



Ellington Primary News

Believe and Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to News Bulletin #14 of the 2023-2024 academic year! As always, it has been a busy time in school but it has been great to see the children enjoying some sunshine and playing on the school field.

We have had several new children join our school in recent weeks and have two more starting with us after the next half term. We have spaces available in every class except for Year 3. If you know of anyone considering coming to Ellington, please encourage them to come for a visit! More children in school means more funding for the school and more funding means more staff, resources and experiences for our children!

I have this week been in touch with Northumberland County Council (NCC) regarding the secondary school feeder situation. NCC are currently collating responses, as soon as I have some more information I will share this with you.

Year 6 SATs

Next week, our Year 6 children will be completing their SATs. They have worked extremely hard in recent months and we know that they will all try their best, which is all we ask.

We are inviting the Year 6 children into school early next week (Monday–Thursday) from around 8:20am. We will have some fruit, pastries and breakfast bars available. Siblings can also be dropped off at 8:20am if needed. Children should arrive at their usual classroom doors.

In previous years, we have found that coming in early and being all together settles the children sooner ready for the day ahead. They can ask questions, we'll play some music to keep things relaxed and do some revision games. By no means is this mandatory, it is merely an offering that we have found to be helpful.



Sun Safety



I hope I am not speaking too soon but the sun has started to make an appearance this week! Please ensure that your child has sun cream applied before school and wears a sun hat/cap when needed. As we know, the British weather is ever changing so ask that children still bring a jacket to school each day.

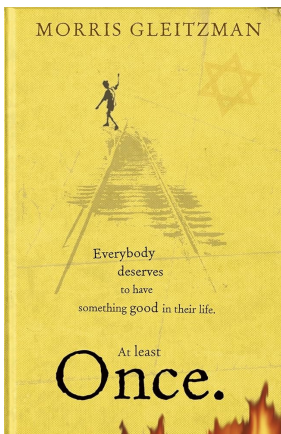
Book Recommendations

This week's recommendations come from Year 6.

Mrs Sanders - "My absolute favourite book is Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo. It is beautifully written and the storyline is cleverly revealed as the plot moves forward. Year 6 are now superfans of it too and were devastated by the ending having come to care for the characters so much. I also have a newly-discovered delight for Once by Morris Gleitzman - a novel from a child's perspective and experience of the Holocaust."

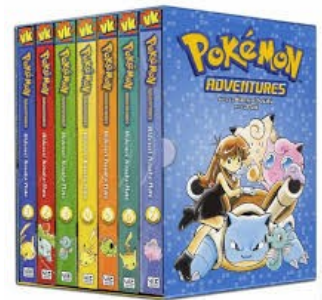


Charlotte from Year 6, has recommended the following books:



Once - "I am reading this book in class at the moment as our class reader. It is really interesting because it gives you the point of view of the Jewish people and how they were treated by the Nazi's."

Pokémon Adventures - "I love Pokémon so I enjoy reading all of the adventure books with my favourite characters in. They are fun adventure stories and easy to read."



PE is a huge part of our curriculum here at Ellington. Regular physical activity has many benefits and we want as many children as possible to take part in sporting activities in and out of school. Every week in our celebration assembly, we have a number of children who bring in recent sporting awards that they have achieved. These include football, rugby, gymnastics, trampolining, swimming, dancing, horse riding, judo and much more!

Recently, we have had some fantastic individual and team achievements. Some of our Year 2 pupils, Melvyn and William, won a football tournament for Ellington Juniors Under 7s, going unbeaten throughout. In Year 3, James has had more amazing success in trampolining, after winning a regional competition, he will be competing in another national competition in Birmingham. Sisters, Maya (Year 6) & Amelie (Year 4), have also won individual and team awards in trampolining. In Year 5, Travis's football team, Stakeford Juniors Under 10's, went throughout the season unbeaten and won the Outstanding Achievement Award from Northumberland FA. Also in Year 5, Emelia has won a number of dancing awards recently across several disciplines. In Year 6, Joseph, Charlie and Charlie are going to Twickenham to represent Newcastle Falcons in the Premiership Rugby Final. The boys play rugby for Ashington and they competed in a competition at ast weekend, winning all of their games. Fantastic achievements, we are very proud of you all!

Safeguarding at Ellington

Ellington Primary School is committed to the highest standards in protecting and safeguarding the children entrusted to our care. As a school, we follow our safeguarding and child protection policy in order to follow our statutory duties and ensure the safety all of pupils.

We regularly talk to the children about what we do as a school to keep them safe. From pupil questionnaires, we know that the children at Ellington feel safe and happy coming to school. They know that they can talk to trusted adults about any concerns they have, no matter how big or small they are.

UNICEF Rights Respecting - The UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. The RRSA seeks to put the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's ethos and culture to improve well-being and develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. We have achieved the Bronze Award for Rights Respecting.

Operation Encompass - Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality or background. There are different kinds of abuse that can happen in different contexts. The most prevalent type of domestic abuse occurs in relationships. But the definition of domestic abuse also covers abuse between family members, such as adolescent to parent violence and abuse.

● Operation Encompass is our way of working directly with the police to support families where there are members who are victims of domestic abuse.

● **Young Carers** - At Ellington, we want to ensure all Young Carers are offered support. We seek to raise awareness of this issue so that any child acting as Young Carers can be identified and supported. Pupils already identified as Young Carers know that they can speak to any member of staff if they feel they need extra support.

Pupil Voice - At Ellington, we truly value Pupil Voice. We have a wide range of groups who lead this across the school in a variety of contexts. We have our School Council, Eco Council, Sports Leaders, WOW Walk to School Ambassadors and our Year 6 Prefects.

Behaviour - We have high expectations for pupils' behaviour and conduct. We expect and model good manners and kindness at all times. These expectations are commonly understood and applied consistently and fairly. You will see positive behaviour and conduct across our school and all children know our school rules: Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Kind. Staff work patiently, with determination and compassion to support children who need it and to overcome any difficulties they may be experiencing.

Training - We have four designated safeguarding leads who have additional safeguarding annually - Mr Hodgson, Mr McConville, Miss Gray and Mrs Milne. All staff who work at Ellington have an annual safeguarding refresher ensuring they are fully up to date with all safeguarding issues. We have a Safeguarding link governor - Danielle Towers, our Vice Chair.

Online Safety - At Ellington, we understand the responsibility to educate our pupils on Online-Safety issues; teaching them the appropriate behaviours and critical thinking skills to enable them to remain both safe and legal when using the internet and related technologies, in and beyond the context of the classroom.

Attendance 29/4–10/5

Reception— 88.3%

Year 1—93.5%

Year 2—92.8%

Year 3—95.6%

Year 4—91.9%

Year 5—92.4%

Year 6—95.8%

Whole School—93.2%

Down from 96.4%

Diary Dates

KS2 SATS Week	13th–16th May
End of summer term 1	24th May
Return to school	3rd June
Sports Day AM /Summer Fair PM	28th June
Y6 Residential	5th–7th July
Summer term reports	12th July
End of summer term 2	19th July

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.

Mr Hodgson—Headteacher

Nursery News

Nursery have had an exciting start to our term and their topic 'To the Rescue'

Firstly, we learnt all about what superheroes are and the qualities they have. We then read our key story 'Supertato' and tried to catch the Evil Pea. We found out he had frozen 'Supertato' and we had to rescue him. We came up with lots of brilliant plans to free him such as warm water, hammer and salt.

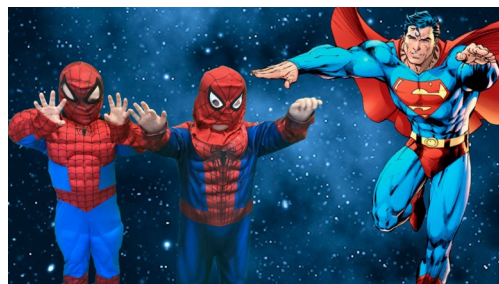
We also turned ourselves into Superheroes with the help from Mr Bailey who showed us how to use a green screen to make our pictures look even better!

We have also been learning about real life superheroes and the role they have in keeping our community safe.

Our first visitor was a police officer who specialised in dog handling. We loved hearing all about his uniform, why he wears them and what they are used for. We loved saying hello to the dogs and learning about their role in keeping us safe. Thank you very much for coming to share this with us!

Our visitors this week were from Pegwood Fire Station. We learnt all about their role in keeping our community safe. We loved learning about the fire engine and even had a go at the hose!! Again we would like to say thank you for helping us with our topic.

Nursery has had a jammed packed month! We look forward to sharing our next adventures with you!



Reception News

What an excellent start to the summer term we have had. We have started our brand-new topic 'Out and About' and have enjoyed reading the story 'Topsy and Tim Visit London' by Jean and Gareth Adamson. We were sent a photo album of the places Topsy and Tim visited on their trip and enjoyed finding these places on a virtual tour of London. We have compared London to Ellington and wrote some wonderful sentences about which landmarks we would like to visit in London. We then thought of questions we could ask Topsy and Tim about their trip and used these questions in our hot seating task where we took turns to take on the role of Topsy or Tim. The children were able to provide some wonderful answers to the questions asked by their friends, scan the QR codes below to have a look. This week we have been finishing off writing a postcard to tell our friends all about London, the children have produced some lovely writing for this task!



- In maths we have been working on our number bonds to 5, addition by counting on and subtraction by counting back. The children have also enjoyed exploring division by sharing between 2 and 3 using skittles to find the answer, we even got to eat the sweets once we had finished, yum!
- We were so excited to have Mr Bailey come into our class to teach us computing. It was lots of fun creating an algorithm to move the cow into the bathtub on Busy Things and debugging when we made a mistake. Mr Bailey was very impressed with our problem solving skills.



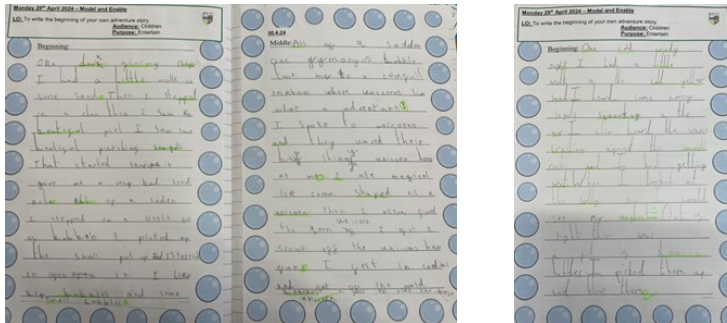
We have been exploring people who keep us safe at home, in school and in our community. The children had some great ideas including parents helping to keep us safe at home, teachers keep us safe at school and shopkeepers, police officers and doctors keep us safe in the community.

This week we began our daily mile challenge by running around the school field. The children have been really keen to join in each day and we are having so much fun getting some extra exercise to keep us healthy!

Year 1 News

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of week 4, Summer term 1.

The children have been working incredibly hard over the last 4 weeks and have produced some fabulous pieces of writing for our English text 'Bubbles'.



In Maths, we have been working on calculations in our main lessons. We have been adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Please continue to use TTRS to help with multiplication and division as it is a hard concept, however, the more they are exposed to it the easier it will become.

We have also been learning our doubles of 6, 7, 8 and 9. We have been partitioning numbers into tens and ones and also continuing to count in 2s, 5s and 10s.

In Science we have been learning all about plants. We have planted some different plants (Please take a look in our class window). We have used mini green windows to allow us to see the different parts of the plants (roots, stem, leaves and flower). We have also learnt the important functions each part has.



In DT, we have been understanding the difference between fruits and vegetables. We have learnt where fruit and vegetables grow and how we can tell this. We have then started tasting and testing different fruits and fruit drinks, building up to create our own smoothies next week. How yummy!

This week we have introduced the daily mile. Thankfully for us we don't have to complete a whole mile every day but we run 1 lap of the field daily to help with our physical and mental wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued support with homework and reading. The phonics screening is due to take place in June so please continue reading as much as possible at home.

Thank you,

Mrs. Horsley

Year 2 News

A great start back after the Easter holidays, all of Year 2 have been working super hard! We started back reading 'The Bear and the Piano' and we are currently own narrative containing direct speech and descriptive language.

Year 2 loved column addition and column subtraction, despite finding some lessons tricky everyone showed great resilience and we all shared a love for the column method! We will continue to practise this, and I encourage the children practise these at home too. We have been developing on our fraction knowledge and have looked at improper fractions, mixed numbers and equivalent fractions, we will be moving onto shapes next week.

During PSHE we have been looking at the local environment and the school environment, we discussed the importance of looking after both our local and school environment and we thought of different ways we can help take care of our environment. Next week, we have a special visitor joining us to talk about their job in the community!

In Design and Technology, the children have been working with clay to design, sculpt and paint their very own pinch pot. Year 2 used a vote to decide which animal design they wanted on their paint pot and a fish won the vote!

Our History unit this term is looking at 'What is a monarch?', we began by looking at the role of the monarch and who the monarch is today then we moved onto looking at William the Conqueror and his importance.



We worked with Mr Bailey, and began our Computing unit and the children amazed me with their knowledge on Scratch Jr. All of the children programmed their sprite characters and even began creating their own characters and backgrounds. We also linked our history learning and made a collage linked to 'What is a monarch?'.

The children have been doing fantastic with their reading and I encourage all children to read as much as they can at home! The 'Book Swap Shop' is every Tuesday and Thursday afterschool on the yard and a great way to encourage the children to read their books and change it for another!

Year 2 have all demonstrated the schools 'Teamwork' value well over the last two weeks - keep it up Y2!

Miss Brooks

Please keep reading at home and learning your times tables on TTRS.



Year 3 News

We have continued to work really hard in Year 3 over the last two weeks.

We have written and 'published' our newspaper reports about 'The Attack' on the Abominables from our focus text. This week, we have started to explore the wonderfully illustrated book, 'Leon and the Place Between'.

In maths we have been practising the formal column methods for subtraction, addition, multiplication and division.



In geography last week we enjoyed some fieldwork that explored our local area. We looked for human and physical features of the area, and discussed why they were situated where they were. This week we were also very keen to compare our local area with a map of the same area 100 years ago. We looked at features that still exist, those that we don't have any more and new features that have been added to the area.

We have also been enjoying PE where we are focusing on learning the skills for rounders. Last week we learnt about underarm throwing which we used in a mini game. This week, our focus was on the technique for overarm throwing and we were trying to be as accurate as possible.



We have recently completed a unit of work in science all about light and were able to use some really precise scientific vocabulary brilliantly! One of the practical activities we did was to make shadow puppets from different types of material, to see what difference it made to the shadow when we used a translucent material, for example. We are about to start a new unit of work all about plants, and we will discover who in the class is more green-fingered than Mrs Richardson (quite possibly everyone!)

Computing has seen us return to the programming environment of Scratch, and we are continuing to look at sequencing in our coding work. We are aiming to create drawing programs and are excited to see the results!



Year 5 News

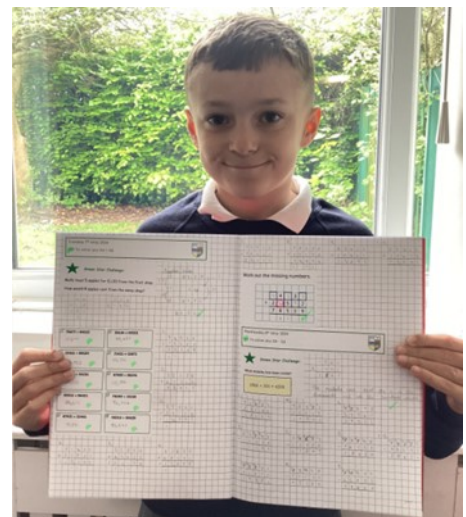
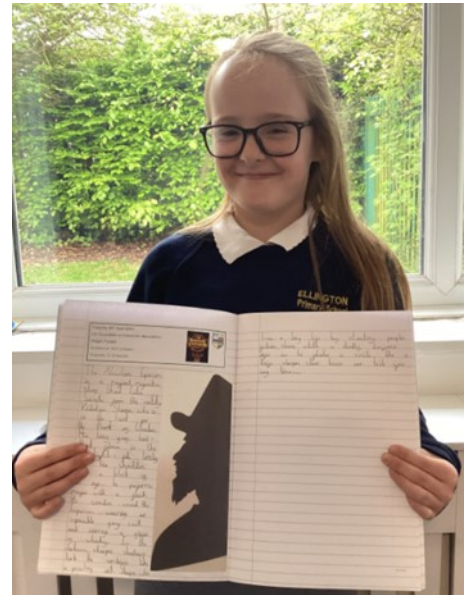
We've had a busy start to the summer term and picked up where we left off before the Easter holidays. We are proud to have introduced the Daily Mile into our school day where we encourage the children to adopt an active, healthy lifestyle. Year 5 are enjoying their time on the grass field to complete the run, where we aim to show resilience, determination and pride.

In English, wrote a fabulous character description about the antagonist of The Nowhere Emporium, the spiteful magician, Vindictus Sharpe. The children applied their knowledge of multi-clause sentences using subordinating conjunctions and relative pronouns in order to create a detailed description of the character. We recently have started planning our first-person narrative based on the Literacy Shed video 'Road's End'.

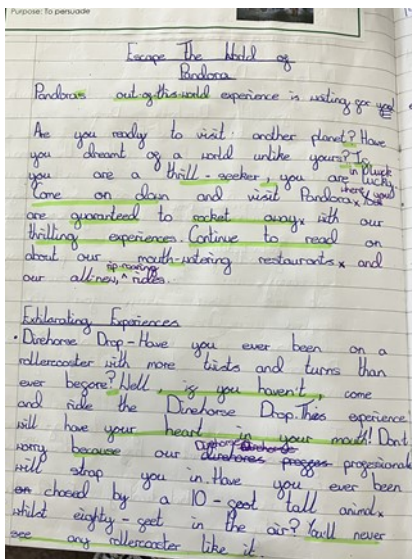
In maths, we began the half term by recapping our column method work where did 5-digits add 5-digits, 4-digits subtract 4-digit, 4-digits multiply by 1-digit numbers and 4-digits divided by 1-digit numbers with remainders involved. We then progressed onto our fraction unit where we have worked hard this term to understand the link between fractions, percentages and decimals. The children have been converting improper fractions to mixed numbers to simplifying ordering and calculating them.

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

Mr Todd



Year 6 News



After working very hard for a long time, Year 6 will be taking on their KS2 assessments next week. I have no doubt that each of them will put 100% effort into showing off their skills and am immensely proud of them for the dedication shown by many in the months leading up.

Meanwhile, we have been writing some incredible persuasive leaflets about the theme parks we have created based on the world of "Pandora" from Avatar. The children have developed their use of specific language including the use of idioms as well as the subjunctive form. If only these theme parks were real, you'd definitely want to give them a whirl!

In stark contrast, we are now writing very formal letters of complaint about the same theme park after an imaginary trip there went disastrously wrong! It is great to see how much the children have enjoyed writing at the two extremes and - believe me - I hope future companies never get on the wrong side of this lot as they will be getting some extremely critical correspondence.

In maths, we have been developing our skills in time, data handling and algebra as the last few topics we have needed to cover. Following this, lots of revision has been taking place with the children recalling prior knowledge well.

Geography has seen us applying some of our coordinate skills when using OS maps online to practise reading 6-figure grid references. We have been exploring the Port of Blyth in order to see the kinds of renewable and non-renewable energy sources created and distributed around the local area.

Good luck next week Year 6 - you'll be amazing!

