

Mental Health Week

On the 7-13 February 2022,

In assembly we talked about mental health and watched some videos to explain how we can care for ourselves.

We spoke to some children about mental health week and they told us:

"It made me feel happy and joyful."

"It made me feel warm and positive inside"

All classes did a balloon and a star. In the balloon we put people who support us, in the star we put an emotional goal. One girl told us that it was her goal to be better at swimming which would then make her feel more confident about herself.

On the Friday of mental health week, we all got to wear what we wanted and express ourselves.

We asked people why Mental Health is important. One child said, "it matters because it's about your health."

We came up with the conclusion that if we didn't have mental health day and learn about our mental health in PSHE, we wouldn't understand how important it really is.

"Mental health is very important to your brain."

"I liked dressing up because I like expressing myself."

"The more people who are aware the more people that can prevent getting a mental illness."

By Daisy B and Elise G

Article 24: We have a right to the best possible health care.



BUILDING SHERIFF

Johnny Lyle is a building sheriff who works for a company (CAPco) that have designed an adventure play area for Raby Castle. He came into school to speak to us about how to go about designing playgrounds. He mentioned how he doesn't use plastic as it is bad for the earth and he prefers using wood. The playgrounds he builds have to be well tested before the public are allowed to use it. They need to be safe but still have an element of risk and be fun for the people using them. They all so need to be accessible for everyone to use.

The three most important rules for people using the play park is that they need to be kind, help others and play together.

By Isaac T & Jessica B (Year 4)

Jonny Lyle started off by building treehouses until one day someone asked him if he could build a playground. After he finished building the playground, he took a child that had a disability to the park and he had never been to a park before. The child spoke for the first time in his life because he was so excited. This made Johnny happy and made him want to build parks because he saw how building that park brought happiness to people.

He has built multiple parks since then and he is now building one in Raby Castle. He builds out of only 2 materials, wood and stainless steel. The reason he uses wood and stainless steel because its good for the environment and he can easily move it if needed.

The children from Year3, 4 and 5 are going to enter a competition and design a playground for Johnny Lyle. One of the designs will be chosen and the person that designed it and their class will be the first to visit and play at the park.

By Max A & Nathan K



SAFER INTERNET DAY!

On the 8th February it was safer internet day and each class in Escomb Primary School did an activity to do with e-safety.

We interviewed a Year 4 pupil and he told us that, "The assembly was very helpful about what can happen on the internet. I learned a lot more about e-safety and I enjoyed it."

In year 6 we also interviewed some people, this is what they said,

"If we accept a request from strangers they could be nasty people and track our location and see our info."

"The assembly in the hall was quite helpful and I learnt a lot on how to be safe on the internet."

"The people on games that you friend request could be an adult pretending to be the same age as you then they will try to get your personal info, we must stay safe!"

Some classes made a posters about safer internet day. Here is an acrostic that we felt spread the message of staying safe online:

Safe

Meeting

Accept

Reliable

Tell

By Phoebe W, Joe W, Amber W



Article 17: We have a right to get information that is not harmful to us.

These newsletter articles have been written by our amazing Year 6 children! They have been using their newspaper reporting skills to interview our children and write the reports.

Headteacher's Message

We have had a fabulous half term in school. The beginning was a bit shaky with the number of COVID cases but, fingers-crossed, we are beginning to be able to enjoy more activities together as a whole school. We have had some amazing things going on in school and Year 6 have done an excellent job as our roving reporters to bring you the news!!!

Thank you for returning the **questionnaires**. We had a 77% return which is amazing. We have taken on board the comments that you made and hopefully over the coming term we will be able to put some of your suggestions in place.

A lot were really linked to a return to normality with more opportunities for **parents to share in your child's learning through parents' evenings and open days**.

In the meantime, to bridge that gap, your child will bring home tonight a 'Reflection on Learning' sheet which outlines what your child has done this half term and their response to their learning.

We have also included the 'Curriculum Map' for your child's Year group which outlines what will be taught across the year. Also included are the End of Year expectations for your child's year group in Reading Writing and Maths.

You also asked about a **wider provision of after school clubs and wrap around care**. We are trying to provide clubs as best as we can, but often we are running these at a loss due to low up-take. This is sometimes because children attend activities in the community. I will look into the possibility of running an after-school club in the same way that Breakfast Club runs after half term.

More **homework for our older children** was also requested. We have purchased some self study books that we will distribute to Years 4, 5 & 6 after half term. Information as to how to use these will be sent out with them after the holidays.

We appreciate that the traffic around the start and end of the school day is bad. However, the school day was always 8.55a.m. start. The **offer of 8.30a.m. drop off** during the pandemic was a temporary measure and a gesture of goodwill from staff to support working parents when we were not able to offer Breakfast Club. Breakfast Club is now operating as normal from 8a.m. I have been in touch with the Highways Department at DCC to make them aware of the on-going problem with traffic. I have also contacted the police about parking in restricted zones which impacts on the flow of traffic.

Wonderful World Book Day



World Book Day will take place on **Friday 4th March**, which will make it the 25th anniversary. The message for everybody is '*you are a reader*' and knowing that you can read for pleasure.

Here at Escomb, we thought about when do you read for pleasure, and most people agreed that the answer was at bedtime. This year our theme will be bedtime stories- so that means that you can wear your favourite pyjamas (or onesies) to school! Although, you must come to school in suitable footwear. You are allowed to bring a stuffed teddy but it has to be an appropriate size to bring to school, and most importantly...your favourite book!

In the afternoon, children will be served hot chocolate or a cup of juice and a yummy biscuit to enjoy- whilst listening to their stories. During the day the children will also be doing a mixture of reading activities. Thank you

By Cody G and Jake O – Year 6 School Council

Year 1 Dance Festival

On Tuesday 15th February Year 1 went to Bishop Barrington Academy to dance at a Dance Festival. They had been working extremely hard on their dance routine. The songs they danced to were from the Disney movie The Lion King, as it was animal themed! We spoke to some Year 1 pupils. Someone said their favourite part was doing cart-wheels and other gymnastic skills. Someone else said they enjoyed balancing. Everyone took part, including the teachers! Year 1 had a lot of fun and they did a brilliant job!

By Zack R and Leon J



Article 29: Education should use and develop our talents and abilities.

Year 5 Japanese Workshops – 8th February

We had a great time learning Japanese words and phrases. Konnichiwa means hello! We painted Japanese words with black paint. Origami was fun and we made hats, cranes and stars! The other activity was dressing in traditional Japanese clothes. We enjoyed meeting the 4 ladies from Teikyo University in Durham. Arigato! (Thank you!)

By Darcey B and Matty R





CHINESE NEW YEAR WEEK

With reception class



On the 1st February it was Chinese New Year and Reception Class had a celebration week in school with lots of fun activities. Read on to find out more.

DANCE

Firstly, the children listened to the Chinese music they were going to dance to. After that, they started to learn their dance routine. Then they were put in to groups of the dragon, instruments players and streamer dancers. When we talked to a child they quoted "I was the dragon's head it was very fun."

If you are interested the dance is on Facebook.

FOOD

Reception Class also tried some Chinese foods such as noodles, rice, prawn crackers, dumplings with chilli sauce, spring rolls, stir-fry and for a small treat fortune cookies.

We then talked to some receptions to see what their favourite foods were. Most of them enjoyed prawn crackers and noodles.

CRAFTS

First for their dance they had to make a cardboard dragon which when we asked them they said it was very fun to make and decorate. Another activity that they really enjoy was making their own Chinese menu.

TEACHER'S OPINION

Mrs Gill thought "It was great seeing the receptions learning about different cultures and I thoroughly enjoyed being immersed in Chinese culture through dance, food, language and custom."

Mrs Johnson believed "it was a good opportunity for the children to learn and they loved it all."

Miss Roe agreed "there was lots of practical learning, looking at a new tradition and culture that they learned lots from, and they enjoyed doing all their activities".

Written by Iris C and Daisy L



Article 13: We have a right to find things out.

After school clubs

Jujitsu

We interviewed some Year 3 pupils and they told us some information about Judo. They like learning new moves and playing new games, they really like the system of what they do with the belts. There are different colours such as white, yellow, green, brown. It helps them realise how far they've come and how hard they have tried.



Table tennis:

We talked to our Table Tennis group and they told us how much they enjoy table tennis.

They learn new skills and knowledge. The black and the red part of the table tennis bat means back arm and forearm.

Spanish:

We went to our Spanish experts and gathered some information for you. It has been a really good experience for them to learn how to say different words in other languages and learn how to sing songs.



Drama:



Our drama club is really good, we went to find students who do drama. They told us they're working on a new topic and it helps them remember each step by splitting it into sections.

Mr Proud:

Since covid-19, it has been quite hard to get to clubs and places but Mr Proud's clubs are really helpful and fun. You do all types of sports and it is a very good experience to do it again.



By Finley P, Nicholas RO and Charlie C

Forensic Science Workshop

On the 10th February Rachael from Education Group came in to school to set up a forensic science workshop for the whole school and we had to figure out who committed the crime.

We have interviewed some people to see what they thought of it.

'The workshop was really fun and we would definitely do it again'

'There were lots of clues that led us to somebody who was in the crime scene. Candy Morris was the robber!'

'The safe had kinetic sand with footprints in'

'It must be someone with glasses because I found a glasses case in the pocket of the jacket!'

'We used tweezers to pick things up with so that we didn't get finger prints on things.'

'We also found some finger prints that lead us to the answer.'

Everyone really enjoyed this and we would do it all over again! 😊

By Finley H and Lilly J

Article 28: We have a right to a good quality education.





CINDERELLA SNAP-TOK

E-SAFETY

Casts thought

When we went and talked to the cast of Cinderella Snap-Tok they said "we think everyone was listening really well and even the teachers were engaging thank you all for watching."

They also said "this is one of the best schools we have performed to."

If you're interested on Tik-Tok go to [@cinderseverafter](#) to find them



The plot

The story started after the ball with cinders [short for Cinderella] the prince had gone on holiday and cinders child had made a video. Her friend made a bad comment and then it went viral in a bad way. So cinders tried to help but she only made it worse because she started a snap-tok account and made a video which was bad. Someone called God-brother who came and gave her an idea. So, Cinders other friend Billy went back in time to tell cinders the better advice. They also said at the end that you can block trolls [people who are mean on social media].

Children's thoughts

After talking to some children in Yr4 and Yr5 they all gave us a lot of information such as, "I learned how internet safety works and how to be more careful."

"I learned that if I'm having problems online to tell someone and do something"

Head-teachers quote

"The play was great it gave us some really good messages in an entertaining way."



Article 17: we have a right to get information that is not harmful to us.



Robinwood

On Monday 14th February, Year 6 went to Robinwood in Alston.

Robinwood is an activity center that encourages people to step out of their comfort zone and try something new. We have been interviewing some people who went to Robinwood and they told us: "It was daring and challenging!"

"I had a boost of confidence there."

"It was an opportunity of a life-time!"

We took part in lots of activities such as Caving, Crate Challenge, Giant Swing, Canoeing and so much more!

The Food was very delicious and there was a lot of options to choose from.

Robinwood has lots of key goals and some of them are needed for activities. These include, Listening, Co-operation, Encouragement, Communication and Respect.

We had an amazing time at Robinwood and everyone enjoyed it.

By *Oliver J, Ellis W, Charlie C*



Article 31: We have a right to play and rest.

ROF 59

All the people who didn't go to Robinwood got a treat. On the 16th February we went to ROF59. First we went on the trampolines and played some dodge ball then we went on the tunnel (first time for some of us). We showed courage when jumping into the foam pit. Then we went on the beam to play. When it was time to come off, we went rock climbing. We were determined to compete the walls.



We hope you have enjoyed reading our news for this half term. We have lots more to look forward to after half term. have great holiday and stay safe!

Thank you for your continued support with everything we do in school – it really is appreciated!

Wendy Gill & Staff