

Friday 14th November 2025

Dear Families,

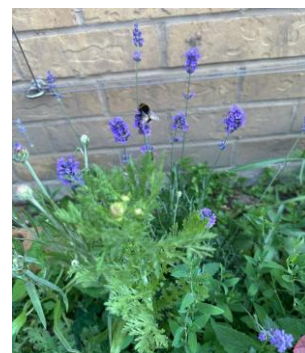
It is with a heavy heart that we share with you the devastating news of the passing of our wonderful teacher friend and colleague **John Gilbert** on 20th October this year.



John supported many schools across Enfield for over 20 years and we were very lucky to work with him at EHA. John ran our Newspaper club for years and inspired many children celebrating their reading skills, their growing vocabulary, the colour of their voice and ability to discuss and debate about anything and everything over 90p 'I' Newspaper. He worked with our debating club, ran drama sessions and read stories to our youngest pupils.

Back in 2022/2023, it was John's packet of meadow seeds and year 3's green fingers that contributed to opening our **EHA's Flight Path** to encourage more wildlife into our concreted school environment; to teach children how to appreciate nature and the wonderful world around us.

Where we stood 3 years ago (picture above), now grows a beautiful EHA meadow full of wildflowers!
John you will always be THE FORCE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE at EHA.



Today we held an assembly for years 3-6 to celebrate the life of John Gilbert. We asked the children and staff for ideas of how we could celebrate his great impact. Planting a tree comes to my mind as I had many conversations with John about having a tree on our treeless school grounds: to attract more birds, bees and butterflies; to offer shelter and to **hold mother nature's hand** as he used to say.

I would also like to inform you that there is a candle night planned to remember John. Please see below:

*'To celebrate his life and the incredible impact he had on others' lives, there will be a **Candle Night event on Friday 5th December**. It will take place outside Enfield library, where he was also known for braving an occasional night on a park bench, to support the many homeless people he met and talked to.*

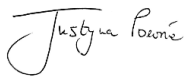
***From 5pm – 8pm** there will be an informal drop in, to gather, light a candle, write in a condolence book, share memories and remember his incredible life.*

*All welcome – **Bow ties warmly encouraged.** '*

To enable staff and families to attend the candle night, our Winter fair will run from 3.00-5.30pm (a bit shorter than planned). Please support your child by talking to them should they become upset. The focus is on celebrating John's inspirational teaching persona.

I am sure you will join me in sending our sincere condolences to John's family.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justina Paine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Headteacher