

Welcome:

As we welcome the end of February, everything is feeling just

a little more "spring-like". We are looking forward to using the fields more as they dry out as well as exploring the grounds for learning of all sorts. This week, Reception children walked around areas of the school they may never have visited and created maps of the grounds. More and more clubs are starting up again and trips out of school are becoming more regular, as they would normally at this time of year.



One of our whole school priorities continues to be reading and as well as seeing a regular "column" in the EPS Updates about reading we will be starting to publish weekly book recommendations from staff on our social media pages - this will coincide with another push on reading as we celebrate World Book Day at the beginning of March.

Infant Rugby:

Many thanks to [RuggerEds](#) who came in to work with all the infant children over three mornings to introduce them to the game of Rugby. They played lots of different skills games all promoting their core values of Good Manners, Respect, Teamwork and Fairplay.



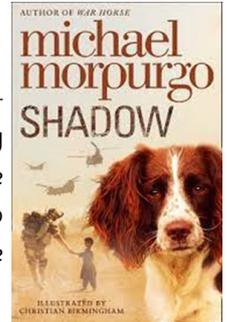
Y5 Climbing:

Y5 have been learning all about mountains and volcanoes and taking a creative approach by writing a story, with suspense, about mountaineers attempting to reach the summit of Everest. They were given a taste of what it is really like with the arrival of a climbing wall in the playground. They had to overcome fear and demonstrate strength, determination and support for each other to push for the summit.

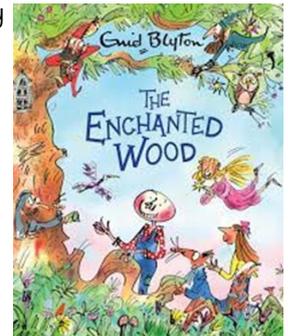
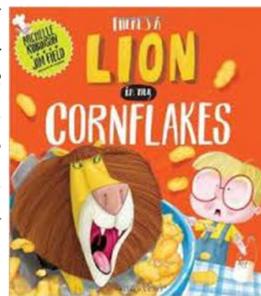


Focus on Reading:

At EPS we are very much looking forward to World Book Day on Thursday March 3rd and dressing up to celebrate our love of reading. We can't wait to spend the day focusing on our favourite stories and book characters.



This month our Ecclesall Reading Champions have been busy reading a range of books. Evelyn in Y2 has loved the classic story *The Enchanted Wood* by Enid Blyton. This story focuses on 3 children who move from the town to the country and visit a magical woods with an enormous tree. Jono in Y4 speaks very passionately about *Shadow* by Michael Morpurgo who is his favourite author. This moving story is about a mother and son who are evacuated from Afghanistan to Manchester. They settle and make new friends but there is the threat that they might be sent back. The story is particularly poignant as it is based on real life experiences. In contrast, Astrid from Y1 has enjoyed *There's a Lion in my Cornflakes* by Michelle Robinson and Jim Field. This is a very funny tale about some children who really want a lion but end up with an array of different animals who create all kinds of mischief. Astrid shared the story with everyone in Blue Whales and there was lots of laughter.



Y4 Speeches:

Children in Y4 wrote a persuasive piece on the problems with plastic and gave examples of the small changes people can do to help e.g. using reusable straws and water bottles, litter picking etc. They read them aloud to their peers in their best politician voices - some even got the chance to read parts out at the podium. This links well to their topic on *The Lorax* where they looked at the effect the Once-ler had on the environment and then linked this to real life.



Reading support (SEND):

With World Book Day coming up, I thought it would be good to focus on reading...

At EPS we are aiming for the children to develop a 'lifelong love of reading'. Studies show that "Reading for pleasure is more important for children's cognitive development than their parents' level of education and is a more powerful factor in life achievement than socio-economic background."

Learning to read can be extremely tricky, so it can be hard to develop 'reading for pleasure', but like with everything the more we practise the better we get. We use a range of approaches to support children; engaging texts, cross-curricular learning, daily class reading sessions, phonics, 1:1 reading, paired reading, book study, reciprocal reading, comprehension lessons.

Everyone develops at different rates, teachers and senior leadership meet regularly to identify which children might need additional support. Interventions are put in place for those who need them, you don't have to be on the SEN register to get extra support. Additional support could include; additional reading sessions, personalised phonics and reading sessions, or IDL.

To help your child develop a lifelong love of reading;

- Choose the right time to read with them. For some, in the morning is a good time to read school books and the evening a good time to listen to an adult read or enjoy an audio book.
- Help your child find books they like and are interested in – they can visit the school library or public libraries (this could be fiction, non-fiction, comics etc).
- Discuss the reading, make predictions, clarify words, ask questions and summarise together.
- Some children like to 'share the load' with an adult and take turns to read a page each.
- Relax and enjoy the experience, praising their effort in decoding tricky words and praising their understanding.

Reading 20 minutes a day exposes children to a vast quantity of words (1.8 million in each school year, actually!). And this exposure makes children more likely to score in the [90th percentile](#) on standardized tests. JK (SENDco)



Oral Recycling Bin:



We are a recycling centre for oral health waste products. You can put your waste in the blue bin at the bottom of the carpark by the ranch gate. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Mental Health Awareness:

This year's theme for Children's Mental Health Awareness Week was 'Growing Together'. As a school we looked at how emotional growth is a gradual process that happens over time. We thought about the things that can help us when we feel overwhelmed and the people who can help us. We enjoyed practising mindful activities and reflecting on how we have grown and changed.



Y6 Crucial Crew:

All of our Y6 pupils ended up in court last half term - thankfully this was as a scenario of a Magistrates Court at Crucial Crew where they also learnt about staying safe in a wide variety of situations. They had workshops about hate and knife crimes, fire safety, CCE, first aid and road safety. They learnt that with growing up comes additional responsibility. Lots to discuss back at school.



Grounds development:

We are busy developing the area below the EYFS/Y1 playground and part of that development is our new "green greenhouse" made from recycled plastic bottles. We do still need many more 2 litre soft drink plastic bottles in order to complete this project (not milk bottles). Please rinse and bag up any you have and deliver to the school office. Thank you.

Coming Up: March 2022

Thur 3: World Book Day (Dress up)
Fri 4: Y5/Y6 Girls' Football - Westfield
Fri 11: EPTFA Bun Sale
Sat 12: KS2 Cross Country @ Brunswick 9.30am
Wed 16: Girls' Football Festival with Sheffield Girls'
Thur 17 & Tue 22: Parents' Evenings
Fri 18: Comic Relief
Sat 19: Y5/Y6 Cross Country @ Castle Dyke 9.15am
Orienteering @ EIS Olympic Legacy Park 12.30pm
U11 Netball tournament @ SHS 1.30pm
Mon 21: Y2 visit Yorkshire Sculpture Park
Fri 25: Y3/Y4 Football Tournament @ Westfield
Sat 26: Y3/Y4 Cross Country @ Hillsborough Park
<https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/calendar/>