



Half-term Highlights

Autumn 2 — 2022



CURRICULUM

- ◆ Key Stage One have been enjoying sharing their favourite books as part of the World Cup Reading Challenge. The launch event was VERY exciting!



- ◆ We have also all been working hard on our Christmas enterprise projects. The profits go towards our end of year treat!





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CURRICULUM CONT/...

- ◆ We all had an amazing time performing to our parents at the Christmas performances. The charities supported by the coin collections received £118 from Year 1 for Warm Spaces, £138 for Year Two Fair Share/Trussell Trust foodbank charity, Reception monies went to St Francis Hospice.
THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



- ◆ We have received a lovely thank you email from the organiser of Warm Spaces:
I'm writing to you, and the Engayne Primary School community, for your generous donation to St Joseph's Warm Space.
We are truly humbled that your amazing pupils chose to support our project this winter. Your donation is already being used to provide food parcels to people in Upminster and Cranham during the current difficulties many are facing. The money has already helped people and will continue to do so.
Please pass on our sincere gratitude to the pupils and community at your school. It is greatly appreciated.

Happy new year to you all.

Kind regards

David Leech
Warm Space Organiser



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CURRICULUM CONT/...

- ◆ In year 3, the children were extremely busy learning all about The Stone Age. They researched about their way of life and the conspiracy behind how Stonehenge was build.

The children learnt about rocks and soils and were able to take part in a fantastic fossil workshop, where they could become archaeologists to see ancient fossils of dinosaurs. As part of our year group social action project, some children preformed Christmas songs in Makaton to the residents of The Oaks and the Methodist Church in Upminster.



- ◆ This term in year 4, we visited Kent Life to experience Anglo-Saxon life. We had the opportunity to play Anglo-Saxon games, prepare wool for weaving and learnt how Anglo-Saxons entertained themselves.

In DT, we made Iron Man pop-up books using levers and split pins to create moving elements of our books.

In Science, we were learning about sound and made our own instruments using a straw. We found out that if you cut the straw shorter it would make the pitch higher.





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CURRICULUM CONT/...

- ◆ Last term Year 5 had a social action project which was to support the dogs at Basildon's Dogs Trust. The Dogs Trust had visited our school at the beginning of term and taught children how to act around unfamiliar dogs. This had a huge impact on our pupils and they were keen to support the Dogs Trust further.

Over the term we collected treats, food, toys and blankets for the dogs and will be visiting with our donations in early January.



- ◆ In the second Autumn term, Year 6 continued to deepen their understanding of the effects of WW2 on home life with a focus on rationing and the role of women whilst also looking at specific battles such as the Battle of Dunkirk. The class text for this term was Friend or Foe by Michael Morpurgo where children discussed and debated issues about ethics and morality. In computing, children learned about inputs and outputs of electrical devices when learning about programming children's toys through the use of MicroBits. Year 6 also had lots of fun baking their own gingerbread men for their enterprise week. In PE, children loved expressing themselves whilst making their own fitness routines to share with others.



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OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The school commemorated Remembrance Day in November with a spectacular whole school poppy display. The design was inspired by the poppy cascade at the Tower of London a few years ago. We think our eco friendly poppy display was a fitting tribute to all those who have served and sacrificed so much for us all.



- ◆ We have been REALLY excited to be part of the World Cup Reading Challenge talking about our favourite books and competing in book battles to see which book is voted the best!

Our winners for KS2 all received a book token. Well done to them all!





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OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Embrace reading the same books (over and over again!)

Books are not single use. And for younger children in particular, reading a favourite book over and over again gives them a powerful advantage in learning how language works.

When you try and convince them to choose a different book as you've had 'Eric! The Hero' every day for the past three weeks, you think you are acting in your child's best interests – trust me, you're not. The only person to benefit from insisting on a new title, is you (and your sanity!)

As your child sees it, reading is about enjoying a story they love, snuggled up to you. What is actually happening when you read "Peace at Last" for the millionth time is that they are becoming comfortable and familiar with a greater number of words, in context. They are extending their vocabulary. They are becoming more confident in their understanding of how language works.

And when they start to recite the words either independently or as you read, they are already beginning to demonstrate characteristics of 'A Reader'.

But don't fall into the trap of sharing it in the same way every time; each time you read the book try to extend the learning opportunities. Good picture books have a wonderful way of making the text interact with the illustrations – often the pictures hold hidden clues that enhance the story.

- Go beyond just reading the words; have conversations around the pictures and use richer language each time; 'Alice's dress is a beautiful bright blue colour', or 'Look, that kite is soaring high in the sky'.
- Have conversations about things you can't see - talk about what the characters might think or feel or how something might smell.
- Talk about how the story or pictures relate to your child's life or your house or your town (or how they don't).

And for older children? We all learn new vocabulary more efficiently when we are exposed to it in context; rereading books will help reinforce those new words and give your child confidence to use them accurately in their writing or their everyday language.

And in terms of comprehension, rereading helps a child delve deeper into the author's meaning and 'get' things they might not have done before.

So as much as you may be tempted, you shouldn't be hiding "Lottie Potter" down the back of the radiator! Your child will eventually move on to a new favourite and you can start the process all over again!

FINALLY : Our local libraries are running the Winter Mini Reading Challenge online again this year. The challenge runs from December to February. Sign up at www.wintermini.org

HAPPY READING ... more from me in the SPRING! Mrs Wyman





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OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Some children represented Year Three at The Oaks for their social action project. They sang to the residents. More events are planned throughout the year!





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OUTSIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ Charlotte, Year 4, won a silver medal at the South Essex Gymnastics Club Competition on Sat 12th November, well done Charlotte!



- ◆ Mair L 5B performed in her first singing recital at Trinity United reformed church on Saturday 26th November. She sang her first solo Talking to the Moon by Bruno Mars. We are all extremely proud of her. It took a lot of courage to stand and sing so beautifully.





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OUTSIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ Cooper Q in 2B has just passed his level 4 swimming grade, and Rosie Q in 4W has completed level 7. Congratulations to them both for this fantastic achievement!



If your child is successful outside of school, for example in music, sport, etc, please let us know via contact@engayne.co.uk, and we will include this in the next edition of `Half-Term Highlights`