



# The Essendon Echo

Issue 1

28th February 2025

## Print from the Principals

We have come to the end of the first week of Spring 2 half term and also our first week as a new leadership team at Essendon. What a fantastic week it has been! Despite the rainstorm coinciding with our start on Monday, we have all been made to feel so welcomed and supported by the school community. In fact, it is the community that we are really keen to rebuild and make the most of. One parent coined a fantastic phrase: "let's put the 'great' back in Essendon". That is exactly what we hope to do. After spending a few days here, it is evident that there are so many strengths to be built upon and also so much potential for further improvement. We are looking at some improvements that we can make to the school environment and hope to have the entrance foyer and hall refurbished in the coming weeks and over the Easter break.

Today, we introduced Going for Gold! It seemed a very fitting tribute this week to Henry Kelly who was actually the inspiration behind Going for Gold when I first introduced to another school back in 2017! Since then, it has been very successfully received in many schools and has continued to evolve and develop. The children enjoyed finding out more about our Going for Gold assemblies and will have the opportunity to share their birthdays, sporting achievements, curriculum achievements and house achievements. Each week, the leadership team will also be making a Friday golden phone call and classes will be nominating a star of the week from next week. We will also be introducing a new reward system based on 'house credits' which tie in to our new behaviour procedures with raised expectations. More information will be shared in due course.

**Mr Lock, Mrs Brennan and Mrs Nesbitt**

### Going for Gold Values



This week, we have introduced our Going for Gold learning values. The pupils have already started to learn these and after next week, we are confident that the pupils will be able to recite these values to you and may even start talking about them at home.

### Communication

From next week, a Going for Gold newsletter will be sent out weekly. This will share the attendance update, Stars of the Week, House Credits and an update on Times Table Rock Stars! Keep an eye out for the Going for Gold newsletter. The main newsletter will be sent fortnightly. We will try to keep communications to a Friday, unless anything urgent is needed to be sent. We will attach any relevant flyers to the emails sent with newsletters each week.

### Website Revamp

We are currently looking at redeveloping our website. A new structure is currently in the design stages but is currently live and being added to constantly. We will be using the class pages to add recent news and activities onto the website and are also considering the best way to share news stories with you. Please take time to look at the website and we welcome any ideas or suggestions you may have.

### Sports Hall Athletics

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February, Harefield attended the Rural and Small Schools' Sports Hall Athletics Event. Each child participated in a range of individual and team events both on the track and field. Congratulations to the boys who came second with 116 points, including 3 first places, and the girls who finished in third on 112 points.

Miss Raw and Stanley were particularly impressed with the encouragement, perseverance and sportsmanship shown by all the children. Well done Year 5 and 6!



### Key Dates for your Diaries

Thursday 6th March 2025

World Book Day

Friday 4th April 2025

Spring 2 term ends at 1.15pm

Visit our website: [www.essendon.herts.sch.uk](http://www.essendon.herts.sch.uk)