



EAST SILC
www.eastsilc.org

DECEMBER 2024

NEWSLETTER



EAST SILC JACK CLARK



CLASS ACTIVITIES

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REMINDER

School reopens on the
6th January 2024
Please see the back of the
Newsletter for important dates



As we near the end of another term at the East SILC, it's important to look back on the many achievements and events that have shaped our school community. This period has seen significant progress and a range of activities that have enriched our learners' educational experiences.

One highlight was the successful launch of our Post 16 program at the Bridge Community Church (BCC). This expansion is aimed at giving our learners more access to work-related and independence-focused learning opportunities. At BCC our learners are part of a thriving community, boosting their social skills and real-world experiences.

The term was filled with memorable events that brought our school community closer and showcased our learners' talents. I had the pleasure of attending three Christmas fairs, each with an amazing range of hand-made gifts, treats and raffles with fantastic prizes that provided opportunities for families to experience our sites and celebrate with us.

There was a carols and coffee morning at our Roger Cannon site, which highlighted our learners' musical skills as well as tasty bakes and a chocolate raffle! The beautiful mix of voices and the friendly atmosphere made it a joyous event for everyone.

I was exceptionally proud to be invited to attend the annual Yamsen Christmas Concert at Pudsey Civic Hall. It was an amazing experience with East SILC learners from our different sites forming most of the choir. The Lord Mayor of Leeds also attended and was blown away by the performances.

The final event was our annual service at St. Edmund's Church in Roundhay. This traditional gathering allowed us to reflect, come together and celebrate the term with learners, staff, and families.

It's important to recognise that success of these events is due to the dedication and careful planning of our staff, PTFA. The time and effort put into organising these activities are often unseen, but they are crucial to their success and the positive impact on our school community. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated prizes to our raffles across different sites – the money raised will ensure our learners can access a range of activities and resources which would otherwise not be possible.

Sadly we lost a member of our JJ family this term. Latifa Sanneh passed away on 27th November. Latifa was a wonderful girl who, despite all of her challenges, brought joy to all who spent time with her. She was a sassy little lady who grew and enjoyed her time in school, even if she did fake going to sleep when it was her time to do any work from time to time! Our love goes to her Mum and everyone who had the pleasure of Latifa's company.



As we wrap up this term, I'm proud of our learners' achievements and our staff's commitment. The East SILC continues to grow and adapt, ensuring we provide exceptional education and support to our learners.

I'm excited about the challenges and opportunities ahead in the next term, knowing that our school community will keep thriving and excelling.

Wishing our learners, staff, families and whole school community a peaceful Christmas break and best wishes for 2025.

Louise Quinn
Executive Principal



December 2024

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

We have had a busy start to the autumn term! We are thrilled to have welcomed 16 new children and 7 new members of staff to our school community. Most of these new children are in Reception or Year 1, and they have joined Gruffalo Class. We have increased our numbers this year to 65 children in response to the growing demand for special school places across Leeds. We're delighted with how quickly all the new children have settled in. They have adjusted to our routines wonderfully, developed positive relationships with our staff, and our older children have been exceptional role models, helping the new children to settle in.

Our commitment to involving our learners in local and national events has continued this term and has included events such as Children in Need, Jeans for Genes, Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day, and Remembrance Day. These events are always a highlight, bringing us together as a school community to think about and support others. Your generosity in supporting these causes is deeply appreciated. You can find more detailed information about these events in the newsletter.

This term, we've also introduced our Fantastic Finish weeks. During the last week of each half term, the children get the chance to revise, revisit, and consolidate their learning. Each Fantastic Finish culminates in a day of activities, and so far, we have had Nature Day and a Robot Day with more to follow. The children have thoroughly enjoyed these sessions, asking for their favourite stories to be re-read, revising key vocabulary, and refining skills and knowledge in creative ways.

Preparation for Adulthood continues to be a main feature in our curriculum and along with our usual range of experiences including visits to parks, cafes, shops and libraries across Leeds we have also had visits to Tropical World and the opportunity to sing at the 41st Annual YAMSEN Christmas Carol Concert held at Pudsey Civic Hall.

It was lovely to see so many parents and carers at the Christmas Fair and Concert earlier this week. The children and staff worked hard practising the songs, decorating the Christmas tree, and making items to sell. Your support at these events is always appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all you for your continued support and to wish you a happy festive break with your children. We look forward to welcoming you all back in the New Year.



Best wishes,

Vicky Fisher



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HOMELESS STREET ANGELS COLLECTION

We held our Fantastic Finish Assembly on the last day of the autumn half term where the children had the opportunity to revisit and consolidate their learning through fun activities. It was also an opportunity for them to think about other people and how we can be kind. Children, parents and staff showed their kindness by donating food and toiletries to the Leeds based Homeless Street Angels Charity. The charity were overwhelmed by the amount of donations that we had collected and want to say a very big thank you to you all.



REMINDER PARENTS COMPASS APP



We would like to remind you about the importance of downloading the Parents Compass app. If you have not already downloaded the app or have not received your login details, please contact your child's school to ensure that we have your most up-to-date mobile number and email address to facilitate effective communication.

It is essential to have the app as it will be the primary method for all communications from the East SILC. Ensuring you have access to this app will help you stay informed about important updates and information regarding your child's education and school activities.

Thank you for your cooperation.



We have got our next selection of books kindly donated from the British Library. This term's theme is "Step Inside the Story."

A big thank you to the British Library for supporting the school with our literacy resources.

DUNELM - DELIVERING JOY

We were overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity shown by Dunelm, at The Springs, and their customers who have donated 65 Christmas Gift Bags full of presents for every child at the East SILC- Jack Clark as part of their Delivering Joy at Christmas Appeal. Ruby Scott, our Family Support Worker, provided the store with a list of suitable gifts for the children which customers have then donated. We could not believe the contents of each gift bag and the thoughtfulness that people had shown when donating the gifts. We know that the children are going to love these gifts from Father Christmas!



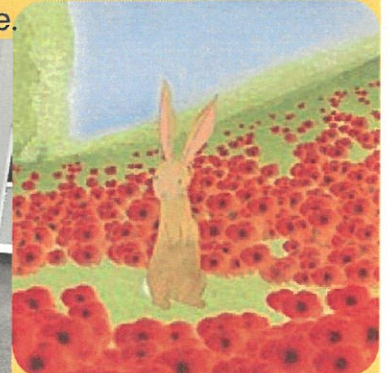
REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Monday 11th November at 11am the children and staff came together in the Hall for us to hold our two minutes silence for Remembrance Day. The children watched the CBeebies Remembrance Day film called "Poppies" which is a beautiful and evocative animation that sees war as experienced by animals in a WWI battlefield. The children did so well and sat silently; we were all so proud of them. Thank you for your kind donations to the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

THE JACK CLARK CHRISTMAS TREE



When we decorated the Christmas Tree it was a very exciting afternoon for everyone at Jack Clark. Each child made a personalised decoration and proudly added it to the Christmas Tree. We listened to Christmas songs and had a virtual log fire ablaze on the whiteboard. The excitement peaked as we all joined in a countdown to turn on the lights, marking the official start of Christmas at our school. The children were absolutely delighted with the finished tree.





MERRY
CHRISTMAS



DECEMBER 2024



ELMER CLASS

Elmer Class have been working very hard this term. We have enjoyed exploring our 'Nature' and 'Robot' topics and listening to lots of interesting stories.



Our favourite was the 'Hungry Caterpillar'. We have been learning lots about our community and our families and we have made good progress in our Phonics and Communication groups.

We created our own Elmer's Shop to help us to learn more about money and how we use it.

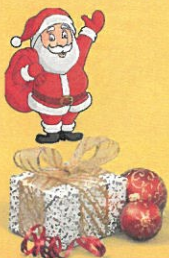
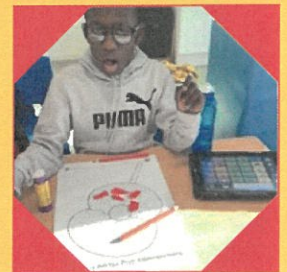


Our favourite lesson is food technology where we have followed different recipes to make playdough and we have started to practice our cutting skills when tasting new fruits and vegetables.

KIPPER CLASS

This term in Kipper Class we have all enjoyed our maths topic of data handling. We especially liked sorting by colour and recording how many objects we have. This has also helped with our tidying up skills sorting our toys into the correct boxes.

We made beautiful poppies for Remembrance Day and brightly coloured fireworks all of which brighten up our classroom and remind us of these special events. We have also enjoyed listening to stories in literacy especially "123 Do the Robot."



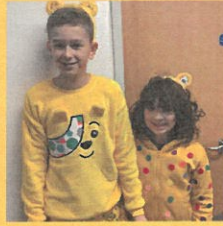
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CHILDREN IN NEED



On Friday 15th November, we held a non-uniform day at school to raise money for Children in Need. It was absolutely delightful to see so many children dressed in dotty and yellow clothes, along with some fantastic fancy dress costumes. I am pleased to let you know that we raised a total of £50.95 for Children in Need.

A huge thank you to everyone for their generous support and donations to this great charity event.



GRUFFALO CLASS

What a fabulous term we have had in Gruffalo class!

In September, some of our children were starting school for the very first time, some children were starting a new school, and some children had moved to a new classroom with new teachers. Lots of change to contend with but all of the children settled well into school life and quickly became familiar with the routines.



A big focus this term has been around communication. Lots of the children can now ask for their snack using communication boards or ask to go to different areas of school using the photographs and symbols on staff lanyards. We couldn't be prouder of all the children and the progress they have made already in the first term.

Alongside this, our learning has been structured around our topics. The children have loved exploring sensory trays in science when learning about different parts of plants as part of our 'Nature' topic. They have also enjoyed engaging with the wind-up toys and remote-control toys as part of our 'Robots' topic. A definite favourite with all the children this half term has been the Play Area at school, this is the place that makes all our children laugh and smile.

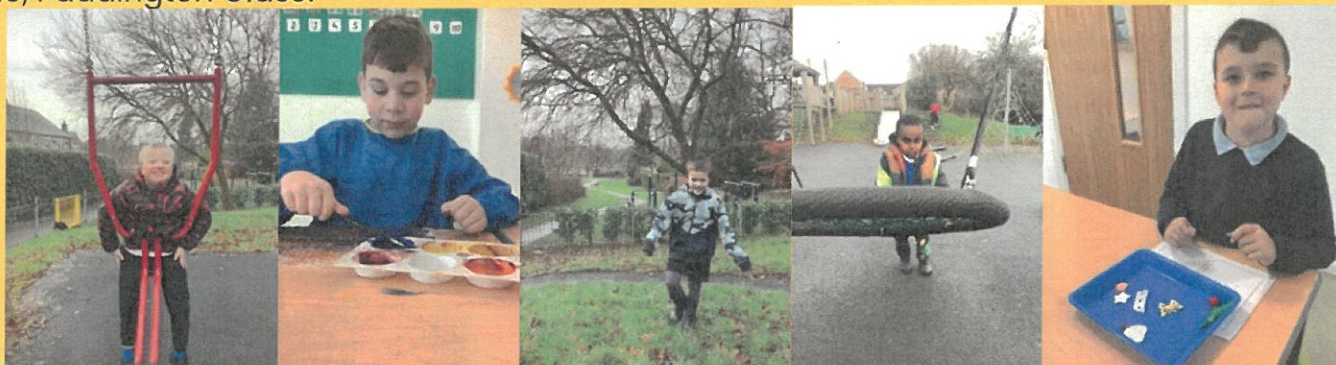


PADDINGTON CLASS

It has been an exciting and enjoyable first term in Paddington Class. The Paddington Team has thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all the children; likewise, the children have become familiar with us and each other! We have dedicated time to learn about routines, and the children have settled in very well. It has been lovely to see the children's confidence grow and the smiles on their faces when they arrive each morning.

Communication has been a significant focus in Paddington Class, and all the children have made great progress. They have been making their own choices during snack time and answering questions about their likes and dislikes. They enjoy communicating using their communication books, signing, and spoken language.

We began in September by learning about the various parts of a plant and how to look after them in science. This half term, we have explored different light sources, which the children have loved! We made poppies for Remembrance Day using various art materials. We also enjoyed celebrating Halloween and having our own mini disco. Pumpkins provided a fantastic sensory experience for the children, and we completed various art projects with them. We looked at time and shape in maths and sang numerous songs to assist our learning. We have also been out in the minibus and recently enjoyed a trip to the park. What a great first term—well done, Paddington Class!



CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY

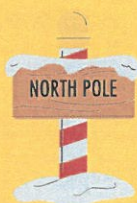
On the 9th December we had Clare and Sophie from Roundhay Evangelical Church come into school to deliver a special Christmas assembly. They brought props and costumes for the children and they really enjoyed getting to participate in the assembly and sing along to the Christmas songs. By the end of the assembly all the staff and children were definitely in the festive spirit!





TIGGER CLASS

Tigger Class have had an amazing first term! We have been working really hard on our communication and interaction skills. We have also particularly enjoyed our science topic on 'Nature', we have had the opportunity to explore lots of different plants and even tried some pumpkin! Tiggers have also engaged well with our sensory stories; our favourite one was 'Tad' where we enjoyed feeling all of the different textured sensory bags. In maths we have been focusing on position and direction, we loved climbing 'in' and 'out' of the big boxes and jumping 'up' and 'down' on the bouncy castle. Well done Tiggers for all your hard work this term!



KID2PLAY

We are fortunate to have a session each week at Soft Play in Seacroft that will continue throughout the year. The group of children that have been accessing this have absolutely loved this experience and get very excited when it is their day to go. This has really helped the children with their balance and coordination as well as support with their sensory regulation needs. We look forward to being able to take more children throughout the year.



BFG CLASS

It has been a busy half term as usual in BFG this half term. We started by continuing our Preparation for Adulthood visits to Tropical World and then to the Community Café. We really enjoyed choosing our own drinks and snacks and we helped sweep up afterwards.

Our topic has been based on robots and we have listened to some fantastic robot stories and made some in DT too. We also learnt some funky robot dances. In music, we have been working with Sophie from YAMSEN. She has been teaching us lots of different Christmas songs in preparation for singing at Pudsey Civic Hall. We have really enjoyed having Jagori in class this half term too, she has been fantastic!



JACK CLARK CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND FAIR

Monday was a wonderful afternoon in school as we celebrated our Christmas Fair and Concert. The children were absolutely amazing, showcasing their incredible talents through singing, dancing and joke telling! It was a lovely way to end the term, with everyone coming together as a community. Thank you too for your generosity, as we managed to raise over £300.00 which will be used to provide enrichment opportunities for the children.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

On Tuesday, all the staff and children enjoyed Christmas Lunch together. Jaz and Anne in the kitchen did a tremendous job with the food, the children decorated their class tables and we all listened to Christmas songs as we ate. The children's exceptional behaviour and communication skills truly amazed us. Adding to the festive joy, we had a surprise visit from Sparkles the Elf and Santa, who handed out gifts to every child courtesy of the PTFA. A huge thank you to Jaz and Anne for their hard work in the kitchen and to the PTFA for arranging the special visit from Sparkles and Santa from the North Pole.





SUPERTATO CLASS

Supertato Class have had a brilliant term. They have particularly enjoyed our literacy stories about robots, especially our recent story called 'Uplugged'. They have loved role-playing robots, as well as building and designing their own robot, from various materials in DT. In maths, they have been learning about various charts. They have become very skilled in reading different types of data. In maths, we have started our topic on money, where the children are beginning to recognise coins and are now beginning to calculate different amounts of coins. In science, they have liked learning about the plant life cycle and experimenting to see whether a bean would grow with no soil. They have also been very interested in learning about light, sound and shadow, and have created their own drum to show vibrations and created their own shadow puppets using torches. In history, we have learnt about past and present toys, and enjoyed playing with wooden yoyos and playing an old fashion paper game called 'Flip the Kipper'. This term, our class have been swimming. They have loved the swimming sessions and have made great progress.

It has been lovely to see the children's confidence grow especially in subjects they find tricky.





December 2024

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT DATES

Please make sure to check the East SILC website for key dates and upcoming events
www.eastsilc.org

Jacquie Beattie East SILC Lead Nurse, 0113 2492431 or 07951290212

Lizzie Jackson 07522214939

Lisa Grimes 07960391238

If you cannot contact a member of the Inclusion Nursing Service please contact

Susan Carr Team Leader
0113 2728644, or the Service Coordinator 07939032661



Leeds Community Healthcare 
NHS Trust

Friday 14th February..... Break up for half term
Monday 24th February..... Return to school
Friday 4th April..... Break up for Easter
Tuesday 22nd April..... Return to school
Friday 2nd May..... Break up for May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 6th May..... Return to school
Friday 23rd May..... Break up for half term
Monday 2nd June..... Return to School
Monday 21st July..... Training Day
Tuesday 22nd July..... Training Day/Break up for summer

