



Half-term Highlights

Spring 2— 2023



CURRICULUM

- ♦ EYFS have been learning about pirates and getting creative. Dressing up, creating treasure chests, sorting treasure and making maps have been just some of the activities. This has matched well with our Welly Wednesday map making.



- ♦ EYFS also welcomed parents and carers for a fun morning of Easter crafting.



- ♦ Year One have been finding out all about Café's in readiness for the opening of their very own Jungle Café this half term. They visited a Café Gelato to experience how orders are processed and enjoyed some treats generously provided by the café. All the children have made invitations and menus (with some help from Year 5) and have been busily cooking and preparing delicious treats to sell to their parents!





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CURRICULUM CONT.....

- ◆ Year Two had an exciting Virtual Reality workshop to immerse themselves in the world of mini beasts.
- ◆ Year 2 also hosted the Infant Music Festival. They learned and performed songs on the theme of animals. They had a wonderful musical morning with St Joseph's, James Oglethorpe, and St Mary's Hare Park



- ◆ Year Two have also been investigating fruits and vegetables and how to cut, chop, grate and eat them!



- ◆ Year Two's Social Action Project this term has seen them collect and donate 60 eggs to the local community. Thank you for your generosity.





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CURRICULUM CONT.....

- ◆ The half term flew by quickly in Year 3. We had a lovely Easter visit to the The Oaks on Monday with children from 3M, 3T and 3B. We made Easter cards and letters. The children played instruments and sang to the residents. Some of the folk even joined in with the children.



- ◆ This term in Year 4, the children learnt about Europe. They found out about the location of the capital city, the longest river, the tallest mountain and any active volcanoes in UK, France, Spain, Italy and Switzerland. They made fact files of France and Italy and became Chefs on two occasions preparing and making French crepes and Italian risotto. They looked at a balanced diet and from this planned a French or Italian menu.

The children have also been busy with their social action project, working with pre-schoolers from “Little Adventurers Nursery” to plant trees in the school grounds and play together using all the lovely OPAL equipment. They have had such fun!





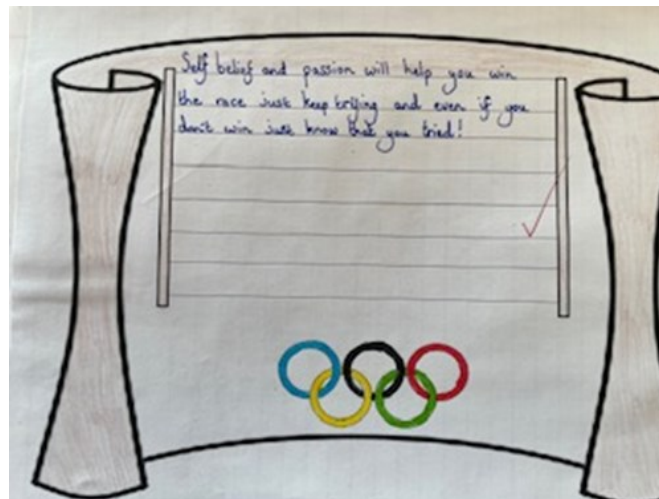
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CURRICULUM CONT.....

- ◆ This half term the children in Year 5 have been very busy in school. As part of DT the children made bread rolls which was great fun. The children enjoyed measuring and mixing all of the ingredients together in small groups. In our topic lessons the children enjoyed learning about Ancient Greece and made their own Olympic Charters. The children spent a lot of time rehearsing for their Easter production which they performed at the church and then to the rest of the school.



- ◆ In the Spring term, Year 6 studied Oliver Twist with a focus on equality, colloquialisms and life for a Victorian. In science, children are learning about the circulatory system, healthy lifestyles and hearts of different animals. In PE, children thoroughly enjoyed learning the skills of basketball and applying skills learned in matches with peers. In Geography, we began our topic on rivers where children have learned the different aspects of a river and all about the water cycle. We completed our DT unit on fairground rides where children designed and created their own fairground rides with a working circuit. Year 6 also took part in a road safety workshop where children investigated an incident and learned about the dangers of traffic and how to be safe.



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OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ With World Book Day and our National Literacy Survey completed in school, reading is at the centre of all our teaching.

Here is another tip to keep that reading time enjoyable and successful for you and your child.

Set yourself up to succeed

Reading for pleasure with your child should be an enjoyable experience for both of you. Here are some handy hints for making sure it is!

Get comfy

Beanbags on the floor, lying on the sofa or sitting in the garden – reading can happen anywhere but make sure to remove any distractions first.

Be prepared

New picture book? Read it yourself before sharing it with your child so that you are prepared, otherwise, how can you read it well?

Support your child's book choices

Even if you've read it a hundred times before or you dislike the story or characters, don't criticise your child's choice of book. Maybe suggest that you read two books and pick one each.

Set the scene

Explore the cover and read the blurb before opening the book; indulge in some book talk – have you read a book by this author before? What do you think it might be about? Build up the anticipation, make it exciting.

Share the reading

Read aloud to your child and allow them to simply enjoy the story.

- Listen to your child read but jump in and give them the word if letting them struggle will ruin the flow.
- Take it in turns to read a page or paragraph each.

Welcome interaction

Reading isn't a passive activity, the reader or listener has to apply their own thinking to what is being read. Don't see your child's questions or comments as an interruption; follow their focus and have some book-based conversation. Does it matter if you spend 10 minutes on one page? You don't even have to read the words in the book – make up a story from the pictures or try one of these activities.



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OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Relinquish control

Let your child hold the book and 'read' to you; having the confidence to turn the pages and interact with a book is important but make sure to show them how to do it respectfully.

Know when to stop

Books don't have to be read from cover to cover and you haven't failed if you don't get all the way to the end in one go. Finish your reading at a positive point half-way through rather than struggling to the end in frustration.

Abandon!

If a book isn't right there is no shame in choosing another one instead. Having opinions about books is important and that includes the right for your child to say when they don't like one!

Discuss

Remember to talk about books when you aren't reading – make connections between real life events and books you have read as this helps a child see the value of reading for themselves. **Enjoy!**

- ♦ Little Adventurers Nursery issued a lovely press release after their recent visit to Engayne:



*** Press Release Tuesday 21st March 2023 ***

Nursery children 'get digging' at local primary school

Children at Little Adventurers Nursery have been using their green fingers to plant fruit trees within the grounds at their local primary school.

The preschoolers thoroughly enjoyed digging and learning about nature, as they helped the Year 4 children to plant the trees - all before enjoying some well earned playtime in the school's playground.

The 'Plant & Play' sessions are part of the Social Action Project at Engayne Primary School, which encourages its pupils to build links within the local community. This also includes the children singing in a care home and supporting local food banks.

Not only do the sessions encourage communication, friendship, team building and learning new skills, they encourage all of the children to have lots of fun and exercise in the fresh air.

Little Adventurers Nurser manager, Ginny Andreas, commented, "Making connections in the community is always a joy. When asked by our local school if our preschoolers would like to join in planting fruit trees in the school grounds, and then stay and play in the playground, we jumped at the chance!

"It's also lovely that the children get opportunities to spend time at 'big school' before it's their turn to join Reception class; it builds familiarity and helps the transition process."

After its success, the preschoolers will be invited back to the primary school next month for a further 'Plant & Play' session. This time, they will be helping the Year 4 children to plant sunflower and lavender seeds.

It is hoped this activity will support the children's learning and understanding about the world, about the different species of plants and what those plants need to help them grow. They will also learn about the different seasons, the weather and the affects they have on the plants.

Little Adventurers Nursery children are regular visitors to Engayne Primary School in Upminster, Essex – they often enjoy walking to the school to watch concert previews, the annual Christmas Concert or for any special events.



The school's music teacher says it is "beneficial to all the primary school children" to have the young visitors as a way of "getting used to playing in front of an audience".

ENDS

Little Adventurers Nursery is based in Upminster, Havering.

Awards & Achievements since opening in 2015

- 2019 Nursery World Award Winner – Nursery Manager of the Year
- Health and Wellbeing Award - Top 6 UK Finalist Nursery World Awards 2019
- Healthy Early Years London Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards
- Top 20 Nursery London Award (2018 & 2019)
- Apprentice Employer of the Year Award 2017
- Nursery World – best practice feature 2018
- Offer Optimum Nutrition – all menus endorsed by early years nutritionist
- Early Excellence – film of best practice for early years
- Sing and Sign affiliated nursery - Nationally recognised programme which encourages communication with babies

Little Adventurers Nursery is a member of the National Day Nurseries Association

For more information, please contact chris.ford@littleadventurersnursery.co.uk
07594 446181.

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OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ In other news... at Engayne we are always looking at new ways to encourage reading anywhere and everywhere.

We are in the process of creating unusual reading “nooks” where the children can read.

We have been so very fortunate to have received a donation of a taxi cab liveried with Engayne logos to use in school. A HUGE thank you to Mr & Mrs Watkins for the very generous donation!

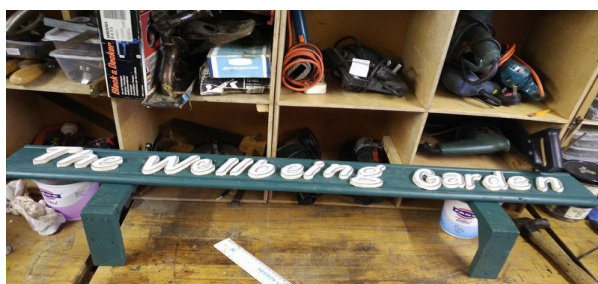
The cab should be installed very soon. Watch this space for more exciting reading nooks around our school!



- ◆ We have also been very lucky to engage the services of the carpentry charity group Men's Shed who have created 2 storage boxes, signage and renovated another bench for our wellbeing garden.

Now the weather has improved Mr Wyman has been able to point the path can complete the trellis work.

Final planting is planned for this half term with a grand opening this Summer!



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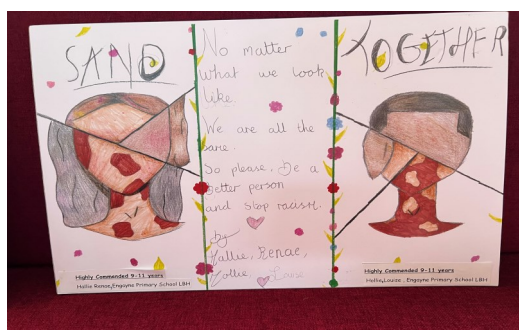
OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Four pupils won a community Anti-Racism competition where they designed a poster.

Renae, Mollie, Louise and Hallie (6N) attended a prize giving event at Barking Town Hall. Each pupil received an art set for their highly commended work in 9-11 age category.

The girls had a great time. Their prize was presented by the Leaser of Barking and Dagenham.

Before the award the girls were taken to the Mayors Chamber where they were shown the Mayors chains and allowed to try on the Mayors robe. Well done girls!





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STAFF NEWS

- ◆ We said a fond farewell to Mrs Callaghan last term when she retired. Mrs Callaghan has worked as a Teaching Assistant at Engayne for 17 years. We will miss her and wish her a happy retirement.
- ◆ We have welcomed two new members of staff who have joined our support staff team, Miss Jessica and Miss Adams. We are pleased to have them on board!



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OUTSIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ Sara, 3T took part in Chelmsford RFU Minis 2023 Festival last weekend where she received a medal for being the fastest player in her team!

Her family said they are amazed how she can juggle with fine art like ballet and piano and tough sports like rugby and Thai boxing!



- ◆ Sara has also passed her GRADE 2 ABRSM PIANO EXAM with MERIT !!! Well done Sara!



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OUTSIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ Sam, 6N recently had a Regional Qualifier Trampoline competition leading up to the regional finals. He achieved Silver place in TRA level 4 mens (the highest level) 11-12. Congratulations Sam!



- ◆ Sienna, 6P took part in the East Region Acro Pre-Lims representing her club Jaybee Gymnastics. Sienna performed within a partnership and they came first in their category, winning gold and will now go on to represent the East Region at the National Championships. A great achievement Sienna!



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OUTSIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ Blaze of Upminster Majorettes participated in the 50th United Kingdom Federation of Majorettes National Championships over 3 days in March. The troupe of 16 boys and girls (aged 6-16) including Engayne pupils Oliver V (6N), Amelia B (4W), Ava R (4B), Caitlin T (4B), Myla C (4W), Olivia P (4BT), Emmie B (3T), Louis V (3T), Louis R (2M), Jenson E (2J) and Maisie B (1P) competed alongside more than 25 troupes and returned home with a total of 40 trophies for Solo, Group and Troupe events. Every member received a minimum of 2 trophies each and they all took part in the Outdoor Troupe Display which gained them a 1st place.

Myla C was placed in an impressive 7 out of a possible 9 events and Louis V was awarded the Most Successful Male Twirler for the 22/23 season.

They have all been working hard all year to prepare for this competition. For the majority of members, this was their first ever Nationals and to come away with so many awards is a huge achievement, and we are very proud of all of them!



- ◆ Many congratulations to Imogen, 6P who passed her grade one piano exam. We are all very proud of her.



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OUTSIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ Congratulations to Daniel, 5B who won a Chief scout award at Cubs. Well done Daniel!



- ◆ Gwenny, 4W has just passed her Level 6 gymnastics award and is now working towards her first advanced bronze at South Essex Gymnastics Club. Well done Gwenny!



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OUTSIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ Thanks to Opal for getting out the hockey sticks, the boys enjoyed it so much, they signed up to a team.

Before this, Upminster struggled to get a team out but they now have enough players for 2 teams. The boys train twice a week and play in tournaments once a month.

Attached is a photo of the boys on Sunday, very soggy but played really well.

Nate -4B, George M- 5G, James -5G, Henry -5G, Thomas -5G, Tom -5W, Charlie -5B, Liam -5B & Teddy (Goal keeper) 5B



- ◆ Congratulations to Gabriela, who achieved 2nd Place (7 year old age group) recently during Harlequin's in-house competition. Gabriela competed on Vault and Floor Routine. Great job Gabriela!



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'