



Ellington Primary News

Believe and Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was fantastic to welcome guests to a surprise assembly yesterday. Each class teacher from Years 1 to 6, nominated four children who have gone above and beyond when demonstrating our school values of Resilience and Respect. These children were awarded special badges in assembly which they can wear with pride. Our school value this half term has been Honesty and our focus school value next half term is Pride. Our school values are part of everything that we do in school and all six are key attributes we believe all children will have embedded in them during their time at Ellington.



Well done to Harry H, Olivia H, Ava C, Imogen D, Robson A-R, Esmae L, Taylor D, Carter F, Chloe W, George O, Gracie S, Taylor R, Luca B, Millie G, Emelia B, James O, Maya I, Olivia B, Charlie H, Dylan H, Ruby L, Lydia S, Aiden D, Archie K.

WOW - Walk to school challenge

It has been great to see lots of children walking, cycling, scooting or parking and striding to school since we began our WOW challenge. Please continue supporting this initiative, especially as the weather improves and the mornings become brighter. WOW is a pupil-led initiative where children self-report how they get to school every day using the interactive WOW Travel Tracker. If they travel sustainably (walk, cycle or scoot) once a week for a month, they get rewarded with a badge.

More information can be found by clicking [here](#).

School Allotment

Would you be interested in developing our school allotment? We are looking for some regular volunteers who would be interested in developing the greenhouse and allotment area in school. We would like to grow our own fruit and vegetables and become more sustainable but we need some help please! If you are interested or know anyone who may be, please get in touch.



TT Rockstars

If children are to succeed in maths, it is fundamental that they know their times tables. Children should know the division and multiplication facts for their 1 to 12 times tables by the end of Year 4. In Year 4 all children have a multiplication test. At Ellington, we have been focusing on times tables in school but will have another huge push next half term. All children from Years 1 to 6 will do daily times tables. As a school, we have weekly times tables battles on TT Rockstars with classes competing against each other. The class with the most battles won at the end of the year, earn themselves a trip of their choice.

The scores are currently:

1st Place: Year 5, 10 wins

2nd Place: Year 4, 9 wins

3rd Place: Year 6, 6 wins

4th Place: Year 1 and Year 2, 4 wins

5th Place: Year 3, 2 wins

The top 3 players in the school are:

Rowan (Year 5) 1,856,775 coins earned

Speed 0.61 seconds per question

Joseph (Year 5) 581,240 coins earned

Speed 0.79 seconds per question

Jimmy (Year 4) 862,410 coins earned

Speed 1.12 seconds per question

Homework/Reading

All children from Reception to Year 6 need to bring their reading book and reading record into school every single day. Homework is given out each Friday and needs to be returned by the following Wednesday. Our school rule is that if a child does not return their homework by the Wednesday, then they must complete this in their own time during break times. All homework is designed to consolidate learning that has taken place in school and the vast majority should be able to be completed independently by the children.

Attendance 06/02–17/02

Reception— 93.6%

Year 1—97.4%

Year 2—96.2%

Year 3—96.2%

Year 4—97.1%

Year 5—93.2%

Year 6—97%

Whole School—95.6%

Up from 94.9%

I hope you all have a great half-term.
School re-opens on 27th February.

PS: Howay the lads!



Mr Hodgson—Headteacher

Diary Dates

Spring half term	17th February
Return to school	27th February
Y3 Trip	28th February
School Council visiting Houses of Parliament	28th February
World Book Day	2nd March
Wind in the Willows	8th March
Parent Consultations	22nd March
Spring term reports	24th March
Year 4 Residential Dukeshouse Wood	27th –29th March
Easter Holidays	31st March
Staff Training Day School Closed	17th April
Return to school	18th April
Bank Holiday	1st May
Bank holiday for the coronation of King Charles	8th May
Summer half term	26th May
Return to school	5th June
Year 6 Residential Ford Castle	7th - 9th June
Sports Day	23rd June
Summer Fair	8th July
Summer term reports	14th July
Summer Holidays	21st July

More details about events will be shared closer to the specified dates. Further events are being planned and more information will be shared in future news bulletins.

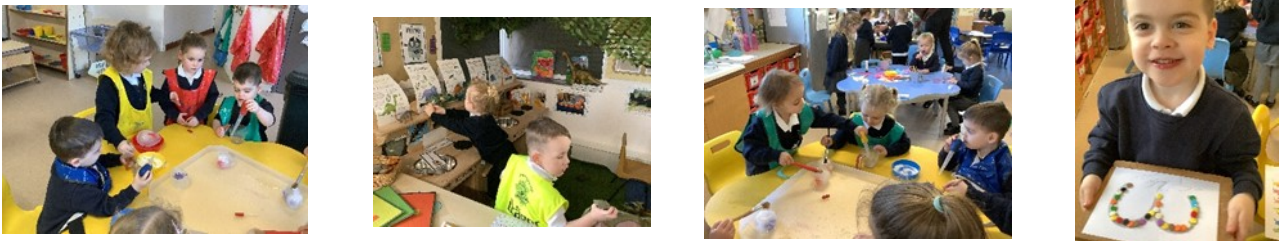
Nursery News

What an exciting time we have had these last 2 weeks! As well as practising our numbers and investigating phonics sounds, we have learned more about books and talked about the special names for the people who write the stories and draw the pictures...the AUTHOR and the ILLUSTRATOR.

We read the book "Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs" which led to an amazing adventure. We had a delivery of dinosaurs in our nursery... but ,the next day, TEN of them escaped and we had to go on a dinosaur rescue hunt to bring them back. We decided to make a safe home for them to sleep in each night and used our scissor-cutting skills to make the more box cosy and comfortable for them.



We made our very own dinosaur ice eggs and experimented with different ways of helping them to escape. We tried holding them in our warm hands....but that just made our fingers too cold. We tested melting the ice eggs with pipettes of warm water... and salt helped too...we also smashed some of them which was fun.



We turned our home corner into a Dinosaur Dig Den and loved spending time with our dinosaur friends and books...we even had a campfire to keep ourselves cosy. We used brushes to find fossils in the sand pit and matched them to their picture cards to test our observation skills.



Nursery News

We celebrated Valentine's Day and spent the day thinking about the people that are special to us and making them a special LoveBug card.



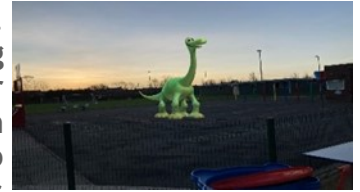
This week we came back to school and our dinosaurs had escaped and raided the spare clothes drawers....but only the underpants!

We read the book "Dinosaurs Love Underpants" and discovered that we did too. We all chose a new pair, decorated them for ourselves and wore them however we chose.



Reception News

We have had a fun filled and very busy two weeks in Reception. We are continuing our topic 'Amazing Animals' and now focusing on dinosaurs. We have been reading lots of different dinosaur books including non-fiction stories but our favourite has been Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs. We were very curious to find a letter in the classroom, it was from a Museum telling us that a friendly dinosaur was missing and then big footprints appeared on our yard. Mrs Cook checked the cameras and the dinosaur had been in our school yard! We were all super excited and in Literacy, we made a lost poster to put around to see if anyone had seen the dinosaur. Luckily with our help the dinosaur was found!



We found it very interesting learning about fossils, we know that Mary Anning was a fossil collector. We made our own dinosaur fossil out of salt dough!



Last week was Children's Mental Health week and the theme being 'Let's connect' We had a think about different connections that we have with people and how they make us feel. Linking to previous learning of the Colour Monster story, we also shared how we feel and why we feel the way that we do. We enjoyed doing yoga and learning different breathing techniques. Our peer mentor friends from year 5 did a circle time activity with us where we had to swap places if we like certain things e.g. swap places if you like pizza, swap places if you like dogs, swap places if you have a pet cat etc. Making connections between our friends in Reception. We also took part in Dress to Express yourself day!



Last week was also Safer Internet Day. Mrs Cook showed us a PowerPoint and told us about how we can keep safe when we are on the internet. We also listened to a story by Smartie the Penguin who needed our help to decide what to do in certain situations. The answer is to ALWAYS tell an adult if something is not right or if you need any help when using tablets, phones, games consoles or any other device where you can access the internet.



Year 1 News

What a fantastic half term we have had. In English, the children have really enjoyed their class read 'Room on the Broom'. They have all written and published amazing stories for this and they should be very proud of themselves. We have now started our new book 'Mrs Mole, I'm Home!' We have been learning some new things like contractions and conjunctions.



In Maths, we have continued learning all about equations. We have been trying to find the missing number in the equations. We have been creating part whole models to work the missing number. We will continue to work on this after half term to consolidate our understanding.



This half term in Science, we have learned all about 'Animals including Humans'. We have looked at different animal groups, characteristics and diets. We have learn a song about Carnivores, Omnivores and Herbivores. Please ask your child to sing this you will be blown away!



In Geography, we have continued learning about the continents, oceans and animals that live there. We have now grouped animals by their continents and placed these on our class word map! The children all produced brilliant homework about endangered animal's too, so thank you for taking your time to complete this with them.

Over the half term, please continue reading daily to build up speed and fluency. As well as this, please try to get on TTRS. They are getting fast with their 10 times tables and should be well on their way with learning their 2 times tables.

Year 2 News

First of all, I hope all of you and your families have an enjoyable and restful holiday. We are now over half way through the year! We have lots to look forward to. I have booked the class a trip to Whitehouse Farm in April after how much they enjoyed their Geography topic on farms and farming. You will receive a letter about this after the holiday. We have had another couple of busy weeks in class.

In Maths, we have started our work on Multiplication and Division. We have been identifying equal and unequal groups as well as starting to write repeated addition number sentences and multiplication number sentences to represent equal groups.

In English, we completed our work on The Tin forest by writing our own adventure stories. The children have now been introduced to their book ready for after the holidays, Traction Man by Minnie Grey. We have been looking at his character traits as well as his appearance and did some hot seating with children playing the role of Traction Man.

In Science we have been looking at the importance of exercise and how it changes our body. We have also looked at the importance of hand hygiene in helping to stay healthy.

In History, we have now completed our unit on nursing. We have looked at the lives of Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell and looked at the similarities and differences between them.

In PE Mr Robertson has been continuing with dance lessons for Year 2. I believe they will potentially be starting football sessions with him after the half term.

In Art, we have continued our look at working in a range of media in the context of Pop Art. The children completed another Pop Art picture using a collage of bits of comic books as well as using pastels. We have also looked at how comic book illustrators can change how they draw eyes, eyebrows and mouths to show how comic book characters are feeling.

Finally, in PSHE we have been looking at how to stay safe on the road and around medicine.



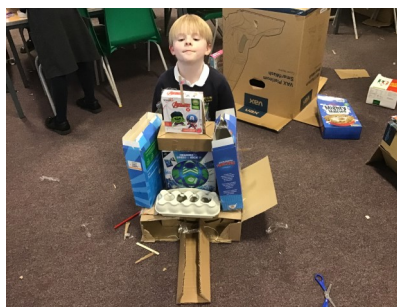
Year 3 News

We are continuing to work hard in year 3, and we have packed a lot into what feels like a very short half term!

In English, we have enjoyed working towards some written work on the Iron Man, as we did so well reading through the book and discussing it a few weeks ago. We have had fun creating radio adverts where the Iron Man is for hire - imagine all the jobs that he could do around the home!

In maths, we are flying with column addition, and have been really good at explaining our methods out loud as well.

Last week finally saw the construction of our long-awaited castles in the DT lesson! We managed to include a lot of the features that we had discussed. What do you think?



We moved onto discussing fossils in our science topic of 'rocks and soils' last week, and impressed Mrs Richardson with some of the information we could remember from year 1, particularly about the famous early palaeontologist Mary Anning. We had fun making pretend 'mould' fossils where coffee, flour, salt and water took were used in place of sediment, sand and seawater, and we imagined how the ancient creatures left an imprint in the rock as it hardened. Can you spot the traces of tiny dinosaurs in any of these 'fossils'?



We are getting on brilliantly using Scratch for programming in computing, and hopefully we can share some of our musical sequences soon, as well as a performance of our song this half term, 'Three Little Birds'.

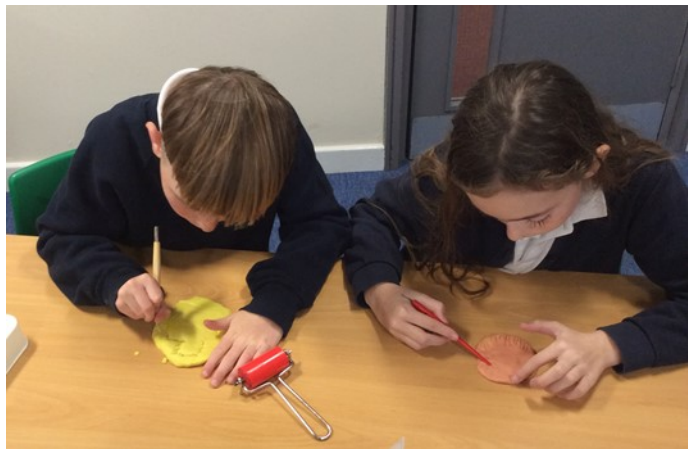
Year 4 News

Over the last two weeks, we have not only finished our excellent newspaper articles but we have also started to create monologues based on *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers* - a true story about tightrope walker Philippe Petit. Meanwhile in maths, we are beginning to apply our knowledge of times tables with what we found out about multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100.

For Children's Mental Health Week, the theme was about connecting with people and opening up about our likes, dislikes and feelings. Everyone picked out a name and had to give a compliment to that person. The smiles and positive vibes afterwards were amazing! By playing a rather different game of "Bingo", everyone found out something new about one another too - what a lovely way to connect. It was also fantastic seeing everyone express themselves on "Dress to Express" day.



In art, we developed a range of different skills using print to create patterns and even made our own stamps. Then, we used the illustrations from our reading book (*Varjak Paw*) to create reflected drawings.



Year 5 News

It has been another really busy week in year 5!

In English, the children thoroughly enjoyed time travelling back to the events of 17th March 1944 where the famous Mount Vesuvius erupted. We each wrote a diary entry where we described the devastation cause by the volcanic explosion in the small town of Pompeii.

In maths, we have been working really hard on our multiplication and division knowledge. More specifically, we have been focusing on multiples and common factors. The children have been competing really well on Times Tables Rockstars where as a cohort, we ensure year 5 win our battles!

What a fun week of science that we've had. We designed an experiment to test how the size of surface area impacted on the air resistance. The children made four different sized parachutes and then timing how long each on took to fall from the same height. With their excellent understanding of experiments and fair testing, the children were independently able to construct their experiment and it was a huge success! We then used scientific vocabulary to conclude that the bigger the surface area of the parachute, the longer it took to fall.

It was Mental Health Week last week and we learnt all about this in our PSHE lessons. We discussed the importance of our mental health and what we can do if we are ever having troublesome thoughts. We enjoyed playing some games to find out more about each other as individuals and keeping ourselves in a positive mindsight.

Have an amazing half term break everyone!

Mr Todd



Year 6 News

We have been busy doing some practice SATs tests in Year 6 over the last couple of weeks. In addition to this, we have now finished reading *Private Peaceful* - what a book! Year 6 highly recommend the story as it kept us guessing about the fate of Tommo and Charlie right up to the last chapter. This has inspired some of the class to seek out other stories by Michael Morpurgo - this will be great to boost our number of reads for the reading challenge.

In maths we have been focusing on decimal numbers. So far, this has been revision from Year 5 but we will soon be embarking on multiplication and division with decimals up to 3 decimal places.



In history we have looked at how the role of women changed during WWII and examined the types of jobs women did to support the war effort. Year 6 had varying opinions about the propaganda employed.

Finally, we have concluded our science unit about 'light' with an experiment into reflection. We have used our findings to create periscopes and used them to look around corners!

Have a happy, restful and safe half term everyone.

