



Weekly Newsletter

01 December 2023

Welcome

Some of our Year 6 children had an amazing opportunity to perform on stage in the West End on Monday night. We were invited to be part of the Shakespeare in School Gala Awards evening at the Criterion Theatre in Piccadilly - the children had a great time and I'm sure made some wonderful memories! It was a true reflection of the wonderful performances that the whole of Year 6 gave recently at the Twickenham Theatre that we were invited to host the Gala. What a privilege!

Please check the diary for the Christmas events coming up over the next few weeks – the children have been working hard practising their Nativity plays, Friends have been organising donations for the Present Room, and today we have the Year 5/6 running their Bazaar Event. Please note orders have now closed for Christmas Lunch.

You will have noticed our new external fencing is nearly finished. We hope this will be completed by the end of next week and most of the work will now be done at the back of the site/pathway running alongside the lower playground. Many thanks to everyone for their understanding regarding the inconvenience.

You will have seen the letter and news, that we have now formally joined Maiden Erlegh Trust (MET). We are very excited about this new beginning and confident that it will put the school and community on a secure foundation and help move the school forward. There will not be any major changes - the school name (apart from formally including 'nursery' into a title) will remain the same, as will the school uniform. You will begin to see signage and a new logo being used, and after the Christmas holidays, staff will be getting new emails.

Michael Dillon - Headteacher



BIRCH HILL
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY
Learn, Believe, Achieve Together

Year 3 Reptile Visit

This week the children have had a wonderful opportunity to experience holding a dwarf python and a bearded dragon. As part of our writing process the children had to listen and take notes on how to clean these amazing creatures. It was truly beautiful to witness their genuine and keen interest during the session.

We have also been focusing on Prehistoric man and linking it to instructions.

As part of our journey we had to follow a set of instructions. We created a woolly mammoth using recyclable materials.

Working in pairs and using a set of instructions the children were able to find the resources and step by step complete their model.



Year 4 Christmas Unwrapped

Year 4 had a wonderful time learning about the Christmas story this week. They found out some fascinating facts - including the fact that nowhere in the Bible is a donkey mentioned.

They also decorated delicious biscuits and learnt a Christmas rap.

Thank you very much to St Mark's and St Margaret's Church at Easthampstead having us.



The Present Room

*The Friends Christmas Present Room
will be on*

Friday 8th December.

*Friends are asking for donations to
be sent into school the
Week beginning 20th November.*

*This year please can year groups
donate the following items:*

- Rec - Chocolate & Sweets*
- Y1 - Accessories (socks, ties, etc)*
- Y2 - Puzzles & Games*
- Y3 - Novelty Gifts*
- Y4 - Toiletries (female)*
- Y5 - Toiletries (male)*
- Y6 - Candles*

*Thank you for
your support*

Christmas Decorations

Some of our wonderful Christmas decorations in the Hall.



Children's Achievements/Show & Tell

Marybeth from Year 6 recently entered a dance exam with her dance school and was awarded Honours - the highest award available! She received a certificate and a plaque.



In year 6, we are studying World War 2. Sienna brought in a fuse from a German bomb that her great grandad has diffused in his role as a bomb disposal officer. It prompted a wonderful discussion about the courage and bravery shown during this time.



YEAR GROUP REMINDERS

NURSERY	See Stay & Play date on dates for the diary
RECEPTION	Extra Nativity tickets now on sale
YEAR 1	Extra Nativity tickets now on sale
YEAR 2	Extra Nativity tickets now on sale
YEAR 3	—
YEAR 4	—
YEAR 5	—
YEAR 6	—
SAPPHIRE	—
OTHER	Updated INSET Days - Friday 23rd February 2024 & Monday 15th April 2024

Kiki - Y6	Thank You
Rosalie - Y1	Triple Star
Hunter - Y1	Triple Star

Nursery Nativity Play & Stay & Play	Tuesday 5th December - 9.30-11.00am
Year 3 Choir at EBC Church	Tuesday 5th December @ 7pm (children to arrive for 5pm)
Key Stage 1 Nativity Play	Wednesday 6th @ 9.30am & Thursday 7th December - 9.30am & 5.30pm
Year 5 Home Learning Exhibition	Thursday 7th December - 2.45-3.05pm
Reception Nativity Play	Wednesday 6th December @ 2pm & Friday 8th December @ 9.30am
Friends Present Room	Friday 8th December
Christmas Jumper Day	Friday 8th December
Year 6 Home Learning Exhibition	Monday 11th December - 2.45-3.05pm
Year 2 Home Learning Exhibition	Tuesday 12th December - 2.40-3.00pm
Year 4 Home Learning Exhibition	Tuesday 12th December - 2.45-3.05pm
Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 13th December
Children's Triple Thank you/Star Tea Party	Thursday 14th December
END OF TERM	FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER
INSET DAY	TUESDAY 2ND JANUARY 2024
START OF TERM	WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2024
HALF TERM	MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY—FRIDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2024
INSET DAY	FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2024