



Ellington Primary News

Believe and Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

It seems like only yesterday when welcomed the children back after the Easter holidays and now it is almost time for another half term break! We have one week remaining this half term and seven weeks when we return until we break up for summer! Where has the last year gone!? Our Year 6 children did us proud with their hard work and effort during their SATs last week. Our Year 2 children are also working very hard completing their SATs. After half term, we will be holding some open afternoons where you can come into school and see the progress the children have made this year.

The Bee Musical

I was blown away by the amazing performance from Years 3 and 4 in The Bee Musical this week. The children were unbelievable! The songs, acting, delivery of lines, jokes and costumes were incredible. A huge thank you to all of the staff too, who spent so much time rehearsing and sorting the costumes/props in their own time.



Family Picnic

On Friday 26th May, we will be having a family picnic on the school field. All families from Nursery to Year 6 are welcome to attend. As with the Jubilee picnic last year, we are keeping things simple and this event is purely a picnic on the school field. Families can join their children on the school field from 1:30pm to enjoy a picnic together. Adults attending will need to bring their own picnic for their child and themselves. Pupils can sit with their families for their picnic and children without an adult present can sit with their friends and class teacher. The picnic will end by 3:00pm and children can leave early with their families. We are aware that not everyone will be able to attend due to other commitments, so we will provide any children without a picnic with some treats. The children will be having school lunch as normal.

Pro Strike

On Wednesday 24th May, Pro Strike are visiting school and all children will be taking part in our sponsored 'Speed Challenge'. There is no fee for participation and every child in the school will take part. Our Speed Challenge involves a giant inflatable football goal with integrated speed camera system. When a pupil takes a shot at goal the speed is displayed on a digital screen for all to see. Every child in the school will receive a personalised certificate showing their top speed on the day of the event. The more each child can raise, the more prizes they will win. Prizes include; drinks bottles, gym bags, wristbands, medals, trophies and footballs! All sponsor money needs to be handed into before 24th May.



Residential Trips

Our Year 6 children are visiting Ford Castle for two nights/three days on June 7th. A parent meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 24th May at 5pm in school.

We have also confirmed our Year 4 residential for next March at Dukeshouse Wood!



Residential trips are so valuable and rewarding for the children. We will continue to subsidise these trips so the children at Ellington can experience two residential trips as well as a host of other trips during their time here.

New Yard Markings

We are delighted with our new yard markings on the Key Stage One yard. The children have thoroughly enjoyed playing on them. Hopefully, we will also have some markings on the Key Stage Two yard before September 23!



Summer Works

During the summer, Northumberland County Council are installing a new roof on the Key Stage two part of the school. The existing flat roof leaks in many different spots and despite repairs over the years, it has deteriorated severely recently. The work on the new roof will begin in mid-July and continue until mid-September. There will be some disruption, but it will be worthwhile!

Twitter

Although we have had a school Twitter account for over a year now, it was not used as much as it could have been. However, each class are now posting on Twitter every week. Please follow us @Ellingtontweets

Attendance 08/05–19/05

Reception— 94%

Year 1—88.2%

Year 2—94.9%

Year 3—92.4%

Year 4—96.8%

Year 5—91.7%

Year 6—97.2%

Whole School—93.5%

Up from 91%

Diary Dates

Pro Strike Event—24th May

Y6 Ford Castle Parent Meeting—24th May
(17:00)

Family Picnic—26th May
(13:30–15:00)

Summer half term—26th May

Return to school—5th June

Year 6 Residential
Ford Castle—7th - 9th June

Sports Day—23rd June

Summer Fair —8th July

Summer term reports—14th July

Year 6 Leavers Assembly—21st July
(09:30am)

Summer Holidays—21st July

Return to School—6th September

Nursery News

What a busy time we're having learning about growing and changing. We started by planting sunflower seeds and then we looked at the plants we eat and found seeds inside fruit and vegetables. These last two weeks we have been learning more about plants that grow that are turned into food for us in other ways. We followed the Little Red Hen on her farm as she made bread and we investigated how we could do the same. We examined how different the wheat, grains, flour and bread felt; we tested to see how hard it was to grind wheat into flour; we used our number skills to put the number cards in the correct order and to help plant a field of wheat; worked in our very own bakery; and finally used bread to make sandwiches to eat.



After that incredible start, we moved on to learn about the other animals that live on a farm, putting the correct number in their barns, and, also learning the special names that the baby farm animals have. We have been very busy learning how to look after and care for baby animals in our Vet Clinic. So many patients to see! So many x-rays and operations! So many treats and food to order. And how many bandages did we use??!

And with the lovely, sunny weather came the opportunity to put some of our spare sunflower plants into our Nursery Garden and also plant some new flower seeds in one of our raised planter boxes. We hope they grow...especially the peapods. Mmmm!

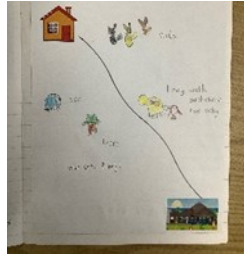


Whatever will we do next??!!

Reception News

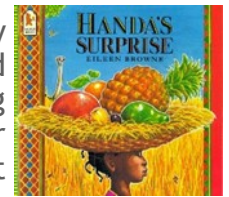
It has been another busy two weeks in Reception.

We are continuing our topic 'Growing' and have been super excited to see how much our bean plants have grown!



In Literacy, we have been reading and learning about the story Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins. Mrs Cook is very proud of our Reception children for their fantastic writing of Rosie's journey in the story. We then thought about our journey to school and drew pictures to represent what we see on the way to school. We also looked at Ellington on Google Maps and talked about the different places/roads/ buildings etc that we could recognise on the map.

This week in Literacy, our learning has been focused around the story Handa's Surprise by Eileen Brown. The story is about a little girl called Handa going on a journey to take fruit to her friend as a surprise. But along the way Handa gets lots of different animals taking the fruit from her basket. The story got the children questioning where the different fruit comes from, we then tasted the fruits from Handa's story.



In Maths, we have continued to work on the composition of numbers to 10. We did this by playing a game called don't burn the sausages and then showed the working out on our fingers.

We are very lucky this term to have Mr Burns who comes into school every Thursday afternoon to teach us music. We have enjoyed singing, finding the pulse in music, clapping the syllables in our name and singing to the beat of the music. Mr Burns also plays the trumpet for us!

In PSHE, we worked on our listening and friendship skills. We designed a party hat for our friend but we did not just colour it in any colour. We had to ask our friend questions about how they would like their party hat design. We showed super listening skills to our friends!



Year 1 News

This week, we loved watching the year 3 and 4 dress rehearsal for their Bee Musical Performance. They were amazing!

In English, we have been doing some performances of our own, acting out the story of Little Red Riding Hood. Some brilliant acting and expression were used when we performed in front of our friends.

We have been learning all about exclamation marks and when to use exclamation sentences. This is a difficult concept but the children have tried really hard to use exclamation marks in their writing when describing Granny (the wolf).



In maths, we have been using language to describe positions and directions. We've had a very practical week getting outside directing our friends and playing games. Key vocabulary this week has been: forwards, backwards, left, right, clockwise, anti-clockwise, half turn, quarter turn.

Thank you so much for helping with last week's Science homework. We have been tree detectives at school this week and looked at deciduous and evergreen trees. We picked leaves and used technology to identify which tree it came from. Great detective work Year 1!



In Geography this week, we have been comparing physical and human features in Shanghai and UK. We watched a video on what life is like in China and it seemed very busy and noisy. We discussed how our lives are similar and different to the children who live in Shanghai.

We've had another busy couple of weeks in Year 1. We are looking forward to the family picnic next Friday.

Please continue to learn your phonics sounds and do plenty of reading next week and over the half term.

Year 2 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was quite the eventful start to the week with the school having no electricity! I just wanted to apologise once again for any inconvenience caused. The children have been completing their SAT papers over the past few weeks. The children have been doing very well with them. You will get a copy of your child's results with their report at the end of the year.

As well as completing their SATs papers, the children have been working very hard over the past fortnight. In English, the children wrote their own persuasive letters based on The Day The Crayons Quit. They wrote a letter to Grey Crayon to apologise for working him too hard and to try and persuade him to come back to work.

In Maths, we have pretty much completed our unit of work on shape. The children have been naming and identifying common 2D and 3D shapes. We have been looking at faces, edges and vertices on 3D shapes and comparing different shapes including by looking at lines of symmetry in 2D shapes. Next week we will be looking at telling the time.

In History, we are moving onto looking at the types of castles that were built in Britain before William the Conqueror became king and how he improved the quality of castles that were being built.

In PSHE we have been looking at people that help us within our local community. The children thought about the different careers that are available in the local area and discussed questions they had about these careers.

In Art, we have completed a couple of nice lessons. We have painted in the style of Claris Cliffe to create plates with a colourful design. We mixed primary colours to make secondary colours and used straws to blow the paint into the shape of a tree in the foreground.



Year 3 & 4 News

What a fantastic performance! We're sure you will agree that Years 3 and 4 worked wonderfully together to create an entertaining - yet informative - musical production about bees. Over the last few weeks, the children have put in a great deal of time learning lines, listening to stage directions as well as practising songs and dance routines that we very much hope you enjoyed watching. The songs were very catchy too so no doubt you went away with a little "Bee-Bop" in your step. We've also had rave reviews from the staff and pupils in the rest of the school who watched the performance too. Well done to all involved!



Year 3 & 4 News



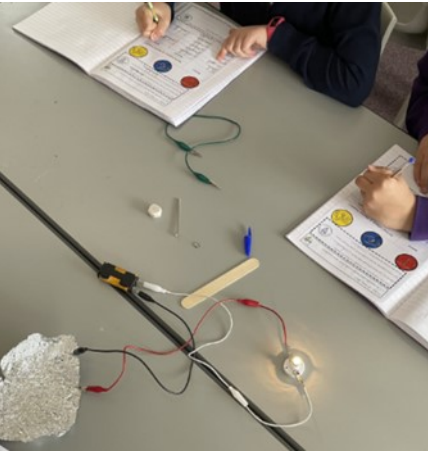
The Bee Musical Cast



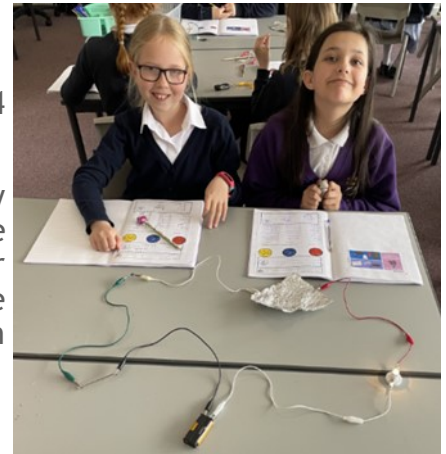
Year 5 News

This week, we thoroughly enjoyed watching the year 3 and 4 dress rehearsal for their Bee Musical Performance.

In English, we revisited the story of War Horse where we are now writing our detailed setting description of No-Man's Land. The children have come up with excellent descriptions based on our senses. They have been writing from Joey's perspective, the main horse in the story. By getting into character, the children have produced wonderful pieces of work.



In maths, we are focusing on properties of shape where we have been identifying interior angles within a quadrilateral. The children will be using protractors to draw their own angles whilst also using their knowledge of angles within a full turn and on a straight line to calculate missing angles.



In science, the children carried out an experiment to investigate whether materials were electrical insulators or electrical conductors. They cleverly used their knowledge of circuits to connect batteries, wires and bulbs. Our next experiment will involve investigating various materials to test if they are soluble or insoluble.



In geography, we have been learning all about the Great Barrier Reef and its significance in our world today. The children produced interesting fact files, outlining its importance and how we can protect it.

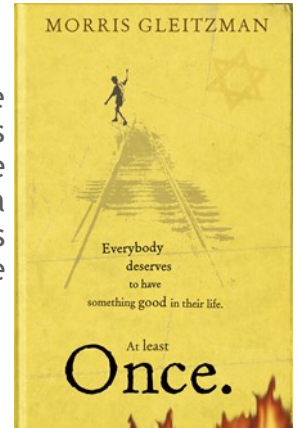
Well done year 5 on another busy week!

Mr Todd

Year 6 News

Year 6 are now a week post-SATs and are enjoying a break from tests. We still have so much to learn and fit into our final few weeks at Ellington Primary School.

In English, we have started to read *Once* by Morris Gleitzman and we are really enjoying the book so far. We have used the front cover (as well as alternative covers from different print runs and countries) to make predictions about the themes of the story. So far, we know it is about a Jewish boy called Felix who lives in Poland in 1942. We have linked this to the work we did about WWII to infer that life for Felix will be incredibly difficult.



In writing we have started to plan and write our reports about The Yellow Spotted Lizard from 'Holes'. We have analysed the features of a successful example and then found the information necessary from the story itself. We are aiming to publish our work by next week.

We have had a big focus on PSHE, particularly Economic Wellbeing. In this unit we have learned about how to take care of our money, the pros and cons of spending and saving as well as looking to the future at possible careers and the skills we need to develop to be successful. It's also been valuable to explore how different jobs link to our school values and to wider British Values too.



Year 6 are getting very excited about their impending residential to Ford Castle after half term. I'm sure there will be an update (and lots of photographs of our adventures) in our next newsletter instalment.