

BULLETIN

Sept, 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Head Teacher Update

First of all I hope everyone had a lovely summer and is looking forward to the new academic year at Engage. An extra welcome to all our new parents, carers and pupils. I know that starting a new school is both exciting and worrying but hopefully everyone will soon settle and enjoy coming to Engage. As always please communicate with staff if ever you are worried about anything. All the staff are experienced and ready to help and support.

Autumn term is always a lovely term with fresh starts for everyone. I am already hearing of trips planned and special visitors coming to school. Our first parent event of the year is on Thursday 25th September at 1.00- 2.30. You will be invited into your child's class and some special activities will be planned for you and your child. This will give you chance to meet with the class staff group and other parents/ carers. Our parent events are always a fun filled time. I shall look forward to seeing you all at this event.



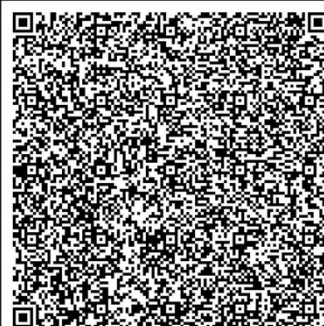
Dates
for your
diary

25/9 Coffee
Afternoon
1pm



ETHOS
ACADEMY TRUST

Nurturing inclusive learning communities



Scan this QR code to make
a donation directly to my
Coffee Morning

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



Simply scan the QR
code to sign up!

We have introduced a program in school called myHappyMind. myHappyMind is all based around helping children to understand how their brain works and to support them in developing positive skills and habits to be their very best selves!

To further embed this learning, myHappyMind has developed a Parent App. These resources can be accessed online on your computer, or through an app on your phone. The Parent App will support you as a parent in understanding what your child is learning, activities for you to do together at home and also a Kids Zone featuring myHappyMind Games plus much more!

[Click here](#) for more information about this half terms topic – Meet Your Brain!

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Leading Parent
Partnership Award



2021–2024

Dolphins Class

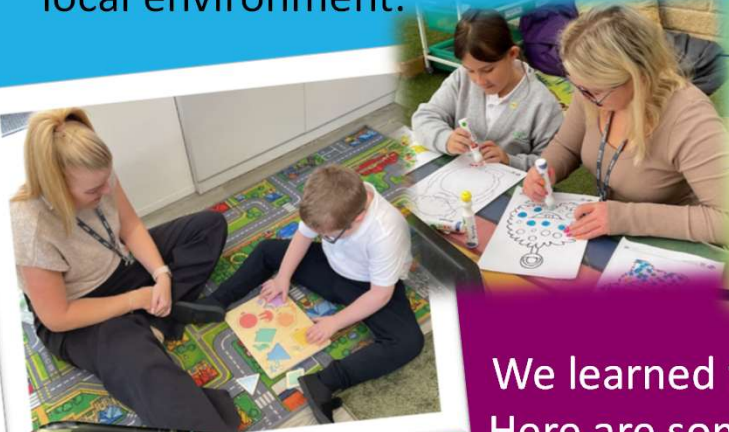
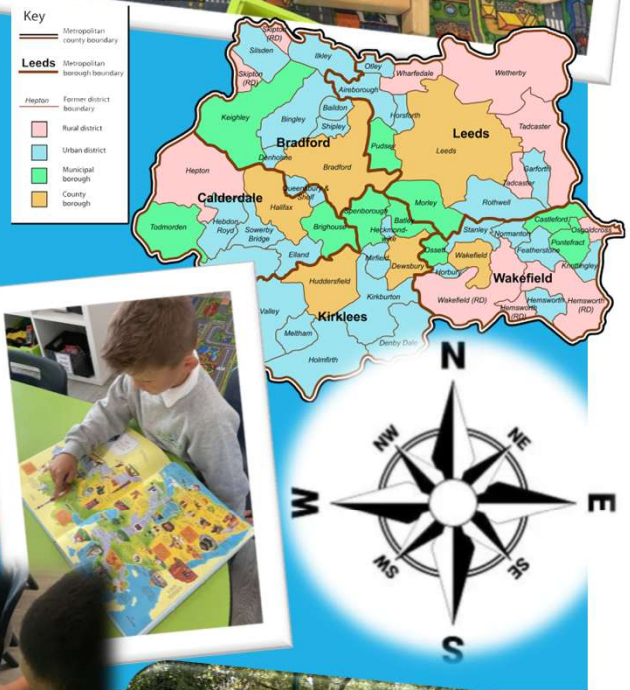
Coming up this half term....



Dolphins will be diving into a topic all about identity and community. They'll be exploring *The Colour Monster* to help them understand and name their emotions, while also learning more about who they are, what they enjoy, and what they find challenging.

Some where to settle...

We'll be investigating the area around our school—discovering both its physical features and man-made elements. Through local walks and observational activities, children will explore how the land is used and begin creating their own maps. As part of this, they will be developing key map skills such as using symbols, understanding direction, and recognising landmarks. By the end of the term, they'll be full of creative ideas for how we can improve and care for our local environment.



We learned though play. Here are some photos of what have we been up to!



A Warm Welcome from Penguins Class

Mrs Warrilow and Miss Thompsen are so excited to be your teachers this year. Miss Thompson loves writing and enjoys creating exciting stories. She is looking forward to what places our imagination can take us.

Mrs Warrilow loves reading and her favourite part of the school day is "snack and story" where we all enjoy a story together before rating it out of ten! We wonder what our favourite books will be this year?

Below is a table to show which adults will be working in your class on each day. Please use the class mobile for any communication during the school day

Monday	Miss Thompson Mr Henry, Mrs Gilbert and Miss Sharpe
Tuesday	Miss Thompson Mr Henry, Mrs Gilbert and Miss Sharpe
Wednesday	Miss Thompson & Mr Davies (PE) Mr Henry, Mrs Gilbert and Miss Sharpe
Thursday	Mrs Warrilow Mr Henry, Mrs Gilbert and Miss Sharpe
Friday	Mrs Warrilow Mr Henry, Mrs Gilbert and Miss Sharpe



Where Am I?

This half term, Penguins will be sharing all about themselves, their likes, dislikes and naming emotions. We will also look at the local area around our school. We will look at the physical and human geography of our local area, conduct walks and learning enquiries to find out about the land use around school and create our own maps. We will even come up with ideas to make our local area even better!

Whales Class

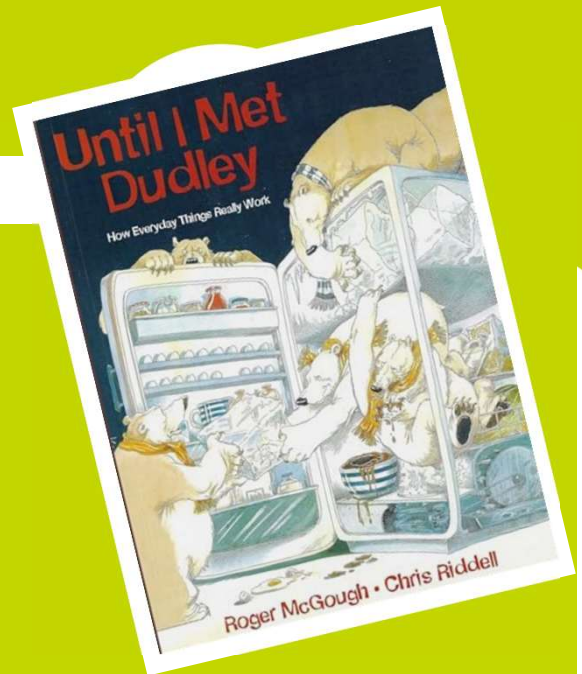
Until I Met Dudley.....

Our new topic this half term is 'Until I Met Dudley! We will be looking at different inventors and scientists and how they changed the world.

We will also be writing explanations about how different things work. For example, do you know how a toaster works?

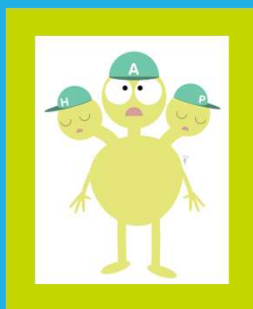
Finally, we will be taking a trip the Science and Media museum to explore more inventions and scientific concepts.

A very busy term ahead!



This half term Whales will be part of a Green Innovators project. It is a sustainability project where the children will be working alongside people from industry to explore and understand jobs linked to sustainability and green initiatives. We will be welcoming you to see our final projects on October the 17th. Keep the date free!

My Happy Mind



My Happy Mind is a new program that we will be using in Whales to promote positive well being.

In the first half term we will be completing a module called 'Meet your Brain'. The children will learn about the parts of the brain and how feelings can impact the decisions they make.

They will also start to look at strategies they can use to keep their mind happy and healthy.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an adviser to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories>

Safeguarding at Engage Academy

If you are worried or have any concerns then please talk to a member of the safeguarding team.

We all share a responsibility for our pupils' safety and wellbeing.
Whatever your concern may be, there will be someone who is happy to help you.

If you have a concern about a staff member, please see the Head Teacher, DSL or a DDSL. Contact 01924 476449.

Safeguarding at Engage Academy

If you are worried or have any concerns then please talk to a member of the safeguarding team.



Head Teacher

Alison Ward



Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Adam Davies



Deputy DSL

Dan Petts



Deputy DSL

Leon Henry

If there is anything that you need to speak to staff about then please contact your class mobile phone number:

Dolphins: 07803 508257

Whales: 07803 508273

Penguins: 07803 508277