and other refreshments on the school field whilst listening to the Bradfield College Jazz Band. Well done to all who took part... it was a successful event for the Ufton Court team who are aiming to raise enough money to build a Viking Longhouse to add to their educational resources.

At the start of October we held our Harvest Festival at St. Mark's Church. The children sang with gusto and read out some lovely poetry. Donations received were taken to PACT, one of the local charities that we support throughout the year. We were delighted that we had enough pupils available for the choir to sing at the church's own harvest service; as usual they received a lovely welcome from the congregation.

As a school, we are committed to giving each individual the learning experience they need to make good progress and to prepare them for the next stage of their education. For this reason, a group of ten Year 5/6 pupils were chosen to spend six afternoons at Rushall Farm developing their teamwork, leadership skills and self-confidence. They made dens, built and lit fires which they then used to cook



burgers, did some orienteering, carried out a river study and did several other adventurous activities. Every one of the ten pupils participated fully and said it was a fantastic experience. The good news for us is that we have also noticed a difference in their learning back in the classroom. A special thank you goes to Sandra Stone for being such a fabulous group leader.

Four of our Year 5 pupils participated in The Oratory Maths Challenge. They had a wonderful afternoon and we were very proud of them...well done!

Our Year 1/2 class led a very thought-provoking assembly about Black History and justice. They told us the story of Rosa Parks and explained how important it is to stand up for what is right. The rest of the school also studied Black History and we shared our learning together. Two of our parents even came in to talk to the Year 5/6 class about their own experiences.



We held our annual Open Day in October which was well-attended by prospective parents and pupils. The visiting families all commented on the beautiful village in which we are situated...something that we never forget here in school!

Pupils playing on our new adventure playground which was partly funded by the Englefield Trust.

Being part of the local community is extremely important to us. We now have two local ladies coming in as voluntary readers and they are now very much part of our school community...thank you to them both for their time and commitment.

We were delighted that so many of our families joined in with the Remembrance Day service at St Mark's and the beacon-lighting in the evening. Both were very special and memorable occasions and it was lovely to be made so welcome by the local residents.

We also held our own centenary Remembrance service at St Mark's. We would like to pass on our thanks to Reverend Nick for leading the service, Richard Smith for reading out the roll-call and Dinah Perkins for helping with the organisation. It was a very serious occasion and one which should stay with the children for many years.

During Parliament UK Week we were lucky enough to welcome Richard Benyon who came to talk to the whole school about his role as an MP. The children asked some taxing questions which were answered clearly for all ages to understand. Thank you, Mr Benyon!



Our choir recently performed in the Junior Music Festival at the Hexagon in Reading. They sang their hearts out and thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

Still to come before Christmas:

Year 6 pupils will be taking part in a special remembrance service at Westminster Abbey.

In a change to previous years, we will be holding our Christmas Fayre on Friday 30th November from 3.30pm until 6pm in the school hall and social club. Please come along to enjoy the fun.

Our youngest pupils are putting on 'Christmas with the Aliens' for their Christmas production.

To finish off the school term, we will be holding our candle-lit carol service in St Mark's.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and happy New Year.