

EMPS News

January 2026



Eyres Monsell
Primary School

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for your engagement with our Look in on Learning at the end of last term. It was wonderful to see so many of you there alongside your child seeing what they were learning about last term and also taking part in some of the activities we had going on in the hall. Whilst it's always very busy, for school staff, we really value seeing you in a more relaxed way. Our next **Look in on Learning will be on Friday 27th March from 12pm (with a 1pm optional finish)** but there are plenty of opportunities to come and speak to school staff before then! As it's the National Year of Reading and it's also one of our key School Improvement Priorities, we will be inviting you all in at the end of this half term at **2pm on Friday 13th February** to listen to a class story with your child and take part in some lovely reading activities. We hope to see as many of you there as possible and you enjoy the opportunity to **Read Together, Create Together**.

In **March, it will also be Parents' Evenings**, but will be doing things slightly differently this time around. You can opt for a phone call if you'd prefer not to attend an in-person review, and we are also going to amend the timings slightly on one of the nights so that appointment times fall more during the school day which might help with tricky childcare issues. You are of course welcome to bring your child to your appointment with you! We hope this will support you to attend these important meetings to be able to continue to help your child to make the best possible progress to reach their full potential.

This term are delighted to welcome **Mr. Purkiss** to our school community as our new **School Business Manager**. He brings so much knowledge and will play a key role in supporting the smooth running of the school. If you have already been to the school office this term, you may have met him, but if you have any concerns at all about the affordability of school charges, please do go and visit him to discuss this. We will be reviewing our '**Charges and Remissions Policy**' this term, which details what we are legally able to charge for. This includes meals, care, music lessons and for some resources. Although other charges made are for voluntary payment, (such as for trips or arranging visitors to come into school), without enough contributions, we may have to make the difficult decision to cancel these, or for non-curriculum trips, your child may unfortunately not be able to attend if payment is not made. If this is the case, we will keep you fully informed, and we are also able to set up affordable payment plans to help manage this. If you are worried or struggling to pay for items that are ordered from school such as school dinners, please do speak with any member of the school office or with Mr. Purkiss directly, who will be able to help you further.

The Spring Term is the shortest of all three terms and it really does whizz by so please look carefully at the diary dates on the back page and keep an eye out on Weduc for the most up to date information!

Ms. Williamson

Reading Together, Create Together: Friday 13th February 2-3pm



To help nurture a love of books in every child, we're hosting two events at the end of February half term and May half term, where families can come together, share stories, explore new favourites and create some lovely memories together. Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us for this relaxed and inspiring event, supporting your child as they grow into enthusiastic, curious readers. It's a wonderful chance to connect, read together, and show that stories truly matter.

If you're looking for inspiration for your next read, then our small school library will be open on that day to browse, and there will also be application forms to sign up for a library card that you can use at any library in Leicester city. Check out what's on offer over the half term—we'll keep you posted on Weduc for free activity sessions taking place here.

Parent Mental Health Day—Friday 30th January



Parent Mental Health Day (PMHD), founded by stem4 in 2022, is held each year on **30th January**. The day was created to raise awareness of the vital link between parents' and carers' mental health and the wellbeing of the whole family.

We know that raising children isn't easy, so on that day, we'll be on the playground celebrating each and every one of you by handing out a wellbeing pack as a token of our appreciation for working together with us to help your child flourish at school. You can also get some really helpful advice from the Stem4 website.

School Value for this half term—TEAMWORK



We believe that working together builds a really strong foundation for learning and growing together. Children practice listening, sharing ideas and supporting one another—skills that help them succeed both in and out of the classroom.

Working as a team also builds confidence, strengthens friendships and helps children how to navigate challenges with patience and empathy. By encouraging teamwork at school and home, we help our children to develop the social and emotional tools that they need to thrive.

Curriculum Highlights – A Brighter Tomorrow

This term, our whole-school theme is A Brighter Tomorrow, inspiring learning across Design & Technology, Music, Geography and the wider curriculum.

Design & Technology

Pupils are developing creativity and practical skills through hands-on projects. Year 1 are sewing and making puppets; Years 2, 3 and Branches are exploring mechanisms; Years 4 and 6 are designing and building electrical products; and Year 5 are creating automata with cams and gears. These projects help children build problem-solving skills, teamwork and resilience.

Music

Our new whole-school unit focuses on rhythm. Children are exploring pulse, tempo and pattern through singing, body percussion, instruments and movement. Younger pupils are developing steady beats, while older children are working on more complex rhythmic patterns, building confidence and listening skills.

Geography Fieldwork

Pupils are investigating how to improve our school grounds. Each year group is looking at a different area, including green spaces, play areas, sustainability and accessibility. Year 6 will collate all findings and present their recommendations to our local counsellor and a sustainable building company (GEDA), giving pupils a real voice in shaping their environment.

Reception & Preschool

Reception children are exploring My Community and who helps us, focusing on firefighters and police officers past and present. Preschool are learning about Pets and Food, discovering how to care for animals and what they eat, developing empathy and responsibility.

Year 5 Art – Planet Parade Project

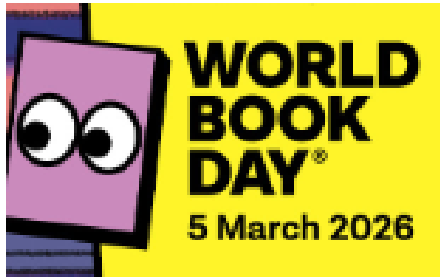
Year 5 are taking part in a special project with the National Space Centre and a professional artist. One of only eight schools selected, they will design a large-scale installation for Leicester's Planet Parade. Pupils will work collaboratively to create a striking piece celebrating space, scale and creativity, representing our school in the wider community.

Parent Partnership Award

Working closely with parents and carers brings a huge amount of value to our school community. When we pull in the same direction, children feel supported, understood, and far more confident in their learning. We are therefore working really hard this year on our parent engagement strategy, and we hope that you'll notice that there are changes being made to make it easier for you to communicate with us and for us to share information with you.

However, we cannot make changes to things if we don't know how they affect you. Please do make sure that you let any member of staff know if you are struggling with anything, so that not only can we support you, but we can then make changes to ensure that they don't affect anyone else either. Thank you so much :)

World Book Day—Thursday 5th March 2026



We just LOVE to celebrate all things reading on WORLD BOOK DAY—and one of our favourite things to do is of course to dress up as characters from our favourite books. It was so wonderful to see so much thought and effort put into creating your character costumes last year; our favourites are definitely those that are put together at home and we love a bit of face paint to bring a character to life!

We want to give you plenty of notice for WBD 2026, and it falls the week after half term, so it's the perfect time to be thinking about your favourite character and hunting for a costume. Our celebrations last year were brilliant fun, and we hope that this years will be just as memorable.

School Governance



It is with much sadness that we say goodbye to Elaine Pantling, who has been an outstanding Chair of Governors for many years, and has steered and steadied the school through some extremely challenging times. Without her phenomenal stewardship, the school would not be in the wonderful position that it is today.

Elaine has been a true champion of the whole community; not just to the pupils, staff and families who attend the school, but of the wider community too. She has been instrumental in leading and managing some exciting changes in the school and we know that she will continue to support the school in her role as Assistant City Mayor for Children and Young People. Elaine has a passion for supporting all of the children of Leicester city, and we can always draw on and count on her excellent advice in times of need—albeit in a different capacity moving forward.

She will remain Chair until the end of this month, and after this, our current Vice Chair of Governors, Ed Carlyle, will succeed her on a temporary basis until the next Full Governing Body meeting where a vote will take place for the permanent position. I'm sure all of the many families that she has supported during her time as Chair of the school will be thankful for her presence that often goes above and beyond the call of duty.

From all of us at Eyres Monsell Primary School—we thank you.

Spring Half Term 1

Diary Dates



Please see the important diary dates below. As we know, things sometimes change due to unforeseen circumstances, and we will do our best to give you as much notice as possible about any upcoming changes.

Date	Event
Tuesday 6th January	Spring 1 begins Y6 Brilliant Club launch
Monday 12th January	Y4-6 Young Voices Concert—BP Pulse Live
Friday 16th January	Branches Class Assembly
Friday 23rd January	2EH Class Assembly
Monday 26th January	Reception & Y6 Height and Weight Checks
Wednesday 28th January	Basketball team event—English Martyrs School
Friday 30th January	Parent Mental Health Day 4SB Class Assembly
Thursday 5th February	Y3-6 Cross Country Qualifiers (Victoria Park)
Friday 6th February	5RD Class Assembly
Monday 9th February	Y4 Trip—Leicester University Maths Workshop at the Botanic Gardens
Wednesday 11th February	Y6 Workshop—Glenfield Hospital visitor
Friday 13th February	2-3pm Reading Workshop End of Spring 1
Monday 23rd February	Spring 2 begins