

The Echelford Echo



Friday 10th November 2023

Weekly Issue Number 9

Over the past couple of weeks, the children have spent time thinking about remembrance. This was introduced in Mrs Smith's Phase Assemblies where we looked at how important it is to remember those who show courage and bravery in their service roles. We looked at diverse heroes, including a volunteer nurse who worked in the Nightingale hospital during the COVID pandemic and a RAF pilot who followed his dreams of becoming a fighter pilot, despite people telling him 'black people don't do that.' On Wednesday, 5W presented a wonderful class assembly to their parents and carers based on Remembrance Day and how we can solve our own conflicts by talking to each other. Today, the whole school joined together for our Remembrance assembly, where the children sang the song 'Remember', some year 5 children shared their poems and we reflected on those who have shown courage and bravery in the past and those who continue to do so in conflicts around the world today.



During the week we have had various Remembrance items for sale and we would just like to say a huge thank you to those who donated some money, and to the Year 6 children who took the poppies around the classes. We have now completely run out so thank you once again for such an amazing fund-raising effort.

Later today, we will welcome back our Year 6 pupils from their Bristol residential. They have had a brilliant week and we look forward to sharing more information about their adventures in our newsletter next week. We would also like to thank all the staff who have accompanied the children this week, without their willingness to give up their own time these trips would not be possible.

The year 6 children who have been in school this week have also had an excellent week together. The staff supporting them have been very impressed with their team work, engagement and learning throughout the week.

Staff News

This week we welcomed Miss Ragavi to our teaching assistant team. Miss Ragavi will be supporting children and working across year 3 and year 5.

Parent Governor Role

A reminder that we currently have a parent governor vacancy on our Local Governing Body. Attached to the newsletter this week you will find some extra information which outlines more details regarding the expectations of the role. There is also a letter detailing the process for nominating yourself, any nominations need to be received by Friday 17th November. If you are keen to see the school develop and contribute to the local community we would love to receive your nomination.

Road Safety Update

You will be aware that we have been continuing to work with Surrey County Council to improve the safety for our children and families outside of school in the mornings and at the end of the day. They have agreed to fund a school crossing patrol officer and we are currently advertising for this role. If you know of anyone that this role would suit then please direct them to apply to our advert on eteach.

This morning we heard from the Road Safety & Schools Active Travel Engineer at Surrey who has confirmed that following our application, funding has been authorised to extend the yellow zig zag lines to cover the front of the KS2 gates where the majority of our children enter and exit the school site. We expect this work to be done early 2024. Along with your help to ensure you are driving and parking safely both of these advances will help hugely to improve the safety outside our school.



Year 4 - Safari Pete

We were delighted to welcome back Safari Pete to school once again last week. As ever, he brought with him exotic animals, a huge number of facts and an enormous amount of energy. The children were all mesmerised as he fed the bearded dragons, hunted tarantulas in the Music Room and saw a snake have quite a considerable lunch - in one bite! As ever, Safari Pete gave his talks with passion and a rich amount of detail, explaining the rarity of certain species, and using technical terms, which the children adored.

On his departure, he commented on how many questions the children at Echelford asked, which was wonderful to hear! Many thanks to all parents for supporting this event, a highlight in our calendar!



Year 2 – Polar Day

This week, Year 2 participated in a drama workshop about the world's polar regions. We went on a journey to the Arctic, starting by packing our bags with essential items for the journey and thinking about how we would travel there. We explored the different animals we would find there such as a polar bear or a stout and discussed the things we would see such as the Northern Lights. After considering how the Arctic changes throughout the year, we left there in the summer and travelled to Antarctica where it was winter. Here we acted out a day in the life of a penguin and considered the soundscape of Antarctica.



Girls' LLT Football Tournament

Last Friday, we welcomed all of the Lumen Learning Trust Schools to Echelford for a Girls' Football tournament. All of the different schools had the opportunity to meet and compete in the group stages. After the scores were collated, Echelford had the most points after winning all of their games and went into the play-off final with Riverbridge Primary School. Due to Echelford's teamwork and perseverance, they won the entire

tournament and all received a medal for this achievement. A special well done to Leni for gaining an additional award for her sportsmanship throughout the afternoon, recognised by the staff from the other trust schools. Well done to the entire team; we are all extremely proud of you.



Parent help needed

In their Religion and World Views lessons this half term, Year 2 are learning about the importance of giving for Christians. We would like to invite a parent into school who would be able to talk to Year 2 from personal experience about how Christians give in their Church community and what difference this makes to other people.

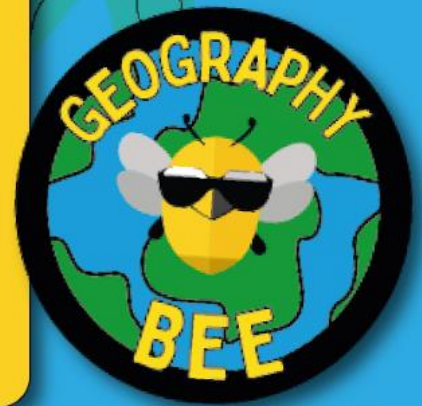
If you would like to come into school and speak to the Year 2 children about this, please contact the office. Thank you from the Year 2 team.

Geography Bee

A reminder that our Geography Bee starts next week! Have a go at learning the pairs of countries and cities with your children this weekend. Every child who enters the class competition will win a badge. The Round One list is attached below.

GEOGRAPHY ROUND ONE LIST

Austria	Vienna	N. Ireland	Belfast
Belgium	Brussels	Norway	Oslo
Denmark	Copenhagen	Poland	Warsaw
England	London	Portugal	Lisbon
Finland	Helsinki	Rep. Ireland	Dublin
France	Paris	Romania	Bucharest
Germany	Berlin	Scotland	Edinburgh
Greece	Athens	Spain	Madrid
Iceland	Reykjavík	Sweden	Stockholm
Ireland	Dublin	Switzerland	Bern
Italy	Rome	Turkey	Ankara
Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Ukraine	Kyiv
Netherlands	Amsterdam	Wales	Cardiff



Time To Talk



How important is it to understand money?



FG Trade

In the news this week

A study, conducted by the government and backed by the Money and Pensions Service, has estimated that around 5.4 million children in the UK do not have the money skills they will need in adulthood. Less than half of children and teenagers aged 7 to 17 have received a meaningful financial education, according to the results. It also found that a third of children recall learning about money in school and finding it useful, and nearly a quarter received key elements of financial education at home.

Things to talk about at home ...

- What is your first memory of money?
- Share your own experiences of money.
- What do you think is the best way to learn about money and why?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Vacancies Within the Trust

Echelford School is recruiting: Your Community Needs You! Are you friendly, reliable, willing to work outdoors in all weathers and physically fit, to ensure the safety of children and parents? Do you care about your community and have a little time to spare? If the answer is yes, we have the perfect job for you! Echelford school are recruiting for a school crossing patrol officer. For more information please visit: <https://www.eteach.com/job/school-crossing-patrol-officer-1378197>

Darley Dene School is recruiting: Are you ambitious and keen to make a difference? We are seeking to appoint a highly enthusiastic, proactive, flexible and reliable individual for the role of Teaching Assistant. This is an opportunity for an individual who is patient and emotionally resilient to join our friendly, inclusive and inspirational team of teaching and support staff. For more information please visit <https://www.eteach.com/job/teaching-assistant-1378206>

Best wishes,

Karen Oakley
Co-Headteacher

Jess Bugembe
Co-Headteacher




This week, the winning classes are:



Winning Class – 4S

Winning Class – R0



Word of the week

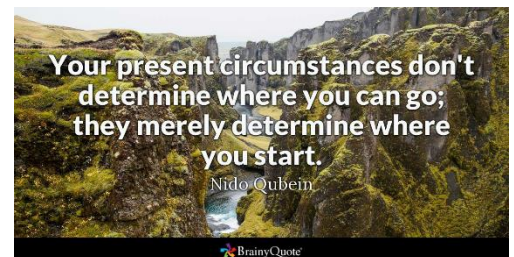
Each week, we will be sharing a word of the week. Please use this word with your child where possible, and encourage them to use it at home and school.

determined (adjective)

Meaning: possessing or displaying resolve

Example: "He was determined to reach the top."

Origin: from Old French *determiner*, from Latin *determinare* 'limit, fix', from *de-* 'completely' + *terminare* 'terminate'.



This week we have been learning...

Reception	<p>We have been reading the story 'My Granny Went to the Market' where we explored a vast range of exciting different countries. We even went on our very own magic carpet ride and have been writing all about the wonderful things we have seen. We've explored the country of Thailand and learnt all about their beautiful culture and landscape. In maths, we've been thinking all about the different seasons and how we can identify which one we are in now. We've also taken time to explore the importance of Remembrance Day and Diwali!</p> <p>Phonics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> V,w,x,y And, has, his, her
Year 1	<p>As we continue to read our text 'The Secret Sky Garden', the children have been introduced to instruction writing. The children reflected on where they have used and seen instructions before. The children used time connectives to up-level their sentences. In Maths, the children created their own patterns with different colours and shapes. In our RaWV lesson, we bought pictures of our families and talked about them. We have also taken time to reflect on this week's Diwali celebrations and Remembrance Sunday.</p>

	Phonics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oa/o; most, post, open • igh/i; child, wild, kind • ai/a; paper, later, chasing • ee/e; fever, secret, being Tricky words: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your, people, their, oh, Mr, Mrs, Ms, ask
Year 2	<p>We have been introduced to our new text, 'Leaf'. We predicted what might happen in the story and have learnt about expanded noun phrases in order to make our writing more descriptive. We have taken time to reflect on Diwali and what this means to some of the children in our classes. We created some nature firework sticks to remind us that Diwali is the 'Festival of Light'. We have continued to develop our gymnastics skills within P.E. and have been progressing with our forward rolls. In Maths, we have been measuring and comparing lengths and using our rulers to create a line of a specific length.</p> <p>Bridge to Spelling: Double letters ff, ll, ss, zz protect the short vowel sounds in one-syllable words. E.g. mess, will, buzz, stiff.</p>
Year 3	<p>As we continue to read 'Krindlekrax', the children have been introduced to new characters in our story and with this created their own role play sequences based on a conversation between Ruskin and his parents or Ruskin and the bully, Elvis. This inspired our story writing where the children were encouraged to use direct speech with inverted commas. In Maths, we have looked at different strategies to add or take away 2 digit numbers from 3 digit numbers and in Science, we explored how smooth and shiny surfaces are best to reflect light. We have also taken time to reflect on this week's Diwali celebrations and Remembrance Sunday.</p> <p>Spellings: Words with the prefix 'dis' e.g. disappear, disengage, disapprove and dislike.</p>
Year 4	<p>This week in Year 4, we have been continuing to read 'Varjak Paw' We have linked this to our History topic of Mesopotamia as the main character Varjak is a Mesopotamian blue kitten. We have learnt all about Mesopotamia from where it got its name, where it was located and what life would have been like there. In Science, we have started looking at animals including teeth and have been able to discover the roles each of our different teeth have. In Maths, we have been consolidating our multiplication knowledge and have been using short multiplication and division to solve word problems.</p> <p>Spellings: To spell words that are homophones or near homophones. For example, plane and plain.</p>
Year 5	<p>This week, we have been continuing to explore 'Floodland', our new Power of Reading text. Now that we have been introduced to a number of our main characters, the children have been writing diary entries from the protagonist's perspective, making sure to summarise what has happened in the story at the point they are writing. In Maths, we have been solidifying our understanding of prime numbers, factors, multiples and square numbers, and learning how to identify these. Our Art this term focuses on an artist called Katsushika Hokusai, and his painting 'The Great Wave Off Kanagawa'. The children have been considering the impact that plastic waste has on the ocean, and how we can represent this in our final art piece later in the term.</p> <p>Spellings: We have been revising the following challenge words - language, vegetable, thorough, appreciate, cemetery, conscious, convenience, environment, immediately, sufficient.</p>
Year 6	<p>This week, the Year 6 children who remained at Echelford have been busy researching the local area of Ashford and creating eye-catching posters to promote the town. On Tuesday, the children had the opportunity to enjoy an afternoon of Forest School, where they learnt to light a fire using a flint & steel and even toasted their own marshmallows. In French, the children took part in an exciting treasure hunt and worked collaboratively to solve the clues. It certainly tested their knowledge of the French language!</p> <p>We have had a great week together and are looking forward to welcoming back all the Year 6 children from their residential trip to Bristol and share stories of our different weeks.</p>

ACE Awards

Congratulations to the following children who have received this week's ACE Award.

Class	Name	Awarded
RG	Charlie	For working hard in all areas of his learning this week.
RL	Nova	For working hard on independent writing.

RO	Consent to publish name not given	For his amazing efforts and enthusiasm towards his writing this week
1A	Rosie Mae	For working so hard on her writing about The Secret Sky Garden this week !
1C	Michael	For classifying materials into hard and soft in our Science lesson.
1H	Thomas	For creating two lovely pieces of writing this week when sequencing our story and writing instructions.
2B	Grace	For her fantastic effort she displays towards her learning and helping others in theirs too.
2K	Alfie Z	For his hard work and perseverance in DT this week.
2W	Ali	For the effort he put into both his Maths and his writing about Leaf, the polar bear.
3BT	Tommy	For his confident performance in his Krindlekrax role play and for answering many questions in Maths.
3H	Hannah	For continuously making green choices and setting a high standard of behaviour at all times.
3S	Zachary	For his focus and motivation to improve his handwriting this week. Keep going!
4LJ	Max	For his incredible effort and focus in Literacy this week when writing about Safari Pete
4M	Gurbej	For his positive attitude towards his learning this week, particularly in his recount of Safari Pete.
4S	Mia	For her wonderful writing about Safari Pete and challenging herself in Maths.
5B	Ethan	For experimenting with high quality vocabulary in his writing. Well done!
5G	Frank	For his high levels of effort during Literacy this week.
5W	Sophia	For aiming high in all of her learning and showing fantastic enthusiasm during our class assembly.
6H	Arya	For his positive attitude to learning this week and completing all the Maths challenges.
6J	Hannah	For her effort and creativity in producing an amazing poster about Ashford.
6W	Consent to publish name not given	For her perseverance and positivity throughout the week's activities.

Gold Leaf Achievers

Special congratulations to: Jack E, Jimmy Dean C , Davina B, Zack M, Charlie P, Radin M, Jind K, Holly T, Scarlett W, Daya K, Parthveer K, Samko C, Jude T, Adela F, Eloise D, Jackson H, Madeline B, Freya A, Amber S, Penny M, Lily W, Teddy B, Max T, Ivy K, Elsie D, Dotty H, Elodie P, Lennon F, Ibrahim Y, Rory L, Elsie Da, Rocco L, Savannah P, Sienna S, Willow B, Jaxon B, Dexter O, Owen J, Amber J, Tommy H, Myles S, Rehanuddin M, Frazer D, Zach H, Elia D, Vidhaan S, William G, Kaira G, Sahara S, Jasmine P, Robyn C, Vidhaan S, Sukhpreet Kaur T, Reggie C, Frankie C, Ethan D, Hannah P, Skylar W, Aarav S, Darcy O, Maaria K, Zachary A, Jasmine W, James G, Karam G, Isabella H, Gurbej S, Mannat K, William C, Bonham J, Annie V, Jacob M, Shane C, Ava R, Ethan P, Ilyas K, Ilias K, Oscar C, Sydney H, Damian T, Misha M, Erin H, Yacine S and Arya A.

Achievements outside of school

If your child would like to celebrate success within the school community, please inform your class teacher or the office staff of your news. Along with the Newsletter, we will display any sports achievement photos and information on our 'Sports Shout Outs' board in the gym.

Well done to Lily-Mae in 5B who gave up some of her free time to sell poppies in Ashford High Street last weekend with her Brownie group.



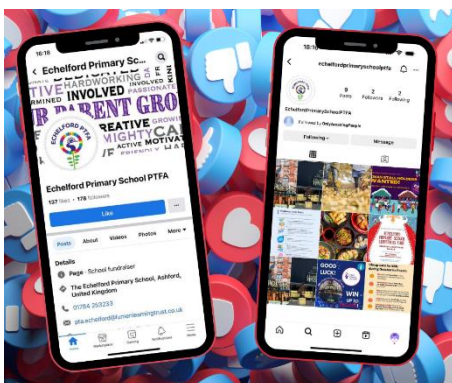
Congratulations to Florence in RO who won the Star Pupil Award at her Choi Kwang Do Martial Arts class for making an excellent start to her first pattern and single technique. Florence has only recently started Choi Kwang Do and this is a huge achievement for Florence as she was on chemotherapy treatment for years and wasn't able to walk. She is really proud of herself and so are her family and all of us at Echelford. Well done Florence on this amazing achievement.

Well done to Rajveer in 5G who has been selected to play cricket for the under 10 age group team at Surrey County Cricket Club. He has been chosen through their Talent Pathways Programme. He and his family are very excited that he will be able to play cricket in the Summer of 2024 for the county in the U10 Team. Congratulations Rajveer on this amazing achievement.



Messages from the PTFA

It's crazy season for the PTFA, a brand-new committee settling into their new roles, and a Christmas Fair to plan for!



The holiday season brings not just the Christmas Fair but also the exciting Big Christmas Raffle, thanks to a dedicated team securing fantastic donations from local businesses and our school community. 🎁 We've been truly blown away by the support, and we can't thank everyone involved enough. 🙏

To keep things streamlined and reduce the message overload in various WhatsApp groups, we've fired up our social media channels, and we're thrilled to share them with you:

👍 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EchelfordPrimarySchoolPTFA>

📷 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/echelfordprimaryschoolptfa>

The Big Christmas Raffle

The children will have come home this week with a book of coveted Big Christmas Raffle tickets. 📖🎄 Stay tuned on our Facebook and Instagram pages for fantastic prize announcements, like this Lenovo Tablet donated by the generous Zero 7 Group! 📺



Win BIG with Your School Lottery

Get ready for the grandest prize yet: a PlayStation bundle that's out of this world! 🎮

A limited edition Spider-Man 2 PS5 console (disc edition) – the hottest console of the year! Plus, you'll score the brand-new PlayStation VR2 Virtual Reality headset, bundled with Horizon: Call of the Mountain. Brace yourself for an unforgettable Virtual Reality gaming adventure! ✨

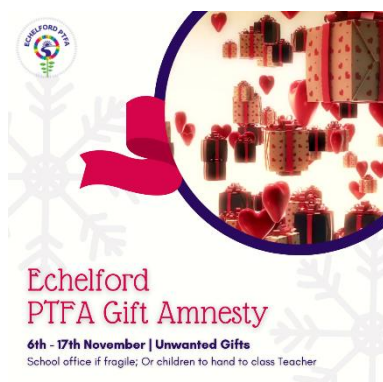
The revamped Super Draw introduces exciting and flexible ways to play, and the grand draw is on November 25th! Mark your calendars. 📅

📖 Get your tickets here: <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/echelford-primary-school-ptfa>

For just £1, each ticket automatically enters you into THREE draws:

1. The BIG Jackpot of £25,000 💰
2. The Echelford School Prize 📺 Draw
3. The PlayStation Bundle Prize Draw!

All prize money is yours to enjoy, and while donations are appreciated, there's absolutely no obligation. Simply buying a £1 ticket helps enrich the education for the children of Echelford – it's a WIN-WIN for all! 🙌



Gift Amnesty

Gift Amnesty Alert! Our gift amnesty is rolling all week and continues until next Friday. Huge thanks to all who have donated unwanted gifts – they'll be put to great use at the Christmas Fair. Sustainability at this time of year is a fantastic achievement! 📺📺

Let's make this season truly magical! 🎄🌟 #PTFAUpdates #ChristmasIsComing

🎄📺 The PTFA Christmas Fair is just around the corner! 📺🌟

We've got all the festive fun ready for the kids, but now we need YOU, our amazing community, to make it all happen! ✨

Signing up to volunteer is easier than ever with our brand-new form: <https://volunteersignup.org/LWRWH>

As a token of our gratitude, every volunteer will receive a hot drink voucher and a chance to win in our special volunteer raffle. 📺📺

The prize? Well, it's top-secret right now, but we'll spill the beans soon! 📺

Thank you in advance for donating your time - it's what makes the magic come alive! ✨

#PTFAChristmasFair #VolunteerMagic



Term Dates for 2023 – 2024

November		
Monday 13th		World Kindness Day
Mon 13th – Fri 17th		Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 13th		Odd Socks Day – Anti Bullying Alliance
Wednesday 15th	9.00am	2B Class Assembly
Thursday 16th	3.00pm	Year 1 PTFA Bake Sale

Friday 17th		BBC Children in Need -Wear your PJ's Day
Wednesday 29th	2.00pm	Reception Nativity
Thursday 30th	9.15am	Reception Nativity
December		
Friday 1st		PTFA Mufti for Christmas Fair
Friday 1st	3.30-4.15pm	Santa Fun Run
Wednesday 6th	2.00pm	KS1 Nativity
Thursday 7th	9.15am	KS1 Nativity
Friday 8th		PTFA Christmas Fair
Tuesday 12th	9.30pm & 2.30pm	Upper KS2 Christmas Performance
Wednesday 13th	9am	Headteachers' Assembly
Thursday 14th	9.30pm & 2.30pm	Lower KS2 Christmas Performance
Tuesday 19th	1.45pm	End of Term
January		
Thursday 4th		Children return to school
Wednesday 17th	9.00am	4M Class Assembly
Wednesday 24th	9.00am	5B Class Assembly
Mon 29th Jan - Fri 2nd Feb		Maths Week
Wednesday 31st		1C Class Assembly
February		
Friday 2nd		Year 3 Sleepover
Friday 2nd		Young Voices Concert at Wembley
Mon 5th – Fri 9th		Echelford Expo Week
Monday 5th		Year 3 Feet First
Tuesday 6th		Year 3 Feet First
Tuesday 6th	9.30am	EYFS Stay and Learn
Tuesday 6th		Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 7th	9.30am	EYFS Stay and Learn
Wednesday 7th	9.00am	3BT Assembly
Thursday 8th	9.30am	EYFS Stay and Learn
Thursday 8th		Year 3 Feet First
Thursday 8th	3.00pm	Year 2 PTFA Bake Sale
Mon 12th – Fri 16th		Half Term
Saturday 17th		Random Acts of Kindness Day
Wednesday 28th	9.00am	2K Class Assembly
Friday 29th	3.00pm	Costume Sale for World Book Day and Year 3 PTFA Bake Sale
March		
Wednesday 6th		3H Class Assembly
Thursday 7th		World Book Day
Fri 8th – Sun 17th		Science week
Wednesday 13th	9.00	1H Class Assembly
Friday 15th		Young Carers Day
Fri 15th - Sun 17th		Year 5 Bowles Residential
Friday 15th		Red Nose Day
Wednesday 20th		1A Class Assembly
Tuesday 26th	4.00-7.00pm	Parent Teacher Consultations
Wednesday 27th	3.30-6.00pm	Parent Teacher Consultations
Wednesday 27th	9.00am	Headteachers' Assembly
Thursday 28th	1.45pm	End of Term
April		
Monday 15th		Children return to school
Wed 17th - Fri 19th		Year 4 Bikeability Level 1
Monday 22 nd		Earth Day
Wednesday 24th	9.00am	5G Class Assembly
Thursday 25th	3.00pm	Year 4 PTFA Bake Sale
Mon 29th Apr - Fri 3rd May		Year 6 Bikeability
May		
Wednesday 1st	9.00am	3S Class Assembly
Monday 6 th		May Bank Holiday
Wednesday 8th		RG Class Assembly
Mon 13th - Thurs 16th		KS2 SATs week
Thursday 16th	3.00pm	Year 5 PTFA Bake Sale

Mon 20th - Fri 24th Mon 20th - Fri 24th		Year 4 Rise Up Festival (Exact dates TBC) Year 6 Bikeability
Tuesday 21st	2.30pm	EYFS Stay and Learn
Wednesday 22nd	2.30pm	EYFS Stay and Learn
Wednesday 22nd	9.00am	RL Class Assembly
Thursday 23rd	2.30pm	EYFS Stay and Learn
Mon 27th May – Fri 31st		Half Term
June		
Mon 3rd (two-week period)		Year 4 Multiplication Check
Wed 5th		Sports Day
Friday 7 th		PTFA Lolly Sale
Mon 10th -Fri 14th Mon 10 th – Fri 14th		Y1 Phonics Screening Y6 Bikeability
Wednesday 12th	9.00am	4LJ Class Assembly
Friday 14th	3.00pm	PTFA Lolly Sale
Friday 14th		Mufti for Summer Fair
Mon 17th - Fri 21st		Book Fair
Mon 17th - Fri 21st		Healthy Eating Week
Wednesday 19th	9.00am	RD Class Assembly
Friday 21st		PTFA Summer Fair
Friday 28th	3.00pm	PTFA Lolly Sale
July		
Mon 1st - Fri 5th		Celebration of Us week
Friday 5th	3.00pm	PTFA Lolly Sale
Wednesday 10th	1.30pm	Year 6 production
Wednesday 10th	6.30pm	Year 6 production
Friday 12th	3.00pm	PTFA Lolly Sale
Wednesday 17th	TBC	Year 6 Celebration Day and Colour Run
Wednesday 17th	9.00am	Headteachers' Assembly
Friday 19th	9.00am	Leavers' Assembly
Friday 19th		End of term
Monday 22nd		INSET Day 4
Tuesday 23rd		INSET Day 5



Here is the [link](#) to the next issue of [Families Upon Thames Magazine Nov/Dec 2023](#)
Our **Nov/Dec 2023** issue is packed full of useful information for parents including:

- What's On for families in Richmond, Kingston and North Surrey in Nov/Dec
- Top Christmas Experiences
- How to deal with cyber-bullying
- Homemade Xmas gifts for teacher
- Top family Xmas movies
- and much more.....