

# Ellington Primary News

*Believe and Achieve*

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had another very busy fortnight in school. There have been lots of events taking place with many more coming up before Easter. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance of 'The Selfish Giant' on Wednesday with 8 children from the audience performing in the show! The production company commented on how enthusiastic, polite and well mannered the children were throughout school. We had a group of Key Stage Two children competing in a tri-golf competition on Tuesday at Ashington Leisure Centre and they won first place! We also have James from Year 3 competing in a national trampolining competition this weekend, representing Ellington Primary School - good luck James, you can do it!

## Parent Consultations

We are holding our Spring Parent Consultations on Wednesday 20th March. You can book your appointments via [School Cloud](#). We will send out a reminder next week with your appointment time. If your child is on the Special Educational Needs register and you would like additional time with your child's class teacher, please contact them direct via Class Dojo to arrange an alternative meeting.

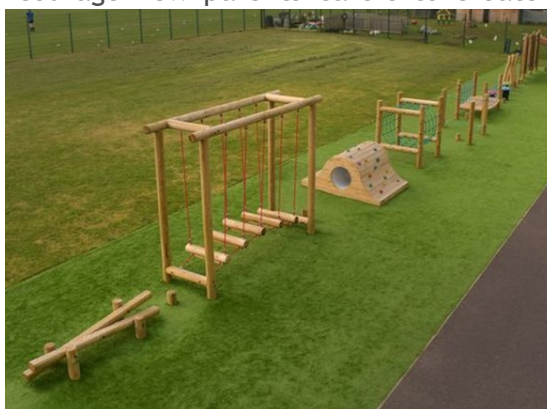
## Friends of Ellington

At Ellington, there have been a small number of parents working together for many years as our PTA, supporting the school tremendously in a variety of ways. Their hard work has enabled so many new resources to be purchased and also helped the redecoration of the school in recent years as well as providing some brilliant experiences for the pupils. Every penny raised via the PTA has gone back into school for the children.

We are at a point now where we would like to encourage new parents/carers to create a 'Friends of Ellington' group. It would be fantastic for parents/carers of children in Early Years or Key Stage One to create the group and become involved with school activities.

If you would like more information and/or be interested in joining please contact the school office or send a message to me via Class Dojo.

In recent years, we have held several successful events. We aim to hold many more with the aim of raising enough funds to purchase a trim trail for the school field, something similar to this is the aim for our school council!



## Easter Fun

Easter is just around the corner and we have a number of activities planned:



**Decorate an Egg** - We will be holding a decorate an egg competition for all children. If your child would like to take part, they should bring their decorated egg into school on Thursday 28th March. School Governors will choose a winner from each class who will win an Easter Egg.

**Chocolate Tombola** - On Thursday 28th March, we will have a chocolate tombola. This will take place during the school day and all classes (Nursery to Year 6) will be able to take part. To support with this, we are requesting some chocolate donations please. If these could be handed in from Monday 25th March please.



**Easter Egg Hunt** - On Thursday 28th March, all classes will take part in an Easter trail in the school grounds. As with previous years, Nursery and Reception parents can join their children for this. Nursery AM parents/carers please arrive at school at 11am, Nursery PM/30 hours parents/carers arrive at school at 2:15pm. Reception parents/carers should also arrive at school at 2:15pm.

**RED  
NOSE  
DAY**

To support [Red Nose Day](#) today, children and staff came to school wearing something red or in non-uniform. We raised over **£190**, thank you for your support!

## Sports Day / Summer Fair

This year we are combining Sports Day with our Summer Fair. Both will take place on Friday 28th June. Our sports activities will take place from 9:00 to 10:00 (EYFS) and Years 1 to 6 (10:15 - 12:00) with our Summer Fair taking place from 13:30 to 15:30. More details will be shared closer to the events, but please save the date!



Mr Hodgson—Headteacher

### Attendance 04/03–15/03

Reception– 98.4%

Year 1–95%

Year 2–95.7%

Year 3–97.3%

Year 4–94.4%

Year 5–98.9%

Year 6–94.5%

Whole School–96.1%

**Up from 96%**

### Diary Dates

Science/Careers Week	18th– 22nd March
Parent Consultations	20th March
Y4 Residential	25th–27th March
Easter Events	28th March
End of spring term 2	28th March
Return to school	15th April
Bank Holiday	6th May
End of summer term 1	24th May
Return to school	3rd June
Sports Day AM /Summer Fair PM	28th June
Y6 Residential	5th–7th July
Summer term reports	12th July
End of summer term 2	19th July



WhatsApp is one of the most popular messaging apps in the world, with more than 1.5 billion people in more than 180 countries using it to send and receive text, photos, videos and documents, as well as make voice and video calls through an Internet or Wi-Fi connection. The free app offers end-to-end encryption, which means that messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient in one-to-one chats, or all members if it is a group chat. Not even WhatsApp can read them.



AGE RESTRICTION  
**16+**



# What parents need to know about WhatsApp



**AGE LIMIT CHANGE**  
Since May 2018, the minimum age for using WhatsApp is 16 years old if you live in the European Union, including the UK. Prior to this, the minimum age was 13, which still applies for the rest of the world. WhatsApp has not yet stated whether it will take action against anyone aged between 13 and 16 who already hold accounts under the old terms and conditions, such as closing their account or seeking parental permission.

**SCAM MESSAGES**  
Occasionally on WhatsApp, people receive spam messages from unauthorised third parties or from fraudsters pretending to offer prizes to 'lucky people', encouraging recipients to click on a link to win a prize. A common scam involves messages warning recipients that their WhatsApp subscription has run out with the hope that people are duped into providing their payment details. Other scam messages include instructions to forward the message in return for a reward or gift from WhatsApp or another person.

**FAKE NEWS AND HOAXES**  
WhatsApp has been linked to enabling the spread of dangerous viral rumours. In India, for example, a number of attacks appear to have been sparked by false rumours shared on WhatsApp.

**THE 'ONLY ADMIN' FEATURE AND CYBERBULLYING**  
Cyberbullying is the act of sending threatening or taunting text messages, voice messages, pictures and videos, with the aim to hurt and humiliate the receiver. The group chat and group video call features are great for multiple people to chat simultaneously, but there is the potential for people to hurt others with their comments or jokes. The 'only admin' feature gives the admin of a group chat greater control over who can send messages. Whilst this can be good for one-way announcements, the group admin has the power to block somebody from responding to an offensive message in a chat, which could result in a child being upset and unable to reply.

**CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS**  
To start a chat in WhatsApp, you need to know the mobile number of the contact you want to speak to and they also need to have the app downloaded. WhatsApp can find contacts by accessing the address book of a device and recognising which of those contacts are using WhatsApp. If your child has shared their mobile number with some-body they don't know, they can use it to get in touch via WhatsApp.

**LIVE LOCATION SHARING**  
WhatsApp's 'Live Location' feature enables users to share their current location in real time to their contacts in a chat, allowing friends to show their movements. The feature, which can be found by pressing the 'attach' button, is described by WhatsApp as a 'simple and secure way to let people know where you are.' Location-sharing is already a common feature on other social apps, including Snapchat's Snap Map and Facebook Messenger and can be a useful way for a child to let loved ones know they are safe. However, if your child is in a group chat with people they do not know, they will be exposing their location.



## Top Tips for Parents



**CREATE A SAFE PROFILE**  
Even though somebody would need your child's phone number to add them as a contact, as an extra security measure we suggest altering their profile settings to control who can see their profile photo and status. The options to choose from are 'Everyone', 'My Contacts' and 'Nobody'. We suggest selecting 'My Contacts' or 'Nobody' to ensure their profile is protected.

**EXPLAIN HOW TO BLOCK PEOPLE**  
If your child has received spam or offensive messages, calls or attachments from a contact, they should block them. Messages and status updates sent by a blocked contact will not show up on the phone and will stay undelivered. Blocking someone will not remove this contact from the contact list - they will need to be removed from the phone's address book. To block a contact, your child needs to open the person's chat stream and tap on the settings.



**REPORT SCAM MESSAGES**  
Advise your child not to tap, share or forward any message that looks suspicious or sounds too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they will be given the option to report the number as spam directly inside the chat. They can also report a contact or a group as spam using the following steps: 1) Open the chat. 2) Tap on the contact or group name to open their profile information. 3) Scroll to the bottom and tap 'Report Spam'.

**LEAVE A GROUP**  
If your child is part of a group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable or has been added to a group they don't want to be part of, use the group's settings to show them how to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once, if they leave again, they cannot be added again.

**USING LIVE LOCATION SAFELY**  
If your child needs to use the 'Live Location' feature to share with you or a friend, advise them to only share it for the amount of time they need to. WhatsApp gives the options of either 15 minutes, one hour or eight hours. However, your child can choose to stop sharing at any time.

**DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES**  
If your child has sent a message to the wrong chat or if a message they sent has contained a mistake, they can delete it. To do this, simply tap and hold on the message, choose 'Delete' and then 'Delete for everyone'. The app allows seven minutes to delete the message after it has been sent, but it is important to remember that recipients may have seen and screenshot a message before it was deleted.

**SET TIME LIMITS**  
A 2017 study found that by the age of 14 the average child will have sent more than 35,000 texts, 30,000 WhatsApp messages and racked up more than three solid weeks of video chat. Although it is inevitable that your child will use technology, you can still set boundaries. This is not easy, especially since teens use their devices for both schoolwork and free time, often simultaneously.



SOURCES: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/may/08/whatsapp-privacy-teen-killer> The mystery is how: <https://theguardian.com/technology/2018/may/08/whatsapp-privacy-teen-killer> <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/technology/whatsapp-privacy-teen-killer-how-secure-messages-app-works-20180511.html>

## Nursery News

The last two weeks in Nursery, we have been learning all about growing and planting. We've observed a bean growing and looked at what part grew first. We could say that the plant needed water, sunshine and soil to grow. The children suggested a better place, the window sill, for a plant that wasn't growing, using their knowledge. The children have enjoyed listening to our growing stories such as Jasper's beanstalk and Jack and the Beanstalk and used lots of story language within our play.

This week, we have been looking at how sunflowers grow and we have challenged the children to see 'who can grow the tallest Sunflower?' We have planted the sunflowers and are beginning to watch them grow before they are sent home to continue the challenge.

We have also taken part in World Book Day! The children looked fantastic in their costumes! The children loved it when the Y4s came to read to them. They said the Y4s were kind and told the stories well. It was nice for some of us to spend time with our siblings.

I would also like to thank you all for your continued support. Our stay and read was a huge success and the children love sharing their learning with you and I'm sure you like to see what they get up to too.

Over the next two weeks we will be looking at signs of spring and preparing for Easter.



## Reception News

What an exciting time we have had in the first weeks of our new term. We had a special delivery of some eggs in an incubator. We have learned all about keeping the eggs safe and how we can care for the chicks once they hatch. We used a short story to learn the lifecycle of a chick and retold it using actions, drama and we did our first larger piece of writing of the year- very impressive! Our chicks are due to hatch on the 20th so keep an eye out for updates!

In maths, we have been looking at recognising and ordering numbers to 10. We have filled in the missing numbers on our number line, ordered the numbers forwards and backwards and matched amounts to number. We have also been looking at the composition of 5 by doing some work on number bonds, the children were super at spotting hidden numbers within 5.



In our DT unit, we have been practising our weaving and sewing skills. We all showed amazing resilience when having a go at a running stitch and I definitely think we have some future sewing superstars amongst us!



We have also been learning about how Ellington has changed over time. We looked at some old photographs of Ellington and went on a walk around our local area to see if we could locate the exact place the photograph was taken. We then took our own version of the picture and compared similarities and differences. The children were particularly amazed that you used to be able to get petrol from the Top Shop!

## Year 1 News

What a fantastic fortnight we have had in Year 1. The highlight of last week was our trip to the Discovery museum. The children were impeccably behaved and listened well to all instructions. Our time at the museum consisted of exploring the Science Maze before dinner and looking at the modes of transport from the past (Steam trains, Penny Farthing etc.). After dinner we took a trip back in time and started our search for old toys. We saw a range of different artefacts and the children had a few artefacts to find and draw on our walk back through History.

This week's highlight has been the performance of 'The Selfish Giant'. Aria was chosen from our class to do some acting whilst the rest of the school learnt songs to join in with the performance. They thoroughly enjoyed the show and could retell important parts back in the classroom.

In History, we are learning about 'How toys have changed'. If you have any pictures of your favourite toy or if any grandparents have any pictures then we would really appreciate them being sent in to help with our topic.

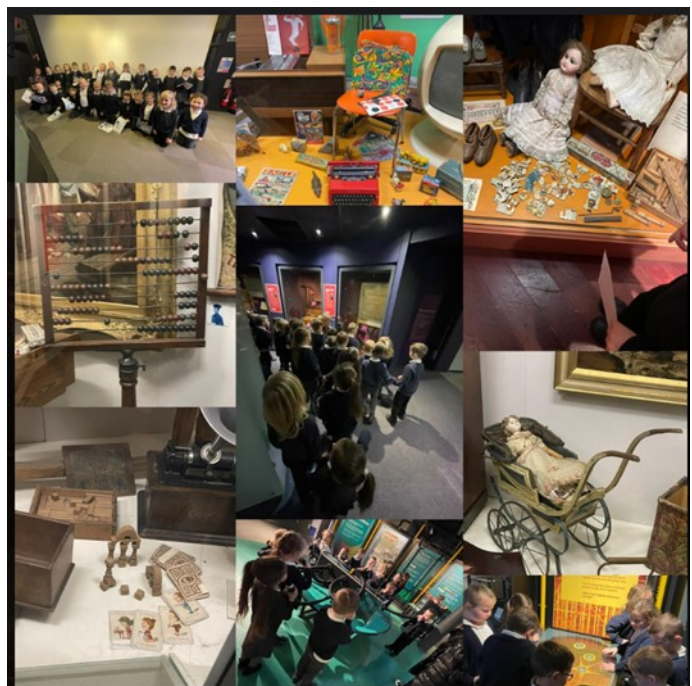
In PE, we are working on our teamwork skills through teambuilding. The children have had to think hard about how to communicate in a team and what strategies they would use to be successful in each task.

This week in RE, we have learnt about Hanukkah and why it is called 'The Festival of Light'. The children recreated a short performance of how the Jewish temple was destroyed and how the Maccabees came to save the day. Brilliant retell Year 1!

You have had a great start to Spring 2 term and you should be impressed with how much you have achieved. Keep up the hard work!

Thank you,

Mrs Horsley



## Year 2 News

Another super week in Year 2!

Last week we won the attendance award again which is fantastic, let's keep it up Year 2!!

In English, we have finished our unit on 'The Day the Crayons Quit', the children loved this book by Drew Daywalt and they created some superb letters informing The Crayons that Year 2 need them back. I would like to report that all Crayons have returned and they brought us Jelly Beans! It was great to see Green and Blue Crayon showing up on World Book Day too.



We had some great characters for World Book Day, the costumes were super and the children had a lovely day. We shared our favourite stories and characters, completed a live drawing lesson with John Patrick Green and finished off our day by joining Year 5 in the library for some reading time.

We took part in 'Celebrating Ellington Day', we had a day jam-packed with activities. We interviewed Mrs Sayer and Mr Liddle who both went to school in Ellington, we asked them many questions about how schools have changed and we heard many fantastic stories. We also took a trip to the old primary school which was the first school built in Ellington in 1837, it is now the local village hall. Mr Jackson helped us with our learning as he told us some very interesting facts about the village and how it has changed over the years. To complete our day of learning about schools in the past, we all created a picture of an old school using either chalk, pastel or sketching pencils.



As part of our Curriculum Enrichment, we took a trip to the Discovery Museum. In the Museum we explored many different trails and discovered new, exciting experiments in the Science Maze. During our visit to the museum, we completed a scavenger hunt and answered questions based on the trials we had visited. We even spotted items that belonged to an old Victorian Classroom which linked brilliantly with our Celebrating Ellington topic.

Another trip took us to Ashington Leisure Centre, we participated in a carousel of events working with Wansbeck Gymnastic Club. We wowed Miss Brooks and Mrs Curtis with our amazing gymnastics skills and super behaviour which we demonstrated while representing Ellington School.

On Wednesday, we loved the performance of 'The Gentle Giant', we even had Leah from Year 2 taking part in the show! Wow! Everyone participated and had a great morning singing all the newly learnt songs and watching the show.

Keep working hard and having fun Y2!

I love seeing all your smiling faces on a morning, ready to work hard and have a great day.

Please keep reading at home and learning your times tables on TTRS.

The MORE  
that you read,  
the MORE things  
you will know.  
The MORE that you  
LEARN,  
the MORE places you'll go.





## Year 3 News

As always, the last two weeks have been packed full of activities in year 3, and the children have been working hard.

In English, we have really enjoyed working on 'The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs', and we have been retelling the story of 'Little Red Riding Hood' from the wolf's perspective. We can't wait to share our entertaining stories with you!

We also had a fabulous time on World Book Day! Highlights of the day included a live lesson with John Patrick Green and we especially enjoyed sharing some books with the children in the Reception class.



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- In PSHE, we have been learning about making decisions and how our decisions can be influenced. This week we did some drama to act out scenarios in which people were trying to influence our decisions.



In religious education we have started a unit of work using the enquiry question, 'How do festivals and family life show what is important to Jewish people?'. This week we got very sticky whilst tasting traditional food eaten on Rosh Hashanah; apples with honey. This symbolises the starting of the 'sweet new year'.

In computing, we have started working towards creating stop-motion animations, which we will hopefully be able to share with you by the end of term. We started by creating little flip books with stick man animations, and then started to learn how to use the app 'iMotion' on the I pads.

## Year 4 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all well and have managed to avoid the coughs and colds that are going around. The Year 4s have had a fantastic start to the half term and as always they have been working incredibly hard. We have had assessment week in school this week, the results of which I will be able to share with you at Parent Teacher Interviews next week.

Also, we had a fantastic visit to Woodhorn Colliery. I put lots of pictures on the @EllingtonTweets twitter page if you have not seen them. In addition to the trip, we have had a follow up STEM workshop visit from Liz from the Woodhorn Museum to talk to us about the Bulby Mine at Whitby which is a modern salt mine. It turns out that the mine is used by scientists including NASA to test if machines and rovers they have developed could one day work on Mars.

As part of the STEM programme, we worked with robots called Earl and used our knowledge of grid references that we have been working on in Maths to create a map with a start and end point for Earl, obstacles for Earl to avoid and set challenges for Earl that have included visiting certain grid references and completing certain actions. Parents are to be invited into school to try in a fortnights time to try and complete these challenges with the children (letter to be sent out about this).

In other news, we have been really enjoying writing and editing our own monologue based on the true story of Philippe Petit who walked a tightrope between the Twin Towers during their construction in 1974.



## Year 5 News

We recently had a 'Celebrating Ellington Day' in school where we explored the history of the village. Year 5 were fortunate to be invited to Woodhorn Museum to learn about the life of miners. We had a wonderful day and participated in engaging activities such as; A Colliery Tour, Working Down in the Pit and The Pitmen Painters Workshop.



In English, we have been writing a setting description based on the story 'Beowulf' by Michael Morpurgo. Our SPAG focuses were parenthesis using brackets, commas or dashes and figurative language; similes, metaphors and personification. The children used their knowledge of the story and their creative imagination to describe Heorot, the Great Hall in Denmark that is owned by King Hrothgar.

In maths, we have progress onto our next unit; amounts! The children were confident to recall previous knowledge such as different types of angles and translation facts using co-ordinates on a grid. We have been using our knowledge of acute, right-angle, obtuse and reflex angles to estimate and calculate other angles. Recently, we explored how to correctly and accurately use a protractor in order to draw angles of our own.

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

Mr Todd



## Year 6 News

It's a very short but busy half term!

Already, we have taken part in World Book Day where the children were part of an online workshop with author John Patrick Green, who has written and illustrated a series of graphic novels called InvestiGators. He taught us how to draw his main characters as well as answering questions about his work and how he got into it. Later in the day, we did some paired reading with Year 1 - it was lovely to see the Year 6 children partnering up with some of our younger pupils and sharing books and stories.



On the subject of reading, we have been exploring more of our novel *The Graveyard Book*, meeting a whole host of weird and wonderful characters as well as completing a range of activities to help us understand this story in more depth. We have been inferring personalities, creating short pieces of drama as well as debating the pros and cons of being a “ghoul”.

In maths, we have explored area, perimeter and volume as well as applying our knowledge of fractions and percentages to pie charts.

In science, we have been finishing our unit of work on light by looking at refraction and will soon be exploring how light pollution is being caused by artificial light, affecting both humans and animals. Having explored renewable and non-renewable energy in science sustainability lessons, we have started to examine this in more depth through our geography unit. In this unit, we have looked so far at how population increase has affected energy use as well as how countries trade energy.