



Ellington Primary News

Believe and Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

As usual, we have had a very busy two weeks in school with many events happening.

Thank you for the tremendous attendance at our recent reading workshops. Mrs Sanders has made a huge impact with all things English at Ellington since joining in September 2022 and we know that success in education is built in partnership between home and school. We hope that the workshops gave you more of an insight into how we teach Phonics and Reading at Ellington and we really do appreciate your support.

Charities

In September we raised over £350 for the Pearl of Africa choir thanks to pupil donations, a craft sale and a donation on behalf of Ellington Primary School. On October 4th, we supported Beyond, a Mental Health charity, by wearing football shirts and we raised over £220. Thank you for your amazing support.

In November, we will be supporting Children in Need. More details will follow closer to the time. Over the course of the academic year, we aim to support 10 charities through various events.

Parent Consultations

Autumn term Parent Consultations will take place on Wednesday 25th October for Reception to Year 6. If you haven't already, please book your appointments via School Cloud.

Please note, the Nursery parent consultations will take place at the end of November with our new Early Years Lead, Mrs Milne.



We would like to invite you into school for our Harvest Festival on October 27th. We will have two festivals, at 9:30 and 10:30. The 9:30 performance is for parents of children in Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Two. The 10:30 performance is for parents of children in Years Three, Four, Five and Six. **Both festivals will be exactly the same, but we cannot accommodate all parents/carers in just one sitting.**

As like in previous years, we will be collecting non-perishable food and toiletry donations for the [Wansbeck Valley Food Bank](#). Donations will happily be accepted from October 23rd. Thank you in advance.



Online Safety

We had an excellent day on 4th October when we welcome Martin Bailey into school for our Online Safety Day. Please click [here](#) to view the presentation that Martin shared with parents. You can find this and more information on our school website on the Online Safety Page.



School Nurse

We are pleased to announce that we now have a school nurse working at Ellington Primary every other Wednesday. She is available to support pupils and parents in a whole range of areas and we believe that she will be an excellent addition to the team. If you require any support from the school nurse, please contact Mrs Dyer at the school office or speak to your child's class teacher.

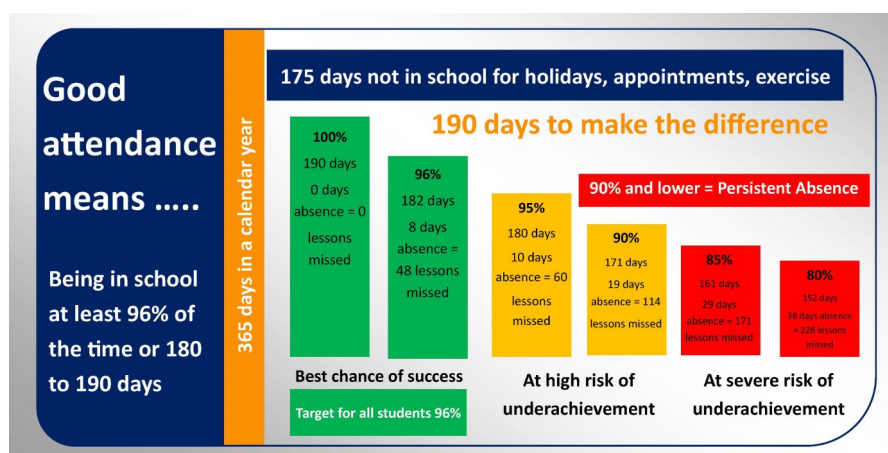
New Roof—Almost Complete

The new flat roof is almost complete! Work on the roof will end on October 20th and the main staff car park will re-open on October 23rd. This will help ease congestion outside of school. The final step will be reinstalling the solar panels during half term. Thank you for your patience whilst this work has been on-going.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance remains low. Our target for this academic year is 96% but we are currently at less than 94%. Poor attendance leads to many difficulties in school. Please note, as a school we are unable to authorise any holidays during term time. Ellington is working closely with Northumberland County Council and the Educational Welfare Department. Any child who has attendance less than 90%, is classed as a persistent absentee and this information has to be recorded and shared with the council. We understand that children can be poorly and completely sympathise with this but please follow the guidance [here](#) to help you decide if your child is too poorly for school.

All absences have to reported to the school via the school office on 01670 860769. Please do not contact teachers via Class Dojo with any absences as this will not be recorded on our system.



Christmas Countdown!

I know it is only October but the countdown to Christmas is on for many of us and I wanted to share the events happening in December with you now so you can plan ahead.

Last year, we had a brilliant Pantomime come to us in school. Aladdin was a huge success so we have rebooked the Pantomime and we will be hosting Cinderella on Monday 4th December. School will subsidise the cost of the show but we will request a £3 donation per child to help cover the costs involved. This is now live on School Gateway. We did look at taking the children to see a Pantomime but the costs involved in tickets and transport make this too expensive at over £20 per pupil.



We then have a Christmas film night on December 6th. Children can be collected as normal at home time but we will re-open our doors at 4:15pm for the Christmas film. This is a whole school event where children can leave after school and return in their pyjamas for a Christmas film. There is no cost for this and children can bring a drink and snacks with them. The only cost for any of our Christmas activities will be the pantomime, everything else is free.

On 8th December, it is Christmas Jumper day. The children can, if they wish, wear something 'Christmassy' that day.

Reception and Nursery will be performing their Christmas show on December 13th at 9:30am.

Years One and Two will be performing their Christmas show on December 14th at 9:30am.

We are having our Christmas dinner on December 14th!

Class parties will take place during the last week as follows:

December 18th - Years 1/2 Party

December 19th - Nursery/Reception Party

December 20th - Years 5/6 Party

December 21st - Years 3/4 Party

Finally, we will be holding two Carol Concerts for children from Reception to Year 6 on December 21st and 22nd at 9:15am. Children will be singing a range of traditional Christmas carols and we would love you to join us.

Mr Hodgson—Headteacher

Attendance 02/10–13/10

Reception— 92.6%

Year 1—96.1%

Year 2—85.8%

Year 3—93.8%

Year 4—96.3%

Year 5—91.9%

Year 6—93%

Whole School—95.1%

Up from 93%

Diary Dates

Year 6 Cragside Trip	17th October	KS1 Performance	14th December
Parent Consultations	25th October	Christmas Dinner	14th December
Harvest Festival (EYFS & KS1 9.30 KS2 10.30)	27th October	KS1 Party	18th December
Break up for half term	27th October	EYFS Party	19th December
Return to school	6th November	Year 5/6 Party	20th December
Y5 Bikability	7-9th November	Year 3/4 Party	21st December
Flu Immunisations	22nd November	Carol Concert	21st December
Cinderella Pantomime	4th December	Carol Concert	22nd December
Christmas Movie Night (4:15pm–6pm)	6th December	End of term	22nd December
Christmas Jumper Day	8th December	Staff Training Day	8th January 2024
EYFS Performance	13th December	Return to school	9th January 2024

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

follow

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Instagram is one of the most popular social media platforms in the world, with over 1 billion users worldwide. The platform allows users to upload images and videos to their feed, create interactive 'stories', share live videos, exchange private messages or search, explore and follow other accounts they like – whilst at the same time continuously updating and adding new features to meet the needs of its users.

AGE RATING

13+

ADDICTION

Many social media platforms are designed in a way to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. There's a desire to scroll often/more in case we've missed something important or a fear of missing out. Instagram is no different and young people can easily lose track of time by aimlessly scrolling and watching videos posted by friends, acquaintances, influencers or even strangers.

PRODUCT TAGGING

Product tags allow users (particularly influencers who are sponsored to advertise products) to tag a product or business in their post. This tag takes viewers, regardless of age, directly to the product detail page on the shop where the item can be purchased and where children may be encouraged by influencers to purchase products they don't necessarily need.

EXCLUSION AND OSTRACISM

Young people are highly sensitive to ostracism. Feeling excluded can come in many forms such as: not receiving many 'likes', not being tagged, being unfriended, having a photo untagged, or not receiving a comment or reply to a message. Being excluded online hurts just as much as being excluded offline – with children potentially suffering lower moods, lower self-esteem, feeling as if they don't belong or undervalued.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Product tagging on Instagram only works on public accounts. If your child wants to share their clothing style, make-up etc and tag items in a post then they may be tempted to change their settings to public, which can leave their profile visible to strangers.

Buy Milk



GOING LIVE

Live streaming on Instagram allows users to connect with friends and followers in real-time and comment on videos during broadcast. Risks increase if the account is public because anyone can watch and comment on their videos, including strangers. However, other risks include acting in ways they wouldn't normally or being exposed to inappropriate content or offensive language.

INFLUENCER CULTURE

Influencers can be paid thousands of pounds to promote a product, service, app and much more on social media – the posts can often be identified because they're a 'paid partnership'. Ofcom found that young people often attempt to copy-cat influencer behaviour for their own posts to gain likes, sometimes posting content which may not be age-appropriate.

UNREALISTIC IDEALS

Children compare themselves to what they see online in terms of how they look, dress, their body shape, or the experiences others are having. The constant scrolling and comparison of unrealistic ideals can lead to children feeling insecure about their own appearance, questioning how exciting their own lives are and having a fear of missing out.

Advice for Parents & Carers

HAVE OPEN DIALOGUE

Talk to your child about live videos and the risks involved and how they can do it safely with family and friends. Talk to them about ensuring they have safety settings on so only followers can view them live, and maybe help them prepare what they would say when they do go live.

REMOVE PAYMENT METHODS

If you're happy for your child to have a card associated with their Instagram account, we suggest adding a PIN which needs to be entered before making a payment. This can be added in the payment settings tab and will also help prevent unauthorised purchases.

USE MODERATORS

Instagram has launched 'live moderators' on Instagram live where creators can assign a moderator and give them the power to report comments, remove viewers and turn off comments for a viewer. It's recommended to keep devices in common spaces so that you are aware if they do go live or watch live streaming.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Instagram is one social media app which has its safety features available to parents in a user-friendly manner. The document provides examples of conversation starters, managing privacy, managing comments, blocking and restricting and can be found on the Instagram website > community > parents.

FOLLOW INFLUENCERS

Following influencers will allow you to monitor what they're sharing as well as being able to discuss anything which you deem inappropriate. Talk to your child about who they follow and help them develop critical thinking skills about what the influencer is trying to do. For example, are they trying to sell a product by promoting it?

BE VIGILANT AND REASSURE

Talk to your child about the use of filters. While they can be fun to use they don't represent the real them. If you find your child continuously using a filter, ask them why and reassure them that they are beautiful without it to build up their feelings of self-worth. Discuss the fact that many images online are filtered and not everyone looks 'picture perfect' in real life, which can also lend itself to discuss what is real and not real online.

MANAGE LIKE COUNTS

Due to the impact on mental wellbeing, Instagram has allowed users to change the focus of their experiences online away from how many likes a post has by hiding the like counts. Users can hide like counts on all the posts in their feed as well as hiding the like counts on their own posts. This means others can't see how many likes you get. This can be done by going into settings > notifications > posts > likes > off

BALANCE YOUR TIME

Instagram now has an in-built activity dashboard that allows users to monitor and control how much time they spend on the app. Users can add a 'daily reminder' to set a limit on how much time they want to spend on Instagram, prompting them to consider if it's been too long with a 'take a break' message. There's also the option to mute notifications for a period of time. These features can help you have a conversation with your child about how much time they are spending on the app and to set healthy time limits.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://about.instagram.com/blog/announcements/introducing-family-carer-and-supervisor-tools> | <https://about.instagram.com/en-us/blog/introducing-reels-and-chapters>



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Nursery News

These last two weeks have been a breeze-literally. We have been learning all about Autumn and the changes that happen around us. We have practised being more independent as we dress ourselves for the colder weather and enjoying exploring the outdoors, inspired by Ranger Hamza. We visited our very own Wildlife garden, and found lots of Autumn treasures there. We used our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) skills to make obstacle courses for our acorns, conkers, and fir cones. How high could we build it? How far could they roll?



Some of our treasures got trapped under an enormous spider web and we had to use tweezers to rescue them - without touching the web. We made our other Autumn treasures into a frozen mountain-and then spent the next morning rescuing them. We got busy collecting those fallen leaves, and used the things we found in our mud garden, to make nature art. We also made our own autumn leaf kites and made the most of those windy days.



We found out about some of the animals that get busy in Autumn-we made a cosy nest bed for the hedgehog and absolutely LOVED making our very own mud hedgehogs! Oh, and we should always remember to clean up after ourselves.



Reception News

Another busy two weeks in Reception! We have been busy helping the Tooth Fairy by creating instructions to help the Giant brush his teeth. We then had to help her find one of the Giants missing teeth by going on a hunt around our school grounds. We made simple maps to recall the places we visited on our journey and help the Tooth Fairy find the tooth. Giant was very grateful that we helped and he managed to get his treat!

We have also read the story *After the Storm* by Nick Butterworth. We discussed our favourite part of the story, lots of us chose the part where the characters fall into the stream and have to use the wheelbarrow as a boat. We didn't think the animals would be too happy about getting wet!

In maths we have been looking at the composition of numbers to 4 and how we can use our fingers to show different ways to make these numbers.

In our Understand the World work, we have been doing lots of learning about Autumn. We have been on scavenger hunts outside, made playdough hedgehogs with pasta spikes, created toilet roll hedgehogs and made conker runs with our construction and loose parts resources. The children made the conker run into a competition to see who could roll theirs the furthest- great fun had by all!



Year 1 News

Another great couple of weeks in Year 1. We have had lots of fun in English, focusing on letter writing. We all turned into Rabbit who stole Bears hat and agreed we should write an apology letter to Bear from Rabbit.

In Maths we have continued working hard on adding and subtraction with numbers up to 10. We have been learning to count in multiples of 5 and 10 and also practised counting up to 100. Please support your child at home by practising counting in these ways.

In PSHE we have continued our work on emotions, stepping out our comfort zone and working with children we wouldn't usually. In Science, we've continued learning more of our senses and why they are important.

We worked very hard in our PE lesson on Wednesday focusing on agility and why we need to be agile. The children completed a circuit of different activities all focusing on agility. We were worn out by the end.

Thank you to all parents who attended the reading workshops on Tuesday. We believe it is important that you see how your children engage in lessons at school and what strategies we use to help your children learn. As well as this, thank you to all parents who came to the Welcome to Year 1 meetings on the last two Fridays. It allowed me to share end of year expectations and transition from EYFS to a more formal Year 1 learning environment.

Once more please continue to work with your child at home. Reading a minimum of 3 times each week and completing homework.

Thank you,
Mrs Horsley



Year 2 News

It's been a busy two weeks in Year 2!

In maths, we have completed our addition work and are now moving on to learning about subtraction. We have started by revisiting our learning from year 1 and practising how to subtract using a number line.



In English, our fact files about 'Marvellous Meerkats' are well underway. We have written our sections about their appearance, diet and habitat and we have made sure that we have included expanded noun phrases to make our work more interesting to read.

We were very lucky in history this week...we had a visitor! We are finding out about how our school has changed within living memory. Leah's mum came in to answer our questions about her experience of being an Ellington Pupil. The children asked fantastic questions and we found out so much from Miss Henderson. Did you know, the Head Teacher used to be called Mrs Campbell? The children were disappointed that they didn't have 'lifty-up desks'! However, the bell we use at breaktime is exactly the same.

Science is exciting too! We are learning about the survival needs of amphibians and we are planning our own mini ponds to attract amphibians to our wildlife garden.



Have a great couple of weeks and keep an eye on Twitter/X for updates about what we are doing.

Miss Gray

Year 3 News



Here is an update on what year 3 have been busy doing over the last couple of weeks!

In English, we have been putting ourselves in the shoes of the explorer from the exciting short animation 'Once in a Lifetime', and we have been writing expressive diary entries to show his thoughts and opinions. What a day he had!

In maths, we have been working hard to master the skill of column addition and subtraction, and how to lay out the questions in our books. We have used place value counters to understand the different things that happen when we solve additions and subtractions in this way, especially useful to show the times when we need to exchange a ten for ten ones to help us!

The afternoons at the end of each week are packed full! On Wednesday afternoons we have our brass lessons, and we are making excellent progress each week with our brass teacher, Mrs Chinery. We are gaining confidence in playing different notes and knowing which fingers to use! We now also do whole school singing on a Thursday afternoon, and are learning a range of Harvest songs.



Computing has been a big focus over the last few weeks, as we have been working on touch typing skills as well as learning to log on and off from the laptops independently. We also enjoyed our online safety workshop with special visitor Mr Bailey last week. We thought really carefully about how to make sensible choices when we use devices connected to the internet.



In RE, we are considering what Christian people can learn from the creation story, and have been thinking about how the encouragement in the bible to look after our planet ties in with the values of our class hero, David Attenborough!

Year 4 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well. I can't believe Year 4 are now approaching the last couple of weeks of our first half term. The time is flying by. I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all parents who have either attended the parent information sessions over the past two Fridays or they came to the reading session on Wednesday.

In English, the children have been making great progress in writing a persuasive leaflet with conjunctive adverbs. As we are reading Roald Dahl's *The Witches*, we have been writing a leaflet to try and persuade young witches to sign up for the Grand High Witch's Academy.

In Maths, the children have been making excellent progress in their CLIC sessions and the main part of the lessons have been focussing on column addition and subtraction. The children have shown some good resilience especially when faced with the prospect of making exchanges. Homework this week is based around this. The 2d-2d work is non-negotiable but I have also included a bonus homework sheet of 3d-2d questions if the children want to complete extra work. The children are also really getting into Times Table Rockstars and we are already seeing some real improvement in their heatmaps.

In Science we have started to look at grouping plants. We looked at the differences between flowering and non-flowering plants. We discussed the difference between evergreen and deciduous trees and then found examples of these along with ferns and conifers in our school grounds.

In French the children have been learning to read and say sentences about the different seasons.

In History we have been studying why Lord Shaftsbury was such a significant individual in helping to improve the lives and working conditions that children had to experience in the Victorian Era.

Finally, in Computing, the children have been practicing their basic skills including playing typing games to help improve how easily they can use a QWERTY keyboard.



Year 5 News

In English, we explored some of Matt Goodfellow's famous poems because focusing on our favourite; 'The First Day'. This poem was directed to one of Matt's form tutors and explains his struggles in school and how appreciative he is of his former tutor. The children learnt the poem and worked in groups of six to perform the poem. We developed our performance poetry techniques and were speaking with fluency and expression whilst also acting out our stanzas. The children did an amazing job performing their poems!



Scan with Seesaw to view this work!



Scan with Seesaw to view this work!



Scan with Seesaw to view this work!



Most recently we have moved onto our new writing stimulus; Kensuke's Kingdom! The children are currently planning their non-chronological report where they are using formal language to write a desert island survival guide.

In maths, the children enjoying our CLIC sessions. This week we have reading six-digit numbers (C), practising our eight times tables (L), adding hundredths (I) and using column methods (C). We have been adding and subtracting two four-digit numbers, multiplying three-digits by one-digit and now progressing onto multiplying two-digits by two-digits.

In PE, our Game Sense Invasion unit has involved us developing the awareness to make the best use of space on the playing field and how to create an overload with players to the attacker's advantage. Our Health-Related Exercise unit has included a flexibility and a strength circuit where the children spend 45 seconds on each circuit (15 in total) before moving onto the next.

Well done on another fantastic week Year 5!

Mr Todd

Year 6 News

During our Online Safety Day, Year 6 took part in a workshop called “Just Press Play” to further understand how to remain safe in an increasingly online world. We all put headphones on and had to listen to and act out the story we heard. It involved reliability, being careful with the personal details we give out and thinking before we share information about others. Everyone took part brilliantly and commented upon how real the experience felt.



Meanwhile, in history, we have been exploring the effect of the Blitz on Britain, including the evacuation of children. We explored the positives and negatives of evacuation and used our empathy skills to understand how the children might have felt being sent away from a city to a countryside. We also developed our understanding about why Hitler changed tactic from the Battle of Britain to the Blitz.

In science, we have been looking at classifications and using classification keys in order to identify plants and animals based on their shared physical characteristics. It has challenged our questioning skills and use of specific scientific language.

We have also thoroughly been enjoying our class novel: Another Twist in the Tale. The story is starting to reveal lots of twists and turns and we have been improving our ability to read with expression through the use of “readers’ theatre”.

