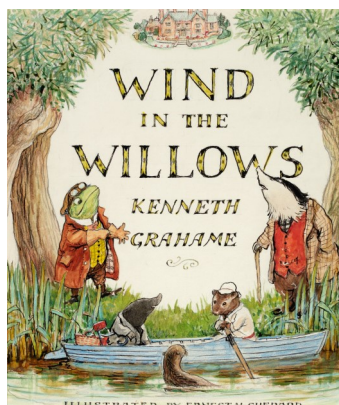


Ellington Primary News

Believe and Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

As always, it has been a busy two weeks at Ellington. We have introduced a new handwriting scheme in school as we have a big push on handwriting and presentation of work. It has been great to see some fantastic handwriting across school and I was particularly impressed with Year One's amazing progress. Our curriculum is designed so children know more and remember more. To support this, we introduced knowledge checks and lock it in tasks this term. The aim of these is to support children's long-term memory and retrieval of knowledge. Hopefully, if you ask your child/ren what their 'lock it in' tasks were each day, they will be able to tell you some key knowledge that they have learned that day!



Wind in the Willows

Following the successes of the previous shows that we have had in school, we are delighted to announce that we have another performance for the children! On March 8th, all children from Nursery to Year 6 will be able to watch Wind in the Willows with ten children also taking part in the show. Last March, we had the interactive performance of The Sword and the Stone. This was a huge success, so we are thrilled that the same company are returning.

We aim to have at least two shows each year for the children, but we do require your support with these events. For this show, we are kindly asking for a £2 contribution per child. This can be paid by School Gateway. This will subsidise the cost for school and enable us to continue providing these experiences for the children.

WOW - Walk to School Challenge

From Monday 6th February, we are beginning our walk to school challenge in collaboration with the Living Streets WOW challenge. WOW is a pupil-led initiative where children self-report how they get to school every day using the interactive WOW Travel Tracker. If they travel sustainably (walk, cycle or scoot) once a week for a month, they get rewarded with a badge.

More information can be found by clicking [here](#).

Reading

All children from Reception to Year 6 need to bring their reading book and reading record into school every single day. It is great to see lots of children taking part in our new reading challenge! Five or ten minutes reading every night will make all the difference!

Children's Mental Health Week



'Human beings thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing, and our survival. When we have healthy connections - to family, friends and others - this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. And when our need for rewarding social connections is not met, we can sometimes feel isolated and lonely - which can have a negative impact on our mental health.'

Let's Connect is about making meaningful connections for all, during Children's Mental Health Week - and beyond.

For Children's Mental Health Week 2023, we're encouraging people to connect with others in healthy, rewarding, and meaningful ways.' Read more by clicking [here](#).

All classes in school will be taking part in Children's Mental Health week, completing various activities over the course of the week. We will be taking part in 'Dress to Express' day on Friday 10th and are suggesting a donation of £1 to go to 'Place2Be', a children's mental health charity. Although we are joining in with Children's Mental Health week at Ellington, children's mental health is always a priority for us.

Year 6 Residential

We are pleased to announce our Year 6 children have been offered to the chance to go to Ford castle for an end of year residential trip! Find out more by clicking [here](#).



Attendance

23rd January—3rd February

Reception— 93.2%

Year 1—93.3%

Year 2—95.7%

Year 3—98.8%

Year 4—92.4%

Year 5—96.2%

Year 6—93.6%

Whole School—94.9%

Down from 95.8%

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day 2023 will take place on the 7th of February 2023, with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life 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.

In the UK, schools are celebrating by putting children and young people's voices at the heart of the day and encouraging them to shape the online safety support that they receive. Find out more by clicking here.

At Ellington, we start every half term's computing scheme of work with Online Safety lessons. You can view our Online Safety policy by clicking here.

Next week, we will also be focusing on the Online Safety rules around being SMART.

S SAFE Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information – such as your full name, email address, phone number, home address, photos or school name – to people you are chatting with online.

M MEETING Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present.

A ACCEPTING Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!

R RELIABLE Information you find on the internet may not be true, or someone online may be lying about who they are.

T TELL Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

You can report online abuse to the police at www.thinkuknow.co.uk

THINK U KNOW .co.uk

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Diary Dates

Dress to Express Day	10th February
Spring half term	17th February
Return to school	27th February
School Council visiting Houses of Parliament	28th February
World Book Day	2nd March
Wind in the Willows	8th March
Parent Consultations	22nd March
Spring term reports	24th March
Year 4 Residential Dukeshouse Wood	27th –29th March
Easter Holidays	31st March
Staff Training Day School Closed	17th April
Return to school	18th April
Bank Holiday	1st May
Bank holiday for the coronation of King Charles	8th May
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
Summer Holidays	21st 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

We have had a busy two weeks in nursery, starting with learning all about the celebration of Chinese New Year.

We have been working hard on recognising our numbers and using the counters and dice to count.



We read the book 'I Love Beasts' and set off on our very own safari beast hunt adventure. We used our best detective skills to spot the animals on our sheet that were hiding in the nursery yard.



We all enjoyed making and eating bear toast earlier this week. We followed the instruction photo and made our own, with delicious results!

Our book of the week has been 'Elmer the Elephant -'We are all special'

Reception News

We have started our new topic called 'Amazing Animals' and to begin our topic a box arrived outside our classroom and we were very curious to find out what was inside... it was a penguin. Back in the classroom a book called Lost and Found was left. The story is about a boy and one day a penguin arrives at his door, the boy thought the penguin was lost and he tries to return him. Is this why the penguin arrived at our school? We had a class discussion about penguins and what we already know about them. In Literacy, we followed step by step instructions to create our own penguin and then wrote a description. We all retold the story in our own words and Mrs Cook was super impressed at how much of the story we could remember. In the story, the boy took the penguin back to the South Pole. We looked on a map and a globe to see where the South Pole/Antarctica is and then compared it to where we live. We thought about the things that we would need to take if we were going on a journey to the South Pole. We drew pictures and did some fantastic writing, we also did an observational painting of a penguin and made penguin biscuits.

In Maths, we have been learning about the composition of 5 where 5 can be split into different parts. We did this using the song 5 Little Speckled Frogs. We acted the song out and showed the numbers on our fingers each time. We use the sentence: 5 is made from 4 and 1. 5 is made from 3 and 2. 5 is made from 2 and 3.



Reception have also been learning about Chinese New Year. We had great fun tasting delicious Chinese food, we tested our fine motor skills by using chopsticks to sort pom-poms, we made Chinese lanterns and Chinese dragons. We also wrote numbers to 5 in Chinese. We have been reading and learning about the Great Race Story and how each year is named after an animal. This year is the year of the rabbit so we did an observational drawing of a rabbit.

In RE, we have been exploring the question 'Why is the word 'God' so important to Christians?' We talked about Christians and why the word 'God' is important as they believe God is the creator of the universe and all that is in it, including people and animals. Two Christian puppets (Tom and Tessa) helped us learn all about God. Tom asked "Which day did God create jellyfish?" Tom and Tessa's family believe God is the giver of life, giving life even to jellyfish. We listened to a story about how Christians believe God created the universe. We then made our own jellyfish craft!



Year 1 News

The last two weeks have been very busy in Year 1. In English, the children have loved learning the story 'Room on the Broom'. We have added actions to the words to help us memorise the story and we have now started writing our stories up using the actions to help us remember the order of the story. I am so impressed with the vocabulary they are using and their handwriting has improved amazingly.

Please scan this QR code to watch us rehearse our story.



In Maths, we have been learning all about equations. We have learned that we make an addition equation by; addend + addend = sum. From this we were then able to work out the missing sum and have now moved on to finding the missing addend.

In PSHE we have been learning how and when to call the emergency services. We discussed different scenarios and if they were an emergency or not. We then discussed that if there was an emergency at home that when we ring 999 we would need to know our address. The children were all starting to remember where they lived; house number, street name and village. Please continue to practise this at home with your child so that they are confident in knowing where they live. I also sent out a letter discussing things that could be done at home in case of an emergency. Please find time to read this and discuss with your child.

What to do in an emergency



- Phone **999**
- Say which service they need or what has happened
- Know what their address and postcode is
- Stay on the phone until the emergency services arrive

Year 2 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe we are now so close to being halfway through the academic year! Year 2 have continued to be working incredibly hard across all areas of the curriculum.

In English, we have been reading *The Tin Forest*, we have been inspired by the beautiful illustrations and story to help write fantastic place setting descriptions. We have been following *The Ellington Writing* journey where the children have written a first draft, have self-edited and then published their writing.

In Maths, we have just about finished our work on addition and subtraction and we are now moving onto looking at introduction to multiplication and division structures.

In History, the children have been really enjoying our new unit of work on the history of nursing. We have been studying the lives of Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and we will look at Edith Cavell next week. We have looked at artefacts that tell historians about their lives.

In Art we have been studying the work of 'Pop Artist' Roy Lichtenstein. We have looked at how he has used bold lines, Ben Day Dots and bright colours to bring his work to life. Children have worked in different mediums with felt tip, paint and we will next week be using collage by cutting out parts of comic books to stick onto our artwork. If you have any old comic books, please send them into school.

In PE with Mr Robertson, the children have been learning different types of dances which they have really been enjoying.

With Miss Brooks, the children have been completing work on the second half of our topic on Islam. The children have been looking at the teachings of the prophet Muhammad.

Finally, in Computing, we have been learning about robot algorithms. We have been seeing the importance of the order we enter the instructions we programme into our Doc Robots by seeing where they end up on a map.



Year 3 News



It is hard to believe that we are already four weeks into this half term! What a busy time we have had. In our reading lessons, we have loved exploring 'The Iron Man' and we have just started 'The Abominables'. In English, we had our first attempt at writing poetry in year 3. The poems were based on Roald Dahl's, 'The Dentist and the Crocodile'. It was a challenge making the lines rhyme but we worked hard and were proud of our results!



In maths, we have been securing our mental methods for addition and subtraction, before we move on to more formal written methods after the February half term break. We have embraced using different kinds of equipment and number lines to help us, as well as explaining our reasoning out loud in lessons.

We are enjoying our new science topic, 'Rocks and Soils' - especially getting to grips with our tricky key vocabulary: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. Last week we had a special science lesson where we joined hundreds of schools for a nation-wide talk from real scientists on small and large units in science and engineering. We knew about cm and km but had never heard of a yottametre or a zeptometre before!



In computing, we have started learning how to use the coding language of Scratch and will work towards creating digital musical sequences, which will tie in nicely with our music lessons where we are doing a fantastic job playing and improvising on our glockenspiels, and will soon start to read music notation.

We've been enjoying learning about castle structures in Design Technology. We have done our own designs and can't wait to get building! We also used the Commando Joe equipment to work as a team to build castles that included all of the key features.

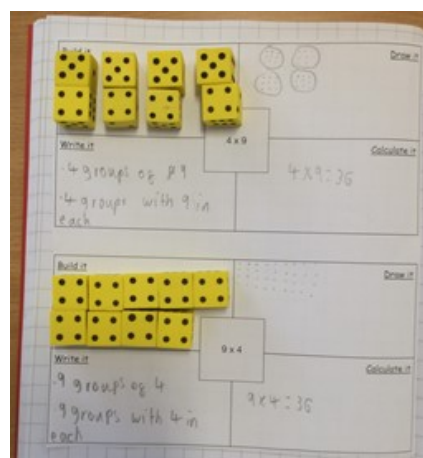
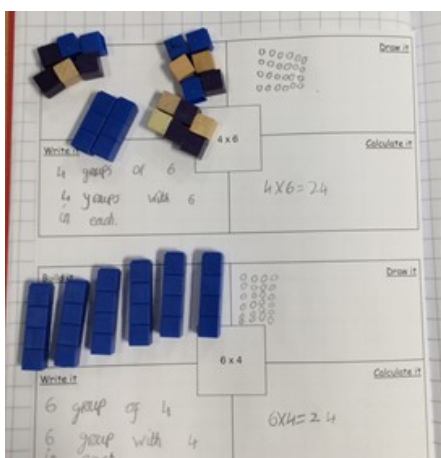


Year 4 News

It's been full steam ahead over in Year 4 this half term and you won't believe how much learning we've done!

In English, we took inspiration from the poet William Blake and wrote our own rhyming animal poems. Currently, we're becoming journalists and writing newspaper reports on Arthur and the Golden Rope. If you ever want to know the features of a newspaper report, just ask! We have a dance that we're extremely good at, which explains all you need to know.

In maths, we have been exploring our 3, 6 and 9 times tables and learning how to use this knowledge to make links and find other facts. This has not been just learning the numbers in the times table but rather what multiplication means, looking at commutativity and how to manipulate the times tables to help us.



In history, we've been exploring the Romans and how they expanded their empire. Some of us even took on some roles to represent being a dictator or a republic.

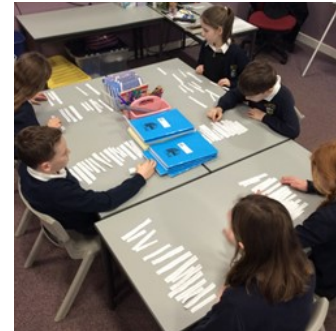


Science has been rather gruesome as we have been investigating the digestive system and represented it using some everyday objects (tights as intestines for example)! We also conducted an experiment over time to see what would happen to our teeth if we didn't look after them properly. We used eggshells to represent our teeth and put them in vinegar, coca cola, milk and water for a week to see what happened. Let's just say we're definitely keeping our teeth even cleaner from now on!

Year 5 News

It's been an immensely busy half term 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 our descriptive writing.



In maths, we have been focusing on the area and perimeter of shapes. The children worked really well during this unit of work where they progressed from counting squares, using the formula of $L \times W$, finding the missing lengths to eventually solving worded problems.



Our geography topic this half term is climate change and pollution. We have been learning about the world's biomes, variation of climates and how greenhouse gases are causing global warming. This week we focused on our key question; how clean is our local area? This involved the children using cross curricular links with maths where we measured the area of the school's carpark, playground, MUGA and grass field. We then counted the amount of litter in each area per meter squared and the children cleverly drew up their own conclusions.

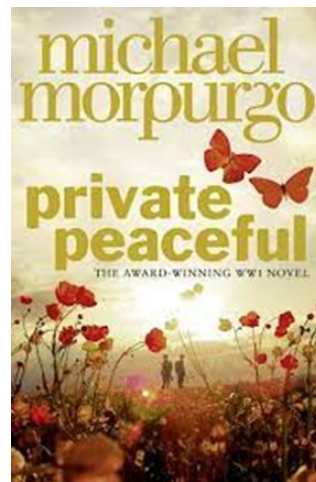
In science, the children have been demonstrating their knowledge of forces which have explored prior to year 5. We have progressed further where we have been linking our topic with the relative scientists and exploring the affects of air resistance. Our upcoming experiment will involve the children making parachutes of various sizes and measuring how the surface area affects the air resistance.

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

Mr Todd

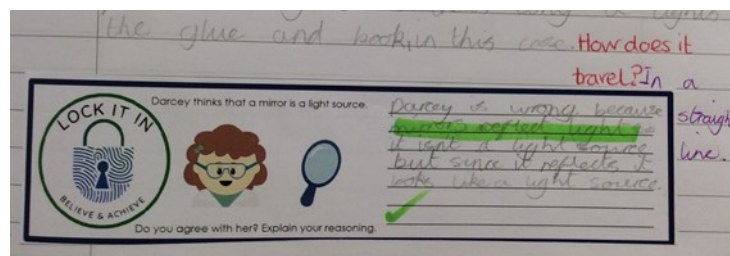
Year 6 News

We have packed loads into the first four weeks of the Spring Term! First of all, we are thoroughly enjoying our class reading text - Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo. Miss Gray has never heard the class be so quiet and attentive as when we are reading about Charlie and Tommo Peaceful and their experiences of trench warfare in WWI Ypres. We will be using the story as a stimulus for writing letters, later in the term. However, we are currently in the middle of writing discussion texts around migration, asylum seekers and refugees. This has been inspired by 'The Arrival' - a picture book by Shaun Tan where a man has to leave his family behind in a country where 'monsters' govern.



In maths we are learning how to multiply and divide fractions and how to find fractions of amounts too. It's tricky but Y6 are more than up to the challenge!

In history, we are learning about the causes and consequences of World War II (a great link to prior events in Private Peaceful). We have discovered how the aftermath of WWI left Germany open to a dictatorship and the events that followed. This week we have been finding out about life during WWII in Great Britain and in particular, how children were evacuated from their homes in towns and cities.



Science continues to focus around 'light'. We know how light travels and how we see objects. We have even looked at the structure of the human eye and the functions of the different parts.