

March 2022

Welcome to our March newsletter.

We are sure that you are all aware of the very worrying situation in Ukraine at the moment, and although the children in our school are too young to understand or even to mention this topic, we thought that it is worthwhile to open up the conversation with our parents in the event that it is brought up and you weren't sure how to tackle the conversation. Children pick up on things in the most likely (and unlikely places) and you may not know how to respond. Our staff will respond to any difficult conversation with sensitivity and compassion and we were keen to provide you with some materials that are helpful for our teams and also for you at home. Even if these resources don't feel particularly suitable at the moment, they might feel more useful as your child gets older.

We realise that we may have families with friends and relatives in the areas impacted by this conflict, and we would like to offer our support to you. Please do reach out to us at school and let us know if there is anything that we can do to support. We are also very mindful that there may be negative sentiment against Russia at this time, however at Rebecca Cheetham we are clear that this is the actions of the government and does not represent the views or opinions of all Russian citizens.

We want to protect children's innocence and we wouldn't encourage you to bring up distressing topics they are unaware of, rather these resources are beneficial if the topic is raised.

<https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/how-to-explain-conflict-ukraine-to-children>

<https://www.barnardos.ie/media/14835/talking-to-children-about-war.pdf>

The following article deals with the somber topic of supporting children through illness, grief and bereavement.

https://www.family.co/blog/support-children-illness-grief?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ukie-newsletter-page-view&utm_content=module-1.1&utm_term=version-a

Queen Elizabeth celebrates her Platinum Jubilee, signifying 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth. The momentous event is signified with a four day bank holiday weekend, which coincides with the June half term break. As such, schools in the United Kingdom were asked to close on a day during term time. We have chosen the date of **Tuesday 19th April 2022** as the closure date to children. The nursery school will be closed to all Government funded children (AM / PM children and 30 hour children) on this day. If you are unsure if this applies to your child, you can speak to the front office team to verify.

Nursery Opening Times

Extended day
8:00am to 5:00pm
Or
8:00am to 6:00pm

30 Hours
8:45am—2:45pm

Morning place
8:45am to 11:45pm

Afternoon place
12:45pm to 3:45pm

Charges apply for late
collections.

We will be holding our next **Parent Forum Workshop** and the topic is entitled, **Meaningful Maths**. This will be a session designed to support you in helping your child to develop their mathematical skills. We would love to see as many of you as possible in attendance online. We will also record the session in the event that you cannot make it on the date and times offered. The date is set for **Tuesday 15th March 2022** and the sessions will run at both **10am** and **2pm**.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we would love to have one of our parents/carers represent as one of our **Wellbeing Champions**. We take wellbeing very seriously at Rebecca Cheetham Nursery and Children's Centre and our aims are to support our children, staff and our wonderful families. If you are interested in joining the Rebecca Cheetham Wellbeing Change Team, then please send an email to Mandy via info@rebeccacheetham.newham.sch.uk identifying that you would like to be considered to be part of the change team. We look forward to having you join us.

We have put together an updated risk assessment in relation to how we operate with **COVID-19** still in our midst. Whilst the lawful government restrictions might have been relaxed we still need to act cautiously and be mindful that the virus still has potential to spread and cause child and staff absences. We have tried to ensure that we are mindful of the ease of restrictions but still maintain a degree of control to try and curb the virus potentially halting our workforce due to illness. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

We will be holding a **Prospective Student Open Morning** on **Friday 24th June 2022** for prospective new children to our nursery and we would very much appreciate it if you could help to spread the word. If you know anyone looking for a nursery place for their child for September, please send them our way. The Open Morning will have three one hour slots at 9am, 10am and 11am.

In the afternoon of the **24th June** (which is a whole school closure day) we will be welcoming **Booster Cushion Theatre** to perform for children in one of three slots and we would love to invite children to attend with one of their parents/carers or significant adults so you can enjoy the performance together. It should be a really great show and we are excited to be welcoming parents/carers back on site. Further details to follow but I just wanted to share the date so you can add it to your diaries.

We have been asked if we would circulate a flyer for an upcoming "run by volunteers" event organised by LoveLondonE15, the Willis Road Play Street. Please see details provided to the right of this page.

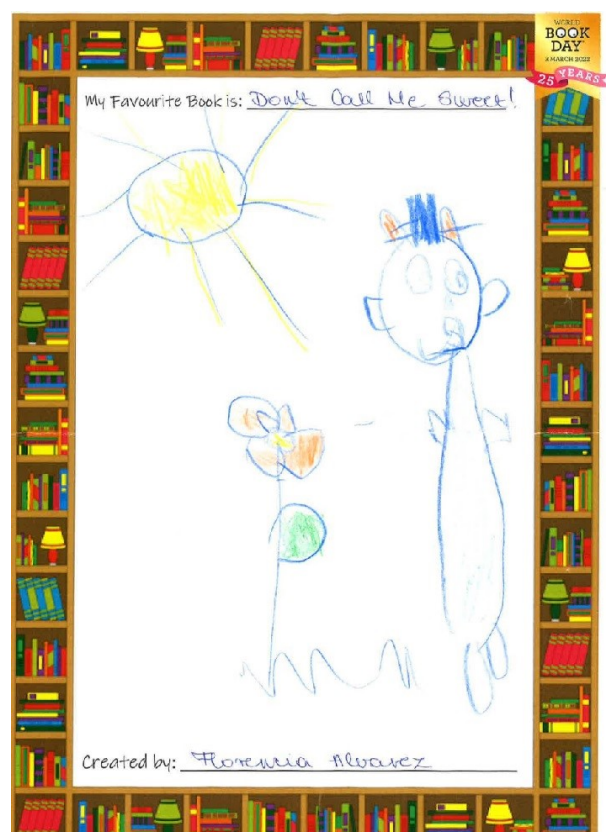
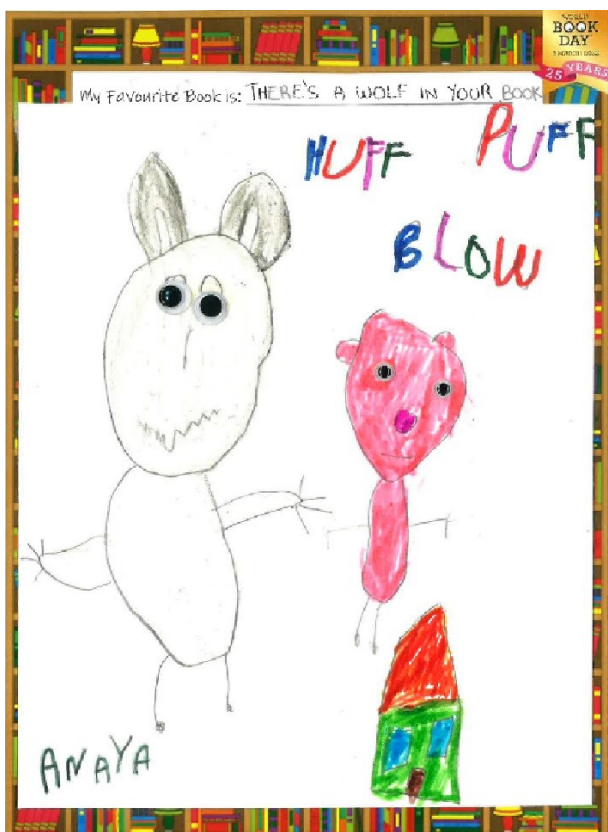
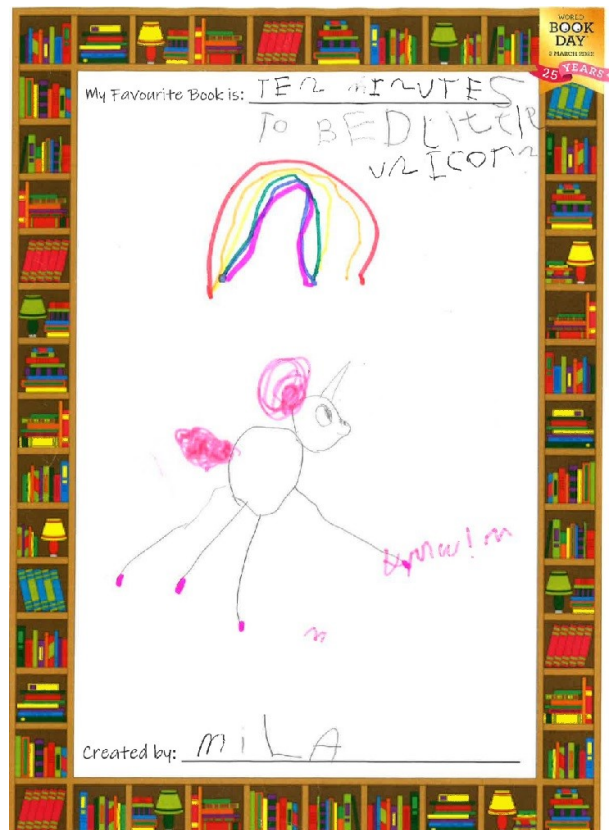
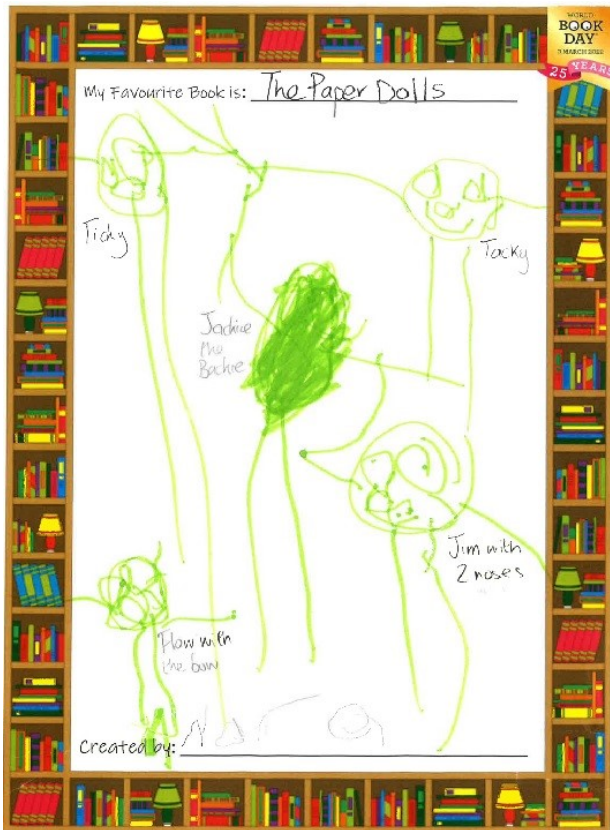
Wishing you a wonderful March!

From Rohan and the team at Rebecca Cheetham.



WORLD BOOK DAY 2022

It has been so lovely to see the fantastic pictures the children have created at home and we hope this gave you an opportunity to talk about books with your child. As always, we are very happy to be able to offer our children a book to take home and keep for themselves for their efforts. If you haven't brought back the handout, we will still accept them and still honour the gift of a free book.



Who is McKee?

David McKee is the creator of several well-known characters including King Rollo and Mr Benn. His most famous creation is Elmer the Patchwork Elephant which is now published in more than 50 languages and recently celebrated the 30th anniversary since the first book was published.

David McKee was born in Devon and went to Plymouth Art College, where he had a traditional training. On leaving college he drew regularly for, among others, *Punch*, *Reader's Digest*, and *The Times Educational Supplement*. His drawings were influenced especially by Saul Steinberg and Andre Francois.

I'm sure you all know who Elmer is but you might want to try out some other titles as well.

Elmer (there is a whole series of books)

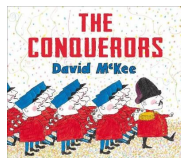
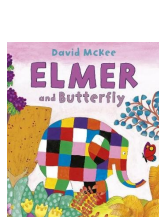
The Extraordinary Adventures of Mr Benn

The Conquerors (deep and thought provoking)

Not Now, Bernard

Melric and the Sorcerer

Two Can Toucan



The Colour Monster

We use books to open up a world of learning for our children. The core books we use relate to children's interests and we feed that through the breadth of activities we offer within the provision. We also think that using books as the base for our learning helps children love reading on a deeper level which we hope they will keep with them throughout their education.

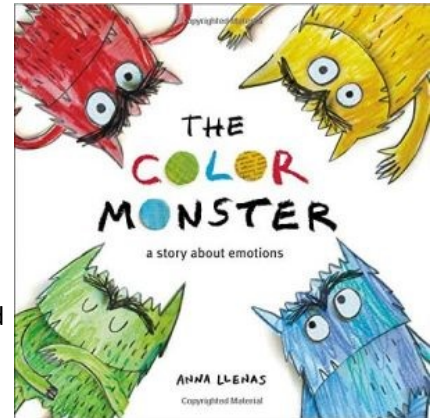
This month's book of the month is **The Colour Monster** by Anna Llenas and we knew we had to celebrate this book in the nursery because talking about feelings and emotions is a skill we need to grow and develop. Sometimes,

as adults we find it difficult to articulate our feelings, so you can imagine how it must be for our little ones.

This book perfectly offers children an insight into their feelings and emotions, naming their feelings and giving an example of what it might feel like. The thing I love about the book is the fact that Anna Llenas normalises the emotions; none are good or bad, they are just a different way to feel.

Emotional literacy also helps with your child's self awareness and self esteem, so books like this really help give adults a starting point to talk about emotions.

It's okay to feel sad and it's okay to cry, just as much as it's okay to feel happy. And to end, boys get sad too, don't tell your boys to stop crying; let all children feel their emotions and get it out!



Here is a link to a Youtube reading of the book that you can share with your children and also use to get a better understanding of ways you can talk to your children about feelings and emotions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IY6d1jyvmVg> It's a great starting point alongside the activities we have compiled for you in our Book handout: <https://www.rebeccacheetham.newham.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=513&type=pdf>

IMPORTANT DATES

Parent Forum (Meaningful Maths) - Tuesday 15th March 2022 10am and 2pm

Parent Consultations—W/C: 28th March 2022

Easter End-of-term Break—Monday 4th April 2022—Monday 18th April 2022 (Government Funded school closure)

Good Friday Bank Holiday—Friday 15th April 2022 (whole school closure)

Easter Monday Bank Holiday—Monday 18th April 2022 (whole school closure)

Additional holiday for Government Funded children (school closed) - Tuesday 19th April 2022

Early May Bank Holiday—Monday 2nd May 2022

Summer Half Term Break—30th May—3rd June 2022 (Government funded closure)

May Bank Holiday and Platinum Jubilee—Thurs 2nd June and Friday 3rd June 2022

INSET day / Whole school & Children's Centre Closure—Friday 24th June 2022

Prospective Students Open Morning—Friday 24th June 2022—whole school closure

Booster Cushion Theatre—Friday 24th June 2022—afternoon (details to be confirmed)

Don't forget to check your Childcare Choices account to ensure you have re-registered your child's 30 hour funding for next term.