



Ellington Primary News

Believe and Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the penultimate News Bulletin of the 2023-2024 academic year!

We have had another busy two weeks in school with so much happening and lots to celebrate. We are quickly approaching the end of another fantastic year at Ellington and we hope that you can join us for the various activities taking place.

What a fantastic turn out we have had today for our Sports Day and Summer Fair. Thank you for your incredible support.

School Games Award Gold Award

We are delighted to announce that we have again achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2023/24 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of sport, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our successes once more. Linked to this, we competed in the Northumberland County Athletics Finals this week as one of ten finalists from as far as Berwick and Hexham. We finished third on the day, narrowly missing out on winning the whole competition. We were competing against mostly middle schools with many more pupils, so finishing third was an incredible achievement.



Eco-Schools Green Flag Award



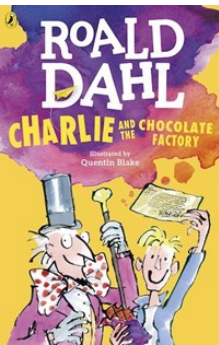
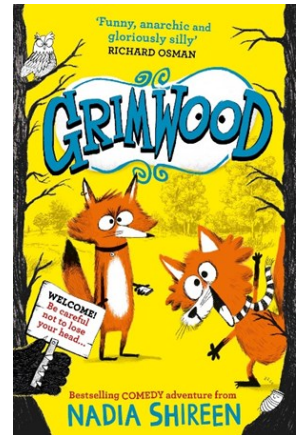
We are also delighted to announce that we have this week been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Distinction. This award is in recognition of the work we have done this year and also the journey we are now on, with the environment a key part of our curriculum.

Recently, all children took part in a Wilder Druridge poster competition. Lily from Year 2 came second in the competition and has won two wildlife cameras for the school. Well done Lily!

Book Recommendations

This week's recommendations come from Year 3.

Mrs Richardson - "My review is for the excellent book Grimwood, by Nadia Shireen. This recommendation comes from my whole family, and is definitely my favourite recent story. Grimwood is the story of two fox siblings, Ted and Nancy, who have to run away from the big city after being terrified by a vicious cat called Princess Buttons. They find sanctuary in Grimwood, an unusual place full of weird and wonderful creatures. We first discovered this story on audiobook and it kept us entertained for many hours of long car journeys! My 8-year-old daughter then got the whole series of books and has raced through them. I love this book because it is laugh out loud funny and also has lovely messages of friendship, community and inclusion at its heart. I think that you will love it too!"



Callum from Year 3, has recommended the classic 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.'

He enjoys a range of Roald Dahl and David Walliams books but this is his favourite. He particularly enjoys it when greedy Augustus Gloop falls into the chocolate river!

Wear Yellow Day

Through our 'Wear Something Yellow Day', we raised over £200 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust! Thank you so much for your support!



Water Safety

We have been looking at water safety in school recently, focusing on the dangers of water and how to keep safe. In an assembly we discussed the awful events in West Tyneside, where two teenage boys drowned. It is so important that the children understand how to keep safe around water. Advice and safety tips can be found [here](#).

“Les Olymiques des Animaux”

Next Tuesday, we welcome back Théâtre Sans Frontières, who visited us in 2022 and performed a play entirely in French! They are returning on the afternoon of July 2nd to perform a play linked to the Paris Olympics for Years 2 to 6.

EYFS Open Day

Thank you to those who attended our EYFS Open Day, the weather was lovely and the children had a great time. Our forecasted numbers for Nursery are quite low and we would love more children to be joining Ellington!

New PE kit / Uniform Reminder

It has been great to see some children already wearing our new PE kit. After speaking with some parents, we would recommend that you visit Emblematic in Morpeth to try the uniform on before ordering to ensure the correct sizing. We would also advise ordering as soon as possible to ensure your new uniform arrives before September.

Year 6 Leavers

With only three weeks left until our Year 6 children leave us, you may see them wearing their leavers hoodies (no matter how hot it is!). They are also off to Lockerbie Manor in Scotland for an activity residential on Friday 5th July for two nights. Following that, they are having a disco and assembly to celebrate their time at Ellington.

Mr Hodgson—Headteacher

Nursery News

I can't believe how far into the last term we are now! Nursery are still working super hard and our older Nursery children are getting excited about going into Reception.

We have been working hard on our minibeast topic and have welcomed five little caterpillars into our Nursery. We have talked about how to be kind and respectful to them because we want to keep them safe.

The children have been amazed at how they've grown into big, fat caterpillars, just like the very hungry caterpillar in our story.

We have been learning how to use watercolours, just like the author Eric Carle and have painted caterpillars and butterflies very carefully.

We have enjoyed acting out our key story too and we even wrote a Hungry Caterpillar book!

The children have also been enjoying time outside in this lovely weather!

We hope, in our last few weeks, we see our caterpillars emerge from their cocoon!

Well done Nursery!



Reception News

What a busy time we have had since the start of our very final half term in Reception. In literacy, we have been doing lots of work around the story 'Mrs Armitage and the Big Wave' by Quentin Blake. We found out the meaning of some new words such as island and windsock to help us understand the adventure Mrs Armitage went on. We also retold the story using drama, pictures and short sentences. At the end of the story the author leaves us on a bit of a cliff hanger when Mrs Armitage goes back out to sea. We wrote our very own ending for the story and a brand-new page for the book. Excellent work guys!



In maths, we have been busy consolidating our knowledge of number by ordering numbers to 20 and counting beyond 20 by spotting number patterns. We have started to learn about ordinal numbers by racing cars down a ramp. We have also been looking at odd and even numbers and how we can share equally to decide if they are odd or even. Ask us to show you at home!



In our art lessons we have been looking at how we can represent music in our creations. The children had great fun painting swirls, spirals, dots and lines. We also used colours to represent how the music made us feel.

We have also been enjoying our new role play area where we can visit the beach! The children have been buying trinkets to use at the seaside and have been superb at taking off and putting on their socks and shoes independently.



Year 1 News

We have had another busy couple of weeks in Year One. With the hot weather we have had, we have been able to enjoy story time outside in the glorious sunshine, long may this continue.

In English, we have been studying the Traditional Tale - The Tale of Peter Rabbit. We have been learning how to make words plural by adding a -s or -es to words and also turning words into past tense. We have been building up our skills to write a letter to Mrs Rabbit asking for an apology from Peter for stealing 'our' (Mr McGregors) vegetables. The children have engaged well with this writing and have produced some fabulous letters.

In maths, we have continued our work on reading time. We have looked at analogue and digital clocks and worked out if it reads o'clock or half past. This is a tricky skill, so please practise this at home when you have the opportunity to do so.

In RE, we have been learning about the Golden Rule - Treat others how you would like them to treat you. We have looked at Thomas Bernardo's life and how he made a difference to young children.

In PE, we have been practising our gymnastics skills focusing on our three main topic words: Wide, Narrow and Curled. I have been blown away by the children's participation and safety in these lessons. They should be extremely proud of themselves for persevering with some tricky skills.

We hope you enjoyed the sports day and fair, the children have practised hard and have all shown fabulous sportsmanship. Well done Year 1!

Mrs Horsley.



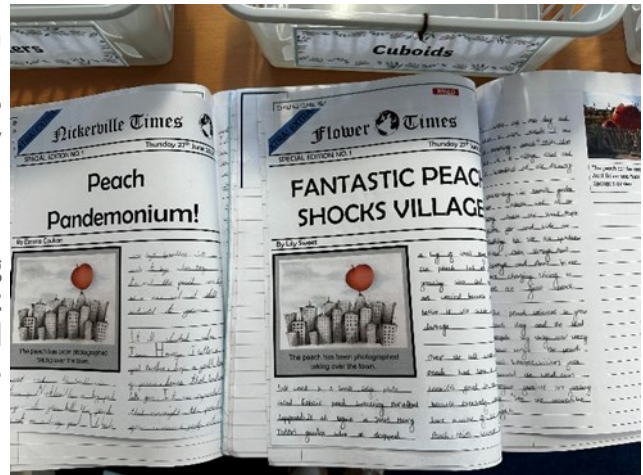
Year 2 News

What a busy few weeks year 2 has had! We visited the church at Creswell to see Reverend Julia Lacey, this tied in lovely with our current RE topic 'What makes some places sacred to believers?'. The children experienced some things that would take place during a church service and were able to explore the church with the guidance of Reverend Julia Lacey.

We have been working hard in Geography, exploring our big question 'What is it like to live by the coast?', we have looked at the difference between a coast and a coastline, we have explored the seas and oceans that surround the UK and we have been studying Weymouth looking at why it is a popular tourist destination.

In English, we have loved our unit based on 'James and the Giant Peach' by Roald Dahl. The children have worked so hard over the last week to create and publish their very own newspaper reports.

We have also been practicing for sports day, wearing yellow for cystic fibrosis and wowing Miss Brooks and Mrs Curtis with our brilliant computing skills. The children all created their own music compositions on the laptops using Music Chrome Lab.



Finally, our science unit 'Animals and their habitats' has come to an end but the children have absolutely loved learning about the different habitats and why they are suited to the animals that live there. In Science we also completed some LEAF activities, we designed and placed animal habitats in our school environment (I have put pictures on dojo). I would like to congratulate Lily Sweet, who came second in the Duridge Poster Competition too! Well done, there were lots of great entries.

Miss Brooks

Myself and Mrs Curtis are so proud of the children, they have been working hard, playing together kindly and showing respect around school. The children have also been making huge improvements with their reading, they are becoming more confident and fluent when it comes to reading. Many children have been collecting their points for reading at home too which is brilliant to see.

Year 3 News

What a busy time we have had in year 3 as we pass the mid-point of our final half term of the year!

We have enjoyed creating user manuals for robots that we invented in English, giving instructions on how to service and clean our robots, inspired by the lovely animation 'Girl and Robot'. We are continuing to read 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell together, and we are particularly enjoying the drama activities that we are able to do together. We have recently been tackling how to tell the time in maths; any extra practice we could do at home would be much appreciated as it can be so tricky!



In our last newsletter at the end of May, we had just set up our sunflower experiment. Here are the results from one of the groups in the class, with the overcrowded sunflowers finding it harder to grow. Hopefully they will fare better now that the children have re-planted the sunflowers outdoors with Mr Hodgson! We have also been looking at seed dispersal

as we finish our plants unit, and enjoyed making and investigating model sycamore seeds.



We feel very proud of our Lego League Year 3 team, who will have a special trip soon to the Lego League festival where they will present the models they have worked on with Mr Bailey. As a class, we are also enjoying learning to use the software Canva to create professional looking magazine pages.

Year 3 respond so brilliantly to visitors and are always polite, engaged and inquisitive. Two recent examples have been chatting to John from Durham University about Ancient Egypt and also meeting Mrs Dunn from the local council who helped the children learn about democracy in action.



Year 4 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe that we now only have three weeks left of this academic year. We have had a lovely past two weeks. We had our last week with Mr Freedman who has been a great help to us this term and we are sure he will have a fantastic career in teaching. I would also like to thank all parents who attended the brass band performance on Wednesday. Having not been in the lessons I was amazed at the progress the children had made in such a short space of time. I have tried to attach some QR codes that should allow you to watch some clips of the performance.

We have a couple of trips coming up before the end of term. We have a team of 6 children entering the Northumberland County Council Lego League for the first time and we are going to Baltic gallery to complete a unit of work on bridges and rivers as well as having guided tours of the gallery. In addition to this, we will be going on a quayside walk to ensure that we have visited a river local to us.

In English, we have recently completed writing persuasive letters to King Charles III to try and persuade him to help stop deforestation. We have also started our unit of work on A Midsummer Night's Dream. We have gotten to grips with the quite complex comedy and have even acted out some of the scenes ourselves!

In Maths, we have been working out time intervals both within and across an hour. We have also been learning how to read Roman Numerals up to 100.

In Science we have been learning about teeth. We have looked at the difference in teeth between carnivores, herbivores and omnivores and looked at the different types of teeth humans have.

Finally, in Geography we have started to learn about rivers and have recapped the water cycle.

Thanks, and hope you enjoyed sports day and the Summer Fare if you attended.



Year 5 News

This week we enjoyed a special visit from Andrew Brooks, who is the Health, Safety and Environment Manager for Advance Northumberland. Andrew gave a presentation to the children to inform them about health and safety on construction sites and explained the different professions that work together on the site here in Ellington. We were then invited to spend an afternoon at the construction site where we wore hard hats, safety goggles and brightly coloured vests in order to be able to access the site. The children had chats with various workers and even got a chance to explore the lovely show homes!



We have been working hard this week when completing our NFER assessments for reading, writing and maths! This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to show off their knowledge that they have learnt in year 5.

A special shout out this week to our three year 5 boys who joined together with seven year 6 children to compete in the County Finals for Athletics. The children did exceptionally well, securing bronze!

Well done on another brilliant week!

Mr Todd



Year 6 News

The last half term of primary school is upon our Year 6s now!

They have continued to work incredibly hard over the last few weeks to create some unbelievable pieces of writing. They have created some very tense and beautifully described stories based on the short film “Alma” where they had the tricky task of writing in 3rd person but from a particular perspective. The use of language and sentence structures for effect have been applied in just the most entertaining way. We then did some work on dialogue where - inspired by a single still image - the children created their mini narrative conveying their character through what they said and how they said it. Finally, we created a non-chronological report based on the creatures from the Arthur Spiderwicks series. To end the year, we are about to embark upon a project around the Shakespeare play, Romeo and Juliet.

In maths, the children have been practising becoming Theme Park tycoons where they have had to not only design a theme park on a budget but also work out running costs, taxes, interest as well as profit and loss. I will be keen to see some of our children developing their own businesses one day - perhaps even on The Apprentice or Dragon’s Den.



Our science lessons have had us exploring inheritance and adaptation and we will soon move onto looking at evolution and “survival of the fittest”. To explore adaptation, the class took part in a fun experiment where they had to explore which “duck” had the best beak-type for the islands and food sources on offer. By the end, it was clear to see that some “ducks” had adapted to a particular food source and could therefore only survive on one type of island, whilst other were adapted for a range of locations and food types.

In history, we have been developing our skills in analysing historical sources to see what they tell us about significant figures of the past in order to decide who fits the criteria to be placed on our £10 note. One lesson ended in a debate as to who was more significant: Alfred the Great or Elizabeth I.

