



Ellington Primary School

Believe and Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had another very busy two weeks in school. There have been lots of events taking place and many coming up before Easter. Lots of classes have had trips or are going on trips very soon. Reception and Year One are going to Beamish. Year Two are going to Whitehouse Farm. Year Three have been to the Great North Museum. Year Four are going on a three-day, two-night residential to Dukeshouse Wood. Year Five are going to the Discovery Museum and Year 6 are going to Ford Castle for a three-day, two-night residential. There are many more trips and events planned for all classes! As part of our curriculum offer, each class in school will have at least two trips per year as well as different visitors coming into school. We are continuing to update the website and will be sharing more curriculum information with you very soon!

Houses of Parliament

On February 28th, the school council visited the Houses of Parliament in London. Leaving on the 7:13am train, we arrived in London around 10:45 and experienced the London Eye. We then did some sightseeing before enjoying lunch at McDonalds. Next, we headed to the Houses of Parliament and had a tour before watching debates in the Houses of Lords and Houses of Commons. After that, we spent time in our own democratic workshop before having a question and answer session with our local MP Anne Marie Trevelyan. Finally, we did more sightseeing at Trafalgar Square and the Cenotaph before boarding the train back to Morpeth and arriving home after 10pm! We had an incredible day and hope this can be a yearly event for the Ellington School Councillors!



Comic Relief

Friday 17th March will be a non uniform day in school in aid of Comic Relief.
Suggested donation of £1

Wind in the Willows

On Wednesday morning, the children had a fantastic time watching Wind in the Willows. This was an interactive production with ten children from across the school also taking part in the show. All classes from Nursery to Year 6 were involved and had a brilliant time. Thank you for your contributions towards the show, this helps subsidise the cost and enables us to continue putting events on for the children.

Book Fair

Thank you for your support with the book fair and sponsored read challenge in school. We will share the amount raised as soon as we find out. All money raised is spent on new books through the book fair provider Usborne.

Parent Consultations

We have our Spring parent consultations on Wednesday 22nd March. There is an additional These will be taking place in school. Bookings can be made via School Cloud from 6pm on Monday 13th March. Please log in with the email address we hold for you in school.

School Cloud Link <https://ellingtonps.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Easter Egg Hunt/Cake Sales

In collaboration with the PTA, we will be having an Easter Egg hunt on Friday 31st March. All children in Years 1 to 6 will take part in the egg hunt with their classes during the day. Nursery and Reception parents are invited into school to join in the hunt with their children and more information will be shared shortly. After school, we will be holding a cake sale with some chocolate tombola's in the studio to raise funds for the school council and their projects!



WOW - Walk to school challenge

Ellington Primary are currently 3rd in Northumberland for the WOW Walk to school challenge. It has been brilliant to see lots of children walking, cycling, scooting or parking and striding to school. Please continue supporting this initiative, especially as the weather improves and the mornings become brighter. After Easter, we will be starting a walking bus on a Tuesday and Thursday morning. This will begin at the top of Ashington Road at 8:20am, head along Lynemouth Road to Willow Way, turn back and walk to the pedestrian crossing, then along Warkworth Drive to school. Children below Year 5 must walk with an adult, children in Years 5 and 6 who have permission to walk to school alone, can join the walking bus without an adult. Mr Todd will share more information in

Year 3/4 Production

Our Year 3/4 classes are going to be performing their very own show 'The Bee Musical' on May 17th at 9:30am. We had planned to do this before Easter, but time is going to beat us. More information will be shared nearer to the time.

School Eco Council

This week, I was approached by Charlie Heron (Year 5 pupil) who asked me if he could do some litter picking at play time. Last year, we had a group of children who made a great start with this but unfortunately this wasn't maintained. Charlie had noticed lots of litter around school and was/is concerned about the impact on the environment. I, like Charlie, hate to see people dropping litter. So, after some playtimes litter picking, I met up with Charlie and we have decided to start an Eco Council in school. Charlie is going to lead this and has some fantastic reasons for doing so:

To protect the environment.

To improve the look of the school.

To look after wildlife.

To show we care for the environment.

To educate children how important it is to look after the world.

To help improve our fitness

We hope to achieve the Green Flag award for schools and will be announcing what we hope to do over the coming weeks. You can find out more information [here](#).



Class Dojo - Points win Prizes

We have used Class Dojo in school for quite some time now and this has worked extremely well for communication. We also use Class Dojo to award points for good behaviour, achievement etc.

This week, we have made some changes to the way we award Dojo points. We really want to celebrate and reward when children go 'above and beyond'. All staff have the ability to award Dojo points for children they see going 'above and beyond'. Examples could be; reading every day for a week, helping a friend who is struggling in a lesson, listening well in all lessons, making an improvement in spellings, always having good manners, going regularly on TT Rockstars and many, many other reasons.

Over time, children can build up their Dojo points and exchange them for prizes. This may be for things such as pens, pencils, rubbers and pencil cases. Or it may be sporting items such as footballs, skipping ropes and hula hoops. They may also be used in exchange for attending film nights, pizza parties, ice cream van visits, etc. The school council are going to work with their classes to help decide on the prizes and how we organise this.

Parent Consultations	22nd March
Spring term reports	24th March
Year 4 Residential Dukeshouse Wood March	27th –29th
Reception / Year 1 Trip	30th March
Easter Holidays	31st March
Staff Training Day School Closed	17th April
Return to school	18th April
Year 5 Trip	18th April
Year 2 Trip	21st April
Bank Holiday	1st May
Bank holiday for the coronation of King Charles	8th May
Year 3/4 Production	17th 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
Return to school	6th September

Attendance 27/02–10/03

Reception— 91.8%

Year 1—95.2%

Year 2—96.7%

Year 3—95.8%

Year 4—96.9%

Year 5—97.2%

Year 6—98%

Whole School—95.9%

Up from 95.6%

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.

Mr Hodgson—Headteacher

Nursery News

We're back!!! What a lovely start we have had to the new term. The children are learning to work and play together and to use their words, to talk to and organise, their friends and themselves in play. They have enjoyed using story puppets and small world/role play to explore and re-tell the core book stories using their imagination and own creativity.



The children have been especially excited to explore their surroundings and learn all about what they see and hear as they journey through their village, Ellington. We looked at the places familiar to us and recognised landmarks like the park, school, Shelley's and TLC Beauty, Bank Top store and Co-op, the pub and the village hall and used the construction toys to build our village. We painted our spare wellies and took them for a walk and turned our home corner into a tourist information office with lots of photos of our village and, of course, a tea shop, which has been very well-used. We decorated biscuits for the Tea Shop and even had our own manicure station which was a big hit!



The children actively learned as we went walking around our school to see what we could see. The children used the I-pads to photograph what they found and even made a display in the classroom to help them to talk about their experiences with their classmates. This week we have been listening and hearing sounds around us. We made listening machines to help us.



Nursery News Continued.

We have continued to explore Number, in many different ways. We celebrated World Book Day - what a lot of fun that was! Can you spot your child? This week we were treated to a performance of "Wind in the Willows".



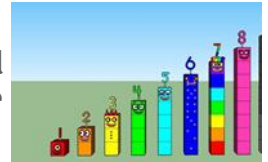
Reception News

We have had a fun and busy two weeks back at school after our half-term holiday.

Our new topic this half term is 'Journeys'. We were very excited to find a box in our yard with a teddy bear inside. Where did the teddy bear come from? Why did it appear in our yard? After lots of great discussion, we found out that it was Baby Bear from the story 'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy. The story is about Baby Bear and his adventure to the moon. Baby Bear finds a rocket, a space helmet and some space boots and sets out on his journey. We did some fantastic writing of what we would take if we were going to the moon. We also sequenced the story and retold it to Mrs Cook.



In Maths, we have been focusing on 'more than', 'less than' and 'equal to' to describe the relationships between numbers. We used the Numberblocks to help us with our learning.



A travelling production company came to our school to perform Wind in the Willows. Ten children from our school were selected to take part in the interactive performance. We had a fantastic time watching the show!

Last Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day. We visited the library where we shared some of our favourite stories. We coloured in our own personalised bookmark and we designed a book cover for our favourite story.



Year 1 News

What an exciting and busy fortnight we have had! Last Friday, Simon Hodgson (Harry's Dad) and two local police officers came in to talk to us about their jobs and roles within their workplace. We thoroughly enjoyed having Simon in teaching us all about police dog handling. We had the pleasure of meeting Simon's police dogs, Norman and Clay. Norman came into our classroom and showed us how good he is at his job. We hid a tennis ball in the classroom and Norman was super quick finding it. What a clever boy! We then went outside to meet Clay; he demonstrated how he could speak and Simon told us about all the important jobs he does to help catch criminals. What a noisy boy!

The children had a brilliant afternoon of learning and the added extra of trying on Simon's police hat and finding out lots about his uniform. Thank you Simon!



This week we have celebrated World Book Day. It was fantastic to see all children dressed up as a book character. We had a full day of sharing books, in the classroom and in the school library. We learned about Michael Rosen a famous poet and author. He wrote 'Were going on a bear hunt' and many more famous books. We performed 'Were going on a Beat Hunt' using actions and different voices and sounds to make it interesting. We also learned another of his poems 'Yesterday'. The children loved learning this poem because it does not make sense.



Year 1 News Continued

We then had a zoom lesson with Swapna Hadow and Sheena Dempsey, the author and illustrator of the World Book Day Book 2023 'Dave Pigeon Bookshop Mayhem'. We took part in a draw along session with Sheena and drew our own Dave the Pigeons.



Finally, we have had a theatre company come into school to perform 'Wind in the Willows'. The children all had a singing workshop and Oliver from our class got chosen to do the acting workshop and to perform on stage alongside other children from different year groups. He did amazingly and the singing from Year 1 was brilliant! The children had an excellent morning and smiled from start to finish.



Year 2 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all well. It's been a busy first two weeks back after the half term. We have now organised our school trip to Whitehouse Farm after we completed our Geography unit on farming. You should receive the letter outlining timings and cost over the next couple of days if you have not already done so.

We also had a fantastic time on World Book Day. There were some brilliant costumes and the children really enjoyed performing and writing poetry in the style of Joshua Siegel. This week we also watched a brilliant performance of Wind in the Willows where some of our class were asked to join in with the performance! There was some excellent acting on show!

In English we have been writing character descriptions about the superhero Traction Man. We have been editing our work to ensure it is well punctuated and informative for the reader.

In Maths we have continued with our work on Multiplication including times tables and we are now starting to look at division by grouping and sharing.

In Science, we have continued with our unit on animals including humans. We have looked at hand hygiene, food hygiene and we have started to look at how animals have offspring in different ways as well as the differences between babies and toddlers.

Our new unit in Geography is 'A Road Trip Across The USA' we have recapped the names and locations of the seven Continents as well as identifying the USA on the map of North America, the bordering countries, the surrounding oceans as well as naming and locating some major cities.

Finally, in DT we have built on the Year 1 unit of wheels and axels by starting to study Ferris wheels which we are going to design and build.

Thanks and have a lovely weekend,

Mr McConville



Year 3 News

What a lot of different activities we have enjoyed over the last two weeks!



Last Tuesday was such a busy day as most of us enjoyed our trip to the Great North Museum in Newcastle to kick off our Egyptians topic for this half term, and Ava and Oscar got the opportunity to travel to London with the School Council to visit the Houses of Parliament!



Then before we knew it, it was World Book Day. We embraced the challenge to dress up wonderfully, and really enjoyed our story sharing time in the library. We enjoyed creating comic strips based on the theme 'The Magic of Reading' in the afternoon.



On Wednesday morning, we had a visit from a special theatre group who performed 'Wind in the Willows' and Isaac was invited to join in and be part of the play!



We have somehow managed to fit some other lessons in along with all these special occasions! In English, we are enjoying getting into the mindset of the wolf character in different fairy tales, using drama to explore different characters' perspectives. In maths, we have just started a unit of work focusing on the 2, 4 and 8 times tables and the relationships between them. Some of us

are really impressing Mrs Morris and Mrs Richardson with the fluency of our times tables recall! In French we have started learning the names of some musical instruments, and have been working extremely hard on learning proper French pronunciation, which isn't always easy!

Year 4 News

World Book Day was absolutely fantastic! It was lovely seeing the range of characters and how excited the children were about their costumes and the books that inspired them. We spent some time enjoying our school library sharing these books (as well as an obligatory photoshoot) and wrote short stories about what it might be like if our books came to life! In addition, we explored some poetry by the award-winning children's poet Joseph Coelho and performed his poem "School Tomorrow - excuses for Mum", which was highly entertaining for the children really showed off their performance skills and expressive voices.



In other subjects, the children have been particularly excited by our new Geography unit on tectonic plates, volcanoes and earthquakes as well as learning to talk about the ancient history of Great Britain in French! We also have an exciting Science unit this half term looking at solids, liquids and gasses so there are lots of fun experiments to come as well as making a slingshot car in Design Technology.

Year 5 News

We have enjoyed our busy beginning to the Spring 2 term.

The children all looked amazing in their costumes for World Book Day. A fabulous effort was made by everyone and we had a great time in school where we completed a variety of engaging activities. We began the day by exploring our class poet, Matthew Goodfellow, where we also read his famous poem 'The Frustrated Magician'. The children learn the poem in small groups before performing it with actions and great expression to the rest of the class. We enjoyed our reading time in the library and also discussing our favourite book where each child created their own book review.

In English, our new writing stimulus is the animation video of Rock, Paper Scissors. We have been writing about each of the characters, describing the settings and planning our extended writing piece where we will be narrating the story from different perspectives.



In maths, we are diving deeper into fractions. So far, we have been converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions, ordering fractions and comparing fractions less than and more than one whole. Year 5 have been practising our times tables as we know the importance of our knowing our tables to help us with maths.

Earth & Space is our new science topic this half term and the children have been debating if the earth is flat or spherical by using evidence to support our beliefs. This week we have been naming the planets in our solar system and writing some interesting key facts about each planet.

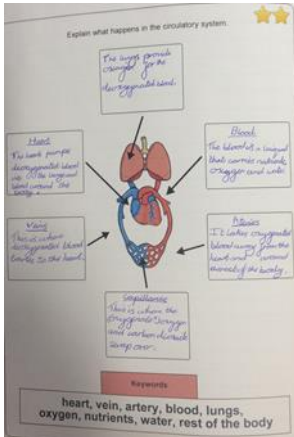
In History this half term we are exploring the life of Tudor Britain. The children created a timeline to understand the Tudor Dynasty and where it was allocated on our British History timeline. We recently focused on King Henry VIII where we used primary and secondary sources to decide if he was a tyrant or a fair ruler.

Keep up the hard work everyone!

Mr Todd

Year 6 News

Spring is finally in the air and Year 6 are in the final push towards the SATs tests in May. In reading, we have been honing our skimming and scanning skills and playing games to support us in understanding tricky vocabulary. Our writing has been based on an animation called 'The Piano'. We have used this to write flashback stories.



We have started our new science unit - The Circulatory System and are getting to grips with the new vocabulary and key terms. So far we have learned that the heart is a vital organ and that its role in the body is to pump oxygenated blood to organs and then return deoxygenated blood to the lungs. In the coming weeks, we will be investigating how exercise affects your pulse rate.



Last week we very much enjoyed celebrating World Book Day. We had some smashing costumes and the children enjoyed writing two sentence horror stories. We also learned a poem by Maya Angelou - 'And Still I Rise'. You can hear our rendition by scanning the QR code.

We very much enjoyed The Wind in the Willows workshop and performance this week. Year 6 were brilliant throughout and we seem to have some aspiring actors in our midst.

