



Ellington Primary News

Believe and Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had many visitors into school over the last two weeks with lots of activities taking place. On Tuesday, we had a visit from Network Rail and the British Transport Police who talked to children from Years 1 to 6 about how to stay safe near railways. We have also had a dance workshop for Year 3 and a skipping workshop for Year 6. Every class will have the opportunity to take part in a PE workshop this year. Teacher's are currently arranging class visits or visitors linked to the current topics and details will be shared shortly. We have a number of events happening this term, so please check the calendar in the newsletter.

Water Danger

During the recent cold spell, we had reports of children playing on frozen ponds in Ellington. We have spoken to the children about how dangerous this is. Please speak to your children at home about this. It is incredibly dangerous.

[Winter Water Safety Advice.](#)



Celebrating the History of Ellington

On Friday 1st March, we are having a whole school day celebrating the history of Ellington. Each class will be looking at how Ellington has changed over the decades and focusing on the history of mining. We will be visiting the local area, Woodhorn Museum and we would also love some visitors in school. If any parents/carers/grandparents would be interested in talking to the children in school please let us know, we would really appreciate it!

Parking

We have had concerns rightly voiced from local residents regarding parking around school. Please can parents/carers not park on grass verges, street entrances or over resident's drives. This kind of parking puts the children at danger whilst also in some instances damages the grass and can really inconvenience residents. Please support the school by parking sensitively.



We are pleased to announce that we will be having a Valentine's disco on Wednesday 14th February. This will be for Reception to Year 6 from 4pm until 5:30pm. . More details will follow in due course.

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day 2024 will take place on the 6th of February 2024, with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'.

Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, the celebration sees thousands of organisations get involved to promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.

At Ellington, we start every half term's computing scheme of work with Online Safety lessons. You can view our Online Safety page by clicking [here](#).



Children's Mental Health Week is a mental health awareness week that empowers, equips and gives a voice to all children and young people in the UK.

Everyone can take part in Children's Mental Health Week. You can access free resources for families and find out how you can take part to raise vital funds and awareness for children's mental health by clicking [here](#).

Children's Mental Health Week was launched in 2015 and each year, hundreds of schools, children, parents and carers take part. Now in its 10th year, the theme is 'My Voice Matters'.

All classes in school will be taking part in Children's Mental Health week, completing various activities over the course of the week. Although we are joining in with Children's Mental Health week at Ellington, children's mental health is always a priority for us.

Dress to Express

As a school community, we will be encouraging all students and staff to use clothing and colour to express themselves on Friday 9th February 2024. Dress To Express is an opportunity for self-expression and celebrating a diverse range of emotions. The day also provides a great opportunity to be open about mental health and start conversations within our school community.

Place2Be believe every child should have easy access to mental health support whenever they need it. They create safe spaces in schools where students can open up without pressure, arming them with emotional skills to help deal with everything life throws at them. As a charity, Place2Be rely heavily on the generosity and support of the community to continue their essential work in the future and to reach children before it's too late. Therefore, we are kindly asking for a £1 donation on the Dress to Express day which will go directly to Place2Be.



Attendance 15/01–26/01

Reception– 92.8%

Year 1–97%

Year 2–93.3%

Year 3–96.5%

Year 4–93.3%

Year 5–96.7%

Year 6–95.8%

Whole School–95.1%

Down from 96.3%

Diary Dates

Number Day	2nd February
Children's Mental Health Week	5th–9th February
Dress to Express Day	9th February
School Photos	12th February
Valentines Disco (Rec–Y6)	14th February
End of spring term 1	16th February
Return to school	26th February
Celebrating Ellington History	1st March
World Book Day	7th March
Comic Relief	15th March
Science/Careers Week	18th– 22nd March
Parent Consultations	20th March
Y4 Residential	25th–27th March
End of spring term 2	28th March
Return to school	15th April
Bank Holiday	6th May
End of summer term 1	24th May
Return to school	3rd June
Sports Day	28th June
Y6 Residential	5th–7th July
Summer term reports	12th July
End of summer term 2	19th July

Mr Hodgson–Headteacher

Nursery News

The past two weeks in Nursery have been interesting! The children were shocked when they walked in and saw that the police had been! They had left clues for the children to investigate. The children used their magnifying glasses and clipboards to find some important clues. We worked out that baby bear's bowl had been thrown across the floor by sizing it up against the other bowls. We spotted a broken chair and some porridge oats and we concluded that Goldilocks had been to Ellington Primary School! The next day further clues arrived and the children were very excited to spot where in Ellington Goldilocks had been! The children talked enthusiastically and decided that she must've been looking for more porridge as she went to the shops and the pub.

Goldilocks was then apprehended by the police and she left us a message asking us to help build a chair for baby bear and Nursery got to work using the different construction sets around the classroom.

Nursery were super problem solvers!



Reception News

What a great start to the new year in Reception. We have really enjoyed exploring our new topic Run Run as Fast as You Can using the story of The Gingerbread Man. He trashed our classroom in week 1 so we made posters to encourage everyone to keep an eye out for him. Last week we used our STEM skills to make boats to help him cross the river without getting eaten by the pesky fox! We had lots of fun exploring different materials that would be best to make boats and then test our boats at the end of the week- they all floated for at least a little while!



This week we the Gingerbread Man sent us a letter to say he was off to travel the world. He has sent us letters, emails and postcards to keep us up to date as he passed through Antarctica, the Caribbean, Alaska and Australia! He sent us clues to let us know where he was and the children had lots of fun guessing where he could be. We compared the places he has visited to Ellington and decided we like the looks of the warmer countries than the cold ones!

In maths we have been working hard on number recognition, 2D shapes and doubles, using our fingers to help us recall facts speedily.

We also had a special music lesson this week, we sang some lovely songs thinking about pitch and got to play some musical instruments.

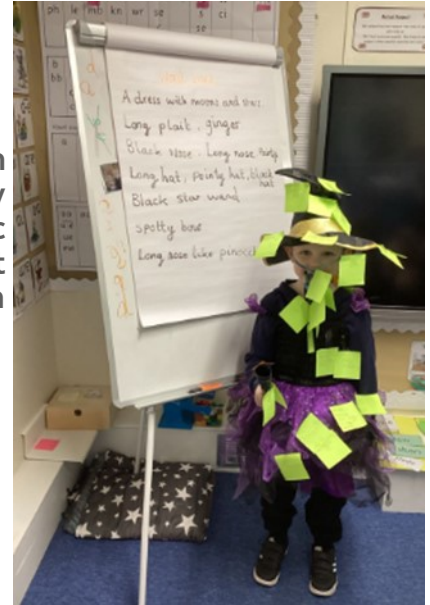
Great work Reception!



Year 1 News

The first three weeks of this half term have flown over. It is hard to believe that we are nearly half way through the school year.

We have started our new unit of work in English, 'Room on the Broom' by Julia Donaldson. The children are really enjoying this book and have so far written fantastic character descriptions for the witch using brilliant adjectives to describe the nouns. Some children even managed to include a simile! WOW Year 1.



In Maths, we have been using number lines to help us work out addition and subtraction equations. The children have had to concentrate hard and read each equation correctly to ensure they are counting on the number line the correct way. We have even been solving some written word problems. Great job!

We have nearly finished our science topic of materials and I must say how impressed I have been with the children's enthusiasm and investigation skills. We have been looking at freezing and melting, floating and sinking and carried out an investigation to see which materials absorb water.

We have had a great start to the term and the children are all ready and raring to learn which is wonderful.

Thank you,
Mrs Horsley

Year 2 News

Year 2 have had a busy week!

Our first week back we won the attendance award in assembly, we claimed our reward this week and enjoyed a lovely story in the library with juice and biscuits!

In English, we have been working together to write a newspaper report on Traction Man, this is our first time writing a newspaper report and we have worked super hard on learning the features - we even learnt a new dance to help us.

We are loving our learning in History, we are working towards answering our big question which is 'How did we learn to fly?' Here are some of the people with historical significance that we have been learning about: The Wright Brothers, Bessie Coleman, Amelia Earhart and Neil Armstrong.

In Science, our new topic this term is materials, we have been on a material hunt and a walk around our local area to see how many different materials we could spot. We have spent time grouping, sorting and learning the properties of different materials as well as looking at what it means for a material to be natural, man-made and recyclable. Our Art unit this term links to our learning in science as we are looking at using different materials to make a range of textures, we can't wait to show you our final piece. Year 5 also taught us Ellington's science definition which we have been practising in our own science lessons.

We began our new PSHE unit this week, we are looking at Safety and changes to the body. We began by looking at the difference between surprises and secrets!

In PE we have been working as a team to create a fantastic gymnastics routine, we explored different ways to move in and out of a roll on the floor and on the apparatus then we tried a range of ways to develop our 'linking'. Once we had perfected our routine we performed it for Mrs Curtis who thought it was brilliant! Well done you wonderful gymnasts.



In Computing we wowed Miss Brooks with our knowledge of technology, we created information posters to display our fantastic ideas. Take a look at some of our posters below:



Keep up the hard work Y2!

You have all shown great pride in your work and have all been super happy when coming to school!

Please keep reading at home, learning your times tables on TTRS and practice telling the time!



Year 3 News

We have had a busy few weeks to begin the new year.

We have started to learn about lots of new and exciting topics.

In English, we have been reading a poem by Roald Dahl called, 'The Crocodile and the Dentist'. Roald Dahl is one of our favourite authors and we have been working hard to emulate his style, challenging ourselves to use rhyme and rhythm in our own poems.

In maths we have been developing and consolidating our work on using column methods for addition and subtraction. We have been using these techniques to tackle bigger numbers and more complicated exchanges.

In science, we have been really interested in our new topic on rocks. We thoroughly enjoyed observing them closely last week and we have worked hard to sort and group them this week.



Geography is also an exciting topic this half term, we are exploring Antarctica, which links well with the penguin ('Waddle') that we adopted at Christmas time! We have been finding out about climate zones, where Antarctica is in the world and what it looks like.

This week we have also had some interesting and exciting visitors in school, teaching us about railway safety and doing a dance workshop which was great fun.



Year 4 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are having a fantastic start to the new year and welcome to our first newsletter of 2024.

It has been an incredibly busy start to the term but the children have settled in really well. We recently completed a practice multiplication check to help prepare for the real thing in the summer and we saw a lot of children make huge progress in learning their times tables. The average score in Autumn was 10 out of 25 it's now 18 out of 25 so we still have a bit of a way to go to hit our target of an average of 21 out of 25.

In PE we had a fantastic workshop with Skip for Life. The children learnt lots of new skills in skipping and I had about 5 children tell me their muscles were sore the next day so it must have been good exercise!

In Maths we have been recapping column methods for addition, subtraction and multiplication. The children are becoming really proficient in these procedures.

In English we have been writing poetry inspired by William Blake's Tyger. The children have generated alliteration, metaphors and similes to use in their poems about an animal they have chosen.

In Science we have investigated melting times in cold water compared to warm water. We have also been learning about the water cycle.

In PSHE we have now completed our unit on health and relationships. We have learnt about how we can take initiative to help reach our goals that will make us happy. We have also looked at types of emotions and we have looked at what is mental health and who can we talk to if we or someone we know is struggling with their mental health.

In RE we have continued to study Hinduism. We have learnt about puja and the items found on a puja plate. We have also learnt about bhajans and how and why Hindus celebrate the festival of Diwali.



Year 5 News

It's been an immensely busy start to the new year and the children have been working incredibly hard which has resulted in a very productive beginning to our spring term.

In English, we thoroughly enjoyed getting into character as a WW1 soldier where we explored informality when writing a letter home to loved one. Recently, we have been looking at the 1944 volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in which we will build up to writing a diary recount of events. The children have been creating expanding noun phrases, metaphors and similes in order to improve their descriptive writing.



In maths, we have been working hard to conquer fractions! The children are confident with recognising and defining fractions less than one, more than one and equal to one. This week we have used common numerators and denominators to calculate equivalent fractions. This has led us to be able to compare, order and calculate a variety of fractions.



Our geography topic this half term is, 'Why are oceans important?' We have explored the five main oceans and located them on a map alongside remembering to label the seven continents. This week, the children have created a chronological report on The Great Barrier Reef. We have learnt how important this marine wonder is as well as understanding its significance to human and animals. Did you know The Great Barrier Reef can be seen from outer space?

In PE, we have enjoyed our outdoor adventurous activities unit where we are developing our communication, co-operation and collaboration skills to be an effective team player during problem solving tasks.

Another excellent week in year 5, keep up the hard work everyone!

Mr Todd



Year 6 News

Year 6 have made a good start to 2024.

Over the last few weeks, we have been exploring the Ancient Maya civilisation in history, understanding just how long this historical period lasted for and evaluating some of the challenges they faced living in the rainforest as well as the solutions they came up with. We found that they were very innovative and advanced in their thinking.

Challenge	Suggested solution	Actual solution
No easy way to share water for humans, animals and crops.	kill animals and skin make tools and hold for the water.	Developing an advanced trading network to provide a variety of goods and items.
Difficult to travel or create paths through the great paths.	You will have to dig the rock of the mountains and take the trees out to make paths.	Making steps along roads to go to fields and food which would allow access of the ground.
It was hard to use wood or rock to make tools.	No stone, the wood from the trees to make the tools.	Using natural materials like palm leaves and wax to build houses.
It was hard to know the best crops to build and when.	Watch the behaviour of the animals.	Creating seasonal calendars to show the best times to plant and harvest crops.

In science, we have looked at the differences between renewable and non-renewable energy sources (which we will also return to in Geography later this year) as well as starting our unit of work on light. We have had a go at drawing ray diagrams in order to demonstrate light travelling in straight lines, explored parts of the eye and understanding the difference between luminous and non-luminous objects.

In English, we are almost finished with our novel, *Private Peaceful*, and are devastated at the prospect of ending the story; however, we really want to find out what happens to Tommo and Charlie! It's very conflicting!



We have also been exploring the ballad "The Highwayman" by Alfred Noyes. We held a debate to discuss whether Tim was really the one to blame for the deaths of Bess and the Highwayman as well as understanding the features of a diary entry so that we could write one from the point of view of a character involved within the storyline.

The other day, we enjoyed a visit from employees from National Rail as well as the British Transport Police so that we could better understand how to keep ourselves and others safe around railway lines. We were amazed by the speed and power that trains actually possess and know that it is never ok to cross a railway track unless it is safe to do so at a designated crossing area.