EMSWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Enjoy, Persevere, Succeed

NEWSLETTER: Friday 23rd January 2026



Welcome to this week's newsletter. It has been a rather wet week in school this week but that hasn't dampened the children's attitudes to their learning, well done everyone!

Lunches

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who completed the Microsoft Form enquiry about school lunches (shared in the newsletter last week). We had over 80 responses and have passed the responses on to the catering company for review.

Upcoming Parent Meeting

Just a quick reminder that next week we'll be holding a meeting after school on Wednesday at 6:30pm for parents to discuss the exciting projects happening across the school. These projects are:

Project 1 - Developing the outside areas for the children to use at breaktimes and in lessons (starting with the pond area, then looking at developing the rest of the outdoor site, including creating mud kitchens etc)

Project 2 - Creating a low-maintenance reflection garden as a calm and relaxing place for the children to spend time in (and also for any children who have suffered a loss to use)

Project 3 - Creating a decorating party to revamp inside areas such as the Year 4/5 shared area.

We hope to see as many of you there as possible but please remember, if you can't attend but would be willing to join one of the working parties, you can let us know using the Microsoft Form which can be accessed using the link or QR code here:

Working Party Interest – Fill out form

Working Party Interest

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Safeguarding Update

As always, our top priority is the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils. This includes when they are at home and online. Keeping children safe online can be a challenge and to help the Children's Commissioner has put together a fantastic guide for parents and carers titled: 'What I Wish My Parents or Carers Knew.' This guide includes the following topics parents might find useful:

- Screen time
- When bad things happen
- Artificial intelligence
- Conversation starters
- Actions to take checklist

You can access this guide here:

'What I wish my parents or carers knew…': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives | Children's Commissioner for England

Please remember that if you have any concerns or would like to talk to someone about safeguarding, you can contact a member of our safeguarding team at any time.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter, we hope you all have a lovely weekend. See you bright and early on Monday morning.

Best wishes,

Rebecca Mitchell

Celebrating the Children

Our Stars of the Week this week are:

Class	Name	Reason
Badgers	Thomas Trafford	Thomas, you always give your best effort and you are a positive role model to everyone around you. Well done!
Hedgehogs	Austin Thorsby	Austin, you demonstrate our school values every day and always try your best. You are a star!
Squirrels	Luna Wroth	Luna, you always show a wonderful enjoyment of learning and always approach new tasks with enthusiasm. Well done!
Rabbits	Tommy Bond	Tommy, you have shown such determination in your writing this week. Well done, we are really proud of you!
Puffins	Romany McGee	Romany, you are working so hard in lessons, always trying to improve and you should feel proud. Well done!
	Charlie Webber	Charlie, you have been making an exceptional effort in class, working hard, always being polite and you are a great role model, thank you!

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Penguins	Harry Mosely	Harry, we are so proud of the fantastic effort you put into all of your work. You are a wonderful role model and a super member of Penguin class, thank you!
Lions	Finn Doyle	Finn, you have shown such a maturing attitude towards all of your learning. You are doing your best and we can see the success in your work. Well done!
Tigers	Ruben Wood	Ruben, you have demonstrated a fantastic attitude towards your learning and shown excellent perseverance especially in maths, well done!
Kangaroos	Kangaroos Star of the Week in unwell.	
Koalas	Lenny Pullinger	Lenny, you have been a superstar this week. You have shown excellent active listening and persevered well when learning new methods in maths. Well done!
Owls	Luca Whitehead	Luca is such a joy to teach. He is endlessly kind, enthusiastic and dedicated, even choosing to take work home to master long multiplication and his 12 times tables. I am so proud of you!
Otters	Freddie Lancaster	Freddie, you have shown brilliant perseverance, and not given up when you find things challenging, well done!
Flamingos	Indi Arens	Indi, thank you for being such a positive, supportive and dedicated member of our class. You are a star!
Toucans	Poppy Sparrow	Poppy, it has been wonderful to see your confidence grow this term – especially in maths. Well done for pushing yourself and being more independent!

Award	Child or Class Receiving the Award	Reason
Attendance Award	Puffins	99.2% attendance
Winning House	Thorney	All the children in this house worked hard with their learning and following the school rules this week and earned more house points than any other house. Well done everyone!
Headteacher's Award	This will return next week	
Star Class Award	Koalas and Kangaroos	The Star Class Award is presented to the class who have shown the most respect for their learning environment this week. They have looked after their belongings and kept both their classrooms and their cloakrooms clean and tidy for everyone. The winning class each week is chosen by Mr May.

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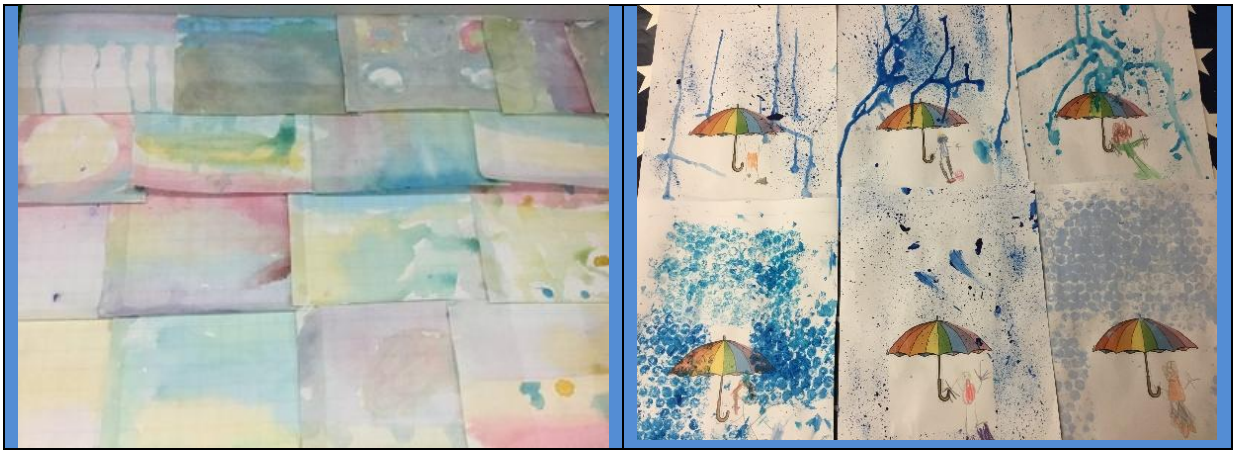
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Early Years (EYFS)

Our theme this week has been rain. We shared some lovely texts and gathered rich vocabulary to help us describe rainy weather using our senses. The children created beautiful rainy day pictures using a range of techniques, including sponges, toothbrushes, pipettes and combs – the results were fantastic and really showed their creativity.

We also explored the illustrations in the wordless book *Rain Child* and created our own watercolour backgrounds inspired by the illustrator's style. Hands-on learning continued as we used pipettes to make raindrops, enjoyed rainy-themed water play, and even baked shortbread biscuits together. To finish the week, the children became weather presenters in our communication centre, confidently sharing their ideas and using new weather vocabulary. It has been a fun, creative and engaging week of learning!



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Years 1 and 2 (Key Stage One)

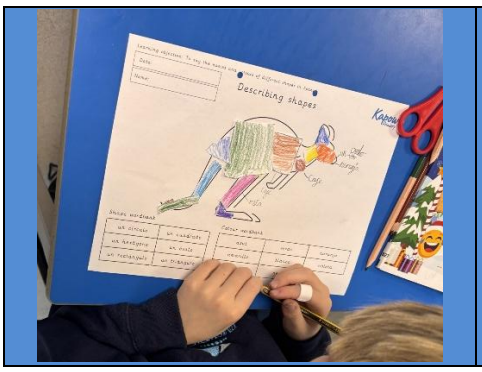
This week in Year 1, the children have continued exploring teen numbers and have used number lines and Dienes to investigate finding 1 more and 1 less. In English, we have begun a new learning journey with The Great and the Giants. The children have been exploring how to use adjectives and the conjunction “and” to make their sentences more interesting. In music, the children had great fun using their bodies, voices, and instruments to create a seaside soundscape, showing lots of creativity and enthusiasm.

We’ve had a fantastic few weeks in Year 2 and the children have been working hard across the curriculum! In maths, we have finished our money unit. The children used their addition and subtraction skills to work with coins and practised finding change while playing shops. They showed great confidence and really enjoyed the practical activities.
In computing, we learned how to give clear sets of instructions (algorithms). The children first practised giving instructions to each other and then applied these skills when programming Beebots. This was a big hit and the children had lots of fun while learning.
In our recent music lessons, we have been exploring how music can tell a story. We’ve started learning about tempo (how fast or slow music is) and dynamics (how loud or quiet it sounds), and how changing these can help create different moods and feelings. We have also begun using percussion instruments, experimenting with a variety of sounds and rhythms.

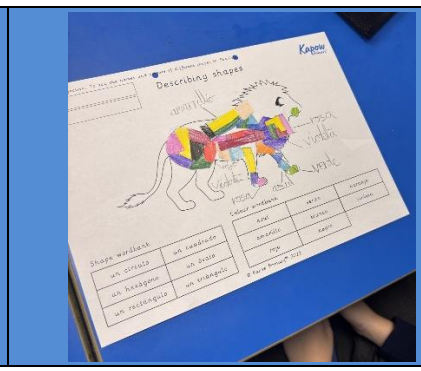




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Years 3 and 4 (Key Stage Two)

This week in Year 3, the children have been working hard across the curriculum and have shown great enthusiasm for their learning.
In English, we have been exploring the key features of advertisements. The children are very excited as they prepare to create their own circus adverts, thinking carefully about persuasive language, eye-catching slogans and layout. In Spanish, we consolidated our learning of colours and shapes by creating a mosaic and labelling the pieces we included. The children did a fantastic job applying their vocabulary in a creative way. In Computing, we have been tinkering on Scratch, exploring how to programme our sprites to move. The children enjoyed experimenting with different commands and developing their problem-solving skills. In PE, the Lions have been thoroughly enjoying their swimming lessons and are growing in confidence each week. Meanwhile, the Tigers have been developing rhythmic gymnastics movements using a variety of apparatus, showing excellent coordination and creativity. Well done Year 3 for another fantastic week of learning!

Year 4 have worked incredibly hard across all subjects this week. In maths, the children explored different division methods, beginning with partitioning hundreds, tens and ones. They then progressed to the bus stop method, which is more commonly taught in Year 5, yet the children showed fantastic determination and resilience throughout these lessons. **For some, this highlighted that times table speed and accuracy need further practice, so we kindly ask that this is supported at home.**
In English, the children planned, wrote and edited descriptive pieces of Heorot before, during and after Grendel's ferocious attack. Many children shared their imaginative and detailed writing. The class has now moved on to persuasive, formal letter writing.
In art, the children continued their rainforest unit by using watercolours to paint monstera plants. In Computing, the children worked in pairs to research an animal from the Amazon Rainforest. This research will be used to create David Attenborough–style scripted voiceovers as they begin learning about video and audio editing.
In science this week, we learnt how to use a thermometer to measure temperature. The children worked with their partner to measure different water temperatures both in the classroom and outside. We then compared our results to conclude that the more hot water we added to each beaker, the hotter it was.
Well done to Year 4 for another excellent week!

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Years 5 and 6 (Key Stage Two)

Year 5 have had a busy and productive week and should be very proud of their efforts. In maths, they have worked hard to develop their understanding of short division using the bus stop method, showing great perseverance and improving confidence. In English, the children have begun exploring the incredible journey of Ernest Shackleton to Antarctica, sparking lots of curiosity and thoughtful discussion. Meanwhile, in science, they have been learning about life cycles in different animals, comparing how creatures grow and change over time. A fantastic week of learning all round!

This week in English, Year 6 have been working on creating atmospheric setting descriptions. We began by watching a short animation titled *Beyond the Lines*, which inspired the children to use vivid language and detail in their writing. We have been incredibly impressed with the quality of their descriptions and are excited to see them apply these skills when they draft their own narratives in the coming weeks.
In Guided Reading, we have started our new text, *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll. The opening chapter features an air raid, and it was wonderful to see the children draw on their knowledge from last week's trip to Fort Nelson. Their understanding of wartime experiences really enriched our discussions and helped deepen their engagement with the story.
In Maths, we have begun exploring percentages. The children started by revisiting key percentage equivalents in both fraction and decimal form. They have shown great confidence so far, and we will soon be moving on to finding percentages of amounts.



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EPSA Key Dates for This Term & Rainbow Disco Tickets

Team EPSA are busy planning the events for this term. There are some exciting new things coming up.

Please add the events for this term to your calendar. More details of each event will be shared next week.

Upcoming PTA Events (Spring Term 2026):

28 January – Working Party 📢 💪🏽 (organised by the school, with PTA support)

6 February – Rainbow Disco 🌈 (details below)

5 March – 🌎 World Book 📖 Day Surprise

27 March – 🐰 Easter Raffle and Cake Sale 🧁

Rainbow Disco – Tickets Selling Fast!

Rainbow Disco 🌈

Don't forget to book your tickets Rainbow Disco is on Friday 6 February

Here's a reminder of the details.

Tickets - £3 per child

Times:

Yr R & 1: 3:15–4:15

Yr 2–4: 4:30–5:30

Yr 5 & 6: 5:45–6:45

Dress Code: Bright & colourful!

Tuck Shop: Pre-order box £2.50 or bring cash (snacks 50p–£1, free fruit available)

No hot food.

Book your tickets here: https://www.pta-events.co.uk/epsa

If you have any questions, please email emsworthpta@gmail.com.

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