



Englefield CE Primary School

It seems a long time since the last article and much has happened in and around school.

Our younger pupils battled though the wind and rain of Storm Gareth to enjoy an interesting day at Rushall Farm. The children saw the lambs and piglets, toured the farm, learned the bee waggle dance, learned about food chains, dissected owl pellets and had a walk in the woods as well as a tractor ride...all good fun and very educational.



John and Viv from the Wooden Spoon charity came in to talk to the Year 5/6 class about their upcoming rugby match at the advanced base camp of Everest. The children were fascinated and were then very excited to receive photos and updates from them to add to their learning in their Mountains topic. I'm delighted to say they were successful in their attempt!



Year 5 and 6 enjoyed a fabulous 4 day residential trip to Swanage. Pond-dipping, orienteering, a sand dune study and a night walk with stories of smugglers from days gone by were just a few of the highlights. Our 'Has Englefield Got Talent?' night ended with a resounding 'Yes!'. On the last day we enjoyed a tour around Corfe Castle and were lucky enough to see the Flying Scotsman puff by on the railway from Swanage...a real extra treat! The children get so much from our residential: team work, caring for others, responsibility, outdoor learning and adventurous experiences as well as having simple fun with their friends outside of the school environment.

We were truly enlightened and entertained by the Year 3/4 production of 'Diwali'. From superb acting to confident singing and clear narration, the children did us proud.

Our Year 3/4 tag rugby team played well together at the Crosfields tournament, getting 2 wins, 1 draw and only 2 losses...a fantastic result for a team who haven't played together as much as some of the other schools.

Just before Easter, the whole school went on a sponsored nature walk around the Englefield Deer Park. We were raising money for our whole-school trip to Path Hill in Whitchurch in June. After a frosty and foggy start, the sun came out and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. With the deer and 'big house' in the background and ducklings on the lake, the event was well-supported and a great learning opportunity for all our children.



The PTA organised another successful Easter Egg Hunt where the children explored the gardens at Englefield House in their house groups, and came away with chocolate treats. This was followed by an Easter Bonnet parade which once again was well-supported by all year groups.

Well done to the Englefield Players for another impressive performance at the annual Murder Mystery Night. We are so lucky to have so many parents and ex-parents willing to either get up on stage or support us on the night...a real community event. It was great to have some local residents in the audience this year as well as our own parents. It raised an amazing £1470 for the school!



We were delighted to be asked to sing at Bishop Andrew's retirement service...it was a joyful occasion and our Year 5/6 singers did us proud. At a recent Governors meeting we had another important celebration... Mrs Sheppard, one of our teachers, has been a Governor at our school for 25 years! Devoting that much time to one school is a remarkable achievement and shows a great commitment to Englefield.

One of the signs that summer is approaching is the start-up of our bee-keeping club under the enthusiastic and careful direction of Mrs Watts. The latest crew had a great time looking in the hives on their first session. All is looking healthy!



Year 3 and 4 had a fabulous time on their recent residential visit to Thirtover. They enjoyed



orienteering, grass-sledging, a traversing wall, a low ropes course and playing with various outdoor equipment. Making the beds was as much fun as always! They were a super group to take away and finished off their trip with a visit to The Living Rainforest.

Once again we have been busy hatching chicks (thank you to Karen Elliott for providing the eggs, expertise and equipment) as well as watching the tadpoles change and grow ready to go back into our pond. This time of year is really special at Englefield where each class tries to bring the outside in.

Finally you may have heard our small choir raise their voices at The Bradfield May Fayre. We were delighted that some of our ex-pupils chose to stand up and join in for a few songs.

We are all looking forward to the annual Englefield Village Fete and Flower Show which will be on Saturday 13th July from 2pm...please put it in your diary. We hope to see many of you at the fete enjoying the fun.

Please remember that you are always welcome to contact the school (930 2337) if you would like to come in for a visit or to help in any way.