

### **Newsletter 7 – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**There are so many exciting events and experiences coming up for the children over the next few weeks, including Year 5 and 6's residential trip to Kilvrough, Year 2's trip to the Living Rainforest and De La Pole class's participation in the Oxfordshire Dance Festival at the New Theatre. These events follow the poet visit in school today and Year 3 and 4's trip to the Ashmolean Museum last week.**

In this newsletter you'll find out more about these events and what else is coming up between now and Easter.

It has also been positive and very useful to be visited recently by our School Improvement Partner and the Education Safeguarding Advisory Team (ESAT), both of whom spent time speaking with myself, staff and the children and scrutinising our paperwork and plans. The school improvement partner commended our strong key stage 1 and key stage 2 assessment results at the end of last year and the good start we have made to address the areas for development identified by the Ofsted inspection in March. The ESAT advisor meanwhile found that our safeguarding arrangements remain robust and effective and suggested some helpful next steps to strengthen this important area further.

<p><b>Spring</b> Jan – Apr 2024</p> <p><b>The Seasons</b></p> 	
<p><b>The Rainforest</b></p> 	<p><b>Great Fire of London</b></p> 
<p><b>Ancient Egypt</b></p> 	
<p><b>Earth and Space</b></p> 	

### **New learning topics for the spring term**

Since coming back to school following the Christmas holidays, the children have started working on new topics of learning.

Chaucer (Reception and Year 1) are learning about the seasons of the year and how these affect the natural world around them.

Year 2 are learning about the rainforest and will be rounding off this topic with a trip to the Living Rainforest next week. They will then move on to a new history-focused topic on the Great Fire of London.

Year 3-4 are learning about Ancient Egypt and were inspired further by their trip to the Ashmolean last Friday.

Year 5 and 6 have started a new topic on Earth and Space, learning about the science of our solar system, the history of astronomical theory and discovery and using the universe beyond our planet as a stimulus for lots of fantastic creative writing.

In the summer term, the children will move on to the next set of topics: Chaucer – 'In the Country'; Roet – Explorers and Inventors Burghersh – 'Our Village'; De La Pole – 'Off with their Heads –

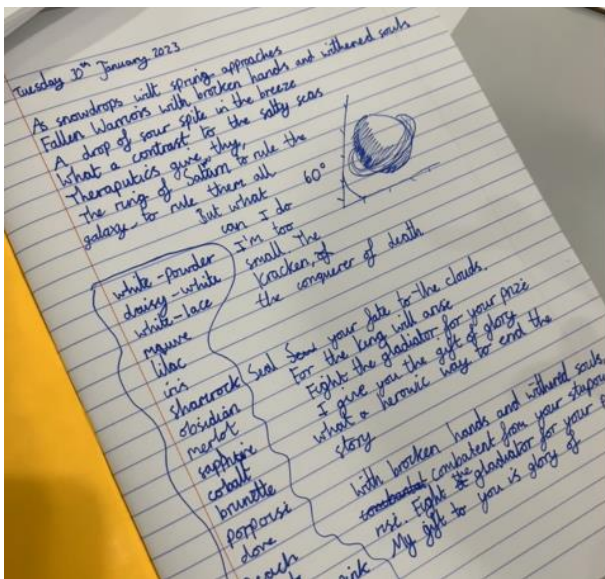
British monarchs through time'

For more information about our curriculum, visit: <https://ewelmeprimaryschool.com/curriculum/>

## James Carter – poetry workshops in school

The school were today visited by local author and poet James Carter. He started the day by introducing himself to all the children in a very exciting and quirky assembly and then worked with each class to inspire their own ideas and writing. At the end of the day, the children gathered together again to share the poems and pieces of writing they created and to celebrate one another's achievements.

It was lovely to see how enthusiastically all the children participated in these workshops and the high quality of the work they produced as a result.



## Year 3-4 trip to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

Last Friday, Burghersh class (Year 3 and 4) visited the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford as part of their new topic on 'Ancient Egypt'. They visited the Ancient Egyptian gallery, getting a closer look at genuine Egyptian mummies, their sarcophaguses and tombs and a range of other Ancient Egyptian artefacts.

Museum staff were especially excited to hear that the children had come from Ewelme School and showed the class angel statues



taken from Ewelme Church that are on display in the museum's England gallery.



The class also visited the Quaker Meeting Hall nearby where they had lunch and participated in a Quaker 'mini-meeting'. Miss Lea, and staff from the Ashmolean Museum, observed how engaged and well behaved the children were throughout the trip. Well done Burghersh!



### Oxfordshire Schools' Dance Festival:

De La Pole class (Year 5 and 6) are participating in the Oxfordshire Dance Festival at New Theatre, Oxford on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

Like last year, the children have been practising in school with Mrs Seymour and Mr Codd to perfect their routine and will perform this on stage in front of hundreds of parents/carers, invited guests and children from other schools. All Y5/6 parent/carers have been emailed with details of this event so if you have not yet given permission for your child to participate please contact the school office ASAP.

Parents/carers who wish to watch the festival at the New Theatre need to purchase tickets in advance via <https://www.atgtickets.com/shows/oxfordshire-schools-dance-festival/new-theatre-oxford/>.

The first set of tickets, for the stalls, sold out quickly but a new block of tickets in the circle have recently been released for sale.

### OxTrail art sale in aid of Sobell House

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we are participating in the OxTrail event which will be running during this summer with all money raised going to Sobell House. Visit <https://oxtrail2024.co.uk/> for further details.

As part of this project we have been challenged to raise money and have decided to do this by holding an art sale in school **on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**, from 3pm. The children, and adults as well, are invited to submit works of art for the sale. We have already started to receive some contributions from both children and adults.



Some early contributions for the art sale

If you or your children would like to contribute a painting, drawing, collage, sculptor or any other piece of art work for the sale, please bring this into school where we will keep it safe until the sale. If you are able to frame the picture then that would be great but please do not worry if not.

### Chaucer exhibition at Weston Library, Oxford



The school is very proud of its history, having been founded in 1437 by Alyce Chaucer, granddaughter of Geoffrey Chaucer and former resident of the now demolished Ewelme Palace. The school is said to be the oldest in the country that still operates in its original buildings! Next year is the 550<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alyce's death and the school plan to participate in events to mark this landmark and celebrate her contribution to the local area.

Weston Library, part of the Bodleian Library in Oxford, are currently hosting a Chaucer exhibit that may be of interest to parents and some of the older children. It features a number of interesting artefacts, including a Chaucer family-tree on which the children could find the four class names – Chaucer, Roet, Burghersh and De La Pole. It comes highly recommended by those who have already visited. More information can

be found at: <https://visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/chaucer>

### Cross-country:

A very big well done to Lorna in Year 6 who participated once again in the South Oxfordshire Cross Country back in December.

She did us all proud by finishing 3rd in the race on Saturday 2nd December and by finishing joint 3rd on points in the overall Winter Series Championship for Year 6 girls (the 20th edition this year!).

Once again, she'll take some beating in this summer's Children's Chase! Here she is proudly showing off her hard-earned and well-deserved medals.



### Kilvrough residential trip:

Children and staff are busy making last-minute preparations for next week's residential trip to Kilvrough Manor Outdoor Education Centre in South Wales. The Year 5 and 6 children will be experiencing a whole variety of challenges including climbing, caving, water sports and lots of team-building and problem-solving activities.

Remember, children attending the trip need to **arrive at school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February between 7.10 and 7.20am** to allow time to register them and collect in medication etc. Please come to the Breakfast and After-School Club entrance (the large wooden doors on the right hand side at the bottom of the steps leading up to the school office). The coach will be leaving at 7.35am.

This means the coach should have departed before the start of Breakfast Club at 7.45am but, if you need to drop off for breakfast club on this day please be mindful that the outside of school may be much busier than normal at this time.

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February, it is expected that the coach will arrive back at school by 7pm. This is obviously dependent on traffic. You will be kept up to date about our expected arrival time via email by the school office. We also aim to provide updates and photographs as often as possible throughout the week, hopefully each evening.

These will be shared via: <https://ewelmeprimaryschool.com/kilvrough-residential-trip-2024/>

### Forest School

Following a short break since Christmas, Forest School returns after half-term with reception class the next group to enjoy their six sessions with Rachael, our Forest School leader.



While we have been taking a break, Rachael, and Carl and Anna who own the land used for Forest School, have been busy making further improvements to the site. With the British weather as variable as ever, the children will be excited to see that one new addition to the site is an amazing roundhouse shelter (see below). Once again, I am amazed and in debt to Rachael's hard work and Carl and Anna's amazing generosity.

A huge thank you must also go to our incredible parent-teacher association, FOES, who have worked tirelessly to raise money to fund the staffing and session-to-session resourcing of our Forest School and who have confirmed they can continue to fund this for at least the next two years after this.

Receptions first session will be on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February in the afternoon and reception parents will receive more information shortly about what their children can expect from Forest School and what they can provide to help ensure their children are prepared for each session.

**Dates for the diary:**

**A further update to these dates will be sent out in the new year.**

***Click here to see the school's online calendar:*** <https://ewelmeprimaryschool.com/calendar/>

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February-Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Year 5/6 trip to Kilvrough Manor

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Year 2 trip to the Living Rainforest, Newbury

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – 3:15pm: End of term 3

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February-Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Half term holiday

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February – 8.45am: Start of term 4

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February – Y5/6 dance festival at New Theatre, Oxford

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February – First Forest School session for Reception

w/c Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Science Week

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Art sales in school for OxTrail 2024 (in aid of Sobell House)

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – 12.15pm: End of term 4

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March-Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Easter holidays

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – INSET day (school closed to pupils)

**Please visit the school website to view full term dates for 2023/24:** <https://ewelmeprimaryschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Ewelme-Primary-School-term-dates-2023-24.pdf>