



Englefield CE Primary School

Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future

In early October, the school grounds got some serious TLC thanks to our merry band of volunteer parents and staff. The weather was on our side and we had a really sociable time which included a good chat over bacon rolls and cuppas. Ruby's garden and the adventure playgrounds were weeded; ivy, nettles and brambles were cut back; new ride-ons were built; footballs were blown up; the dishwasher and a leaky tap were fixed; Pebbles' boxes were washed and put away until next Spring; the grit box was cleared out; our dead tree was removed; benches were tightened up, and finally the pond area had a massive prune and clear-out so we can actually see water again!! On top of that, all the garden waste was either composted or removed.

We celebrated Harvest at St Marks Church as a school community. Songs were sung, poems performed and readings and prayers shared. Rev Julia did a lovely talk about the importance of sharing food fairly across the globe. We collected lots of tins and packets which two parents kindly took to the West Berkshire Food Bank collection point. Hopefully this has reminded the children of the benefits to all, including themselves. of doing kind acts for others.

Four Year 5 pupils spent a morning and lunchtime at The Oratory for their Maths Challenge. They were competing against lots of other schools, solving maths problems and puzzles. Four Year 4 pupils then went to the St Edward's Maths Challenge. All children involved enjoyed the challenges and loved working alongside other schools.

All classes enjoyed a music and rhythm workshop with Marcel and Philippe from Bassistry Arts, before coming together for a whole school assembly at the end of the day. This is such a special day in our school calendar and some of the children remember their songs from year to year!



All classes have spent time during Black History week finding out about key figures and events from the Civil Rights Movement and beyond. KS1 researched Mary Seacole. Rome and Luca explained: 'We learned that when Mary Seacole died, a statue was made in London to remember her because she was a really special person in the Crimean War.' Years 3 and 4 found out about Dr Martin Luther King Junior. They learned about the 'I have a dream...' speech, thought about the current issues that mattered to them and then wrote their own speeches.

I have a dream that one day the Russia and Ukraine war will stop.
I have a dream that everyone will have peace.
I have a dream that we will plant more trees.
I have a dream that the whole world will love everyone and the world.
Damian Year 3



Year 5/6 learned about Nelson Mandela. Bo wrote: 'For Black History Week in Years 5 and 6 we read a book written about Nelson Mandela and learnt about how he spent his whole life fighting for freedom and protesting against racism. The next day we did a comprehension and read another text. Then we drew round Nelson Mandela's face and wrote sentences instead of drawing lines. It was very tricky but some people did it really well.' Amelia's picture is shown here.

Our Years 5 and 6 children had a truly adventurous time in Rhos y Gwaliau in North Wales. They enjoyed a night walk, canoeing, gorge-walking and a trip down a slate mine. On the day of Storm Ciaran, spirits were not dampened by the wind and rain however safety took first priority; instead of a mountain walk, the children did a hill walk followed by the 'via ferrata'. They had marshmallows on the camp fire and were able to buy souvenirs in the shop. The final day was spent enjoying a blustery beach with a mixture of rock scrambling, sliding and ice creams. What a great way to end a fantastic trip.

