



Half-term Highlights

Spring 1 — 2023



CURRICULUM

- ◆ We had an exciting start to the term with a visit from the Road Wise Rangers to remind us all about the importance of road safety!



- ◆ All of our reception classes welcomed their adults in to school for a great morning of space activities





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- ◆ Year One showed their parents how great they were with phonics in a fun filled afternoon of games and activities





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CURRICULUM CONT/...

- ◆ Year Two enjoyed a wonderful day of history when they were transported to London 1666 to re-enact life during the times of the Great Fire of London.





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CURRICULUM CONT/...

- ◆ In year 3 the children have been extremely busy learning all about the Celts. They took part in an exciting celtic workshop, looking at artefacts, making their own clay pots and even preparing for battle. Year 3 also had a forest school 'Life as a Celt' experience day where they carried out challenging den building and toasting bread over the camp fire.
- ◆ In English, we have been exploring a range of fairy-tales, myths, legends and fables. The children have created their own mythical creatures and have been able to describe their creatures with great detail.
"Feney Dragon uses it's telekinesis powers when a predator approaches" Poppy 3B.



- ◆ In Year 4 we looked at Oliver Twist for musical week. We learned the song "Food Glorious Food" and had fun decorating some white t shirts in order to look like dirty, unkempt orphans. We made clay geckos in DT and decorated these with bright colours. We found making the arms and legs difficult as it was very fiddly and we needed to ensure they were not too thin as they would have cracked and fallen off!





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CURRICULUM CONT/...

- ◆ Year Five celebrated Musicals week by learning about musical, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream coat. We made a coat of many colours by decorating squares of material with hieroglyphs and attached them so that the coat looked really colourful. We learned to sing the song 'Any Dream will do' from the musical. Amongst many other activities we did a drama of the story and made board games based on the story. The finale of the week was when we presented our song to the rest of the school.



- ◆ In the Spring term, Year 6 studied poems from Lewis Carroll and Maya Angelou with a focus on themes and figurative language. Children also studied the Titanic and wrote fantastic newspaper reports on the tragic event. In science, we started our Electricity unit where children have deepened their knowledge of circuits and safety. In PE, children learned about balancing, mirroring and manoeuvring in different ways to create shapes and patterns in the Gymnastics unit. In History, we continued to learn about WW2 with a focus on rationing and the roles of women. In the Musicals week, children had a blast learning about The Lion King, animals and countries located in Africa and performing their song and dance to 'I Just Can't Wait to Be King'.



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CURRICULUM CONT/...

- ◆ We have all been getting creative for Musicals Week!





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OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ We welcomed author and primary school teacher Banji Alexander for a series of assemblies and discussions about his new book. The children learned a lot about the writing process and some of the librarians were very lucky to interview Banji for our school website. We pre sold 56 books and sold another 25 at the after school signing session.





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OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ In the Autumn term Year 5 and 6 children all entered the Havering Libraries Poetry competition. The theme of the poetry was The Environment. We are delighted to announce that Arnuv in 6A won the junior category. His winning poem will be made into a poster and he will be receiving some prizes from the library service.



- ◆ In other reading news 105 Engayne pupils completed the Summer Reading challenge at their local library. Our school had the highest number of pupils completing the challenge which is fantastic!



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With all this amazing reading going on at Engayne, and with World Book Day just around the corner on 2nd March ...what better time to give you another parental reading tip to grow a love of reading.

Reading doesn't have to be all about fiction

For lots of children who haven't yet fallen in love with reading, it could be because they haven't been offered the right books. Some children just don't get excited by magical worlds and fantasy adventures. Some children prefer reading facts and information. And some children enjoy both.

There is a common misperception that you are only 'a reader' if you read fictional books; that non-fiction doesn't count as 'proper' reading. And this perception can be incredibly damaging to a child's relationship with books and reading.

Well-meaning parents are often keen for their child to become engrossed in Harry Potter or riveted by Roald Dahl but the harder you push a child towards books they don't want to read, the louder they proclaim that they DON'T LIKE READING!

An important factor in reading for pleasure is choice; you can't force someone to get enjoyment out of reading! If your child isn't being offered the books they enjoy, they won't want to read.

So the 'way in' to reading for all children must be through what interests them most. But sometimes this gets a bit skewed. You shouldn't, for example, automatically assume that a child who likes playing football will enjoy fictional stories about a football team. They might however, enjoy reading about the history of their favourite football club – but they might not know that such a book exists.

So how do you work out what your child wants to read?

Offer them books with wide-ranging content such as Andy Seed's ['The Silly Book of Side-Splitting Stuff'](#) or Adam Frost's ['The Epic Book of Epicness'](#) and see what sparks an interest.

Try a book of factual short stories such as ['How to be Extraordinary'](#) by Rashmi Sirdeshpande. Or Jenny Alexander's factual stories, facts and ideas in ['How Can I Help the World?'](#).

Or what about books from [National Geographic Kids](#)? They contain short articles, stories, facts and quizzes ranging from science to geography to the human body and animals.

These types of books have the advantage of allowing you to 'dip in and out' therefore feel less demanding than having to focus on an entire 'story'. The more variety you offer your child in smaller more manageable chunks of reading, the more chance they have to find something they enjoy. Fiction, non-fiction, factual story, poetry, fact books, comics and joke books are all legitimate forms of reading material. If your child is choosing to read any of these then they are reading for pleasure. And down the line that factual interest in volcanoes may lead to them choosing to read a fictional story about volcanoes. But if it doesn't, that's ok, reading non-fiction is still reading!



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STAFF NEWS

- ◆ We said a fond farewell to ICT Technician, Mr Swain who left us to pursue a career as a mechanical technician. We wish him well and hope he enjoys his new role which incorporates his passion for cars.
- ◆ We welcomed Mr Roberts as our new ICT Technician. Mr Roberts has worked previously at another school and has settled well at Engayne.
- ◆ Breakfast club & Midday Supervisor, Mrs Clarke is leaving us at the end of this week after 21 years at Engayne! We are sorry to see her go, and hope she enjoys a well-earned rest.
- ◆ Mrs Tandel has joined our Midday Supervisor team and is enjoying meeting all of the children and staff, we are happy to have her as part of the team.



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OUTSIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ Congratulations to Ethan L, 6N who was recently signed by Crystal Palace Football Club! Well done Ethan, we are all very proud of you.





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OUTSIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ Isla, Penny, Ella and Ariana all worked super hard and achieved a medal for their Rumba dance exam. Well done girls!





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OUTSIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ Congratulations to Oscar G for recently achieving his Chief Scout's Bronze Award, just before he moved on to Cubs in January.

Oscar worked very hard at Beavers to make new friends and try out new activities.

Well done Oscar, your efforts paid off!





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OUTSIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

- ♦ A group of children from KS1 and KS2 were in the pantomime with Wesley Players at the end of January. The children worked really hard throughout rehearsals not to mention the performances themselves - 5 performances in 3 days - something a lot of adults would struggle with let alone children. The children received amazing feedback from family, friends and the audience. We are so proud of what they achieved and long may their thespian journey continue!

The children were: Fletcher C- 4B, Florence C - 4W, Rafael J-S - 6P, Abigail L - 3M and Mair L - 5B.



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'

