



Canary Wharf Primary  
EAST FERRY

# Canary Wharf Primary East Ferry Newsletter

Autumn 1: Friday 11th September 2026

Dear families of East Ferry,

What a positive second week back it has been at East Ferry. Following last week's focus on settling in, routines, induction and establishing our expectations, this week our curriculum and learning have been in full swing.

In assemblies this week, we have continued to reinforce our strong culture of safeguarding and the important role we all play in keeping ourselves and one another safe. Children have been reminded about trusted adults, who they can speak to if something is worrying them, how to recognise when something does not feel right, and the members of our safeguarding team who are always here to help. We have talked openly about kindness, respect, speaking up and looking out for one another, reinforcing that safeguarding is part of everyday life at East Ferry.

We have also explored how this links closely to our Christian ethos and our school values. Through the story of the Good Samaritan, children reflected on what it means to notice when someone needs help, to show kindness through our actions and to make sure nobody is left feeling alone. These messages link directly to our Golden Rules, which provide children with clear, consistent expectations for how we learn, behave and treat one another.

We are also very excited to be launching our East Ferry Choir, led by Miss Cotton. From next Friday, up to 30 children from Years 3–6 will have the opportunity to take part in a free 30-minute choir session every Friday lunchtime. We already have some very exciting performance opportunities planned, including Young Voices at The O2 next term and we cannot wait to hear our choir develop over the coming months. The lunchtime choir is free of charge. From the Spring Term, choir will become one of our hour-long after-school EDAs and will then operate under our usual EDA arrangements and charges. Choir applications will open via the Wufoo form on Monday 14 September at 6:00pm: [CLICK HERE](#)

This week also saw the start of our Meet the Teacher sessions, which will continue next week. These are an important opportunity for families to meet their child's teacher and hear more about the curriculum, upcoming trips and visits, key events, routines and what a typical week looks like within each year group.

Wishing all of our children and families a wonderful weekend!

Mrs Melisa Akis: Principal



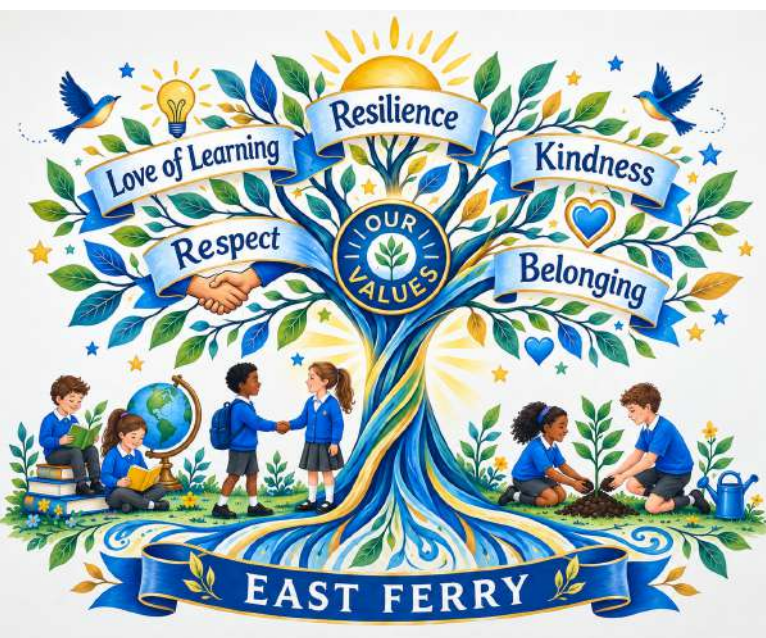
## GROWING A LOVE OF READING

At East Ferry, we want every child to discover the joy of reading. Daily story time is an important part of our school day, giving children the chance to enjoy high-quality books, hear fluent and expressive reading, and simply get lost in a great story. Our Reading Challenge is another important part of our reading culture, introducing pupils to a carefully selected range of exciting, diverse and ambitious books. This week, children selected their first Reading Challenge book of the year and have begun completing their reading logs. Pupils in EYFS to Year 3 create story maps, while pupils in Years 4–6 write book reviews, encouraging them to think carefully about what they have read and share their responses. Together, these experiences help us build confident, curious readers and most importantly, nurture a lifelong love of reading.



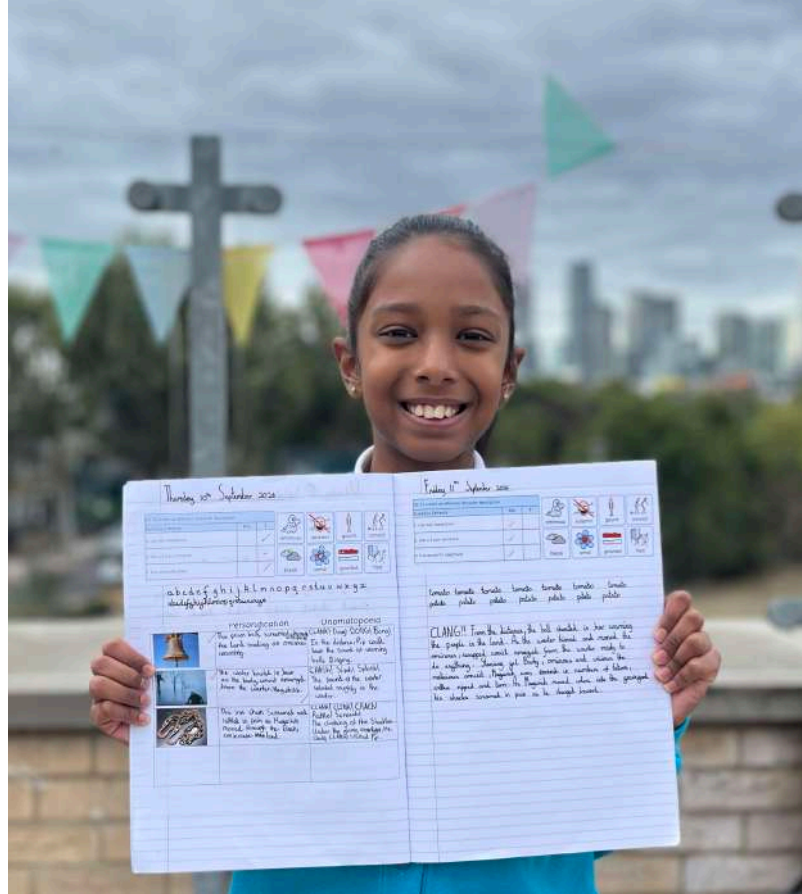
# LIVING OUR VALUES AT EF

Our East Ferry values: Love of Learning, Respect, Resilience, Kindness and Belonging, are at the heart of our school culture. They help children understand not only how we learn, but how we treat one another; respond when things are difficult and contribute positively to our school community. This week in assembly, we explored these values through the story of the Good Samaritan, thinking carefully about noticing others, showing kindness, making respectful choices and helping everyone feel that they belong. We also talked about resilience when things do not go our way and the importance of approaching learning with curiosity, effort and a real love of learning. These messages are reinforced throughout the school day - in classrooms, on the playground, through our Golden Rules and in the way adults model expectations. Our Christian ethos helps bring these values to life, so they become more than words: they shape the culture we want every child to experience and contribute to each day.



## STAYING SAFE ONLINE

This week in Computing, children from EYFS through to Year 6 have been learning how to stay safe, responsible and respectful online. In an age-appropriate way, pupils have explored how to protect personal information, make sensible choices, recognise when something online does not feel right and know that they should always tell a trusted adult if they are worried. As children move through the school, this learning becomes increasingly detailed, including safe use of devices and apps, online communication, privacy, passwords, cyberbullying, inappropriate content and the importance of thinking carefully before sharing or posting anything online. Online safety is an important part of our safeguarding curriculum and reflects the expectations of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026. Alongside our school filtering and monitoring systems, we want children to develop the knowledge and confidence they need to navigate the online world safely, kindly and responsibly both at school and at home.



## Y6 WRITING

Year 6 have been exploring Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, developing their writing through the character of Pip. They have been working hard to create atmosphere and tension, using carefully chosen adverbials, ambitious vocabulary and figurative language to make their descriptions vivid and engaging. They have also focused on cohesion, ensuring their ideas flow smoothly from one sentence to the next.

***"Exhausted and heartbroken, devastated and cold, a young boy called Pip wandered through the cemetery looking for his parents' gravestone. Gravestones coiled around him as tears cascaded down his frozen cheeks. Eventually, Pip sat down beside their resting place, plucking the weeds away, as bittersweet memories gnarled through his mind. Suddenly, the ominous, gloomy wind whooshed past and, in a flash, Pip could hear the sound of warning bells..."***

Azrah, 6 Blackman

Be kind  
Be safe  
Be smart  
Online!

**ONLINE SAFETY**

For a happier, safer digital world

Explore  
Learn  
Create  
Stay Safe!

**TALK ABOUT IT**  
Encourage your child to talk to a trusted adult if something online worries them.

**KEEP IT PRIVATE**  
Remind children not to share personal information like their full name, address, school or passwords.

**BE KIND ONLINE**  
Treat others with respect. Think before you post and remember kind words make a big difference.

**CHECK CONTENT**  
Support your child to use age-appropriate apps, games and websites. You can check age ratings and settings together.

**REPORT**  
If something feels wrong, upsetting or unsafe, report it and tell a trusted adult straight away.



## PSHE: ME & MY RELATIONSHIPS

Under the overarching theme of **“God’s Love and Wisdom”** this autumn, our PSHE focus is Me and My Relationships. PSHE is a priority at East Ferry and is taught explicitly every week from Reception to Year 6. Through PSHE, we equip children with the skills they need to understand themselves and others, build healthy relationships, manage their emotions and know how to keep themselves safe. This term, children will explore friendships, feelings, communication kindness and respect, as well as how to manage difficulties in relationships positively and respectfully. Ahead of each lesson, children can use their class **‘Talk to the Teacher’** box to share any questions or worries they may have about the topic. This gives children a safe and discreet way to ask for support or guidance. We want every child to feel confident, valued and listened to, while developing the skills to make positive choices and build respectful relationships with those around them.

## PHONICS AND READING AT HOME

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who are continuing with phonics have access to Oxford Owl, where online reading books are carefully matched to their current phonics level. You will find your child’s Oxford Owl login details at the back of their reading log. These online books help children practise the sounds and words they are learning in school. Children in Years 1 and 2 will also bring home a book bag book, matched as closely as possible to their current reading stage, so they can continue practising at home alongside Oxford Owl. Regular practice at home, ideally every day, makes a real difference in helping children become more fluent, confident readers and secure the sounds they are learning. At the end of this half term, Miss Ahmed, our Phonics Lead, will assess the children and they will then be grouped according to their phonics stage for Autumn 2.



## OUR UNIVERSAL OFFER @ EF

At East Ferry, inclusive practice is simply part of how we teach. We have high expectations for every child and believe that many strategies which support pupils with SEND are good practice for everyone. Each morning, teachers welcome children at their classroom doors, helping every child feel known, valued and that they belong from the moment they arrive. Across our classrooms, children benefit from clear routines, visual timetables, whole-class ‘Now and Next’ prompts, dual coding, structured scaffolds and consistent visual cues. Our teaching slides also use soft yellow and blue-tinted backgrounds to make information more accessible, including for pupils who may experience visual stress or have dyslexic-type difficulties. These approaches help children understand routines, process information, regulate themselves and become increasingly independent learners. Where a child needs more, we build on this strong universal offer with carefully planned targeted or specialist support. Our aim is simple: every child should access learning alongside their peers, feel that they belong and be supported to succeed.



## Weekly Attendance 97%

| CLASS         | %          | CLASS      | %          |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|
| RCooke        | <b>100</b> | RWaddell   | 98         |
| IMurphy       | 91         | IAhlberg   | 92         |
| 2Donaldson    | 94         | 2Rosen     | 99         |
| 3Zephaniah    | <b>100</b> | 3Lewis     | <b>100</b> |
| 4Dahl         | 99         | 4Wilson    | 99         |
| 5Morpurgo     | <b>100</b> | 5Horowitz  | 98         |
| 6 Shakespeare | 99         | 6 Blackman | 90         |

## STARS OF THE WEEK

| Class         | Name     | Reason                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RCooke        | Jack     | For starting Reception with great enthusiasm and sharing great ideas!                                                                           |
| RWaddell      | William  | For his enthusiasm in all learning in particular phonics.                                                                                       |
| IAhlberg      | Eesa     | Bringing enthusiasm into the classroom, always smiling, and acting as a great role model                                                        |
| IMurphy       | Oliver K | For a wonderful start to year 1 and consistently showing responsibility and kindness across the school.                                         |
| 2Donaldson    | Ava      | For making a wonderful start to Year 2 and always coming to school with a fantastic attitude.                                                   |
| 2Rosen        | Sitara   | For consistently showing all of our East Ferry values, always trying her best in lessons and making amazing contributions.                      |
| 3Zephaniah    | Magnus   | For a wonderful start to Year 3 and being a role model for the rest of the class!                                                               |
| 3Lewis        | Aneta    | For consistently listening to adults, following instructions first time and producing high quality work. Well done                              |
| 4Dahl         | Sophie   | For being a wonderful role model in the classroom Sophie has shown kindness to others, listened carefully and put lots of effort into her work. |
| 4Wilson       | Emily    | For starting Y4 with positivity, kindness and an admirable attitude for learning.                                                               |
| 5Morpurgo     | Heshya   | For producing an exceptional first paragraph in her retelling of Kensuke's Kingdom.                                                             |
| 5Horowitz     | Yusra    | For consistently representing our East Ferry values and spreading kindness.                                                                     |
| 6Blackman     | Isabelle | For a fantastic start to Year 6, setting high expectations for herself and embodying all of our East Ferry values!                              |
| 6 Shakespeare | Brooke   | her creative and accurate writing about Great Expectations and for always helping those around her.                                             |

## Dates for Autumn Term 1

|                        |                                                                        |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon 14th Sept          | Y3 - Meet the Teacher 2:15pm                                           |
| Tues 15th Sept         | Y4 - Meet the Teacher 2:15pm                                           |
| Wed 16th Sept          | Y5 - Meet the Teacher 2:15pm                                           |
| Thurs 17th Sept        | Y1 - Meet the Teacher 2:15pm                                           |
| Friday 18th Sept       | Y2 - Meet the Teacher 2:15pm                                           |
| Tues 22nd Oct          | THEWS Coffee Mornjng 9-10am                                            |
| Thu 24th Sept          | YR Cooke - Food Bank School Trip                                       |
| Thurs 1st Oct          | YR Waddell - Food Bank School Trip                                     |
| Fri 2nd Oct            | Parent Workshop - emotional well-being 2pm                             |
| Tue 6th Oct            | Y1 - Local Geography Walk<br>International Evening - EYFS & KS1 5:30pm |
| Thurs 8th Oct          | International Evening - KS2 5:30pm                                     |
| Fri 8th Oct            | World Mental Health Day                                                |
| Wed 14th - 16th Oct    | Y5 Flatford Mills School Residential                                   |
| Mon 19th Oct           | Y6 - Farm for City Children School Residential                         |
| Wed 21st Oct           | Y3 - Suffragettes Workshop at School                                   |
| Fri 23rd Oct           | Y4 - National Gallery                                                  |
| <b>26th - 20th Oct</b> | <b>HALF TERM</b>                                                       |