

Ellington Primary News

Believe and Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the academic year 2024/2025. It has been a great start to the new year and the children have settled superbly in their new classes and are now firmly established in their new routines with their new teachers.

Thank you for your attendance at the welcome meetings, we hope they have been useful. Please remember that we are available to help with any questions or queries that you may have as we know change can be difficult and take some getting used to.

Each class has been learning about their new class hero and how they share the same values as we do as a school. Please ask your child who their new class hero is and why!

Today, you will also receive a curriculum map for your child's class detailing their learning this half term.

Mrs Milne

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Milne has welcomed a baby girl earlier this week. Mum and baby are doing well and we wish her all the best on her Maternity Leave.

Walking Bus

We are continuing our Walking Bus this year on a Tuesday and Thursday morning at 8:20am. However, we are now meeting outside The Plough car park. Can we ask all parents dropping children off, to park in The Plough car park and not outside of Top Shop or at the junction at the top of Ashington Road. The traffic there has worsened and cars parked at the top of the road is making it very difficult for local residents which could lead to potential accidents.

Parking

Can we request that you please park considerately outside of the school and not block residents' driveways, park on grass verges or block the new path!



Online Safety Workshop

Mr Bailey is delivering an Online Safety Workshop for all parents/carers on Monday 23rd September at 8:45am. He will offer realistic advice for helping keep your child safe online and also be able to warn you of the many potential dangers that there are online. It is also a great opportunity to ask any questions that you may have.



Asda Rewards—Cashpot for the School.

We've got some exciting news to share with you. Parentkind - a charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative. To support our school, all you have to do is opt-in through the Asda Rewards app, shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com.



Between 2nd September and 30th November 2024 - every time you shop with Asda using your Asda Rewards app, Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to your chosen Primary school. Also, every time somebody opts-in to support our Primary school, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there - Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

It's as easy as 1,2,3

1. Download the Asda Rewards app, register and opt-in to Cashpot for Schools (make sure you have the latest version of the app installed)
2. Choose our Primary School - either searching by name (Ellington Primary School) or postcode (NE61 5HL)
3. Shop instore across Asda and George, or online at Asda.com and start filling your Cashpot as you shop.

Asda does the rest, all money raised will be donated to schools to spend on the things they need the most.

Pearl of Africa

We were due to host The Pearl of Africa choir on September 26th however, sadly they can no longer come to the UK as they have been denied Visa's by the Home Office. This is the first time in 15 years that this has happened and the choir are devastated. They have been practising for the past 9 months and had already shipped their equipment. They rely on the money raised for the schools and food for the whole year. Despite the organisers appealing to MPs, they have refused to change their mind.

To support the choir, we will be having a non-uniform day and cake sale on Friday 27th September. We would kindly ask for donations of wrapped cakes and biscuits to be brought into school from Monday 23rd September. We will then sell these on the Friday with all money raised going to the choir. Please help us support these children in Uganda.



Harvest Festivals

We would like to invite you into school for our Harvest Festivals on October 24th and October 25th. We will have two festivals, at 9:00am on both days. We are holding two festivals on two separate days as two in one day was a lot for the children last year.

The performance on Thursday 24th October is for parents of children in Reception, Year One and Year Two.

The performance on Friday 25th October is for parents of children in Years Three, Four, Five and Six. Both festivals will be exactly the same, but we cannot accommodate all parents/carers in just one sitting. If you have children in different key stages, please just come to one festival. All children will be present on both days.

As like in previous years, we will be collecting donations for the Wansbeck Valley Food Bank. Donations will happily be accepted from October 21st. Thank you in advance.

School Council

A new school council has been elected after each class had a vote to choose their class representatives. They will work together to share pupil voice and help to continue improving the school.

Children from this years and last years school council are looking forward to their visits to the Houses of Parliament to learn more about democracy and watch MP's in the House of Commons.



Parent Consultations

We will be holding our Autumn term parent consultations on Wednesday 23rd October. Bookings can be made via School Cloud from 7am on Monday 30th September. [School Cloud Login](#)

Charity Support - Red Sky Foundation

We would just like to remind you that at our EYFS/Key Stage One entrance, you will find a large recycling container. This can be used by anyone in Ellington. The container belongs to the Red Sky Foundation, one of the ten charities we support.

You can donate any of the following unwanted item:

- Clean Reusable Clothes
- Paired Shoes
- Handbags
- Bedding
- Accessories
- Belts
- Towels
- Toys
- Curtains
- Bric-a-Brac



The Red Sky Foundation are a charity who raise vital funds for babies & children with heart problems across North East England. Every penny raised through our recycling container goes to charity.

Please find our more information [here](#).

Reading

Reading remains our number one priority and as in previous years, we would request that you read with and to your children as much as possible. We need all children to read at least 3 times per week at home but we also hear them read in school. In addition, we have story time every day for all classes in school where children sit back, relax and enjoy a wide range of texts.



Dates for the Diary

Event	Date
Online Safety Parents Workshop	23 rd September 8:45am
Pearl of Africa Choir Cake Sale & Non-Uniform Day	27 th September
School Council Trip to London	1 st October
Y6 Trip to Cragside	14 th October
Parent Consultations	23 rd October
Harvest Festival	24 th October 9am
Harvest Festival	25 th October 9am
Break up for half term	25 th October



More details about events will be shared closer to the specified dates. Further events are being planned and more information will be shared in future news bulletins.

School Trips

At Ellington, we want all classes to have two trips per year. We believe that educational visits are an essential part of the curriculum and create memories that the children remember forever.

The problem facing Ellington with regards to trips is our location and the rising cost of absolutely everything!

We need to hire a coach for any trip out of school because of where we are situated. Although some venues are free to visit, the cost of hiring a coach to Newcastle is between £350 and £400. Last year, we subsidised all school trips, costing the school thousands of pounds, this isn't sustainable so without contributions from parents/carers, we cannot provide these experiences.

Moving forward, we aim to use the money raised from our Christmas raffle to support trips and we will also look to raise funds in other ways. Your support, as always, is appreciated.

Attendance 04/09–20/09

Reception– 99.2%

Year 1– 100%

Year 2– 96.7%

Year 3– 97.6%

Year 4– 97.8%

Year 5– 98.7%

Year 6– 99.2%

Whole School– 98.3%

Mr Hodgson—Headteacher

Year 1 News

Year 1 have had a fantastic beginning to the new school year and I would like to say a huge thank you to all of them for making me feel so welcome! It has been wonderful to see the children enthusiastic and excited about their new class and learning topics.

In English, we have been practising how to form letters correctly as this is one of the most important skills for their writing. This week we have been learning about the features of our new class text and can recall the author and what the blurb tells us. We have made predictions about our new class text, *I want my hat back and are very excited to find out what happens.* Year 1 have been fantastic at using their Fred fingers and knowledge of punctuation to write super sentences, I am so impressed!

In Maths we have been focussing on place value. The children have been working in partners to represent numbers on tens frames with counters to work out their answers practically.

We have been introduced to Science and have started learning about our body parts and what they help us to do. We particularly enjoyed going outside to draw around our partner and label them!



We have also started in our new phonics groups. Your child will have received two reading books today to practise at home.

Year 2 News

Year 2 have had a brilliant start to the new school year, it has been wonderful to see them looking so smart in their uniforms and have them settle straight back into the school day- super stars!

In English, we have started our first unit of writing based on the story 'Meerkat Mail' by Emily Gravett. We have been creating character description full of adjectives and comparison to describe Sunny the meerkat. We have also been focusing heavily on punctuation and handwriting as we get back into the swing of writing after six weeks off! We have also been enjoying reading the story Mr Majeika by Humphrey Carpenter in our story time sessions after lunch, we can't believe the mayhem Mr Majeika caused around his school.



In Maths, we have been recapping our place value knowledge and skills, working hard on understanding number up to 100. We have also been writing numbers in words and looking at the tens and ones in any 2 digit number.

We had a real treat this past week in our Science lessons. Mr Watkins came into school to deliver an exciting lesson about habitats and microhabitats. The children were so engaged and we brilliant at spotting and talking about the different features of habitats we found around our school grounds. This lesson tied into our 'Living Things and their Habitats' Science topic for this half term.



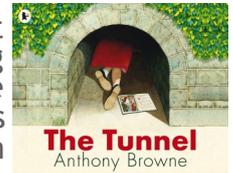
We also had a super exciting computing lesson with Mr Bailey this week where we celebrated the Bee-Bots 20th birthday. We went on an adventure with the Bee-Bots linked to our Meerkat Mail story directing them around to different relatives who Sunny visits.



Year 3 News

We have had such a busy start to the year and have really hit the ground running! We are so impressed with the new year three children, who have been keen to learn and get stuck into everything we do at school.

In English we have been working on two fantastic texts. We are looking at Matilda by Roald Dahl in our reading lessons and we are enjoying reading about all the pranks and tricks she gets up to! In writing lessons, we have been developing detailed setting descriptions based on Anthony Browne's fantastic book 'The Tunnel', even crawling inside a makeshift classroom tunnel to imagine what it might be like inside.



Working on place value of numbers up to 1000 has provided us with a really firm foundation for our year 3 maths work. We have been working practically using Base 10 equipment to show the hundreds, tens and ones.



In science, we have started a topic all about our bodies, starting with learning all about food groups and nutrition. Small groups enjoyed sorting food into healthy and unhealthy groups and giving reasons to justify their decisions. This science topic ties in brilliantly with our new class hero, Sir Mo Farah, who is a role model to us with his healthy choices and the way he takes care of his body. What an inspiration!



Not only that, we have started our exciting geography topic on volcanoes as well as beginning some invasion games skills in PE lessons with coach Charlie. In another PE lesson with Mrs Morris, the children worked collaboratively with 'Commando Joe' resources to build their problem solving skills. Not to mention enthusiastically starting French, a brand new lesson for year 3. What a busy start to year three!

Year 4 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

As it is the first newsletter of the academic year, I just wanted to say welcome to Year 4! We have had a super busy first couple of weeks since we came back and the children have settled in really well.

During the first week, we spent some time focussing on our new class hero Sir Bobby Robson as well as recapping rules and routines. Inspired by Sir Bobby, the children also designed a football kit for Ellington Primary School.

In English we have started our class novel of *The Witches* by Roald Dahl. We acted out some key scenes from the first chapters as you can see in the pictures below. In Writing, we first looked at performing poetry. We read a number of poems by Children's Poet Laureate Joseph Coelho and then performed these in an engaging way thinking about how to use our voice and actions. The children also wrote riddle and Haiku poems.

In Maths, we have been covering Place Value targets. These have included representing and flexibly partitioning four digit numbers.

In Science, we have started our Living Things unit of work focussing on how we can group animals and plants in different ways including different types of vertebrates.

In French we have started our unit on presenting ourselves by learning how to introduce ourselves, asking someone's name, telling a partner our name and then saying goodbye.

In Computing, the children have looked at Online Reputation, thinking about how our Digital Footprint can follow us long after we post.



Year 5 News

We are off to a fantastic start in Year 5! The children have settled in beautifully and have shown great enthusiasm in their learning.

Maths

In maths, we have completed our baseline tests for Big Maths and have started our place value unit. We began with 3-digit numbers, before exploring numbers up to one million. We have been learning to order, compare and round numbers using our knowledge and understanding of place value. The children have adapted very well to the high expectations of independent work in year 5. We aim to show resilience in order to complete difficult problem-solving tasks.

English

Our writing stimulus this term is Rock, Paper, Scissors. The children have been working hard on creating exciting first-person narratives, using adverbial phrases to add detail and bring their stories to life. We're also focusing on handwriting to ensure everyone can write clearly and neatly.

Geography

In Geography, we've been exploring our big question, 'What is life like in the Alps?' The children have been investigating the location of the Alps on a map and are beginning a small case study on Innsbruck, learning about what makes this city so special.

French

In French, we've started learning how to say the date, and the class is enjoying practising their new vocabulary!

Science

Our focus in Science is on life cycles. We've been exploring the different stages of life in mammals, amphibians, invertebrates and looking at how they grow and develop over time.

It's been a wonderful start to the year, and myself and Mr. Liddle are very proud of the Year 5's. Keep up the brilliant reading and the TTRS!

Best wishes,
Miss Brooks
Year 5 Teacher



**"You are braver than you
believe, stronger than you seem,
and smarter than you think."**

- A.A. Milne, "Winnie the Pooh"

LittleYellowStar

Year 6 News

Year 6 have made a great start to their final year at primary school and have been very busy indeed.

In English, we have been looking at the idea of “Twisted Tales” in the form of the Brothers Grimm fairy tales. We explored their version of Cinderella in comparison to Disney’s version and then used this as inspiration to write our own “twisted” version of Snow White - the more gruesome the better! This idea of alternate versions of stories also links in with our reading text, *Another Twist in the Tale* by Catherine Bruton. *It tells the tale of Oliver Twist’s long-lost sister, Twill. Although the language is tricky, we’re enjoying the variety of characters in the novel.*



We have also had the pleasure of being taught an exciting Science lesson by Mr Watkins. He showed us how diseases can be spread and but also helped us understand the science behind hand washing and how this slows the spread. We used our working scientifically skill of making a hypothesis, using cause and effect to make a prediction about our experiment.

In History, we have started looking at WW2 and have so far explored the timeline of events leading up to this important moment in history. We have seen how the Treaty of Versailles and the Great Depression allowed Hitler to promote himself to the German people in order to rise to power. In future weeks, we will be looking at the Battle of Britain, the Blitz as well as evacuation.

Great start and keep up the good work Year 6!

