



Ellington Primary School



News Bulletin #17

24th June 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another busy and successful two weeks at Ellington Primary School. As we get closer and closer to the end of another school year, and my first as Headteacher at Ellington, the weeks seem to be flying with each and every week being busier than the last! This week has seen our Year 4's attend their first residential, and our first since the start of the pandemic. Our Year 2's have enjoyed a day trip to Alnwick Castle and next week our Year 1's will be travelling up to Northumberland Zoo for the day. It is brilliant to be able to have school trips again, to not only support the children's academic progress, but also their social and emotional wellbeing.

Reading

Reading is one of our main priorities in school. All children should bring their reading book and reading record with them to school EVERY single day. Please hear your child read every day. Even if this is just for five minutes, it will massively help their reading development.

Summer Fair

On Saturday July 9th, we will be holding our Summer Fair between 11am and 2pm.

There will be so many activities happening for children of all ages:

Bubble football
Bouncy castle
Keepy-up challenge
A range of stalls
A range of games
Tombola
Raffles
BBQ
Tea/Coffee
Cakes/Biscuits
Tuck shop
Ice Cream Van
A Police Car and Fire Engine (hopefully!)
And much more!



In order to support the Fair, we are going to have two non-uniform days in school.

On **Friday July 1st**, the children can come to school in non-uniform in return for donations of sweets and chocolates.

On **Friday July 8th**, the children can come to school in non-uniform in return for donations

All money raised through the Summer Fair is going towards the refurbishment of our Early Years. The fair is open to all children, families and members of the local community.

We are currently looking for a face painter/s. If you know anyone, please contact the school office on 01670 860769.

School Improvements

We are continuing to try and improve the presentation of the school. During the Summer holidays, we are having several areas of the school decorated. Our Nursery and Reception classes are being painted and having new flooring installed. We are also currently planning improvements to the outdoor areas and equipment in EYFS. The Year 1 and Year 4 classrooms are also being painted and having new flooring installed. Some other areas of school are also being painted along with modernisation of the school hall. It will be a busy summer, but hopefully you will notice the differences in school in September.

Ti-Jean et La Chèvre

We were very lucky to have a travelling theatrical performance in school this week, which was performed entirely in French! The play was for Key Stage Two, who all learnt French songs in preparation.

2022/2023

Final arrangements for the next academic year are currently underway and announcements for class teachers and transition will be made on Monday 26th June.

Fiver Challenge

The Fiver Challenge has been a huge success. Every class in school has worked superbly as young entrepreneurs to make as much profit as possible through their class projects.

The following profits have been made:

Nursery: £66.01

Reception: £52.90

Year One: £150.00

Year Two: £82.00

Year Three: £8.85

Year Four: £183.95

Year Five: £138.91

Year Six: £257.72



The Fiver Challenge!



Thank you for your continued support throughout the various challenges. Each class will decide how to spend their profit!

Uniform

No doubt many of you are now beginning to think about purchasing uniform for the next academic year. Please remember that from **September 2023**, all children will wear navy blue jumpers and cardigans. We would advise to buy only navy jumpers and cardigans, particularly if you have siblings who benefit from hand me downs.

Attendance

Firstly, thank you to the majority of parents who ensure their child arrives to school everyday and on time. Currently, attendance at Ellington is well below national expectations. Schools are expected to have a minimum average of 96% attendance. Presently, we are at 94.4%. Although this may not sound far away from 96%, over the course of an academic year this is significantly below and accumulates to a huge amount of absences. We appreciate that children do get poorly and, in some instances, do need to miss school. However, we are asking for your support in ensuring that children have minimal absences from school.

Attendance Ladder

Attendance Statistics up to 24.6.22:

Reception	96.5%
Year One	94%
Year Two	95%
Year Three	95.3%
Year Four	94%
Year Five	94.5%
Year Six	92.6%

The class with the best attendance this year will be rewarded with a special treat. Reception are on course to win!

Best Wishes,

Mr Hodgson
Headteacher



Class News!

Nursery

Another busy fortnight for Nursery as we have continued our 'Growing' topic. Last week the children received a letter from Jack all the way from his beanstalk! He sent us some sunflower seeds as present to grow ourselves. We were very pleased they weren't bean seeds; we don't want to see any gigantic giants around Ellington! We very carefully planted them and have been taking good care of them ever since so much so that they are shooting away already. We also learned about the lifecycle of the sunflower and some names for different parts of the plant including the roots, stem, petals and leaves.

This week we have been looking at how we have grown and how we will keep growing until we are adults. The children really enjoyed looking at all of the baby pictures you kindly sent in and we played daily games of guess who! We loved exploring how much we have changed already even though we are only 3 and 4, our favourite was seeing how much more hair everyone has. We have also thought about different things that babies, children and adults use as they get older. In maths we measured our heights and some of us who were in Nursery last year were able to compare their heights as they had completed a similar activity before. The children had grown so much! We finished our week by thinking about what we would like to be when we grow up, we had lots of lovely ideas but my favourite was a princess!



We have been spending a lot more time learning in our outside area and making the most of the beautiful weather. Our favourite thing to do outside is use the house to play McDonald's with all of our friends. The afternoon children also enjoyed dipping their toes in our water tray to cool down- I am sure the morning children will enjoy having a turn next week!

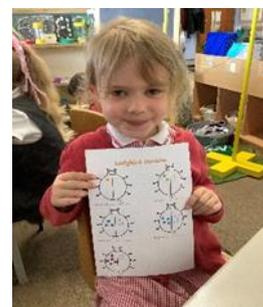


Reception

We have had another busy two weeks in Reception. In Literacy, we have been reading and learning about the story 'The Rainbow Fish'. The children created a fantastic story map and retold the story to Mrs Cook. At the beginning of the story, the Rainbow Fish is not a nice friend but by the end, after some help from others, he is. We have been talking in Reception about the importance of being a kind friend, we have also been writing about the different things that can be found under the sea.



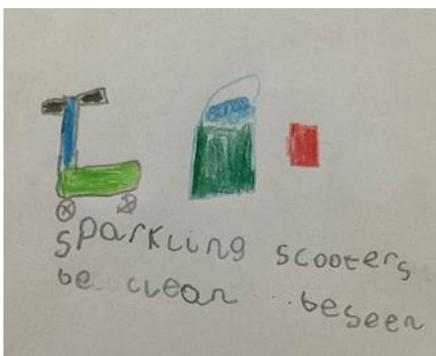
In maths, we have been learning about doubling numbers and the children have been doing lots of related different activities in their play. This week, we have been learning about even and odd numbers. The children have created an even and odd monster representing the eyes, nose, mouth, arms and legs. We have also been learning about sorting objects into equal amounts.



We have thoroughly enjoyed taking our learning outdoors in the beautiful sunshine as well as having our P.E lesson outside. Mr Robertson is very impressed with Reception in P.E. The children have been learning about the ready position, throwing, including over arm and underarm, and catching.



Our Reception children would like to say a huge thank you for supporting their Fiver Challenge of Sparkling Scooters (be clean...be seen). We thoroughly enjoyed washing scooters!



Year 1



Year one really enjoyed the "fiver challenge" week. We designed posters and leaflets to promote our enterprise ideas. We chose the name of "Wildlife Warriors" for our company and made our own bee logo to go with our products. We were keen to use the spare bird boxes that we had made earlier in the year. Our kind friend Mr. Robinson helped us to get the paint ready and we carefully prepared them for the sale. We liked wearing our Wildlife Warrior uniforms. Mr. Robinson was very impressed with our team work and we were delighted with our finished product.



Next we decided to help the bees and created some wild flower bee bombs. We carefully rolled the clay and soil and put the seeds inside. We concentrated very carefully and when they had dried out a little we put them into the hessian bags. Then a team of children helped to make the labels and very carefully decorated them. Last but not least we wrapped the fat balls for the birds and carefully put them in bags. We were very excited to set up our stall and were amazed when all of the products sold out so quickly. We couldn't believe our eyes at how much money we made.



Making the flower seed bombs.

Year 1 Continued.

We have had such a great time but still managed to work very hard.

We are still enjoying "The Secret of Black Rock" in our English lessons. In maths we have been finding out about place value and counting forwards and backwards to 100 and beyond. Our science lessons have been all about animal groups and we are very excited to see lots of the animals we have talked about at the zoo on our trip on Monday the 27th of June.

In topic work we have been finding out about Grace Darling and have acted out the rescue in drama lessons.

Our P.E lesson this week was good fun. We used the running tracks for races and impressed Mrs. Pirie by learning the relay race so quickly. We were superfast in the egg and spoon race with only one or two of us cheating by holding onto the egg! We are looking forward to learning lots of new different sports next week.



Finally we would like to thank our Year 6 Sport Leaders. They help us every playtime to play lots of different team games. We have such good fun and get lots of exercise.



Look at us all in action.

A great way to spend our playtime. Thank you for giving up your own playtimes to teach and support us.



Year 2

In English, we finished reading our class text *The Bear and the Piano*- we loved it! Year 2 decided it is one of their favourite books we've read in class (and we've read many!!). In our English lessons, we have been building up to and using our writing toolkits to plan and write a diary entry from the bear. I've been very impressed with their choice of emotive language as well as using a range of coordinating and subordinating conjunctions! I can't wait to read their final published piece.

In maths, year 2 have continued to work on mass and capacity. They have explored different units of measurement and used problem solving with all four operations! We are very impressed with their resilience and effort this week. We have also begun to explore temperature and began to estimate the temperature around school.

Year 2 have enjoyed participating in the fiver challenge. They used their maths skills to plan their budget and finances. We quickly realised how many bottles we would need to sell due to the high cost of resources for our chosen product. They worked hard to create advertisements and posters as well as creating the shopping list, making bracelets and filling bottles.

In Geography, we are enjoying learning about 'Magnificent Monarchs'. To support our learning around this, we were very excited to visit Alnwick Castle this week. Year 2 had a fantastic time at Alnwick. We took part in a 'Castle Life' workshop where we made our own clay tiles and experienced what it would be like to live and work in a castle. We had an amazing time and loved our private grounds tour.



Year 3

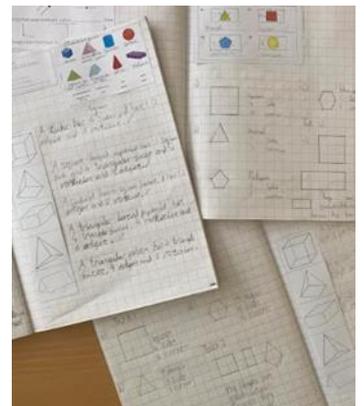
We have had an exciting week this week, completing lots of different learning and activities.

We are continuing to explore our alien-tastic text, 'Lights on Cotton Rock' by David Litchfield. Year 3 have been working really hard on their independent writing this week to create dialogue between the characters in our story. They also used their creative ideas from last week to support their descriptions of the character's emotions.



In maths, the children have been working on their knowledge of geometry. They have been exploring parallel and perpendicular lines, as well as recognising, describing and even drawing 2-D and 3-D shapes.

The children have been developing their programming skills during a series of computing lessons last week. The children were introduced to the concept of sequencing in programming through Scratch. They learnt how to use a selection of motion, sound, and event blocks to create their own programs, featuring sequences. They also got to experiment creating motion using a Bee-Bot through programming sequences to create a drawing.



Year 3 Continued.

The children also completed their Fiver Challenge this week, and had a very busy afternoon preparing and making fruit kebabs. Year 3 enjoyed this challenge and worked well in their teams to produce as many fruit kebabs as they could. Well done you lot! Thank you to those who supported our Fiver Challenge, we hope you enjoyed your fruit kebabs!



We were lucky enough to have some special visitors in this week. Year 3 enjoyed learning some French songs that they would be able to sing with Key Stage 2 during a visit from the performers at Théâtre Sans Frontières. The play was fantastic - Year 3 particularly enjoyed singing along with the performers. The play told the tales of three different stories. Can you ask your child to retell these stories to you?



Year 4

In English, we continue to read our fabulous book called 'Wonder' and we have been concentrating our learning on emotive language, analysing emotions through characters' actions and consolidating our understanding of simple, compound and complex sentences. In maths, we have been focussing on data handling - using a ruler for straight lines was a must! The majority of last week we were making crafts for our Fiver Challenge and we were super impressed with our achievement when we raised £183.95 - we can't wait to figure out what we are going to spend our profit on. As well as that amazing treat to be organised, we also won Mr Hodgson's challenge on Times Table Rockstars so we'll have that treat to organise too. When you receive this week's newsletter, your little cherub will be on the bus home from what will have been a fabulous, fun-packed residential. If we weren't able to send any photos via Classdojo due to internet access at Whithaugh, lots will be sent over the coming days. What a fabulous end to Year 4 - a residential, two treats, sports week, PTA summer fair and Sports Day! Wow!



Year 5

This week in year 5, the children have been planning and drafting their very own spooky, suspense stories: focussing on editing and improving our writing, including the use of simile and metaphor and adverbial phrases of manner and possibility.

In numeracy, we have begun converting metric and imperial units including kilometres and metres, kilograms and grams by multiplying and dividing by 1000.

In RE, we have been studying Judaism. We have looked at how God is represented and the Torah (the Jewish Holy book), and we have watched a boy practicing his scripture reading for his Bar Mitzvah. The children were fascinated to learn that the boy had to read and speak in Hebrew and read backwards!

This week, along with the rest of key stage 2, we enjoyed the performance 'Ti-Jean et La Chèvre'. The interactive show was delivered entirely in French.



Year 6

Another varied and eventful couple of weeks have gone by in year six since our last newsletter entry! The main event last week across school was the Fiver Challenge, and we thoroughly enjoyed hosting our environmentally friendly craft stall. The class worked incredibly hard making tie died tote bags, sea glass jewellery, painted rocks, recycled tin can plant pots, pinecone hedgehogs and running a tombola (thank you so much for the generous donations!) and we were very proud of our final profit!



We have been doing a lot of practical activities this week across various lessons. In maths, angles work has included some angles art which looked very effective and provided useful protractor practice! Topic and RE lessons have both involved exploring and discussing artefacts; the focus in RE has been Judaism and in topic lessons the class have been learning about the triangular slave trade and were particularly interested in trying on some shackles to experience some part of what slaves had to go through. In our science lessons we are studying light theory, and last week this included joining in with different scientific demonstrations using equipment like torches, optical fibre and a laser pen to demonstrate how light travels and reflects.

On Monday, we were lucky to have a visit from a French speaking theatre company who performed 'Ti Jean et la Chevre'. We spent the previous Friday afternoon learning songs so that the performance was interactive and picked up the French lyrics impressively quickly!



We are working hard towards finishing the final drafts of our diary entries as the character of Lily from the book Cogheart. Year 6 have really impressed Miss Willcock with their ability to show Lily's thoughts and feelings effectively and they have been working so hard to include grammatical features that they have worked on together.

Diary Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Year 1 Northumberland Zoo Trip	Monday 27 th June
Sports Week	Monday 27 th June - Friday 1 st July
Year 6 Residential	Monday 4 th July - Wednesday 6 th July
Move Up Morning	Thursday 7 th July
Summer Fair (11am - 2pm)	Saturday 9 th July
Sports Day*	Monday 11 th July
End of Year Reports	Friday 15 th July
Year 6 Leavers Assembly	Wednesday 20 th July
Break up for summer	Friday 22 nd July

*EYFS will have their sports day in the morning, Years 1 to 6 will have their sports day from 1pm.