



Ellington Primary School



News Bulletin #6

@Ellingtweets

3rd December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well after Storm Arwen last weekend. Thankfully, there was very little damage to school other than some leaks around the building.

We have had a busy two weeks in school and I have been watching lessons in all classes. It has been fantastic to see the children working so hard and showing great pride in their work. Our TT Rockstars battles are becoming very competitive and the children are making fantastic progress with their times tables.

In a 'normal' year, we would love to have parents in school during December for a range of activities. I had hoped to have Christmas craft afternoons, shows and a whole school trip to the pantomime. Hopefully, as the year progresses we will have lots of opportunities for parents/carers to come into school.

In the new year, we also hope to arrange lots of trips for all classes, including some residential for our older children.

Christmas Activities

As mentioned in the previous news bulletin, unfortunately, due to the current Covid-19 guidance for schools in Northumberland, we will be unable to have Christmas nativities this year. However, we will ensure that during December the children have lots of fun in school and have a brilliant build up to Christmas. We will be having Christmas parties for each class and also holding a whole school carol service outside on the last day of term. The carol service is for all classes, Nursery - Year 6, and parents are welcome to attend. This will begin at 2pm and once finished, the children can leave with a parent/carer.



PTA Raffle

The draw for the Grand raffle will take place on Thursday 16th December. This will be recorded and shared on the school twitter page. Can all remaining tickets be returned to school by Monday 13th December.

Bookshop Raffle

Thanks to The Big Green Bookshop, we now have **£2238** to spend on books for the children at Ellington. The online raffle was a huge success and the money raised will all be spent on the children here at Ellington. Thank you for your support!

Poppy Appeal

As a school, we raised **£438.37** for the Poppy Appeal! The district of Ashington raised over £24,000! A brilliant effort!



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Reminder - Changing the school day to finish at 3.15

From September 2021, the school day began at 9am and finished at 3, with play times and lunch breaks, this meant the children had the following teaching time in school:

<u>Year Groups</u>	<u>Teaching hours per day</u>	<u>Weekly Total</u>
Reception	4 hours 25 mins	22 hours
Key Stage One	4 hours 35 mins	22 hours 50 minutes
Lower Key Stage Two	5 hours 5 mins	25 hours 25 minutes
Upper Key Stage Two	5 hours 15 minutes	26 hours 15 minutes

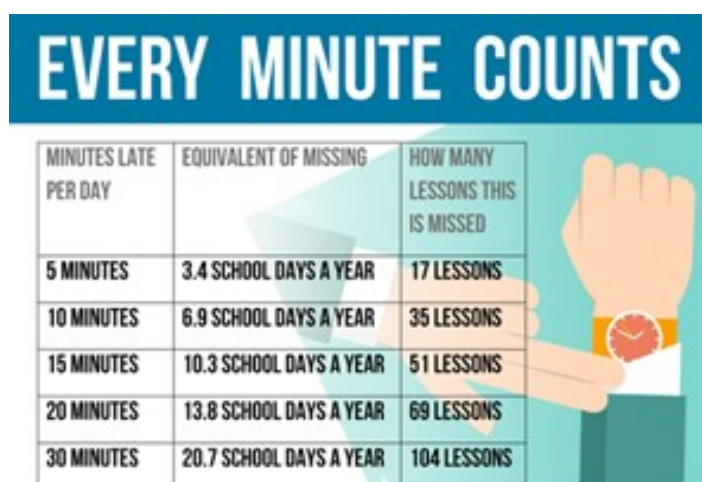
After three weeks we decided to open the doors at 8:50 each morning with registration moving to 8.55. This has allowed an extra 25 minutes of teaching time per week.

From January, we will be extending the school day so it finishes at 3:15.

By extending the day to 3:15 and starting the day at 8:55, along with a slight change to dinner times, teaching time in school will be:

<u>Year Groups</u>	<u>Teaching Hours per day</u>	<u>Weekly Total</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Reception	4 hours 55 mins	24 hours 35 minutes	2 hours 35 minutes
Key Stage One	5 hours 15 mins	26 hours 15 minutes	3 hours 25 minutes
Lower Key Stage Two	5 hours 25 mins	27 hours 05 minutes	1 hour 40 minutes
Upper Key Stage Two	5 hours 35 minutes	27 hours 55 minutes	1 hour 40 minutes

Please arrive on time to school every day, lateness has a huge impact on education.



Nursery hours

Nursery sessions will remain at 3 hours per session but the timings will be slightly different. Morning Nursery will run from 8.45am - 11.45am. Afternoon Nursery will run from 12.15pm - 3.15pm.

It was lovely to see our new Nursery starters for January 2022 come for a visit on Monday preparing for the beginning of their school journey.

Reception Class 2022

You can now apply for a place in Reception for September 2022. Please call the school office for more information.

School Lunches

Following feedback from parents and after discussion with our school cook, Mrs Emery, we have made some changes to the lunches in school. I have uploaded the new school lunch menu to the website. You can view this by clicking [here](#). We will also be introducing a salad bar to accompany the lunches each day.

Please help by ordering lunches from home, the increase in this has already helped staff massively - thank you. From January 2022, we will stop taking lunch orders in school for children and all meals must be ordered from home. Children who haven't ordered a meal at home must bring in a packed lunch.

Christmas Dinner

We are having Christmas dinner in school on **Tuesday 14th December**, if your child/children would like a Christmas dinner, can you please order in advance using School Grid.

After-school clubs

With the exception of Rugby on Friday 10th December, all after school clubs have now finished for this half term. In the new year, some existing clubs will continue but we will also have a range of new clubs.

PE Kits

We currently have two order dates for PE Kits; **December 10th** and **January 21st**. Please return the order form with payment before either date.

Milk

For those children who order milk, please note the deadline for this is **Wednesday 8th December**.

Best Wishes,

Mr Hodgson
Headteacher

Class News!

Nursery

Over the last two weeks in Nursery we have continued our work on the topic 'Tell Me a Story' by listening to the story of the Three Billy Goats Gruff. We worked hard to retell the story using props and really enjoyed it when Miss Nicholson was the troll under the bridge trying to gobble us up for her lunch! In our maths work we have continued to work on matching numerals and quantities by helping Pete the Cat get the correct number of buttons on his shirt. This week we have extended to look at 6 and 7, we then used this skill to help us build a bridge over the puddles outside and had so much fun! We have also compared and ordered the sizes of the three billy goats using words such as small, medium and big.

This week we have began work around the Julia Donaldson favourite 'Stickman'. We have really enjoyed listening to all of the things that Stickman is mistaken for and have come up with some of our own ideas about what we could use a stick for, we suggested a magic wand and a wooden spoon! Santa also makes an appearance in the story so, as we can't contain our Christmas excitement any longer, we have put our class Christmas tree up. We were super careful with all the baubles, made some of our own baubles and took turns to put the tree topper on the top.

Continuing with the Christmas theme in Nursery we have also been practising some Christmas songs. When Santa Got Stuck Up the Chimney is our favourite so far, perhaps you can have a sing song at home!

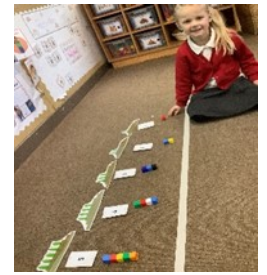


Reception

What a busy two weeks we have had in Reception! We have been reading and learning about 'The Gingerbread Man' story. We started our learning by sequencing and retelling the story with the puppet props. We then thought about the different animal characters in the story. We drew a picture of the different characters and described what they looked like. We also did some super writing. The Gingerbread Man gets eaten by a fox in the story so we came up with some different ways of how the Gingerbread Man could cross the river safely. First, we all made our own bridge and tested it out, making sure it would be safe for him. We then did an experiment, we looked in our classroom at different items and put them in water to see if they would float or sink and which would be best to make a boat. The children came up with some fantastic ideas so we put some gingerbread men biscuits in the boats and into the water to see if the boat was safe. We were busy in our classroom when we saw something outside... It was the Gingerbread Man running around our yard with a basket! We were super excited and went outside to investigate. In the basket it was full of ingredients and a letter asking us to make some of our own gingerbread men but there was a problem! The instructions of how to make them were not there. We worked together to write the instructions. We then followed the instructions to make our very own gingerbread. It was so much fun!



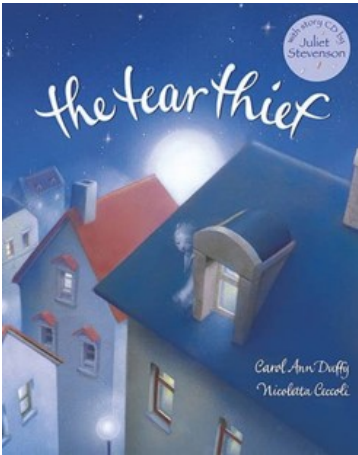
In maths we have been learning about 1 more and 1 less. For one more, we used the song 'One Elephant Went Out to Play' counting on one each time and representing the elephant with the correct number and cubes. For one less, we used the song '5 green bottles' identifying one less each time and representing the bottles with the correct numbers and cubes.



Another activity which we have really enjoyed this week has been looking through the Argos catalogue and making a list to Santa Claus! We even drew and wrote what we would like. Miss Robinson put all of our letters into an envelope and we went to the big post box and posted our letters to Santa!

You can see more of what your child has been learning on our School 360 Learning Journal. You can also upload activities that you have been doing at home!

Year 2



We have had a very busy week in Year 2. In English, we continued with our class text, 'The Tear Thief' which is about a young mystical character who collects children's tears to take to the moon. It is a wonderful book and has opened up fantastic conversations about our emotions and why we can sometimes feel sad. Alongside this, we have watched 'a cloudy lesson' and have learnt more about imperative verbs and command sentences. We have begun to plan our instruction writing. I can't wait to read the children's instructions of 'How to make the moon shine' & 'How to steal tears and never get caught!'

In maths, we have started to learn all about money. We have recapped and built upon their previous learning and have been using our class coins to add pence and find different ways to make an amount. We are now working with pounds. Children have worked hard adding different amounts.

In art, we have built upon our previous work to create a silhouette picture of The Great Fire of London.



In science, we have completed our topic on Animals and Including humans- children loved getting messy with the germ experiment where we used two different colour glitters to investigate how germs spread. We are now learning about famous scientists linked to our previous learning.



Year 3

In English we are continuing reading *Matilda*. The children have produced some brilliant play scripts and had a lot of fun performing these in front of the class. They enjoyed creating a scene for a prank *Matilda* could play on Mr Wormwood.

They have also written a chapter from the book and tried included all the grammar we have learnt through Autumn term.



In Maths we have been working on short multiplication. We started this topic by looking at multiplying using the distributive law before moving onto the formal written method. The children have grasped this really well and have understood the concept of multiplying 2 and 3 digit numbers by ones.

In Science we are continuing our topic on rocks and soil. We have a firm understanding of how each rock is formed. Next week we will be doing an investigation on the permeability of different soils and understanding what soil is made from.

In topic we have looked at artefacts from World War One and what they were used for. The children were very surprised to find out about the rationing of food and the cleanliness that took place whilst in the trenches.



Please could all Year 3 children bring an empty plastic bottle in for our science investigation next week.

Year 4

Yet another busy two weeks. Last week, in maths we consolidated our understanding of adding like and unlike fractions; if you don't know what they are, ask your child; they'll know. In English, we based our work on a wonderful book called Krindlekrax. The children produced character descriptions, storyboards and predicted the ending.

In science, we investigated how sound travels through different mediums. The children had great fun blowing air into a bag and then tapped it with a pencil next to their ear to listen to the pitch, then they filled the bag with water to do the same (as you can imagine this was a firm favourite), finally they put a wooden block against their ear and tapped - LOTS of hilarity!



In RE, we looked at the story of Ruth and explored kindness towards others. Unfortunately, Bear was able to join us for rugby last week so Mrs Rusby decided that going outside to play tag rugby in the freezing wind was a good idea; there was lots of running around to stay warm never mind throw and pass a rugby ball.



This week, has been assessment week. I have to say the children have been absolutely fantastic with their attitude to assessment as they all want to demonstrate the progress that they have made. In science, we were labelling the parts of the ear, string telephones and a spoon investigation were carried out. In French, we were learning the parts of the body and we rounded off the week with a spot of catapult making!

Year 5

Things are starting to get a little bit festive in year 5! Our advent calendar has come out and we have started designing some top secret items in our art lesson this week - there are a few clues in this picture and we are excited to share them with you at the end of term.

We are continuing to work extremely hard as well as beginning to think about all things Christmassy. In maths, we have really impressed Mrs Richardson with our ability to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000, as well as investigating squared and cubed numbers with Mrs Morris. In English lessons we have continued to enjoy reading 'Anglo Saxon Boy' and have produced some fantastic writing including diary entries and letters related to the story. Mr Fernandes has started handing out pen licences and we have all been making a concerted effort to improve our handwriting recently.

Music lessons are going well, and we are working hard to learn some tunes to play together. Have a look at the pictures below!



Science has included more practical experiments, this week finding out all about thermal conductors and insulators. We have also been really interested to find out all about the Sutton Hoo burial site in our topic work, trying to solve the 'mystery of the empty grave' and sketching some of the beautiful Saxon objects that were uncovered there.

Computing has seen us recently start a unit of work on 'Vector Drawings', and we will be able to share a gallery of digital art with you very soon. In French we are learning to talk about our hobbies.

Year 5 have one more swimming lesson this term, on Wednesday 8th December.
Lessons restart in the new year on Wednesday 12th January.

Cookery Club

Well the penultimate week had lots of crushing of ginger nuts; do you realise how stubborn ginger nut biscuits can be when you are trying to crush them! Once crushed to within an inch of their lives, butter was generously poured in and made a delicious base. For the topping to our Key Lime Pie, we mixed, grated and whisked. Our final products could have been sold in M&S!



The final week reminded me of the saying, 'never work with children and animals'; I've changed it - 'never work with chocolate!' Salted pretzels were crushed this time, mixed with sugar and coated in butter for a divine base. Chocolate (!) was melted and then mixed with cream cheese, cream and cocoa powder to make a Salted Pretzel, Chocolate Cream Pie. Then decorated with some swirls (!) of whipped cream. Fingers crossed that it tasted delicious.



Christmas Shoebox Appeal

A huge thank you to everyone that either filled a box or contributed something that could be popped in a shoebox for this very worthy cause. We collected 50 shoeboxes and I know that they are going to put a huge smile on each and every child that receives one. Many thanks once again! ~ Mrs Rusby ~



Diary Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Christmas Jumper Day	Friday 10 th December
EYFS Parties	Monday 13 th December
Christmas Dinner	Tuesday 14 th December
Years 1 and 2 Christmas Parties	Tuesday 14 th December
Years 3 and 4 Christmas Parties	Wednesday 15 th December
Years 5 and 6 Christmas Parties	Thursday 16 th December
Whole school Carol Service (Outside - weather permitting)	2pm - Friday 17 th December
Break up for Christmas	Friday 17 th December
Return to school	Wednesday 5 th January