

## Welcome:

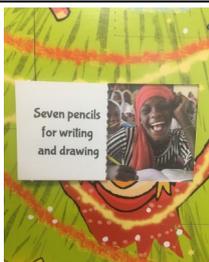
As we have reached the end of another eventful term, we would like to thank



all of the wonderful children and families for their support and understanding throughout what has been another, difficult term. Without trying to put down the impact that disruption to schooling is having on all children, we have been so impressed with the resilience and positivity of our children and we feel that we have been able to gradually provide them with more and more opportunities that resemble "normal" school life as the term has progressed. Clubs are re-opening and we hope to offer more in the New Year, lunches and playtimes are back together, interschool sporting competition has returned, we have welcomed visitors into school and will be taking children out of school on visits next term. Two exciting residential for those in Y4 & Y6 have been planned for the Summer term too. Reflecting our whole school value of *Positivity*, we cannot wait to see everyone back next term, refreshed and ready to go again.

## Kindness:

Respect, Positivity & Kindness are our school values. If one was to have greater importance than the others, it would be kindness. We encourage the children to be kind in their relationships with each other and their actions towards people less fortunate than themselves. This term we have donated items for Baby Basics in our Harvest Collection, lit up a Snowflake on the walls of the Children's Hospital, purchased Advent Calendars from UNICEF as well as highlighting individual acts of kindness that we witness on a daily basis. It is good to know that scientists believe that altruistic behaviour releases endorphins in the brain, producing the positive feeling known as the "helper's high." Thank you to all the families who have supported our work in these areas this term.



## Modeshift Platinum Day:

As you know, we were awarded a Platinum Award for our work with Modeshift Stars over the last 3 years, encouraging families to consider alternatives to driving to and from school as often as they can. We were rewarded by SCC with a "play street", closing the



top end of Huntley Road during drop off and pick up times as well as throughout the morning allowing us to play out on a traffic free road. We were joined by Strider from Living Streets and Dave from Histrionics as well as receiving a special message from Paralympic super star

Dame Sarah Storey. Thank you particularly to George for her work on this project and for organising the day itself.



## Paul Sturgess visit:

We had a fantastic visit from Paul Sturgess who came to work with the Y5 & Y6 children. He is an ex-professional basketball player, spending some time playing with the world famous Harlem Globetrotters. He started the day talking to the children about his career and his World Record as the tallest professional basketball player as well as Britain's tallest man (7ft 7.26in). He has needed to be determined and resilient throughout his career and he encouraged all the children to be the same and aim for success in whatever their chosen field may be. He also demonstrated and taught some great basketball tricks and skills during workshops with each class.



## Focus on Reading:

At EPS, we are passionate about reading. We love to see and hear children talking about different books whether fiction or non-fiction, poetry or picture books and anything in between. Many of our children have enjoyed exploring our library this half term. From searching the shelves as part of a scavenger hunt or settling down and reading to their hearts content, our library is a great resource to go on some amazing reading adventures. Our aim at Ecclesall is to provide lots of opportunities to explore widely and be exposed to a range of books. We encourage our children to make use of what's on offer but most of all to have fun reading.



## Eco Greenhouse:

The Eco-Greenhouse project, in conjunction with volunteers from the rotary club, is now nearly complete - we will be sending out a request



for a final number of 2 litre plastic bottles in the New Year. Eventually, our new "Enchanted Garden" path will lead down to the greenhouse and we look forward to starting to grow plants in our new resource.

## Christmas activities:

It felt as though Christmas arrived early with the snowfall in November, and that seemed to signal the start of various Christmas activities around school. From making Nativity scenes to a penalty shoot out v Santa, various craft and making activities as well as learning about the stories and traditions from around the world at this time of year. We hope that those who were able to attend the outdoor singing events enjoyed the work that the children had put into learning songs and the films sent home will be a permanent reminder of Christmas 2021. There were class based parties and festive films enjoyed too. Although not the school based Christmas we had all hoped for, we are confident that the children have had a fun time and hope that they now enjoy a well earned holiday.



## SEND Update:

For the second 'SEND Update' in the EPS newsletter I'd like to focus on social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs. This area of needs makes up 30% of the special educational needs at EPS, but is so important for all children which is why we are part of the NHS Healthy Minds Project.

At EPS wellbeing is a priority, our motto is 'Happy Children Happy School, Learning Together, Growing Together'. To support children's SEMH needs at school, classes have a calm morning routine, afternoon settlers, weekly 'Me Time', daily visual timetables to reduce stress, worry boxes and all learn about zones of regulation and calming poses. In addition some children access interventions such as Mighty Minds, social groups, Lego therapy, 1:1 check-ins or sessions in Sunflower Group.



Structure and routine will help my mental elf.

Christmas is a wonderfully exciting time for children, but can also be a challenging time for children and families. Children are still learning to manage their emotions and like adults, often thrive when there is routine and structure— much of which is disrupted during the festive period. Whilst new things can be exciting, routine and structure reduce stress and anticipation. To help you might want to consider how you can provide some structure and prepare children for new events/visitors. You might like to create a visual family calendar of what's happening when.

Over Christmas planning regular time with nature, quality time with friends and family, doing things for others, being creative, exercising regularly can all promote positive wellbeing – for children and adults!

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and good mental elf.

For further advice on supporting children with additional needs at Christmas:

<https://www.specialneedsjungle.com/seven-tips-calm-christmas-children-special-needs/>

Resources and courses to support parents during Christmas:  
<https://iaptssheffield.shsc.nhs.uk/course-schedule/>

## Coming Up: January 2022

Tues 4 January 2022: INSET - school closed to pupils

Wed 5: Return to School

Sat 8: Orienteering @ Whirlowbrook Hall 12.30pm

Tues 11: Y5/Y6 Netball @ EIS am

Sat 22: KS2 Cross Country @ Brunswick 9.30am

U10 Netball tournament @ Sheffield Girls' 1.30pm

<https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/calendar/>