

# Ellington Primary School

News Bulletin #2



**1<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe that we are already at the end of week 4! The children are now all well and truly settled back into their school routines and working hard every day. It has been great getting to know so many of the pupils and families over the past month and I already feel at home at Ellington - thank you.

We have quite a few events coming up:

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>** - The PTA and other volunteers are coming to school to work together and tidy up the school grounds. Meeting at 10am - everyone is welcome!

October is **International Walk to School Month** and we will be having different themed weeks throughout the month.

**October 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Walk to School Week:** We would like to encourage all children to walk to school every day. I appreciate some children do not live in Ellington and cannot walk all of the way to school. However, for those children, we could encourage you to park and stride to school. The parking situation outside of school is a real concern with the sheer number of vehicles parked outside every day.



Unfortunately, a child was critically injured at a school in Newcastle last week due to the numbers of cars parked and the problems this caused. This is the last thing anyone wants so please support each other in being mindful when parking your cars. If travelling by car is a necessity, you could consider parking a few hundred metres from school and striding to school. This will not only help with congestion but is great exercise to start/end the school day.

All month, we will be keeping a log of children who walk, scoot, cycle, skate, and/or park and stride to school. We are working with Northumberland County Council and have been given a series of badges and stickers to be awarded during the month.

**October 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Wheels to School Week:** During this week, we would encourage children to travel to school on wheels! If children are wearing a helmet, then we will allow use of the bikes/scooters at play times this week.



**October 15<sup>th</sup> - TT Rockstars Day:** Times tables are vitally important to all children and it is essential that children learn their times tables quickly in primary school. As a school, we subscribe to Times Table Rockstars. However, this has not been used very much in recent years. We want to relaunch this with a Rockstar day in school on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October! All children can come to school dressed as a Rockstar and we will spend the full day working on times tables through games, competitions and assemblies. There will be lots of prizes to be won!



### **What times tables should your child know?**

By the end of Year 1, all children should know their 2, 5 and 10 times tables, but also be able to count in 3's.

By the end of Year 2, all children should know their 2, 5, 10 and 3 times tables and the corresponding division facts.

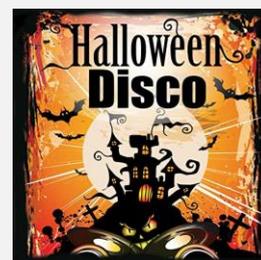
By the end of Year 3, all children should know their 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10 times tables and the corresponding division facts.

By the end of Year 4, all children should know all of their times tables and division facts up to 12. At the end of Year 4, all children have a multiplication test.

In Years 5 and 6, all children should consolidate their knowledge of tables up to 12 and also go beyond this.

### **Halloween Disco**

The PTA are hosting a spooktacular Halloween disco on **Thursday October 21<sup>st</sup>** between 6pm and 8pm. Further details will be sent home next week!



### **Harvest Festivals**

On **Friday October 22<sup>nd</sup>**, the last day of the half term, 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 18<sup>th</sup>.



### Parents Consultations

On **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



### Twitter

We are in the process of setting up a school Twitter Account: [@Ellingtontweets](#)

Once fully set up on staff Ipads etc, we will use Twitter for whole school news and to share special events in school. Feel free to start following but please be aware that it may be a couple of weeks before we start using the account.

### Communication APP

By half term, we hope to have a new App in place which school staff will use to share class news and celebrate work. Full details will be in the next newsletter!

### Jewellery

We have had many issues with earrings since the children returned to school. I would ask that no children wear earrings for school. No child can do PE with earrings in. So far this year, we have on occasions covered earrings with cotton wool and tape. However, going forward, children must remove their earrings or miss PE. Your support with this would be greatly appreciated.

### School Council

The School Council held their first meeting today! I am confident that they will be fantastic representatives for the school.

The following children have been elected for the School Council by their classmates:

Year 1: Joe T, Esme L

Year 2: Amelia I, Zac H

Year 3: Seb C, Estelle D

Year 4: Laney B, Freya J

Year 5: Lilly J, Miles H (School Council Treasurers)

Year 6: Louis R, Anya F (School Council Chairperson)



### School Photographs

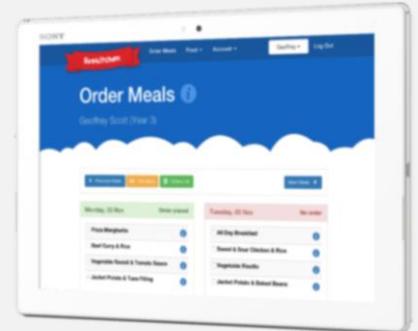
We are currently in the process of organising our school photos. We will let you know well in advance when these are booked.

### School Morning

In order to help the day get off to a flying start, we have started opening our doors from 8.50am every morning. Children can go straight into class when they arrive with the teaching assistants supervising, but class teachers will remain at the doors available to chat until 8.55am.

### School Lunches

The class teachers would really appreciate your support in ordering school lunches for your child/children at home. This will save time in class each morning when the children could be learning.



Once again, thank you for such a warm welcome at Ellington.

Best Wishes,

Mr Hodgson

Headteacher

Reminder:

### Breakfast Club/After School Club

Breakfast Club and After School Club have restarted. Breakfast club begins at 8am and costs £4 per child per day. After School Club runs from 3pm until 4pm, cost £4, or 3pm until 4.30pm, cost £6, per child, per day.

At breakfast club, all children will have a breakfast and can choose from a range of cereals, toast, fruit, yoghurts and a drink. We also have available a range of activities such as construction, drawing, dancing and reading for the children to participate in. This is a social time where the children chat, play and learn together. Children are then accompanied to their classrooms by the members of staff at 8.50 to begin their school day.

For after school club, children will be collected from their classrooms by the members of staff at 3.00pm. There are a range of activities available for the children to participate in for example English activities, maths games, circle games, board games, physical activity, drama, help with homework and other curriculum related activities. There will also be the opportunity for 1:1 reading sessions. There will be a snack and drink provided.

If you wish to book a place for your child, please contact the school office. Bookings should always be made in advance; however, we will accept some children on the day in exceptional circumstances. Ideally payment will be made via School Grid.

# Class News!

## Nursery

We have had an exciting couple of weeks in Nursery, we have been finding out all about how the season has changed to Autumn. We have looked at signs of Autumn, made handprint hedgehogs and Autumn wreaths. We have read the Percy the Park Keeper story 'After the Storm' and looked for signs of Autumn in the illustrations. We have also learned all about harvest and harvest festivals. We used potatoes, apples and carrots to paint with and found some potatoes in our outside area to harvest; it was so much fun digging in the soil! In maths, we have been using the numicon shapes to try and fill the board, a bit like a big jigsaw. We had to concentrate hard to find the correct pieces!



## Reception

Reception have been working so hard over the past two weeks and I have been so impressed with how well they have settled.

In Literacy, we have been reading and learning about the story 'The Colour Monster' where one day, Colour Monster wakes up feeling very confused. His emotions are all over the place and he feels angry, happy, calm, sad and scared all at once! To help him, a little girl shows him what each feeling means through colour. We have been talking about our own feelings and what makes us feel happy, sad, angry, calm and scared.



We have also been talking about how we can help others when they feel sad, angry or scared. The children have been doing some amazing writing and we have made a Colour Monster Display for our classroom using different craft items.

In Maths, Reception have been learning to match and sort. We sorted lots of buttons into different groups such as colour, size and shape. We have also been sorting Miss Robinson's socks and pairing them on the washing line.

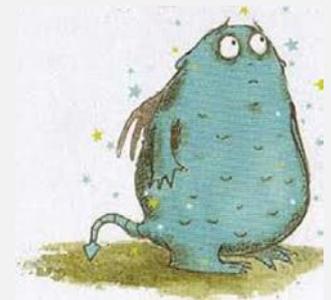


We have enjoyed learning about Autumn. Thank you to all of the children and parents for collecting Autumn treasures. We have thoroughly enjoyed exploring all of the items and making collages and observational drawings.



## Year 1

Year One have had a busy time. We have been learning about instructions and have found out about using imperative verbs at the start of each step of instructions. We are trying to write instructions about how to look after the Bog Baby. We found him all dehydrated, hungry and hiding in the flower pot!



In our Maths lessons we have been finding out about one more and one less. We are also learning the 2x table. Our History topic is all about a famous fossil hunter called Mary Anning. We have been finding out lots of facts about her life. We also tried digging for fossils ourselves and were amazed to find some in the sand.





We have been working very hard with our RWI phonics lessons and tried out some special blending glasses that really helped us with our reading.

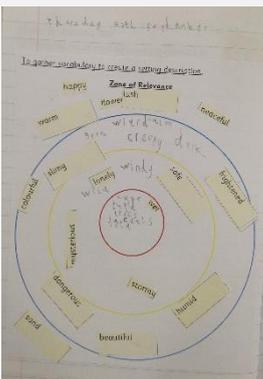
Thank you for your excellent support with reading at home.

## Year 2

Over the past two weeks we have been consolidating our place value knowledge. We have been using the part whole model to recognise and represent the place value of each digit. We have demonstrated great maths skills.

In English, we have continued our work on Meerkat Mail. We have been exploring new vocabulary and planning a setting description. The children really impressed me with their zone of relevance work where they decided how important adjectives and nouns were to their description.

We have really enjoyed our science lessons identifying animals and their offspring.



Adult	Offspring
 This adult is called sheep	 This baby is called lamb
 This adult is called dog	 This baby is called puppy
 This adult is called duck	 This baby is called duckling
 This adult is called goat	 This baby is called kid

## Year 3

This week in Year 3 we have been learning more about WW1. We have looked at a timeline from the beginning to the end of the World War and some of the important events that happened throughout this time. We have also studied the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by The Black Hand Group.

In English we have started a new book 'The King who Banned the Dark'. We are currently planning and writing persuasive letters to try to stop the King from banning the dark.



We have been working on our addition skills this week and have begun using the column method to add 3-digit numbers. Keep rocking on Times Tables Rockstars to see if you can move up to the next Rock Status next week.

During our science lesson this week we have started measuring forces using a Newton Meter. The children carried out an investigation to see if the weight of an object affected how much force was needed to move the object. They had great fun using objects found in the classroom.



## Year 4

We've had a very busy two weeks. Each morning we start with Boardwork which consolidates our times tables then in Maths, we've looked at multiplication and division. We even had two fabulous children who became teachers to small groups as their knowledge of multiplication was so fantastic. In English, we continue to read, and base our work around, the book Viking Boy which is turning out to be just like Vikings of old - rather blood thirsty! The children are absolutely loving it - PHEW! I can't wait to read their stories next week that will be filled with their own blood-thirsty quest for vengeance! We turned our hands to D&T and created Viking longships with some of the final products shown below. We've been counting in French and in Geography, we have been looking at maps to find four and six figure grid references - rest assured, if the children are lost and have a map to hand, they will know exactly where they are! The electric circuits were out again as we explored whether a circuit would work or not depending on the components used and in RE we were looking at stories in the Old Testament which we are going to delve a little deeper into over the next few weeks.



## Year 5

We have been doing some exciting activities in Year 5 over the last two weeks.

In maths, we have continued to explore the place value of numbers, even working with numbers up to a million! We have worked so hard that we have also had an introduction to negative numbers and Roman numerals. In English, we have been working on our vocabulary and have produced some fantastic pieces of writing linked with the story Beowulf.

In science, we have been learning about the planets in our solar system. We found out about their relative sizes and were amazed when we went outside to explore the distances between them.



We also did some messy art work to make a display showing the order of the planets.



In history, we made some 'old fashioned' looking maps of Britain at the time of the Anglo-Saxon invasions. We are really looking forward to our visit to Jarrow Hall next week!

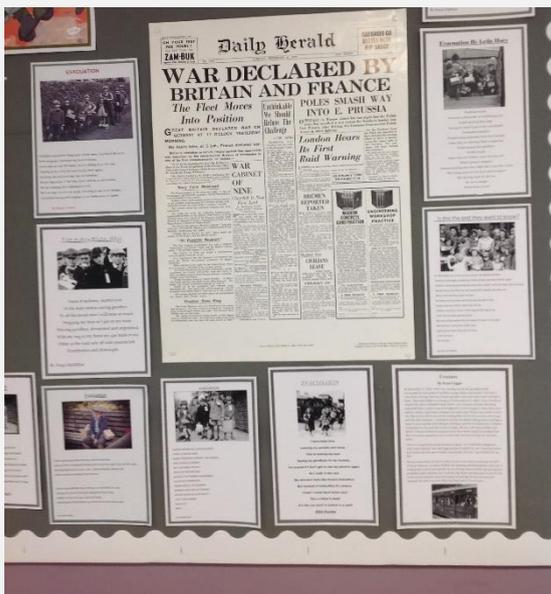
We have been working hard in PE and have been practising our ball skills for games such as netball and basketball with Mr. Robertson. In music, we have had our first couple of sessions learning to play the cornet. We feel very proud as we have already started learning a proper tune!

## Year 6

Fourteen Year Six children have been chosen to act as school prefects. Their duties will include: assisting with the running of the school, helping younger children, encouraging good manners around school, and helping teachers to prepare their classrooms for learning. We are grateful to all the children for volunteering for these important responsibilities.

The children have produced some good poems on the theme of evacuation, and some thoughtful pieces of writing relating to our class book, 'Goodnight Mister Tom'. In maths, the children have been going over formal methods of calculation.

In topic we have been finding out about Hitler and the Nazis and the evacuation of children to the countryside at the outbreak of war. Some children were able to tell the class about the wartime experiences of their great-grandparents.



## Mrs Rusby's Young Sports Leaders

We have some new and truly amazing young sports leaders! They have had training in a range of playground games and how to keep everyone happy when playing. As you will see from the photos below, they have been a big hit with a wide range of our lovely children. They should be very proud of themselves as they have led the games with a very professional and caring approach. They carry this duty out once a week at both playtime and lunch times and I do feel they are a fabulous asset to our school.



## Cookery Club

We had a fabulous start to our Cookery Club. The children crushed, mixed, whisked and chopped to create a sumptuous strawberry and toffee tart. You will see from the photos below that they looked particularly mouth-watering! Week two was quite a tricky task as the children had to get all the flesh out of a pineapple without breaking its skin. Juice absolutely everywhere! More chopping took place; the firm favourite being water melon. The even messier stage commenced just before going home when the children heaped their Pineapple Romanoff (which is basically a fresh fruit salad that should be soaked in Cointreau but being a very sensible Cookery Club, we used orange essence instead) back into the pineapple shell!





Diary Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
PTA & Volunteer Garden Tidy Up	2.10.21
TT Rockstars Day	15.10.21
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

\*event details to follow in future newsletters