



Ellington Primary School



News Bulletin #3

15th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a very eventful few weeks in school and it has been great to see so many children walking, cycling and scooting every day. We have one more action packed week left before half term, where the children can have a well-deserved break!

Next week, as part of the International Walk to School Month, it is 'Be Bright Be Safe' week. We would love children to continue to walk, cycle and scoot to school as much as possible but would also encourage them to wear something bright to keep them safe, especially with the dark mornings and nights not too far away.

School Grounds

Hopefully you have all noticed the improvements to the school grounds that have taken place over the last few weeks. The PTA and I have been in school on the last two Saturdays working hard to repair and paint fences, repaint yard markings and generally tidy up the grounds. We have had some fantastic donations from B&Q to help us. We will continue doing this until the school looks fantastic inside and out, but we could really do with more support. Just one or two hours with a big group of volunteers would make a huge difference. We will share dates of meets in future newsletters. Thank you so much to all of the volunteers who have given up their time to help the school so far.

TT Rockstars Day

It was fantastic to see the children dressed as Rock stars for our TT Rockstars day in school. They had great fun competing in challenges, working in teams and solving puzzles. All children from Year 1 to Year 6 have a new times table book to support improving their knowledge. All children have been given their TT Rockstars login details today. The TT Rockstars App is free to download - please support your child in using this. It is essential that all children practice their times tables. Children who don't know all times tables up to x 12 by the end of Year 4, will find maths very difficult.



Halloween Disco

Next Thursday evening is the PTA Halloween Disco. All tickets were sold out within hours of going on sale. I know lots of children are upset at being unable to attend and I appreciate it is difficult for parents to see your child upset. Because of health and safety regulations, we are unable to increase the number of people allowed to attend the event. **However, we will ensure that on the 21st we will have an action packed afternoon and play lots of games and have activities in school for all children. If children want to bring a costume for the afternoon, they can bring one into school and change after lunch.**

Harvest Festivals

Just a reminder that on **Friday October 22nd**, the last day before our half term break, we are holding two harvest festivals in school. 9.30am - EYFS and KS1 parents (no more than two adults per child) are invited to attend. 10.30am - KS2 parents (no more than two adults per child) are invited to attend. We will be collecting donations for the Wansbeck Valley food bank from October 18th. The studio doors will be open every morning next week for the children to bring in the donations.



Parents Consultations

On **Wednesday 3rd November**, we will be holding our first parent consultation evening of the year. This is a great opportunity for you to talk to your child's class teacher and ask any questions that you may have. I will also be around all evening should you wish to see me. Appointments can be made by emailing or telephoning the school office. Appointments will begin at 2pm and run through until 7pm. If you prefer a telephone appointment, please let the office know.



Twitter

Our school Twitter account is now up and running, please follow us at: [@Ellingtweets](https://twitter.com/Ellingtweets)

E-Safety

It has been brought to our attention that some children in school have been watching a programme called Squid Games on Netflix. This programme is rated 15 due to its graphic nature. This programme is not suitable for any primary aged children. In the programme, the characters play a number of games. Some of these games are being repeated and shared via TikTok. Children should also not have access to TikTok until they are 13 years old. Unfortunately, some of the older children in school have been talking about these games in school. We will not allow any conversations or games related to Squid Games at all.

For advice and support on E-safety, please click on the link below.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/resources-parents-and-carers>

School Photographs

School photographs will be taken on November 10th.

School Lunches

Can I once again ask for your support in ordering your child's school lunch at home? This will save valuable time in school.



Diwali Celebration Day

In RE we teach the children about the wide range of religions in the world. Diwali is one of those religions and is known as the five-day festival of Lights, which is celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world.

Diwali is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness. It is Diwali on November 4th this year and in order to celebrate the occasion, children will take part in a range of activities.



Swimming

Swimming will recommence for Year 5 children after half term. They will be swimming at Ashington swimming pool for the next two half terms before Year 4 begin their swimming lessons after February half term.



Working in Partnership

During the week beginning November 8th, we will be holding events for parents from Reception up to Year 6 after school. I would like the opportunity to talk to you about my vision for Ellington Primary and how we can work together to support your child/children. Each meeting will be around 30 minutes. Children can come with you to school if necessary and will be looked after by a member of staff. Tea/coffee will be available. I am happy to take any questions you may have regarding school. In my opinion, this is an essential meeting in order to develop a successful partnership which will greatly benefit the children at Ellington.

I will confirm the days and times of these meetings in a letter next week.

Best Wishes,

Mr Hodgson
Headteacher

Class News!

Nursery

This week in Nursery we have been looking at the story 'Supertato' by Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet. We came into Nursery and found some special visitors in our classroom; some vegetables were trying to escape from Evil Pea so they came and hid with us! We helped Supertato by rounding the vegetables up from around the room and have looked after them ever since. We have ordered parts of the Supertato story and have thought about what some of the vegetables in the story would be saying in some of the illustrations. We have captured Evil Pea's to help with our fine motor skills and made traps to catch the Evil Pea using junk materials. For National Poetry Day we worked together to learn the poem 'I Am Hungry' by Michael Rosen. It was so much fun acting out different parts and learning our very own line from the poem.

In maths we have been working with the Numicon to compare and order the shapes using words such as big, small, bigger and smaller. We have talked about shapes that would go in the middle and decided to call them medium size. We have also used our Numicon shapes to make pictures including butterflies and boats!



This week we have also been thinking more about autumn. We have made salt dough leaves, baked apple crumble, painted with conkers, made a conker slide and visited the wildlife garden where we found lots of signs of autumn including lots of leaves on the ground, some blackberries and even some plums!



Reception

We have been doing some exciting activities in Reception over the last two weeks. In Literacy, we have been reading and learning about the story 'Supertato' by Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet. The evil pea character in the story gets up to all sorts of mischief. He has even been causing mischief in our classroom when we have not been at school. We created wanted posters and painted some pictures to stick around school to see if we could catch him. We also created our own superhero and talked about what superpowers they had.



We really enjoyed making step by step instructions on how to make an Autumn biscuit. We mixed the ingredients together, carefully rolled out the mixture and used Autumn leaf cutters to make shapes. Once the biscuits had cooled down we made some icing. They were delicious!

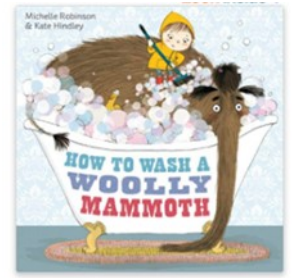


The children have thoroughly enjoyed 'Wheels to School Week'.



Year 1

Year one have been working very hard. They have been learning to solve a dilemma! The Bog Baby had returned home but left us a problem to solve. A woolly mammoth had been found in the bog and it was covered in mud. We discussed how we could wash a woolly mammoth and really enjoyed reading the story. We could recall how to write instructions and found out about time conjunctions and how to use them in our writing.

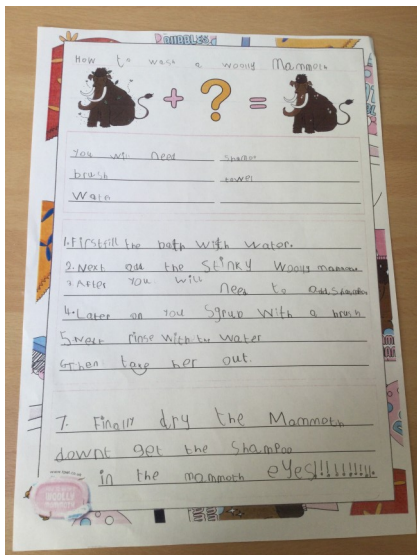
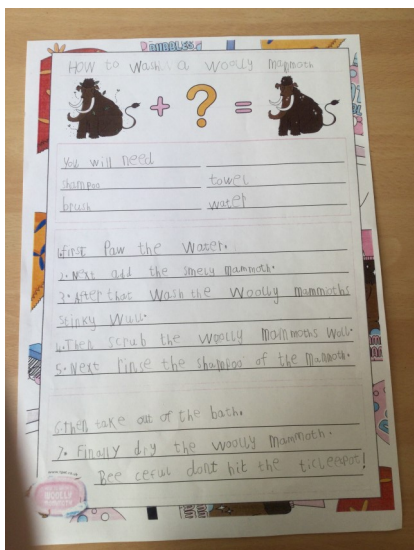
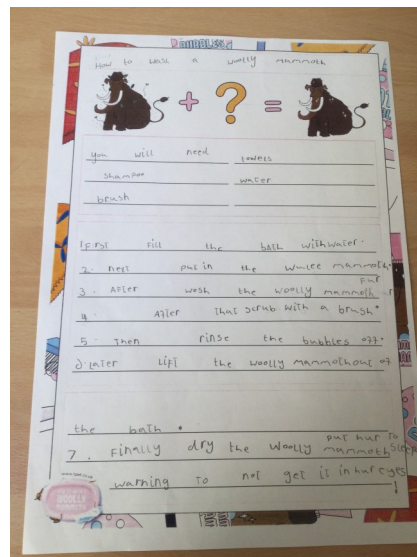
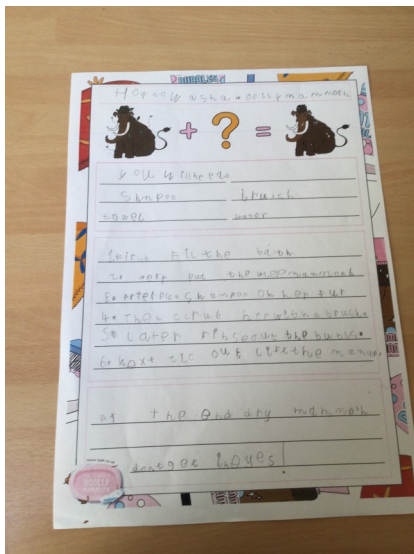


In Mathematics we have been ordering objects, ordering numbers and using a number line. We have just started finding out about how to use the part whole model and have done lots of practical mathematics using this.

We are still enjoying finding out about Mary Anning and have been completing an information sheet all about her.

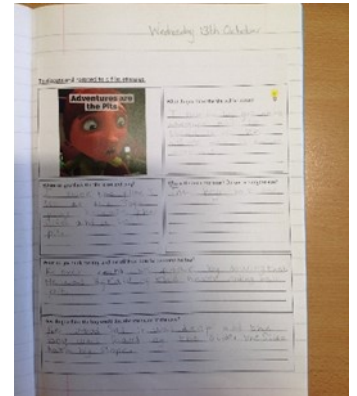
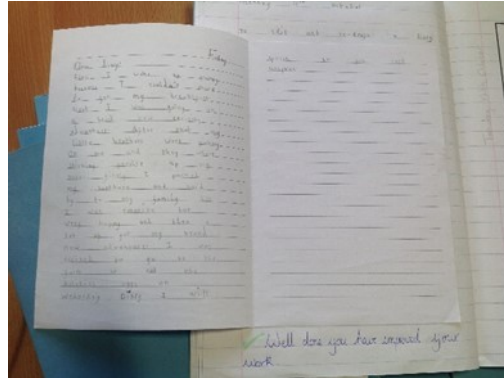
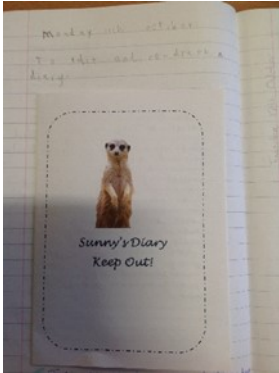
In science we enjoyed finding out about carnivores, omnivores and herbivores. We were brilliant at sorting dinosaurs into the correct group.

The children have enjoyed riding their bikes and scooters all week and were all very careful.



Year 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic couple of weeks! In English, we have finished our unit of work on 'Meerkat Mail'. Children have LOVED this book and it has been great to see them so engaged. We have written setting descriptions and a diary entry for Sunny using our knowledge of time conjunctions and expanded noun phrases to write some wonderful sentences. We have also started our film study 'Adventures are the pits'. We have used our reading detective skills again to infer and predict what the film will be about.



In maths, Year 2 have been recapping our Year 1 knowledge of number bonds to 10. We have used this knowledge to help us derive number bonds to 100. We have been using tens and ones' frames to represent our bonds and identify links and patterns between number facts to 10, 20 and 100. We have been using new mathematical language 'inverse operation' and have been putting it into practise to create fact families and to check our answers.



In history, we have continued to learn about the Great Fire of London. We have been comparing current day London to what life looked like in London in the past- 1666. In science, we have been looking at healthy lifestyles and what makes a balanced diet.

Year 3

What a brilliant day we have had today celebrating Times Tables Rockstar! Thank you for all your support at home with TTRS this week.



The children have been working scientifically in Science investigation different forces. They have carried out a friction investigation to see which materials have the most friction.

We have also looked at non contact forces and have started investigating magnetism. The children enjoy exploring different magnets and used bar magnets to answer the question: Can magnetism pass through all materials?

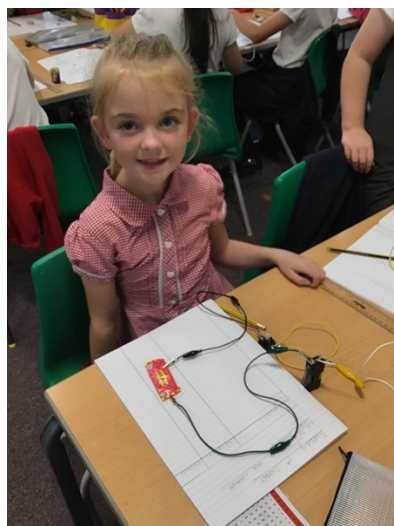
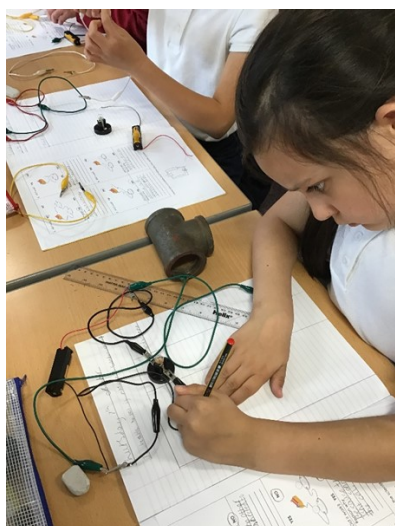
In English the children have been writing persuasive letters to the King and have written brilliant newspaper articles about the king banning the dark.

Maths this week we have moved onto column subtraction in 2 and 3-digit numbers. We are now practising exchanging numbers in column subtraction and borrowing from the next column.



Year 4

We've been working extremely hard over the last two weeks. In English, we wrote some fabulous Viking stories complete with not only blood and gore, but prefixes, suffixes, fronted adverbial phrases and some wonderful rich and varied vocabulary. Hopefully, once they have been typed up on the laptops, we'll have a few examples on the website. In Maths, we conquered fractions of amounts of money; again we had some truly bright sparks that were finding fractions of millions of pounds! I do have to say though; I have been super impressed with the determination of all of the children to be able to master this tricky concept. In Science, the circuits were out again; this time testing whether materials were conductors or insulators. In RE, we have looked at the story of Cain and Abel and produced some fabulous newspaper reports. In our topic work, we have covered history this week and learnt all about the day the Vikings invaded Lindisfarne! The children took on the role of a Viking and wrote some very graphic diary entries of what they did - 'slaughter' was mentioned quite a lot! In PE with had a game of target focussing on throwing, catching and trying to be in the correct position on the pitch. We have all really enjoyed the wheels to school week; every type of wheel could be seen on the playground. A fabulous end to the week as we all dressed as Rockstars and challenged ourselves to improving our times table knowledge.



Year 5

In year 5, we have packed a lot into the last fortnight! We had a great time on our trip to Jarrow Hall, despite the torrential rain, putting ourselves in the place of Saxons and exploring the replica Saxon village. We particularly enjoyed being told stories and riddles around the fire, and learning about armour and weapons. We were even allowed to battle each other! We really impressed Catherine at Jarrow Hall with our knowledge of the Beowulf story, which we have recently finished reading in English lessons.



Our computing work has led to lots of useful discussions about what sort of information is and isn't safe to put online, and how to look out for 'phishing' scams. We are also excited about how close many of us are getting to playing a proper tune in our brass sessions. We will sound fantastic by the end of term!



We have moved our focus in maths, using our place value understanding to help us use formal methods for adding and subtracting. We are very proud that we can remember a lot of this so well from year 4!

In art, we were really pleased with how our Saxon style illuminated letters turned out. We etched our designs onto tin foil and created bright colours using Sharpie pens.

Cookery Club

Week 3 had a class of very busy cooks chopping and mixing. Sharp knives were at the ready to chop a range of crudités (raw veg to me and you) then two dips were prepared. Garlic and herb dip being the firm favourite with the children and a spiced yoghurt, coriander and mango chutney dip; hopefully some of the parents enjoyed that one as the faces pulled by the children showed a different picture!



Week 4 and we were back to a pudding! This time, lemon syllabub; minus the white wine, was prepared with lots of whisking and folding. This was served with microwavable cinnamon biscuits; half of which needed to be cooked at home as we ran out of time. All I could see was a lot of sticky fingers and a classroom that looked like a bomb site! The end result, although rather messy, still looked delicious. Let's hope the final week for this first group of budding cooks will be met with happiness!



Diary Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Children can come to school in Halloween costumes	21.10.21
Halloween Disco	21.10.21
Harvest Festivals (EYFS & KS1 9.30. KS2 10.30)	22.10.21
Parents Consultations	3.11.21
Diwali Celebration Day	4.11.21
Remembrance Day	11.11.21
Children in Need*	12.11.21

*information to follow after half term