



Ellington Primary News

Believe and Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now firmly into our new year roles and routines and it is fantastic to see the children taking pride in their work and showing resilience with their learning. Despite the poor weather, it has been great to see lots of children walking to school this week. Next week, it is 'Wheels to School' and it would be good to see lots of children cycling and scooting to school. Our brilliant new school library has been in use by different classes over the last week. The children have enjoyed spending time reading books and listening to stories. We will have the library open on nights after school for parents/carers to enjoy with their children.

Our new school council has been elected and I am delighted to announce the following children as class representatives:

Year 1 - Melvyn and Lilly

Year 2 - Finlay and Faye

Year 3 - Oscar and Ava

Year 4 - Annie and Jimmy

Year 5 - Olivia and Olivia

Year 6 - Miles and Zoe

Our Voice counts....



Harvest 2022

We are having our harvest celebrations on **Friday 21st October**. Nursery and Reception parents are invited into class for a stay and play session between 9am and 10am. Years 1 to 6 will have a traditional harvest assembly in the school hall. In order to accommodate all parents/carers, we will have two assemblies. Parents/carers of children in Years 1 to 3 will be able to attend the 10am assembly. Parents/carers of children in Years 4 to 6 will be able to attend the 11am assembly. Both assemblies will feature all classes from Years 1 to 6.

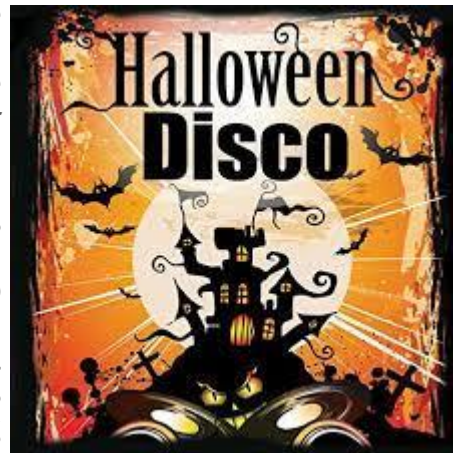
We will be collecting donations for the Wansbeck Valley Foodbank from Monday 17th October.

Parents Consultations

We have our first parent consultations of the year coming up on **Wednesday 19th October**. Our online booking system for this will open next Wednesday (more details to follow). The appointments will take place in the children's classrooms where you will be able to look through your child's books before speaking to their teachers.

Halloween

In collaboration with the PTA, we are having two separate Halloween discos for EYFS/KS1 (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) and for KS2 (Years 3 to 6). Both discos will be held on **Monday 31st October**. EYFS/KS1 will have their disco from 4:00pm to 5:30pm. KS2 will have their disco from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. The discos are for children only and tickets cost £3 each, which includes entry, a hot dog, crisps and juice. Tickets will be on sale from 17th October from your child's class teacher. Children can bring the £3 into school in a named envelope and hand this in to their teacher. Although last year's disco was a huge success, not all children were able to attend due to the number of adults and children in the hall. By splitting the disco and having only children attend, all children can buy a ticket if they wish to come. We will of course be playing fun games and will



have a range of prizes.

Christmas

Believe it or not, it is only 79 days until Christmas! Unfortunately, last year we were unable to hold any Christmas celebrations due to the Covid-19 restrictions. This year, we have planned a range of activities!



We will kick off our festive fun with some film nights, working together with the PTA. On **December 7th**, we are having a film night for EYFS and KS1 and **December 8th** we are having a film night for KS2. Children can leave after school and return in their pyjamas for a Christmas film, hot chocolate and cookies. Tickets will again be £3 and will be available nearer the time.

This year we are going to be having a Christmas nativity performance with Years 1 and 2. Mrs Horsley and Mr McConville have been tasked with producing a Christmas spectacular! This will take place 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 also be putting on a fabulous Christmas show on Monday **19th December at 9:30am** with Mrs Pirie and Mrs Cook ready to upstage KS1!

Each phase in school will also have a Christmas party during the last week of term.



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.

Finally, we will be holding two Carol Concerts for children from Years 1 to Year 6 on **December 21st and 22nd** at 9:30.

Staff Training Date Change

Please note that the scheduled teacher training day for January 9th has changed to January 13th. This is due to whole staff training which needs to take place from an outside provider and they were unable to provide the training on the 9th. **Children will return to school on Monday 9th January but school will be closed on Friday 13th January.**

Health and Safety

In school, the current rules around earrings state that children may wear a small stud earring. This has been a long-standing school rule. However, some children are wearing a variety of earrings which are not allowed in school. Earrings cannot be worn in school on PE days or for after school sports clubs. Please ensure your child is not wearing earrings on these days. False nails are also not permitted.

Safeguarding

‘Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022’ reminds us that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. This means that they should always consider what is in the best interests of the child. At Ellington we believe that it is vital for our children to have opportunities to learn how to stay safe both in and outside of school—learning that comes from parents and also the staff in school. Each half term, we will create a safeguarding newsletter which outlines what we can do together to ensure that all children are safe.

Communication

As you will hopefully be aware, I like to stand between the KS1 and KS2 yards before and after school - unless I am in a meeting or out of school, I will always be outside. However, I do not always get the chance to speak to parents/carers of our younger children. From next week, I will be around at the EYFS/KS1 entrance on Tuesday and Friday mornings and behind the studio on Monday, Wednesday

Breakfast & Afterschool Wraparound Care

Please remember to book your child’s place at breakfast or afterschool club via School Gateway. If you have not done so already, you can download the School Gateway App to your smartphone. If you have any problems, please contact Mrs Dyer in the office.

Please note that there will be no afterschool club available on Wednesday 2nd November due to all staff being involved in mandatory Safeguarding training. Extra curricular Gymnastics & Judo will be on as usual as external coaches run these clubs.

Attendance

If your child is absent from school, we need to know. Please support us in helping children get the very best start to their education. Every day missed in school is missed learning. Although it may seem insignificant, every time your child is off school, they are missing out on their education. Our curriculum is carefully sequenced so children are always building on prior learning and knowledge. When children are frequently absent, they are missing vital building blocks in their learning and this leads to difficulties as they progress through units or work and through the years in school. It may seem a long way away, but attendance in school vital to a good education.

Attendance 26/09–07/10

Reception— 90.7%

Year 1—98.0%

Year 2—97.6%

Year 3—91.7%

Year 4—98.0%

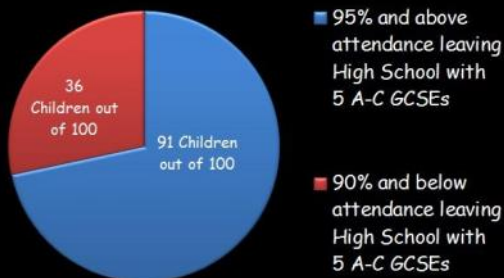
Year 5—90.2%

Year 6—91.5%

Whole School—93.8%

Down from 96.8%

Attendance and GCSE results !!!



Mr Hodgson—Headteacher

Diary Dates

Parent Consultations	19th October
Harvest Festival	21st October
EYFS 9.00 / KS1 10.00 /KS2 10.15	
Break up for half term	21st October
Return to school	31st October
Halloween Disco	31st October
Armistice Day	11th November
Anti-Bullying Week	14th November
Children in Need	18th November
Christmas Film Night	7th December
EYFS/KS1 (4.30pm - 6.30pm)	
Christmas Jumper Day	8th December
Christmas Film Night - KS2 (4.30pm - 6.30pm)	8th December
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
Staff Training Day (School closed)	13th January

Our Fantastic New Library



Nursery News

We have had a very busy time in nursery learning so many things. We really enjoyed relaxing in the library with our cosy slippers on. The weather was terrible outside so the hot chocolate was a good idea.



We loved sharing lots of stories. We really enjoyed finding out about Supertato and the Evil Pea. We tried to save the vegetables that were trapped using our super scissor skills. We counted lots of potatoes and made sure we counted carefully. We did lots of counting and found out how to do it properly. We used our senses to feel the frozen peas and developed our science skills by seeing how they melted in our hands and when we left them in the sunshine.



Nursery News Continued.



We made our own Supertato models and Evil Pea biscuits. The children suggested having a tea party to go with the biscuits so we made different flavoured teas. We loved exploring with our sense of smell. We made monster cakes to go with our Colour Monster PSED activities.



We have developed our gross motor skills outside. A huge big thank you to everyone for supporting the PTA events. We are really enjoying using our fantastic new equipment. We have been on our new bikes and scooters in the big yard. The new castle has been a great addition and we have used it so carefully and tested out our climbing skills. We are looking forward to after the October holidays because we will have more climbing equipment to use. One little helper worked all morning helping to sweep up the leaves. What a star. I am sure you will agree that we deserved our hot chocolate after all of this hard work.



Reception News

Reception have been working super hard over the past two weeks. We have been reading and learning about the story of The Colour Monster. One day, Colour Monster wakes up feeling very confused. His emotions are all over the place; he feels angry, happy, calm, sad and scared all at once! To help him, a little girl shows him what each feeling means through colour.



In Reception, we have been learning about our emotions and we have been referring them to the colours of the Colour Monster as well as using emotion stones. In circle time we talked about our emotions and how we are all unique. We looked at our self-portrait display and discussed our similarities and differences. We have also been talking about how we can help others when they feel sad, angry or scared. The children drew some fantastic pictures of what makes them happy and what makes them sad.

We have also been talking about what makes us feel special. We discussed as a class our families and fun experiences that we have had. We talked about who lives in our house including any pets and then the children drew a picture to represent this.



In maths we have been learning about subitising, counting, repeating patterns and composition of numbers.

In phonics we learn a new sound each day. So far, we have covered m a s d t i n p g o c k u b f e l h sh and r. This is the start of us learning to read. We blend sounds together to make words e.g. m-a-t mat, p-i-n pin, d-o-g dog, s-i-t sit. We are trying very hard with our blending and Fred Talk!



We are enjoying learning about Autumn, we went on a walk in our school grounds to look for signs of Autumn. Thank you to all of the children and parents for collecting Autumn treasures. We have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the items and making collages and



observational drawings.

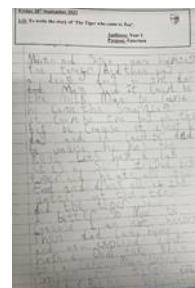
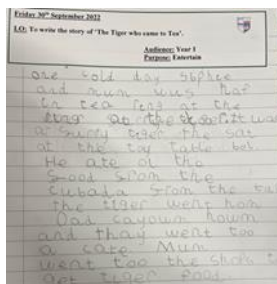
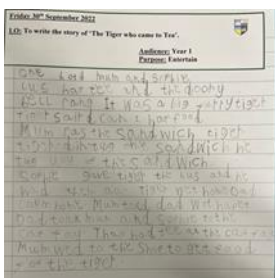
We have had great fun exploring in our outdoor environment. Especially on our new climbing frame and stage!



Year 1 News

We have had another couple of busy weeks in Year 1. The children have now fully settled into whole class teaching and they are making brilliant progress already.

Last week we finished out English book 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. The children had great fun, retelling the story, acting it out and creating story maps before having a go at re-writing the story. The children all produced some fabulous writing and I am very proud of them all.



This week we have started looking at our new English book 'I Want My Hat Back'. We received a letter on Monday from bear asking us if we had seen his hat and asking the children to help Bear find it. Over the next two weeks we will be doing lots of work on questions. How to identify them, ask them and write them using the correct punctuation.

In Maths the children are working hard on numbers within 100. We have been comparing numbers, using greater than, less than and equal to. We have also started looking at number lines and 100 squares. Please practise counting to 100 in 1s. If your child can already do this, then please practise counting in 10s and 5s.



In topic we have been exploring our Local Environment and looking at physical and human features found in Ellington. It would be great if you could ask your child to explain what physical features and human features means.

In science we have continued looking at working scientifically. We have already looked at how to ask scientific questions, gather data and interpret and analyse data. I think you would agree we have been extremely busy!



Year 2 News

As usual, it has been a super busy couple of weeks in Year 2. In English, we have completed our first couple of big writes of the year. We wrote a setting description of the rainforest using expanded noun phrase and powerful adjectives. The children went into the school nature area to help generate vocabulary related to our different senses. We have since moved onto completing our first box plan of the year to help us to write a first draft of our postcard. On Friday, we self edited our first drafts looking at missing capital letter, full stops and the inclusion of time connectives e.g. First, Then, Next. Next week we will write up our edited work as an actual postcard with an accompanying picture for the reverse side.

In Maths, we have been working on a numberline this week. We have been reading numberlines to 100, estimating the position of numbers on a numberline and we have been recognising that numbers can be used as a measure of length. Finally, we have been comparing numbers using the language of greater than or less than.

We have been making observations in Science and we have been learning about how the way houses were built in 1666 contributed to the spread of the Great Fire of London.

Finally, on Thursday, we had a lovely trip to the library. Children got the chance to listen to a text, select a book to read and most importantly to have juice and biscuits!



Year 3 News

Another busy two weeks in Year 3! In English, we completed our work on 'The Tunnel' by publishing our setting descriptions. The children produced work of an extremely high quality and were very proud of themselves.



We then began our new unit of work, which is based on a film clip called 'Once in a Lifetime'. We thought about 'Once in a Lifetime' experiences and tried out the explorer's airship to predict what he was looking at through his telescope. We had some wonderful ideas!



In Religious Education, we are learning about the Christian story of the Creation. We talked about how Christians say thank you to God for providing their food. We had a discussion about what we are thankful for in our lives.



Our popular food technology unit on seasonal produce concluded as we learnt more about food hygiene and made 'Rainbow Pizzas'. They were delicious!



Year 4 News

We have been VERY busy here in Year 4 but the children continue to be enthusiastic learners.

In English, we have written some very entertaining character descriptions about our eerie, witchy character and have now moved on to persuasive writing. The Grand High Witch is opening an Academy for witches and it is our job to persuade them to go there. As such, the children used hot-seating to get into character and think about what a witch might really want from their school. We are now using these ideas to inform our writing and learning persuasive techniques such as rhetorical questions, conjunctive adverbs and “the rule of three”.



In maths, we have completed our current unit on 3-digit addition and subtraction and will soon be moving on to place value of numbers to 10,000. We also looked at using our knowledge to decide whether a written or mental strategy could be used to solve a problem.

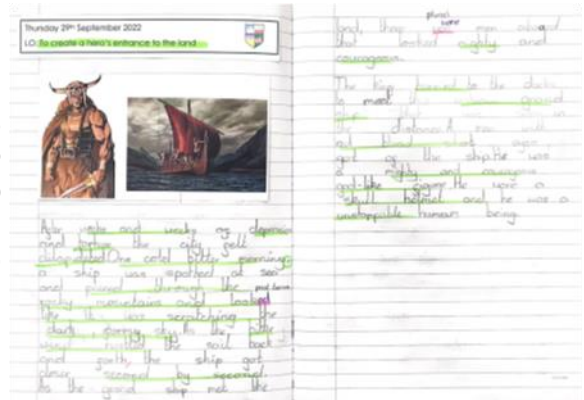
In our afternoon subjects, the children have become immersed in Ancient Greek culture by looking at the age-old battle of Spartans vs Athenians - some of us were less than impressed by the lack of rights Athenian women had!

In computing, we have been exploring how the internet works to connect different computers across different buildings, cities and countries as well as seeing what we can find on a website.



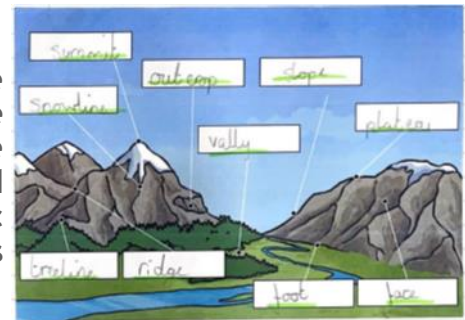
Year 5 News

This week we have made tremendous progress with our own myth and legend story. The children only have one more paragraph to create - the battle between hero and monster - before we edit all of our work from the past 4 weeks and publish our piece of writing.



In maths we have still be focusing on fractions and decimals, however we have progressed from tenths to now exploring hundredths. We have represented hundredths in various ways and even learned how to order and compare numbers with two decimal places.

For our Magnificent Mountains geography topic, we have been learning how various types of mountains are created and also exploring the main features of these mountains. The children have researched to find examples of the following: fold mountains, volcanic mountains, fault-block mountains, dome mountains and plateau mountains.



Our Religious Education (RE) topic is 'Christianity' and so far, we have learned all about who started Christianity, where it began, how it became so famous and also the main beliefs of the Christians.

The children have been learning to say, "my favourite colour is..." in French and have explored how to maintain good friendships in PSHE.

Another very enjoyable and hard-working week in year 5.

Mr Todd & Mrs Mallaburn

Year 6 News

We have had another busy couple of weeks in Year 6. We are still reading 'The Land of Roar' and enjoying the story very much. Our independent writing is currently being published and we are very excited to show our target audience (Year 4). Our challenge was to see if our writing would hook them in and make them want to read the rest of our adventure stories, just based on our fabulous setting descriptions.

We are still working hard in maths too. We have been ordering and comparing numbers up to 10 million - it's trickier than it sounds at times and we will be moving on to rounding such numbers next week.

In art, we have been learning about macro photography and the work of the photographer 'Weston'. Can you guess what the subject of the picture below is? We will be composing and editing our own macro photographs, next week.



In science, we learned about repeating results to get more accurate measurements. We investigated the average height of our table groups and realised that human error is a real problem!

