



Ellington Primary News

Believe and Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have made it to the end of Spring term! Time is flying in school and we only have thirteen school weeks left this academic year! Hopefully the weather will eventually improve and we can enjoy some warm, sunny summer days!

Our priority at Ellington is reading. We have dedicated story time every single day in school as well as a phonics (EYFS/KS1) and a reading (KS2) lesson every single day. We have lovely reading areas in all classrooms and an on-going reading reward system. We try to hear children read as much as possible in school, but we need your help at home too. Please read with, listen to, or encourage your child to read independently, every single day. Reading regularly can make an incredible difference to your child's education.

Book Swap Shop

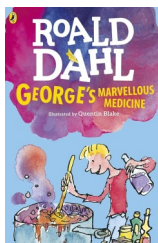
After Easter, we are starting a book swap shop. We have a number of books which the children can take home to read (in addition to their usual reading books) and then return to swap for another book. Children can also bring in their old books from home and swap these for different books. The idea being that the children can swap their old books for 'new' ones and read a wider range of books. We will have this set up on the school yard next to the pencils on a Tuesday and Thursday at home time - weather permitting. We will also have a table with books for parents/carers which are free to take or swap and then return.



Book Recommendations

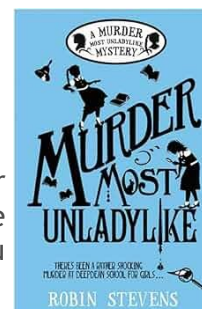
A new feature in every newsletter will be book recommendations. A member of staff will recommend a book for adults and a pupil will recommend a book for children to read.

I will start us off this week:



Throughout my teaching career I always enjoyed Roald Dahl stories. My particular favourites are George's Marvellous Medicine and The Twits. The characters are brilliant and the stories are great fun to read with children.

My youngest daughter, who is 11, is thoroughly enjoying reading the 'A Murder Most Unladylike Mystery' series of books. The books are set in the past and are targeted at children aged 9 to 12. They are thrillers and genuinely do keep you wanting to read page after page.



Mr Bailey

We are pleased to announce that Mr Bailey will be working at Ellington one day per week beginning after Easter. Mr Bailey owns the company Animate to Educate and has been working part time at a school in Durham for the past 11 years. He has delivered computing/digital enrichment/online safety training in over 1000 schools all over the world. He will be an excellent addition to the team and will further enhance our curriculum, bringing new, exciting experiences for all pupils.

Parent Consultations

Thank you for the brilliant turn out for the parent consultations on Wednesday 20th March. Over 80% of parents/carers attended on the evening. We hope you found it worthwhile. If you didn't have an appointment but would like to make one, please contact your child's class teacher via Class Dojo. Year 4 Parent Consultations have been moved to Wednesday 17th April.

Wheels to School

We have made massive progress over the past two years in increasing the number of pupils actively travelling to school. As in previous years during the Summer term, we are encouraging the children to use scooters or bikes on the yards during play times and lunch time - ONLY if they bring a helmet. We would like the children to travel to school on foot or wheels every day if possible but as we have done previously, we will need to rotate classes using the yards. The children can use bikes or scooters on the following days on the school yards:

Monday - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Tuesday - Year 3 and Year 4

Wednesday - Years 5 and 6

Thursday - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Friday - Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6



There are a number of bike racks at the back of school and would encourage all bikes that are being used at play times to be parked there.

Nursery have access to their own bikes, trikes and scooters every day but can also bring scooters into school any day of the week if they wish.

Extra Curricular Clubs

We have shared information regarding our Summer term clubs. We are pleased to have 10 different clubs running next term and we would love all children to attend at least one extra-curricular club. You can book clubs through your School Gateway app.

We have reduced the costs of clubs run by external coaches. External coaches cost between £30 - £40 per session. When we have clubs run by school staff, we charge £1 per child per week and this money goes towards resources for the clubs or to further subsidise the external coaches. School staff running clubs do this voluntarily. We are very proud to offer such a wide breadth of extra-curricular clubs.

Safeguarding

It has come to our attention in recent weeks that WhatsApp groups are not always being used in a positive way. We know that WhatsApp is used by many of our older pupils who may be in several groups. The legal age to use WhatsApp is 16 so we would advise you to check your children's phones regularly, which WhatsApp groups they are in and the content of the groups.

X (Formerly Twitter)

I would just like to remind you that all classes use X to share information, events, class updates. If you don't already follow us, please do: @Ellingtontweets

We return to school on Monday 15th April. On behalf of all the staff at Ellington, we hope you have a fantastic Easter break!

Diary Dates

Return to school	15th April
Parent Consultations Year 4	17th April
Bank Holiday	6th 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

Mr Hodgson—Headteacher

Nursery News

Nursery has been springing into Easter for the past two weeks. The children have been spotting signs of Spring like blossom, seedlings and daffodils and were excited when we spotted these things on our Ranger Hamza Spring walk. The children had a go at sketching and painting daffodils from our own garden.

We had a sneaky peek at the chicks in Reception and we even saw one hatch! We also played a game where we had to dress appropriately for the seasons and had fun trying to guess which weather our friends were dressed for.

Nursery have also been learning about Easter and why Christians celebrate it. We have talked about how the Easter egg means 'new life' and related it to the chicks hatching in Reception.

Finally, we had some Year 3 visitors in to talk to us about how to stay safe on the road. Nursery listened very well and copied the actions the Year 3s taught them.

We have had a very busy but quick half term and we would like to wish you all a very happy Easter!



Reception News

Another brilliant fortnight in Reception. We were super lucky last week that two very exciting things happened. First, we got to see our chicks hatch with our very own eyes and we ended up taking care of 6 of the cutest little chicks. We made sure they had enough to eat and drink and had a nice place to sleep. We talked about handling them carefully and not too much because we don't want them getting cold. They are currently at home with Miss Nicholson until they are big enough to go and enjoy allotment life with Miss Nicholson's dad.



We also had loads of fun at Whitehouse Farm on our visit last week. We held small animals, ate our packed lunch, fed the lambs some milk and fed the cows, ponies, sheep and goats some grain. We learned all about looking after the animals and their lives. We also learned about how to keep ourselves safe around farm animals including washing our hands thoroughly after we touched them. The children were exceptionally well behaved and polite and we all had such an amazing day.



Back at school we have been writing all about our visit and the animals we saw. We have been learning about farm machinery and how it has changed over time. The children were very good at spotting differences between past and modern machinery.

In maths, we have been focusing on subtraction and how to count backwards to find the answer. We have also looked at measuring length and the children had lots of fun searching around our classroom for the biggest things they could find to measure.

In RE, we have enjoyed learning about the Easter story, including recreating the Last Supper, and how Christians celebrate Easter.

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter break!

Year 1 News

What a quick half term it has been! The children have worked so very hard this half term and the progress they are achieving is wonderful.

We have been extremely lucky to have Miss Leckie join Year One as a student teacher and the children have been so welcoming and engaged during her placement. She will be a real miss in class.

In English, the children have been working hard on building up their skills in order to write a postcard from the Jolly Postman. We have looked at the features of a post card, sentence structures and how to use exclamation marks. What super postcards Year 1!

In Science we have been learning all about the different animal groups; birds, amphibians, mammals etc. We have been able to categorise the different animals based on their features.

In PSHE, we have looked at dangers that might occur in and around the home. We came up with some sensible solutions on how to keep a house safe. Please ask you children about this.

Today, we have had a brilliant Easter egg hunt. The children loved searching for the eggs around the school grounds. We were so fantastic, that the Easter bunny left a chocolate treat for us to have in school. How yummy!

● Myself and Mrs Strachan would like to wish you all a Happy Easter. Have a brilliant 2 weeks off school. Fingers crossed that the weather improves.

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Year 2 News

This term Year 2 have created some brilliant pieces of writing, they created a letter to the crayons when they decided to quit, wrote a beautiful setting description of the Tin Forest and recently have finished writing an ending to the traditional tale 'The Princess and the Pea' but our endings had a great twist as the traditional tale went completely wrong! Some very creative ideas, we even had a princess werewolf!

In Maths, Year 2 have been working on their rapid recall during our daily CLIC sessions and we have also looked at temperature on a thermometer, money, properties of shapes as well as fractions, telling the time and lines of symmetry.

Year 2 have loved our Geography unit, we have been looking at 'Why is our World Wonderful?' Within this unit of work, the children have been introduced to famous landmarks, sketch maps and an investigation which looked at natural habitats and why they are special. The children also recapped their prior knowledge of the seven continents, the five oceans and the capital cities in the United Kingdom. One of our lessons focused on 'Where are some of the world's most amazing places?' The children enjoyed looking at the different places around the world and shared their interests, we discussed why we would want to visit these amazing places and looked at many different photos and videos. Some of the places included: The Great Pyramid of Giza, Mount Erebus, Statue of Liberty, Mount Etna, Great Wall of China, Amazon Rainforest and Great Barrier Reef.

Our Computing unit this term focused on digital photography, the children learnt the difference between 'portrait' and 'landscape' and learnt the best way to take a clear photograph. The children worked together to take photographs of items around the classroom.

In our Music unit 'Musically Me', the children learnt a short song and added actions, they then used different musical instruments to create a short performance. The performances were great and the children had lots of fun using the different instruments!

In the last week of term, we had a special visit from Reverend Jules. Following on from our learning in RE, where we have been looking at 'Why is Easter important to Christians?' Reverend Jules showed the children the Easter story, and then taught us about different Easter traditions around the world. Year 2, participated in all the actives and gave some excellent answers. We also tried the special bread made from just flour and water!

Miss Brook



Another fantastic term full of happiness, well done Year 2. You have all worked extremely hard and produced some excellent work that you should be very proud of.

I hope you have a brilliant Easter - don't eat too many Easter Eggs! 😊

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 of term.

We have 'published' our humorous Little Red Riding Hood stories. They are written from the wolf's perspective, following the style of our focus text, 'The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs'.



In history last week we had a very practical lesson. The children made Roman shields and tried out some of the Roman army battle formations. We also enjoyed exploring some Roman artefacts.



Last Thursday the children showed fantastic talent during their art day. They worked on using shape to sketch, shading, observational drawing and they finally created large abstract flower pictures, thinking about scale and composition. Fabulous work!



We have been focusing on running during our Tuesday PE lessons, the children have shown great skill and a growing awareness of the techniques needed for sprinting, team racing and long distance running. We can't wait for better weather to put these skills to use on the field track.

In PSHE, we have been learning about keeping safe on or near to roads. The children impressed us with their understanding of the rules. They made effective posters, learnt a catchy rhyme and thoroughly enjoyed the chance to share their knowledge with the children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1. What a great job they did!



Have a wonderful Easter break and we look forward to seeing you all again in April for another fun and busy term!

Year 4 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well what a week it has been for Year 4. The children have had an absolutely fantastic time at Dukeshouse Wood. Every member of staff they worked with, commented on how fantastically well behaved the children were and they all did themselves proud. Mr Todd, Mrs Mallaburn and Mrs Strachan were all singing their praises when they returned so I was very proud of them. The teaching staff have posted dozens of photos and videos on Class Dojo if you have not seen them. I asked the children what their favourite part of the trip was and they answered with a mix of high ropes, zip line and nightline. Please watch the videos of the children completing the Nightline course blindfolded as these are pretty funny.

Residential like this are such an amazing opportunity for the children to work on their resilience and teamworking skills and it is something they will always remember. It's brilliant that it has been such a positive experience.

Finally, thanks to all parents who attended the STEM workshop run by Woodhorn Colliery. The children loved preparing the challenges for you to solve.

All that is left to say is have a lovely and restful Easter break. Thanks again for all your support this term.



Year 5 News

We recently enjoyed our Art / DT day where our focus was 'Drawing: I Need Space.' This unit focused on understanding retrofuturism, developing skills in evaluating images and creating art through various drawing processes, including collagraph printmaking. It emphasised the development of the children's independent artistic skills and their ability to generate, test, and refine ideas in their sketchbooks, leading to a final piece of artwork.



We've had a great last week in school to round off Spring Term, enjoying activities, such as the Easter Egg Hunt and the Chocolate Tombola! Children and parents had a great morning at our STEM family workshop hosted by Museums Northumberland where the children set challenges for their parents to use the very clever Earl to navigate around Mars!

The children have worked incredibly hard over the past 5 weeks and should be very proud of themselves. It's time to recharge our batteries in order to come back prepared for a busy summer term!

- Another excellent week in year 5,
- Have a fantastic Easter break everyone!
- Mr Todd



Year 6 News

After another busy half term, the children have earned a break in order to recharge ready for their last term in primary school!

Over the last two weeks, we have started developing ideas and learning about persuasive writing in order to create a piece of writing persuading people to visit an all-new, state-of-the-art theme park based on the world of Pandora from Avatar. The creatures within this world have given us some fantastic ideas for rides, food establishments and even a hotel! The children have very promising ideas and I can't wait to read the finished product.



In maths, we have been ensuring that a range of topics have been covered so that we know everything we need to know for our Key Stage 2 assessments in May. We have been consistently going over previously taught methods as well so that we can recall facts quickly and effectively.

During science, we have finished our unit of work on light and looked at ways to live more sustainably by trying to prevent light pollution. We were surprised at just how much artificial light has affected the natural world, including our own sleep patterns as well as the migration habits of certain animals.



In RE, the children visited St Bartholomew's church in Cresswell and spoke to the reverend there, asking questions about Christianity, as well as exploring the graveyard. The gravestones were explored to look for messages of hope. This also linked in rather nicely with our reading text, *The Graveyard Book*.

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter break!