



Ellington Primary News

Believe and Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a fantastic December with so many events happening in school. Early Years were amazing in their performance of 'The Nativity' and Key Stage One were spectacular in their performances of 'Hey Ewe'. The children worked so hard preparing for the shows, demonstrating real resilience and teamwork throughout and the sense of pride after the performances was great to see. We have had several Christmas jumper days, including raising nearly £150 for Save the Children. Our Christmas film night was a real success with over 140 children attending. This week we had our Carol Concerts, which we hope you enjoyed as much as we did. Your attendance at school events has been phenomenal and it means so much for the children. Thank you so much for your support.

There have been many changes at Ellington Primary School in 2022 both academically and physically. The staff and I are working tirelessly to continue to improve the school and give your children the very best experience at school. We hope that you will continue to see improvements in 2023. We have made many changes to the curriculum and we will be sharing these with you early in January. You will be able to see exactly what your child will be learning about in each year at Ellington and we will also be launching our Ellington Personal Development overview which details the rich, diverse and rewarding experiences all children will have as part of our curriculum offer at Ellington.

On behalf of all the staff at Ellington Primary School, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

PTA Grand Raffle

Thank you so much for your support with our Grand Raffle again this year, you have been amazing. We have raised £2885 and every penny goes straight into resources for the children in school.

The winning tickets are:

1st Prize - £1000 Cash: **4903**

2nd Prize - £250 Amazon Voucher: **2535**

3rd Prize - £100 Asda Voucher: **2701**

Spring Term Extra-Curricular Clubs

We have a fantastic range of extra-curricular clubs on offer for the Spring Term. If your child is interested in any of these clubs, please sign



Attendance

This week we had our Autumn term attendance reward. Children who have had one day or less absence (medical appointments are taken into consideration and do not affect attendance rewards) gathered in the school hall to watch the Snowman and could choose a prize. Children who have had 100% attendance were entered into a prize draw and the winners were:

Mia (Y6), Mitchell (Y2) and James (Y2) who all won books.

Our big prize winners were Faye (Y2) and Estelle (Y4) who won a pair of tickets each for Newcastle V Fulham on January 15th at St James Park in the Premier League!

We recognise that absence is unavoidable on occasions. However, when this is the case, the school need to be notified as soon as possible. We have a duty of care for all children at Ellington and we need to know if children are not in school.

We ask for your support in encouraging your child to come to school every single day, if possible, as this gives them the best opportunity to succeed.

Punctuality also forms part of your child's attendance and children arriving after registration closes are automatically given a code which marks them as absent for the morning session. Time missed early in the morning is often some of most valuable learning too as across the school, all children are in Phonics or Reading lessons at the start of the day.



Diary Dates

Return to School	9th January
Teacher Training Day School closed	13th January
Spring half term	17th February
Return to school	27th February
Parent Consultations	22nd March
Spring term reports	24th March
Easter Holidays	31st March
Teacher Training Day School Closed	17th April
Return to school	18th April
Bank Holiday	1st May
Bank Holiday (Coronation)	8th May
Summer half term	26th May
Return to school	5th June
Summer term reports	14th July
Summer Holidays	21st July
Return to school	6th September

Reminder: Changes to the school day from January 2023

In January 2022 we made changes to the school day to increase the amount of time children had in school. Currently, we are still short of the adjusted Department for Education's recommended weekly time of 32.5 hours.

In order to meet this, we are making a slight change to school hours from January 9th 2023.

The school doors will open at 8:40am for registration. Lessons or assemblies will begin at 8:45am. The school day will continue to end at 3:15pm.

There are no changes to Nursery times.

Usually, the school would have a training day at the beginning of Spring term, however we return to school on Monday 9th January. Instead we are closed on Friday 13th January for our staff training day.

Mr Hodgson—Headteacher

At Christmas time, many children get some new technology. National Online Safety have produced some really useful guidance:

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

It can be difficult to stay away from technology and devices, and sometimes this means that people – of any age – can find it hard to be present in the moment. As a period when families are able to spend some quality time together and enjoy each other's company, Christmas is the perfect opportunity to step away from our phones, laptops and consoles and concentrate on the things that really matter. Follow our top ten tips for a tech-free festive period and make the most of this holiday season. Merry Christmas!

- ### 1. BOARD GAMES CAN BE FUN (HONEST)

OK, no one wants a repeat of that incident when your youngest had to pay triple rent on Mayfair, but going back to basics with a card or board game can be a fantastic bonding experience. Choose a game that even the youngest members of your family can enjoy and have a fun tech-free time.
- ### 2. MAKE YOUR OWN DECORATIONS

Spending time on arts and crafts is a brilliant way to relax and spend some productive time offline. Making your own Christmas decorations as a family can become a wholesome tradition and leave you with some treasured mementos, too.
- ### 3. GO FOR A WINTER WALK

Not much beats wrapping up warm on a crisp December day and taking a stroll. Whether alone or with the family, a walk is a fantastic way to clear your head and relish the break from hectic normal life. As an extra festive treat, why not make a flask of hot chocolate to take with you?
- ### 4. BAKE SOME FESTIVE TREATS

Not all Christmas cooking has to be a stressful chore that's timed with military precision. Baking some simple festive treats like cookies doesn't have to take hours – and will make sure you're stocked up on tasty things to offer any friends or family members who pop round.
- ### 5. READ A FAMILY STORY TOGETHER

Turn story time into an event. Make the living room or bedroom into a tech-free space, light some candles, make some hot drinks and reach for a classic Christmas tale. It's a fantastic way to relax before bed, and the right story will help to get the whole family into the festive spirit.
- ### 6. TURN OFF NOTIFICATIONS

It sounds obvious, but turning off email and app notifications can give you more control of your relationship with technology. Getting into the habit of checking your phone periodically – rather than reaching every time a notification arrives – helps you to stay present in the moment.
- ### 7. FEED THE BIRDS

Food's hard to come by for wildlife in winter, so helping our feathered friends is a very worthwhile reason to put down those devices and reconnect with nature. Fill a bird feeder in the garden or take a snack for the ducks in your local park (but ditch the bread in favour of oats, rice or birdseed).
- ### 8. SET DAILY LIMITS

Many apps and devices let you set reminders to let you know how long you've used them for that day. Setting daily limits puts you firmly in charge of your time and will help to ensure you don't miss out on any family Christmas memories because you're engrossed in your phone or laptop.
- ### 9. GET ON YOUR BIKE

Exercise, such as going for a run or a bike ride is an excellent way to burn off some of those Yuletide calories while giving your brain and eyes a break from screen-based activity. Physical exertion also helps reduce anxiety and releases endorphins which can improve your sense of wellbeing.
- ### 10. MAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF

There can be a lot of pressure to meet up with friends, make video calls and check in with people at Christmas – but remember that you need time to relax as well. Don't feel guilty about not replying to messages and emails immediately – the holiday is your chance to drop down a gear or two.

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Nursery News

We have had so much Christmas fun. We were fantastic in our nativity play and have had so many lovely comments about how brilliant we were. We have made lots of Christmas crafts and cards. We were very well behaved at our Christmas party with everyone having so much fun together. We have also enjoyed lots more special story readers and have listened carefully to some Christmas stories. The nursery would like to send all of our special story readers a huge big thank you for being so amazing. If anyone else would like to help us please let us know.



David from the ambulance service.



Rhu, a mental health nurse practitioner.



Irene with her MBE for her service to fostering.

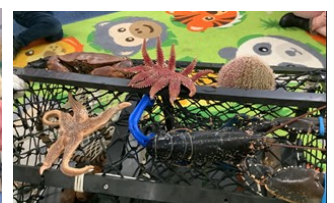


Vickie from Asda.



Kevin from the Army.

Finally, Michael, a local fisherman who brought some sea creatures for us to see. We were amazed at all the different creatures and found them all in the story he read for us. The children have thoroughly enjoyed all of the stories.

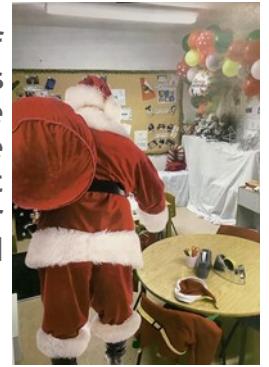


Christmas Party Nursery 2022

Happy Christmas from all of the children and staff in our nursery.

Reception News

We have had a very busy and exciting two weeks in Reception full of Christmas activities. Although we did have a huge mystery... Letters with our names on were scattered next to our post box in the classroom. Mrs Cook was very confused at how they had got there. We checked the school cameras to see if we could find out how they got there...You will never believe what we found. Santa was in our classroom! When we looked inside the envelopes, we all had a card from Santa telling us that he had received our letters that we posted. We were very excited!



We have thoroughly enjoyed exploring in our Santa's Workshop making toys, designing Christmas cards and wrapping presents. We have been learning about the Christmas Nativity story, we sequenced the story and used the Nativity scene in our small world area to act it out.



- Mrs Cook, Mrs Pirie, Mr Hodgson and all of our Early Years staff were super proud of our Nursery and Reception children for their amazing Christmas Nativity show. The children
- have worked extremely hard over the last few weeks learning all of the songs and they were absolutely fantastic!
- We had such fun at our Christmas party and enjoyed our yummy Christmas dinner!



Reception have had a fantastic first term.
Have a wonderful well-deserved rest and fabulous Christmas!

Year 1 & 2 News

What a fantastic, however, somewhat busy final two weeks of Autumn term!

Thank you so much to everyone who came and supported the children during their Christmas Performance of 'Hey Ewe!' and those that came and joined in with our whole school Christmas Carols.



Year 1 & 2 News

We have been busy making Christmas crafts for home and have had our wonderful Christmas Party on Tuesday. The children had a brilliant time dancing and playing party games. They enjoyed ending their disco with a glow stick dance and party snacks.



Over the Christmas period, please participate in our Christmas reading and times table challenges. We would encourage the children to keep up with their reading and arithmetic to ensure they maintain a good level of understanding for our return in January.



Thank you so much for your support during the Autumn Term. Finally, we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a lovely New Year!

We look forward to seeing you all in January,

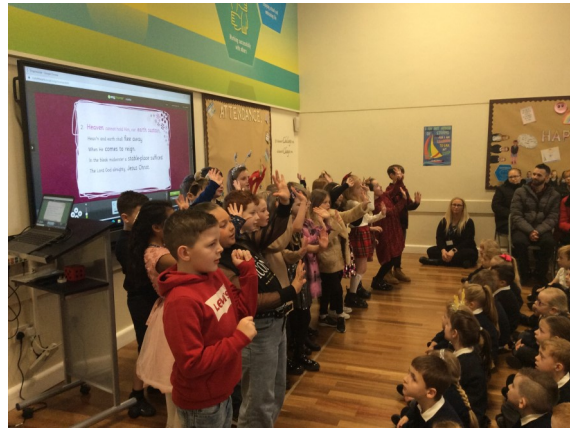
Mrs Horsley and Mr McConville

Year 3 News

What a busy two weeks!

We have continued to be very busy in lessons. We have published our alternative endings for 'The Lost Happy Endings' book. They look fabulous written in the 'night sky' in gold or silver pens as the character does in the book. We were really impressed with the excellent handwriting.

We have been finding out about the Bronze Age in history. We have had great fun making our own clay torcs which could be worn as bracelets.



I'm sure that you will agree that our singing during the carol concerts was superb.



We all looked fabulous and had lots of fun at our Christmas party!

Merry Christmas Everyone!

Year 4 News

It's Chriiiiistmaaass! And what a lovely build up the festive season we've had in Year 4. The children have worked very hard on their songs in preparation for the carol concerts, which put a lovely festive feel in the air. We also enjoyed munching on our Christmas dinners together as well as partying the afternoon away alongside Year 3. There was music, games, prizes and some fantastic dance moves!



Year 4 have worked incredibly hard this half term and I very much look forward to seeing them again in January. 2023 will bring great things for this lovely lot, I am sure. Have a restful and joyful festive season and see you all in the New Year.



Year 5 News

Term 1 is done and what a wonderful term it's been! The children have enjoyed a fun week leading up to the winter break where they have sung their Christmas carols very impressively during two concerts and also had our upper key stage two Christmas party.



Have a brilliant Christmas everyone and a very Happy New Year to you all!

Mr Todd

Year 6 News

It's the end of a very busy first term in Year 6. I'm so proud of the progress the children have made so far this year - they have worked really hard and learned some new skills including: long division; how to thread a needle; how to sew and sew on a button; how to answer different types of SATs questions and much, much more.



They showed their musical side with a fabulous rendition of 'We Three Kings' at the carol concerts this week - tremendous!

I hope that you all have a safe, relaxing and restful holiday. Remember to have a go at the homework challenges you have been given - there will be prizes! I can't wait to see what Year 6 achieve in the Spring Term! Bring on 2023!

