



# East Sheen Primary School

## Headship Headlines December 2020

Another jam-packed term is coming to an end and we are so impressed with how much progress the children have already made. Our School Improvement Partner visited us “virtually” and was very complimentary; she was pleased to hear that we continue to cover the whole curriculum and that intervention programmes were supporting children to catch up after the time missed from school last year. She was also positive about our attendance figures, in spite of two outbreaks of chicken pox! Our remote learning was put to the test when Y2 and then Y6 had to spend some time self-isolating and we thank you for the excellent feedback we received both from parents and from children.

We were unable to enjoy the range of school trips we usually experience, but teachers have used their “green hat” thinking to find ways to bring the curriculum to life. Workshops were delivered in school for Y6 (Egyptians), Y5 (Vikings) Y4 (Sheen in the war years) and Y4 children visited the local air raid shelter while Y3 children were able to visit the Rainforest! Y2 have produced excellent writing inspired by their penguin topic. In fact, the standard of writing throughout the school remains impressive. Y1 have been using their thinking hats during their study of Meerkat Mail and putting their maps to good use, supporting them to write independently.



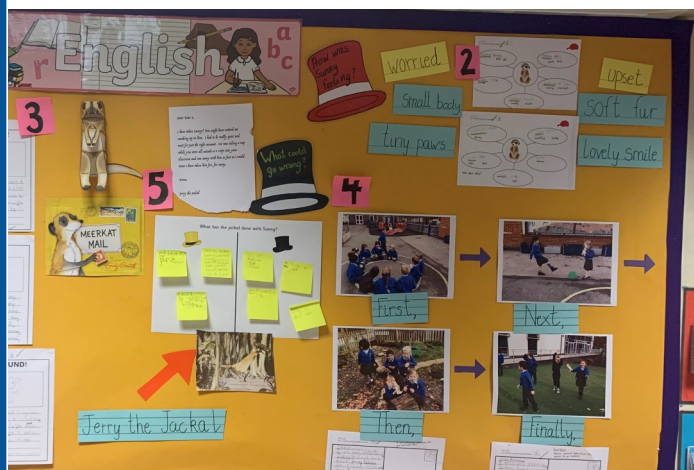
Christmas Hoops!



Y6 Egyptian workshop



Exploring pattern and developing fine motor skills in Reception



### Y1 English

The purposeful and stimulating environment in Reception is also supporting our early writing! We are so proud! At the other end of the school, Y6 have produced stunning pieces as part of their study of Macbeth. Some very gory descriptions of battle scenes together with clear understanding of Macbeth’s dilemmas and struggles with conscience demonstrate their excellent writing skills.





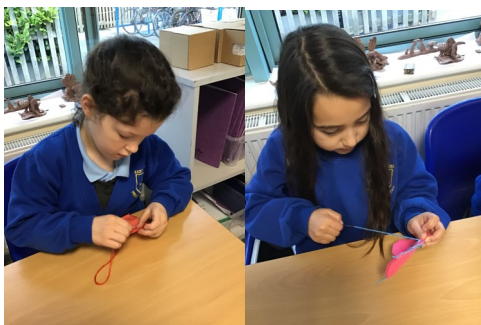
## Having fun-developing gross motor skills and balance!

### CPD

Teachers and support staff have continued with professional development this term. We have once again gained the National Online Safety Certificate for 2020-2021. This involves teachers, support staff and a governor completing several modules and taking a test so that as a staff and school we have very clear understanding of the risks associated with the digital world and how to support children to stay safe online. We also appreciate the wonderful benefits of an online world when it is used safely. We have also benefitted from training in assessment data platforms, precision teaching techniques and have worked in our faculty teams to identify the gaps in learning due to the lockdown and plan a curriculum and interventions to ensure children's learning is secure. We have also given time for detailed assessments so that we can track progress through the year.

### Wellbeing

Wellbeing is always a high priority here and we have tried to support children's positive mental health by creating an atmosphere in school as close to normal as we possibly can in this time of pandemic. We hear lots of laughter and the children are very engaged and busy in their classrooms. We try to make sure all children have opportunities to talk when they need to and we listen and put support in place if necessary. We are sad not to be able to sing as we would wish, especially as Christmas approaches, but we have made our Christmas hoops and decorated the school, have celebrated Christmas jumper day and enjoyed a Christmas lunch and parties. We took part in the national schools' "Santa Dash" and made a Christmas film to share with our families.



Y2 sewing

Staff enjoyed the annual "hoop hanging party" which always marks the start of Christmas in school. We had to celebrate differently, but we managed some small group, socially distanced, face to face fun and connected with everyone remotely through a hilarious quiz about us all! We will end the term with a glass of mulled wine and some distanced carol singing on the astroturf instead of our usual staff Christmas party.

We have missed welcoming our wonderful parents into school, the fairs, the performances to an adoring live audience, the support with readers, cooking, Christmas cards...the list is endless. We know how you have been working behind closed doors to continue to support the school, through quizzes and raffles and pledges. Your huge generosity has also been shown in the incredible response to the gift tree this year and in your offers of help to make food deliveries. We have even seen parents sweeping up the leaves on the pavements outside the school and children being encouraged to litter pick on the way to school! We truly do have a remarkable community and we can't wait for the time when we can all be together again. We will remember never to take the small things that bring us together for granted again and look forward to a liberating 2021.

***We wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!***



Reception road safety

**Y4 use maps to learn about the impact of the war on Sheen**

