

Newsletter 8 – Tuesday 27th February 2024

Spotlight on Dance

On Wednesday 21st February, the children went to the village hall for our annual 'Spotlight on Dance' event when they have a chance, in their classes, to perform to the rest of the school and show-off the routine they've worked on in PE lessons during term 3 with Mrs Seymour.

This year saw Chaucer class perform a dance based on the theme of Chinese New Year, Roet perform a rainforest-tribe inspired routine and Burghersh share their Ancient Egyptian dance. De La Pole meanwhile performed their routine from the Oxfordshire Dance Festival (see below for more details).

We were even joined by Ewelme Pre-School who snuck in at the back of the hall to watch the dances as well. A big well done to all the children for their dancing and an equally big thank you to Mrs Seymour for all her work in helping them to prepare for their performances.



Oxfordshire Schools' Dance Festival:

De La Pole class (Year 5 and 6) participated in the Oxfordshire Dance Festival at New Theatre, Oxford on Tuesday 20th February.

Like last year, the children practised tirelessly in school with Mrs Seymour and Mr Codd to perfect their routine and then performed this on stage in front of approximately 1,700 parents/carers, invited guests and children from other schools.



Their dance, to the song 'Fat Sam's Grand Slam' from the film 'Bugsy Malone', went brilliantly and we were all very impressed with their resilience and composure despite understandable nerves beforehand. Well done to everyone involved!



Year 2 trip to the Living Rainforest



On Wednesday 7th February, Year 2 went to the Living Rainforest near Newbury as part of their rainforest topic.

The children had a great time, learning more about the rainforest biome and how animals have adapted to it and having a chance to see real-life rainforest plants and animals up close.

Thank you to those parent volunteers whose help made the trip possible.

Kilvrough residential trip:

Year 5 and 6 had a highly successful residential trip to Kilvrough Manor in South Wales the week before half-term. Despite some inclement weather, the children had a great time and experienced a wide range of different activities including canoeing, rock climbing, abseiling into the sea, waterfall walks, coastal exploration, orienteering, a 'night-walk', problem solving and team building activities. Unfortunately the heavy rain meant the river level was too high for caving, although I think a few of the children (and a couple of adults) were secretly quite pleased about this!

They also adapted brilliantly to the routines and responsibilities of staying away from home, working in 'duty teams' to set up, serve and tidy away after breakfast and lunch, preparing their dormitories each morning for a 'room inspection' and collecting and organising the clothing and equipment they'd need for each day's activities.

Next year we will be off to Woodlands Outdoor Education Centre again for our three-day trip before returning to Kilvrough for a full week in February 2026.

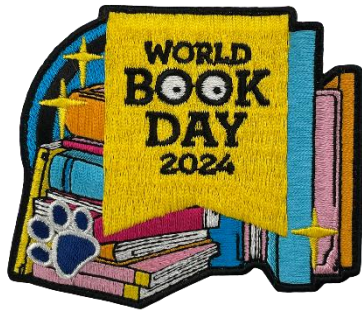
You can see more photos from the week by visiting: <https://ewelmeprimaryschool.com/kilvrough-residential-trip-2024/>



World Book Day – March 8th

Remember that we will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 8th March 2024.

The children will be taking part in book and reading related activities throughout the week and are invited to dress up as their favourite book character on Friday 8th March.



We will be taking part in a 'book cover' competition in school again like last year and we would like the children at home to design a 'world book day' logo that could be used in the future for stickers, postcards or posters. This will need to be on A4 paper with the child's name on the back. We will be looking for something bright and colourful, with 'world book day' on and pictures of anything book or reading related. Please submit these by midday on Thursday 7th March.

It is a busy time of year and unfortunately our World Book Day clashes with the Year 6 trip to Junior Citizens in Oxford. However, we are keen to ensure that they do not miss out. Therefore, Year 6 can come to school in non-school uniform that morning and, once they return from their trip at lunchtime, they can either change into a costume bought in from home for the remainder of the day or stay in their home clothes. They will then do some World Book Day activities in the afternoon and join in with our celebration assembly at the end of the day.



Forest school

Reception made a great start last week to their term of Forest School sessions. They are the first group to have use of the amazing new shelter that has been constructed on the site during our break in term 3.

Don't forget that Year 1 will begin their Forest School sessions on Tuesday 16th April and then Year 5 and 6 will get started on Tuesday 4th June.



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/>

w/c Monday 26th February – Science Week

Friday 1st March – Atomic Tom science workshops in school

Monday 4th March – School Council meeting

Friday 8th March – World Book Day

Friday 8th March – Year 6 trip to Junior Citizens, Oxford (PLEASE NOTE EARLIER START: Coach collecting from school at 8.30am)

Friday 15th March – Red Nose Day

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

Saturday 23rd March – Oratory Prep Winter Dash 10am

Monday 25th March – Reception Easter Bonnet Parade

w/c Monday 25th March – ‘Easter Experience’ service in church and FOES Easter Egg hunt – exact dates and timings TBC ASAP

Wednesday 27th March – Height and Weight survey of Reception and Y6

Thursday 28th March – 12.15pm: End of term 4

Friday 29th March-Monday 15th April – Easter holidays

Monday 15th April – INSET day (school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 16th April – 8.45am: Start of term 5 for pupils

Tuesday 16th April – First Forest School session for Year 1

Sunday 21st April – Rupert House Cross Country at Stonor Park, Yr 1-6

Monday 29th April – School Council meeting

Thursday 2nd May – Whole-school photograph

Monday 6th May – Bank Holiday (school closed)

w/c 13th May – Y6 SATs assessments

Monday 20th May – Y5/6 visit to IMPS

Friday 24th May – 3:15pm: End of term 5

w/c Monday 27th May – Half term holidays

Monday 3rd June – 8.45am: Start of term 6

Tuesday 4th June – First Forest School session for Year 5/6

w/c 10th June – Y1 Phonics Screening Checks

Friday 21st June – Festival of Voices at Dorchester Abbey

Tuesday 2nd July – Chaucer trip to Odds Farm

Wednesday 24th July – 12.15pm: End of term 6

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>