

Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

It was a great pleasure this week to welcome Saltmine theatre company, who each year perform our pantomime, back into school to perform 'Blast Off'. The performance was all about staying safe online and gave the children some key takeaways to remember.

Their performance tied in well with our new Value for this month of Love. Love underpins so much of what we do and how we relate to one another, but never more so than when we are online. When we are typing an email, sending a quick WhatsApp message, or posting on social media, Love is a helpful yardstick. Are our words/images born out of love, or are they cross, proud, or self-seeking?

For our older children in particular, we spend a lot of time unpicking things that have happened online because they have not thought through what they are saying. However, as adults we equally need to take time to pause before hitting send! The recipient of our late night email, or hasty text deserves to be shown as much care and love as we do ourselves.

Next week in Collective Worship we will be thinking more about Love and how we can show this core Value in the way we live our day to day lives. We will reflect together on Jesus' summary of the Law in which he says that the second and greatest commandment is that we should 'Love our neighbours as we love ourselves'. Whether children or adults, as we engage online, I think holding that commandment in our heads is very helpful.

This weekend, please do talk to your children about the Saltmine performance (and for children in Years 4-6 the subsequent workshop). Every child was sent home with a 'Space Code' to help them remember core principles, reinforcing these at home could help your child avoid some of the online dangers they may face.

If you are interested in more information about the online risks that your children face and how you can help keep your children safe, including setting up parental controls, you may find it helpful to look at the following websites – [NSPCC](#), [Child net](#), [Children's Society](#), [Barnardos](#), [Internet Matters](#) and [Save the Children](#). If your children are younger, you may also be interested to read about the [Smartphone free Childhood](#) campaign.

Flooding

A huge thank you to everyone for coming to collect your children from school early on Friday.

We know it will have been a huge inconvenience to you, as well as disrupting your children's education.

On Friday afternoon Charlie Maynard (MP) was on site along with Sharon Mullins, the CEO of ODST, to talk together about what our next steps can be to try and resolve this ongoing issue.

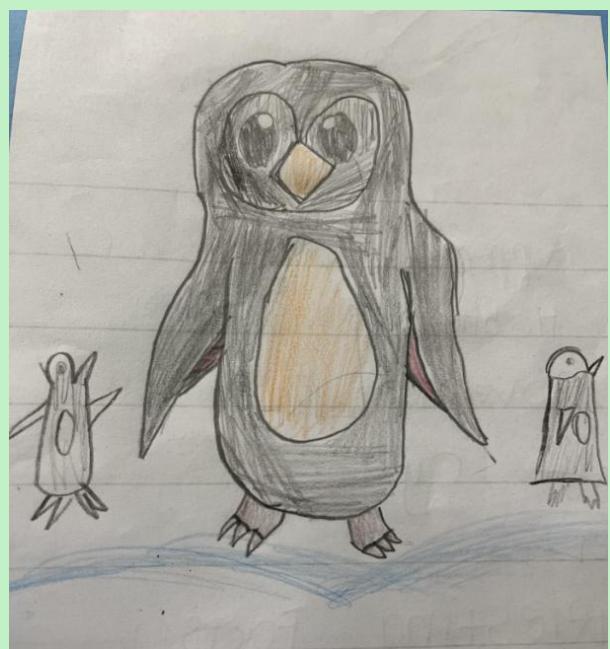
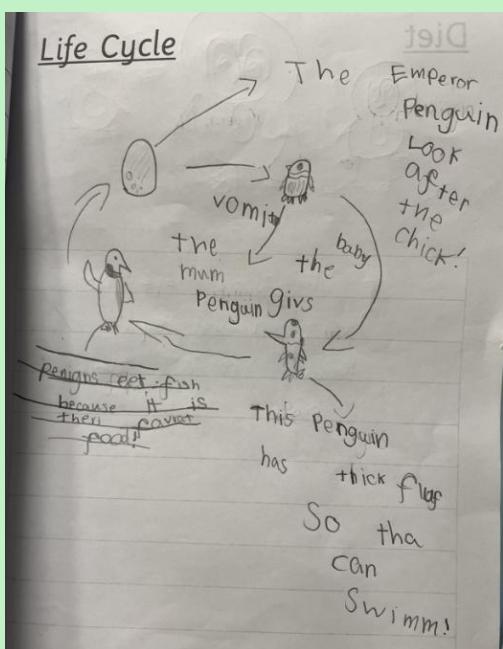
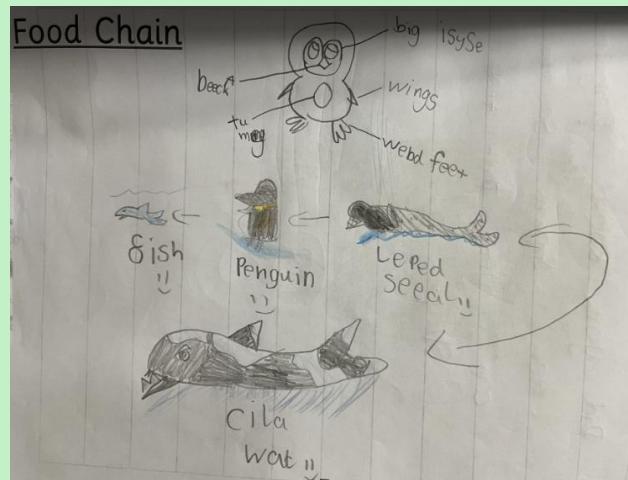
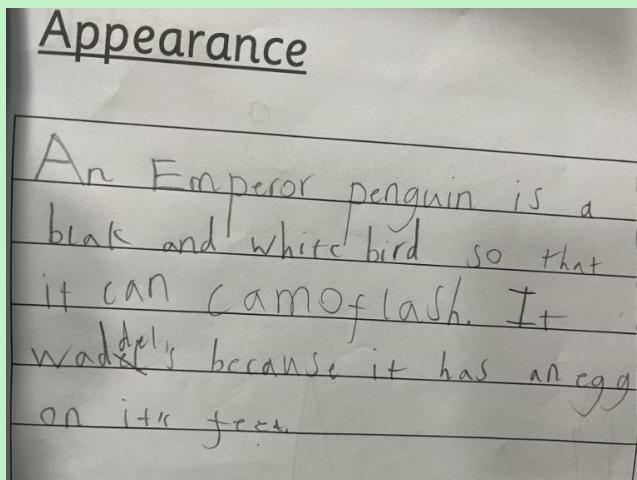
In the coming days, do look out for increased press coverage of our concerns.

We are hugely grateful to L & R carpets and flooring, who have worked around the repeated flooding, to lay new flooring in our worst affected toilets, so that they can be easily cleaned and disinfected whenever they flood. As the toilets were reinstalled on Friday morning, they were already filling and overflowing!

Thank you to all the staff in school who carried out our Risk Assessment and therefore ensured that your children stayed safe and that the abrupt end to their day was more exciting than distressing.

News from Around the School

Having produced their own factual booklets, our children in Year 2 are now all very knowledgeable about penguins! They have produced some really great work, of which they are justifiably very proud. The display in their middle area looks great and shows off their work to great effect.



Food, glorious food!

This week we welcomed Local Authority Food Inspectors on to site to inspect our kitchen and the areas used for ABC (our wrap around provision). The inspectors take a broad look at how food is stored and prepared, as well as checking for general hygiene. We are delighted to share that both our kitchen and our ABC areas received 5 stars, the highest possible rating. Well done to everyone who prepares and serves food on our site for maintaining the highest standards of food hygiene.

We would like to remind parents/carers that the snacks your children bring into school MUST be healthy. There should not be any crisps, chocolate, cakes or sweet biscuits and they must not contain any nuts. Staff will be looking at snacks more carefully in the coming weeks and if there are sweet treats they will be offering them an item of fruit instead. Please make sure that your child's snack is savoury and healthy e.g. crackers, cheese, breadsticks, fruit or veg.

We apologise that our menu for after half-term is not yet available. We have been working closely with our food supplier to try and move this forward and have been promised that we will have the finalised menu on Monday of next week. We know it will be a tight turnaround, but please do book meals for after half term as quickly as possible to ensure that your child is able to have a hot meal if they want one.

When booking hot meals, please do talk to your children about what they actually eat in school. On roast days, it is surprising how many children refuse potatoes and veg and so have just a piece of chicken and a Yorkshire Pudding, or who tell us they don't like the chicken or veg and so just have roast potatoes and a Yorkshire Pudding. If your child doesn't like a meal, especially where they are trying something new, we will always try to find something they like to eat, but it is helpful if you can talk to them about what they enjoy so that you are only booking meals they will enjoy.

Welcome Mrs Hunter

Over the past couple of weeks, we have been enjoying getting to know Mrs Catherine Hunter, who is teaching in Year 2 alongside Mrs Castree. Mrs Hunter works on Thursdays and Fridays.



Reminders

Term ends for all children at 3:20pm on Friday of next week (13th February). All children will be back in school on Monday 23rd February.

Term dates for next year are on our website – please do make sure you check these before booking any holidays.

We are celebrating World Book Day on Wednesday 4th March – children can dress up if they wish to do so.

If you have not yet logged on to My Child At School (MCAS), please make sure you do so as we plan to start using this for messages after the half-term break.

**Loving, learning and
flourishing in community**