



# EDGE NEWS



@EdgeGrove



Edge Grove

Monday 10th June 2019

Dear Parents

It is sometimes easy to overlook the strong and important links we have established with our local community over the last few years, but there were lots of reminders of these at yesterday's Radlett Festival. As part of my Aldenham Parish councillor duties, I am on the organising committee of this hugely popular annual event which regularly attracts over 4,000 visitors and I was very proud that at this year's festival, the pupils and staff of Edge Grove played such an important role in the proceedings. The Eco Committee members certainly led by example by taking responsibility for all the recycling which in previous years has all gone to landfill. They worked tirelessly all day collecting any waste which could be recycled and encouraging people to think about their recycling habits. This also involved going through the waste bins and fishing out any rogue drinks cans and plastic bottles; not the most pleasant of tasks! Meanwhile, Alex and her team of staff helpers were spreading the word about the role the school is playing as a community recycling hub for latex gloves, crisp packets, dental products and pet food pouches attracting quite a lot of interest. In addition to recycling, Miss Evans and Mrs Mellini flew the flag for the art department by running the very popular craft marquee and Mrs O'Sullivan, the school nurse, provided first aid for the whole event. My huge thanks to Team Edge Grove and for everyone who came to support the event!

There is so much happening in and out of school at the moment, and for the next four weeks, that it is quite a struggle to keep up. The last Common Entrance exam was sat on Friday and our Harrow and Eton CE contingent has now rejoined the Baccalaureate Challenge groups for three weeks comprising enrichment, life skills and much excitement, all leading up to the Baccalaureate Cup which will be presented on Speech Day. My thanks to our parents who have presented in the Careers Morning today and shared with our year 8 pupils some fascinating future career choices. Pupils are participating in the London Area athletics at Eton College and the week continues in this vein with Expedition Week briefings later today, year 7 Baccalaureate presentations tomorrow, the Baccalaureate Conference, *The Environment and Me* on Thursday and the Friends of Edge Grove Summer Fete on Saturday from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Blink and you might miss something, so please keep a close eye on the Information Letter and calendar, not forgetting formal winter uniform tomorrow for the biennial whole school photograph.

## CALENDAR

*For fixture information see the Information Letter*

### Tuesday 11th June

Whole School Photo, am - formal winter uniform  
 Year 8 Theatre Trip 'Woman in Black', 1.30pm - formal uniform  
 Year 3 Downe House dance workshops, Theatre, 1.30pm  
 Year 7 Baccalaureate Presentations to parents, Theatre, 6.00pm

### Wednesday 12th June

Year 3 Mathematics Challenge, Pre Prep Hall, 9.15am  
 Year 3 and 4, RNLI safety talk  
 Boys' Cricket v Aldenham  
 Boys' Cricket v St Columba's College  
 Girls' Cricket v Kingshott  
 Girls' Cricket v Heath Mount

### Thursday 13th June

Year 8 Baccalaureate Conference, parents are invited, Theatre, 10.30am-12.30pm  
 Haileybury STEM Challenge, Year 5 and 6, by invitation  
 Boys' Cricket v Lochinver House

### Friday 14th June

1 Larch Form Assembly, Pre Prep Hall, 8.45am  
 U12 Boys' Aldenham Cricket Festival

### Saturday 15th June

Friends of Edge Grove Summer Fete, 11.00am-3.00pm  
 ABRSM Theory Exam, Theatre, 10.00am  
 National Swimming Finals

### Sunday 16th June

### Monday 17th June

Year 8 Baccalaureate Challenge  
 Year 4 and 5 coffee morning, North Dormitory, 8.30am  
 U12 Cricket Festival at St Albans

As I mentioned in assembly this morning, today is the start of Empathy Week which will be a focus for all pupils across the school. Children and teenagers naturally have the capacity for empathy, but that does not mean they develop it on their own. They learn to notice, listen and care by watching and listening and take cues from those around them about why empathy is important.

Young people who are able to show empathy are able to understand and work with others, a skill that doesn't necessarily take a lot of work to build, but does take attention and commitment. Helping children to develop a strong sense of empathy, the ability to understand and share the feelings of another, helps relationship building, encourages tolerance and acceptance of others and is becoming more important than ever to help them connect meaningfully with the world about them.

Kindness is such an important aspect of daily life at Edge Grove and also plays a major part in showing empathy. When we can pay attention and try to understand someone else's experience or emotions we tend to act upon it, but encouraging children to be kind has much more impact than just being helpful; research shows that kindness can have positive effects on health, self-esteem and even happiness and a sense of wellbeing.

To support the development of empathy in children and this essential life skill we have purchased 37 new books for the school library suitable for Pre Prep through to year 8. Further details available elsewhere in the newsletter. Please talk to your children about empathy and don't hesitate to contact Mrs Sharp, Dr Letters or anyone at school to discuss our initiative further.

Best wishes

Ben Evans

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## EDGE GROVE EMPATHY WEEK

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Monday 10th - Friday 14th June 2019

This week is **Edge Grove Empathy Week!** Empathy is a social and emotional skill that aids the understanding and sharing of the feelings of another. It is a skill we can learn and develop at every stage in life. As they grow, children's emotions become more complicated. Stories provide a great opportunity for children to identify with characters and connect with their thoughts, feelings and viewpoints, thereby building empathy skills as they read. The role of reading in supporting the development of empathy in children is supported by new research. Empathy Lab is promoting a National Empathy Day on Tuesday 11th June to highlight the link between books and empathy. They have drawn up a list of newly published books which support the development of this essential skill. We are pleased to announce that 37 books from the recommended reading list at <https://www.empathylab.uk/> have been purchased for the library, available on a reference basis until the end of term. They will form part of the library offering in September and will help to support the Flourish programme. There are books suitable for Pre Prep through to Year 8.



Here are some Top Tips from Empathy Lab on how you can encourage empathy at home with your children...

**Family sharing:** Sharing books as a family builds empathy, especially when you choose books which help children understand different lives.

**Empathy in action:** Research shows that empathy plays a big role in our hunger for social justice. Look for books with themes that inspire children to become social activists.

**Focus on characters:** Try focusing on the characters more than the plot. Ask gentle questions about the characters' feelings.

**Take reflective time:** Try to give children reflective time - listen carefully as they explore what they've learnt from the book, about themselves and other people.

**Ask great questions:** Ask questions that open up a deep dialogue and treat children as equals—'Which character interested you most? 'How do you think the character felt?'

**Help recognise feelings:** Help children recognise and name feelings. As you talk, pick up on new words and share what they mean, e.g. "I'm wondering how Cyril felt when he had to play alone without Pat?" (*Cyril and Pat*, by Emily Gravett)

# Pre Prep News

Gill Emmerson

Head of Pre Prep

This week we took up the 30 Days Wild challenge, aiming to do something wild outdoors every day throughout the month of June - perhaps parents could keep things going over the weekends too! Reception went wild in the National Trust's Ashridge Estate on Friday. We embarked on a very successful mini beast hunt, returning every creature to its natural habitat after we counted and described what we had discovered. In the classroom, Reception were learning how to double and halve numbers. They also continue to very much enjoy the pirate theme, sharing wonderful stories such as *The Pirate Next Door* and creating adventures of their own. Algorithms were a recurring theme and classes of all ages were programming mini robots to follow trails and learning that a machine will only do what it is told to do.



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# RACE FOR LIFE PRETTY MUDDY 5K

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Saturday 8th June

Well done to all our Year 2 pupils who took part in the Cancer Research UK Race For Life Pretty Muddy 5k on Saturday. Thankfully despite heavy rain overnight and in the morning, the clouds parted just in time for the race. The children all had a fantastic time and feel very happy to have been part of something so special. Henry even came third overall! Along with the Pop Up Tuck Shop on Friday, they raised £5,000 for Cancer Research UK. What a fantastic achievement!



# Lower School News

Samantha Robinson

Head of Lower School

## Year 3

What an exciting week with a wonderful trip to the Hare Krishna Temple, or Bhaktivedanta Manor, to deepen our knowledge on the Hindu religion. The children learnt so much more about the religion; rode on a cart pulled by oxen, dressed up as Hindu gods and goddesses and met some very kind people who work there. We thought this trip would be unsurpassable but on Friday, a wet and windy day, we went to Hazard Alley where the children learnt so much about how to keep themselves and others safe in many situations. They made emergency 999 calls where they asked for specific emergency services, gave the location of the accident and took information from the call centre to relay to the people at the scene of the accident. They all learnt about the three OUTS in a fire situation - get out, call the fire brigade out, stay out. They all learnt about the three OUTS in a fire situation - get out, call the fire brigade out, stay out. Some very sound knowledge for us all.



## Year 4

Year 4's highlight of the week was without doubt the final part of our 1066 Topic, the trip to Windsor Castle. 59 very excited children set off to explore the oldest lived in castle in the world, originally built by William the Conqueror and where Prince Harry and Megan got married - what could be more exciting than that? No one was disappointed. The children walked past all the queues, through security and quick marched across the grounds in time to see the Changing of the Guard which only happens on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. During our booked session, which took place in The State Apartments, they were taught about life training to be a Knight. At the end, Year 4 were all knighted and so be aware that we have a year group of Sirs and Ladies! There was so much to see that the time to leave came all too soon but as we left Windsor the heavens opened.



# Middle School News

Kate McManus

Head of Middle School

In Maths, 5 Red maths have been looking at time and distance through the context of athletics. The children designed a Google sheet to record their results on and used formula to create averages. The children did a variety of events including track and field events.

In French, Year 5 have enjoyed once again replying to their French penfriends. They were very excited to read the letters sent by our penpals and they used their creativity as well as their linguistic skills to write interesting and colourful letters. Year 6 have been learning how to describe where they live and the different rooms in the house. They will move on to using positional prepositions in order to be able to say where different items are in the house.

In Art, Year 5 are learning about Aboriginal artwork and the animals that are indigenous to Australia. They are now starting on their final piece which they are enjoying thoroughly. It's not often one paints with a cotton bud Year 6 are learning about the human form and have been surprised to find out that our legs are roughly half the length of our full height and our arms are almost as long as our legs. Their final pieces will be based on the art movement Futurism, which came out of Italy in the early 1900s.

In RS, the Year 5 children have been investigating the story of David and Goliath, focussing on how David's belief in God equipped him with the weapons to win the battle. We also discussed the theme of equality and the similarities and differences of the two biblical characters. The Year 6 pupils have been researching Buddhism, designing timelines and detailing key events in the history of this fascinating religion.

In Technology in Year 5, the children have finished their Shibori practice swatches and have designed their t-shirts. Next week they will be dyeing their t-shirts and after that, bunting will be made from the practice swatches. In Year 6, the children are well on their way to completing their felt slippers. Some children have already sewn their uppers to their soles and are thinking about ways in which they can embellish their slippers.



# Upper School News

Anna Warren

Head of Upper School

## Baccalaureate Assessments

### Textiles:

Pupils have been learning how to do lino printing following a design of their choice. The process involves an initial design which is then traced onto lino and carved. The carved lino is then coated with printing ink which is then pressed onto paper. The children have also been learning the technique of African batik. Batik is created by drawing an image in hot wax onto fabric before adding fabric dyes. The wax is then ironed off.

### PE:

For the Baccalaureate award in PE this year the Year 8s were assessed on their ability to plan and perform a five week Personal Exercise Programme. This involved selecting a sport they perform in, evaluating their strengths and weaknesses in that sport based on health and skill related components of fitness, and then setting themselves a SMART target that they want to achieve in the next five weeks. They then designed method of training that they thought would help them achieve their target and planned a training programme based on this. They carried this out on a weekly basis, completing a training diary to ensure they made progress each week. After the programme they then evaluated their progress.

### Spanish:

To round off the Spanish Baccalaureate Challenge year 8 pupils sat a reading and writing paper. This challenge proved to be a real motivator and there were some impressive results! The pupils have been amazing, showing determination and the ability to use their knowledge of French and Latin to help them to deduce the meaning of short texts in Spanish. As a 'fun' final lesson, I challenged them to tackle a GCSE Spanish reading paper. They amazed themselves with what they could understand and puzzle out after just 8 weeks of Spanish! I am also delighted to learn that some pupils will be taking up Spanish at their senior school ¡Fenomenal!

### Creative Arts:

The Baccalaureate pupils who are studying visual art this term have been working on their own artworks. The children are following their individualised projects and using a variety of media including oils, acrylics, watercolour, ink and pencil.

### Science:

Year 8 pupils have been working hard on their final science Baccalaureate projects. They were assigned the task of investigating environmental issues related to the use of fossil fuels. From this, they researched alternative energy sources to power a house and ways to reduce energy wastage within a home. Ultimately they designed their own eco friendly houses and created models. This week they have drawn the projects together by presenting their research and models.

### History:

The group had to choose one era of their study, for example the Greeks, and show how medicine was viewed, how it developed and the positives and negatives of what they did. Religion and superstition could also be incorporated. This formed 20% of their assessment.





### Sports News

Follow Edge Grove Sport on Twitter  
[@EdgeGroveSport](https://twitter.com/EdgeGroveSport)

[Click for match reports](#)



### Academic Commendations, Commendations and Golden Moments for the 24th May-6th June

[Click for more details](#)



### MUSIC

Music lesson timetables will be updated on FireFly on Friday afternoons.

[Click for music lesson timetables](#)

## BOARDING OUTDOOR ACTIVITY EVENING

We all enjoyed a great outdoor evening on Friday. Luckily we just missed the showers and the children were able to make dens, whittling wood, bows and arrows and then finished off with marshmallows on the fire. Thank you to all children who have joined us on our Friday evening Activity nights this term and we look forward to welcoming some new faces in the next academic year! Please email Miss Hughes on [NHughes@edgegrove.com](mailto:NHughes@edgegrove.com) for more information.



### CRICKET

Well done to Emily in her recent cricket success! Here she is with the match ball from her recent cricket match for Radlett Girls Team in which she scored an impressive 53 runs off 17 balls against Berkhamsted Girls Cricket club, including five 6's. She then went on to take 3 wickets helping Radlett to a convincing victory. Congratulations!



Well done to Jimi A, Jensen, Leke and Lewis who sat their Common Entrance exams last week. Here they are enjoying a well deserved hot chocolate and following their exams!

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# RADLETT FESTIVAL

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Sunday 9th June

Thank you to everyone who helped out at the Radlett Festival on Sunday. It was a real team effort providing recycling services, First Aid support and crafts activities. Once again, it was great to see the Edge Grove community spirit in action!



# 'EDGE GROWS' GARDENING CLUB

Mr Rodwell-Davies

It's been a busy few months in the polytunnel!...Back in February, we ordered some seed potatoes from Aylett nurseries and set them to chit (sprout) in the window of the music room. After about four weeks, the potatoes had developed strong chits (sprouts) and we buried them in soil in the polytunnel.

At first nothing happened, and as days turned into weeks we kept close watch on the dark soil hoping for the first tell-tale signs of life: but nothing. Almost a month passed before we saw green shoots poking out of the soil. Once the shoots were in the light they grew quickly and we had to make sure they were watered regularly. When the shoots had reached around thirty centimetres tall we needed to earth them up (pulling soil up around the stems).

This is essential to encourage a larger crop of potatoes and to keep them away from the light. Potatoes that are in contact with the light turn green and are poisonous!

This variety is called 'first early red Duke of York'. It is a quickly maturing potato with red skin and superb flavour with pale yellow

flesh. Especially good as an early salad or boiling potato.



We also planted lettuce seeds into the polytunnel at the end of March and have been watering them ever since. At first we didn't see much in the way of growth but as the days have lengthed they almost seem to grow before your eyes! Lettuce is a very healthy vegetable and you can eat the stems and leaves. The Romans and Egyptians were among the first people to eat wild lettuce and Christopher Columbus took the seeds to the New World (America).

It has been a very easy crop to grow and you get hundreds of seeds in a packet; making it a very good value crop to grow. In the shops packaged lettuce is very expensive and much of it contributes to plastic waste. Growing your own helps cut down on unnecessary packaging. As we grew these lettuce at school we have not used any fuel to transport them here. This means that the carbon footprint of the lettuce we grow is much smaller than that of the lettuce in the shops.

We also started sowing peas at the end of February and the beginning of March. At first we thought that the peas were not germinating, but then we realised that in fact there were mice living in the polytunnel who were eating them all! We came up with lots of methods to germinate the peas where the mice would not be able to reach them, including; in a covered propagator, a box with a lid and sown in lengths of guttering hung from the roof of the polytunnel.

Once the peas were about ten centimetres tall we planted them into the raised beds and added branches for them to grow up. We also covered them with netting as they are a favourite with pigeons.





**FRIENDS** OF  
EDGE  GROVE

## Business Directory

The FoEG is in early stages of setting up a business directory on the FoEG website. The plan is to allowing Edge Grove parent business owners and local businesses to list their products and services and to offer exclusive discounts to the Edge Grove community.

Discounts offered to Edge Grove families can be in the form of printable vouchers or online codes. This could be an on-going 10% off voucher, limited time offer, limited product offer and so on.

The goal is to build on the great existing Edge Grove community by:

- supporting Edge Grove family business owners
- supporting local businesses
- offering valuable discounts to Edge Grove families.

This is in early stages of development and we welcome your comments and ideas.

If you are interested in being listed on the business directory, please register your interest with us, so we can update you on the latest developments. See website link below.

[www.foeg.co.uk/directory-contact](http://www.foeg.co.uk/directory-contact)

# SUMMER Cookery Camp



## Edge Grove School

We are have lots of new and exciting recipes for budding young cooks.

Each day is different so join us for one day, two days,  
three days...or more!

23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> August

- Fun with Food holiday activity from 9.30am - 3.30pm (extended hours option available)
  - Baking and Decorating
    - Basic Knife skills
  - Combing Herbs and Spices
- Cookery Day for children from 7 - 13yrs
- £65 per child, per day – child care vouchers accepted

To book a place, go to our website [www.how2boilwater.com](http://www.how2boilwater.com)

or email [bookings@how2boilwater.com](mailto:bookings@how2boilwater.com)



# The Spire Bushey 10k, 5k & Junior Races

## 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019



*Time to get the younger generation fired up and ready to run!*

The Spire Bushey Junior Races will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> July at Queen's School, Bushey. This event is a great opportunity to get local schoolchildren to run together and have fun – we regularly have over 250 children from many schools around the area running on the day.

We would love to inspire youngsters to get involved by asking as many schools as possible to encourage their children to join in the fun.

Held on the same day as the Spire Bushey 5k & 10k, the Junior Races are held at 12pm, after the adult's race, giving parents the opportunity to watch their children run.

The overall atmosphere is fantastic and the Junior Races create by far the most excitement of the day!

We cater for all ages and offer different distances, suitable for each age group. The age categories are:

- *School Year 2 and under*
- *School Years 3 & 4*
- *School Years 5 & 6*
- *School Years 7 & 8*
- *School Years 9 & 10*

The races will be chip-timed, with all finishers receiving a bespoke medal. The first boy and girl in each category will also receive a prize. There are other team prizes on offer, with the school fielding the most children prize always being the most hotly contested!

Click [here](#) to sign up!



# Athletic Development Workshop

## 6 hour workshop includes:

- Nutrition
- Movement Patterns
- Strength & Conditioning
- Team Work

Years 4-8

£65 per person

Snack provided

Limited spaces available

For more info and  
to book contact:

[kevans@edgegrove.com](mailto:kevans@edgegrove.com)

Join me!  
9th and 10th July  
2019 9am-12pm

EDGE  GROVE

BETTER  BODY  
Beaver Stronger

Call or email for appointments...



# Injury, Niggle, Pain or just a sports massage

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# ALDENHAM

GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

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**ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE!**

**FOR  
0 - 12  
YEAR  
OLDS**

**EVERY TUESDAY THROUGHOUT AUGUST**

# **SUMMERTIME**

at Phillimore Recreation Ground, Gills Hill, Radlett, WD7 8AL

Wildplay  
Face Painting  
Toddler Soft Play

**10AM - 12PM**

Local Sports Clubs  
Arts & Crafts  
and Much More...

**6TH BATTLE ZONES**

**13TH CRYSTAL MAZE**

**20TH SUPER HERO OLYMPICS**

**27TH SPY ACADEMY**

For more information on any of the activities please contact  
Manisha on 01923 856433 or email [community@aldenham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:community@aldenham-pc.gov.uk)



Paula's  
Deli Bar



# DOWNE HOUSE *Lacrosse Development Camp*



“Professional lacrosse coaching for girls who want to learn the basics of the game or develop their skills.”

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**£110**

TUESDAY 27 AUGUST AND WEDNESDAY 28 AUGUST 2019

 Downe House

Email [laxcamp@downehouse.net](mailto:laxcamp@downehouse.net) for a registration form