



Ellington Primary News

Believe and Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a brilliant last two weeks in school with many events happening and the children representing the school superbly. During recent trips to the Sage, NCEA Dukes Academy and Ashington Leisure Centre, staff and members of the public have commented on the excellent behaviour and attitude of the children. This term we have focused on the values of resilience and respect and it is clear these are becoming embedded in everything we do in school and the children deserve enormous credit.

The Sage

On Friday 18th November, children in our mini-band from Years 4 and 5 had a fantastic day at the Sage! They spent time during the day rehearsing and preparing for a performance on the main stage. Unsurprisingly, they were all fantastic and impressed staff and parents enormously. Their attitude and behaviour



Children in Need

We had a fantastic day for Children in Need in school, raising over **£200** in total. Thank you for your support. The money will no doubt greatly support those most in need.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Next week is the tenth and last week for our extra-curricular clubs this term, except for clubs on a Monday which will finish on Monday December 5th due to missing a day for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. We will be sharing information next week regarding new clubs which will be starting

Safeguarding

Each school has designated safeguarding leads in place to ensure that all children are safe. At Ellington, safeguarding is our number one priority and we now have four fully qualified designated safeguarding leads.

Mr Hodgson - Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Miss Gray, Mr McConville, Mrs Pirie - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.

If you have any concerns about a child at Ellington Primary School, please do not hesitate in contacting one of the designated safeguarding leads.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

We now have only four weeks until we break up for Christmas and over the next four weeks we have so many events happening! We will kick off our festive fun with a Pantomime on November 30th. The whole school will be watching Aladdin in a 90-minute show!

We then have Christmas Jumper day and a Christmas film night on December 8th. Children can wear something 'Christmassy' for school that day, if they wish. At 4.15pm we will re-open our doors for the Christmas film. This will now be a whole school event where children can leave after school and return in their pyjamas for a Christmas film, hot chocolate and cookies. Tickets will cost £3 and will go on sale on Monday 28th November. Payment will be through School Gateway.

We are having our Christmas dinner on December 14th! Please place your order by Sunday 27th November

Years 1 and 2 will be performing 'Hey Ewe' for their Christmas nativity performances on December 15th and December 16th at 9:30am. Siblings and young children can attend the show on the 15th and it will be adults only on the 16th.

Reception and Nursery will be performing their Christmas show 'The Nativity' on Monday 19th December at 9:30am.

Each class in school will also have a Christmas party during the last week.

We are also planning some Christmas craft afternoons where we would love you to join us in school to make crafts with your child/children. More information will be shared in the near future.

Finally, we will be holding two Carol Concerts for children from Years 1 to Year 6 on December 21st and 22nd at 9:30. Children will be singing a range of traditional Christmas carols and we would love you to join us.



Diary Dates

Christmas Jumper Day	8th December
Christmas Film Night	8th December
(whole school)	4:30pm–6:30pm
Christmas Dinner	14th December
KS1 Nativity Performance	15th December (9.30am)
KS1 Nativity Performance	16th December (9.30am)
EYFS Christmas Show	19th December (9.30am)
EYFS Christmas Party	19th December
Year 1/2 Christmas Party	20th December
Year 3/4 Christmas Party	21st December
Christmas Carol Concert	21st December (9.15am)
Year 5/6 Christmas Party	22nd December
Christmas Carol Concert	22nd December (9.15am)
Break up for Christmas	23rd December
Return to School	9th January
Teacher Training	13th January

Attendance 14/11–25/11

Reception	94.5%
Year 1	92.6%
Year 2	97.1%
Year 3	92.3%
Year 4	98.3%
Year 5	91%
Year 6	91%
Whole School	94.7%
	Down from 95.4%

Mr Hodgson—Headteacher

Nursery News

We have been very busy this week.

The children have taken part in so many activities. We were so thoughtful when we talked about Remembrance Day. We made our own poppy display and thought about others who were helpful to us.

We took part in anti-bullying week and wore our odd socks to show that it is alright to be different.

We took part in Children in Need and talked about helping others through raising money for those that needed support. We dressed up and made Pudsey cakes.

We took part in National Nursery Rhyme week and have been singing all week.

We have enjoyed finding out about Traditional Tales and loved acting out the story of Little Red Riding Hood.

We are so pleased to have had lots of special story readers and have listened so very well. Please look at the website later for lots more photographs. Thank you.



Reception News

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. We then thought about the different animal characters in the story. We drew a picture of the different characters and used our fantastic phonics knowledge to do some 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. We used different materials to make our own bridge and then tested it out to see which material was the strongest! 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 in the boats and into the water to see if the boat was safe.



On Tuesday, 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. The basket 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 2D shapes. We sorted the different shapes into the correct category. We also have been learning about an artist called Wassily Kandinsky who uses 2D shapes such as triangles and circles to create art. We then made our own shape art inspired by Kandinsky.



Another activity which we have really enjoyed has been looking through the Argos catalogue and making a list for Santa! Mrs Cook put all of our letters into an envelope and we went to the big post box and posted our letters to the North Pole for Santa!



Year 1 News

The children have worked extremely hard across all curriculum subjects the past two weeks. We have also celebrated 'Odd Sock Day', Anti-Bullying week and watched England in their first World Cup match against Iran.

We have continued our learning about 'Leaf Man' and we have written; character descriptions, instructions and our own story about Leaf Man. I am so proud of the progress they are making in English. They have been focusing very hard on their handwriting and I am sure you will agree it is starting to look amazing.



During our Maths lessons we have been continuing to work hard on our times tables. Please continue to play on TTRS at home. We have also been looking at number bonds to 5 and partitioning numbers to 5 in a variety of ways. We have been using the part-whole model and also the bar model to record our findings. We have also learned about ordinal numbers. We did lots of practical activities to practice our vocabulary, e.g. First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth.



In RE we are exploring the question 'What do Christians believe God is like?'. We have discussed and retold the parable 'The Lost Son' and what this tells us about God.

In science we have continued our learning on 'Everyday Materials'. We have started discussing properties of materials and investigating the properties different materials have.

We have also started our Christmas performance rehearsals with the Year 2 children and we have made a good start on learning some of the songs.

Year 2 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you have had a lovely couple of weeks since the last blog post. As always, it has been super busy in Year 2. We have been pushing on with all of our subjects, with some that we have been particularly enjoying.

In Maths, we have started having a huge push on Times Tables. We have been using paper based Times Table Rockstar booklets in class and it has been incredible to see how much the children have improved in the space of a fortnight. IN addition, we have been working on subtraction in our main maths lessons, looking at finding the difference by counting up or back and by subtracting numbers using reduction and partitioning.

In English, we have planned, written, edited and are currently publishing a character description of The Tear Thief in the context of a wanted poster. The children have used questions, headings and subheadings, expanded noun phrases and adverbs to provide an excellent description of the character. They have been lovely to read.

In Science, we have been looking at Everyday Materials. We had a hunt to see which materials we could see in the classroom being used to make different objects. On Thursday, we also completed an investigation into which objects were waterproof and which objects were absorbent. We used pipettes to add the right amount of water as well as making predictions for each item we tested and recording the results.

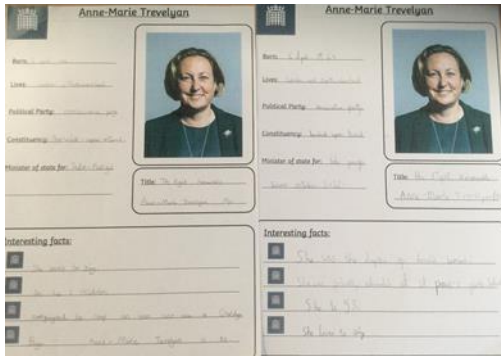
In RE we have started to learn about what Christmas means to Christians and talking of Christmas, rehearsals for the Year 1 and 2 performance are now underway.

Finally in Geography, we have recapped children's knowledge of the 7 continents, seeing if the children can name them as well as locate them on a world map. We are now starting to look at the process of farming.



Year 3 News

Another exciting and busy two weeks in Year 3. We have enjoyed lots of fun events to mark Anti-bullying week, Children in Need and England's first game in the football World Cup. We also took part an activity to mark Parliament Week. We researched our local MP and made some informative fact files about her.



In English, we completed our work on 'Matilda' by publishing the persuasive letters that we had written in the character of 'Miss Trunchbull'. On Monday, we were surprised to find a peculiar washing line had appeared in the classroom. It had a mysterious scroll hanging from it which told us a little bit about our next text, 'The Lost Happy Endings'. We discovered the book in a basket of washing!



In maths we have been working hard on using mental methods to add and subtract some large numbers. We are also getting really good at our 3 times table.

In music we have been getting to grips with playing the glockenspiel, including reading notation from the screen.



In computing we have started learning about stop-motion animation and in future weeks we hope to be able to share some of our animations with you.

In religious education, we enjoyed acting out parts of the story of Noah's Ark.

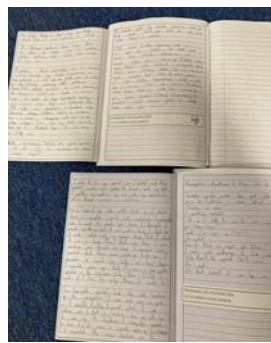
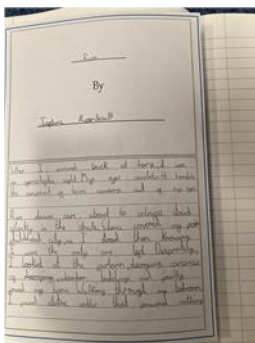
Year 4 News

What an exciting last two weeks we've had in Year 4! The England match, a brass band event at The Sage and Anti-bullying/Children in Need, UK Parliament week as well as all our usual lessons. Phew!

The brass band event at The Sage was incredible and the children behaved impeccably performing some well-known songs alongside lots of other schools. This was a tremendous opportunity for the children and one that I am sure they will remember for a long time to come.



We also took part in Anti-Bullying week and played games of rounders to demonstrate how small things can have a big effect, as well as creating a mini representation of ourselves for an up-coming whole-school display. This also coincided with UK Parliament Week where we found out facts about Parliament and how it works in order to play a game of "Big Ben Bong-o" - there were some surprising facts that none of us knew before.



In our usual lessons, we published our fantastic narratives on the ruined cities and have now started on some diary entries based on the novel we are reading. In maths, we have started a unit of work on shape and perimeter whilst DT has us designing and building model pavilions. Our work on Hinduism in RE has us looking at the deities that represent the different aspects of the god Brahman.

Year 5 News

The children have produced fantastic non-chronological reports about the fight against apartheid. We have built up an impressive bank of vocabulary to help embed our understanding of this period in South African history. We have moved on to focus on the speech made by Nelson Mandela, 27 years after he was released from prison. The children will pretend to step into the shoes of Nelson Mandela to write a speech to the black community of South Africa and convince them to join in with the fight against the government. All the children have made fantastic progress throughout this unit of work and should be very proud of the work they have produced.



In maths we have been learning about negative numbers. The children have used their knowledge really well in order to explore real life situations involving negative numbers. We have combined our understanding of money and negative numbers and successfully calculated bank balance problems. This week we have been practising out times tables as its vitally important that children know all their tables from their 2's all the way through to 12's. All children are encouraged to use TT Rockstars at home as much as they can!

In history, we have continued to explore the Early Islamic Civilisation and how inventions from the 9th century have impacted on our lives today. Did you know that some of the significant discoveries from the Islamic period include: coffee, cameras and algebra?

In science we used the stems of a geranium plant in order to attempt use asexual reproduction to clone an offspring. The children been intrigued to how this process works and have contributed excellently when applying their scientific knowledge and vocabulary to discuss our objectives.

Our recognition board has focused on 'respect' and the children demonstrate their ability to be respectful every day in a variety of ways. As a cohort, our target for the rest of the year is to improve our class attendance. As our expectations are high, we are aiming for one month of 100% attendance in order to win a treat! We can do this! Keep up the great work year 5!



Mr Todd

Year 6 News

Year 6 continue to work hard and have been learning some valuable new skills since our last update.

English has been very emotional. We are using a Christmas advert as our writing stimulus and it has proven to be evocative. As a result, Year 6 have come up with some amazing vocabulary and have shown empathy towards the characters. They promise not to take loved ones for granted!

We continue to explore new ways to tackle division in maths and have spent time revising short division and division using factors before embarking on long division. It would be fantastic to see more Year 6s using Times Tables Rock Stars at home too...

In science, we were Taxonomists for an afternoon. We had to sort animals into different groups, based on their similarities and differences. This proved trickier than we initially expected!

We used our resilience in DT this week where we were learning how to join two pieces of fabric together using a running stitch. Even with our 'cheat' needles, it really tested our resolve. It was wonderful to see the children using teamwork to support each other too. Next week, we will be starting to sew our mini waistcoats. It's all very exciting!

