



Ellington Primary News

Believe and Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's hard to believe that we are now halfway through the academic year! Although it has still been freezing this week, the days are getting lighter and there are signs of Spring on the horizon. As always, we have had an action-packed fortnight in school and the children have continued to impress. We have had a lot of visitors who have spoken with a wide range of children and they have been so impressed with their attitude, behaviour and enthusiasm. We are very lucky to have such amazing pupils at Ellington.

Parking

The parking outside of the school is becoming a very serious issue. We have had near misses in recent weeks involving parents and pupils. In recent years we have tried hard to alleviate the situation by introducing the walking bus, creating an additional staff car park, increasing the number of bike/scooter racks and having keep clear areas. However, it seems like an accident could still easily occur and that the last thing any of us want.

The volume of cars and how they are parked along Warkworth Drive is the biggest issue. Please can we ask your help by:

- ◇ Parking and striding: It would probably be quicker to park on Springwell Drive and walk along the path, entering via the Key Stage Two entrance. There are far less cars on Springwell Drive and far less children around. You could also park at the Plough or on alternative streets rather than Warkworth Drive.
- ◇ Walking bus: Join our walking bus on a Tuesday and Thursday, meeting at the top of Ashington Road at 8:20am.
- ◇ Don't drive to school: If you live in Ellington, please walk to school. Approximately 60% of our school pupils live in Ellington. It is much healthier to walk, scoot or cycle to school. It will also make it a much safer environment on Warkworth Drive with less vehicles.



I have met with Lynemouth Ward Councillor Liz Dunn and we are hoping to have a new path installed across Warkworth Drive, allowing access to Beech Drive. I have also met with the Road Safety Team from Northumberland County Council and we are having additional keep clear lines installed soon hopefully.

Extra Curricular Clubs

At Ellington, we would love all children to take part in at least one extra-curricular club each term. We have worked hard to ensure that we have a range of clubs available, with up to ten different clubs running on occasions over a term. However, numbers are down this term and we feel that a change is necessary.



In Summer term, we aim to offer our biggest variety of clubs ever. In order to help us guarantee improved attendance, we are looking for suggestions for new clubs. The aim is to increase the number of children attending and reduce all club costs to a maximum of £10. Our school council will be carrying out surveys very soon, so please talk to your child/ren about which clubs would appeal to them and encourage them to share these with their school council class representatives.

School Photographs

On Monday 12th February, we have Tempest Photography in school for all classes. If your child has PE on a Monday, they should wear their school jumper/polo shirt and change into their PE kit after their photo. Nursery should come to school wearing uniform for their whole session.

Lost Property

We are continuing to build up a collection of lost property. Please ensure your child's name is on all items of clothing, especially jumpers. We will put lost property outside on the yard on Monday morning and afternoon, weather permitting.

Celebrating the History of Ellington

On 1st March, we are having a whole school day celebrating the history of Ellington. Each class will be looking at how Ellington has changed over the decades and focusing on the history of mining. We will be visiting the local area, Woodhorn Museum and we would also love some visitors in school. If any parents/carers/grandparents would be interested in talking to the children in school please let us know, we would really appreciate it!



Valentines Disco



We would like to remind you that we will be having a Valentine's disco on Wednesday 14th February. This will be for all year groups from 4pm until 5:30pm. The cost is £3 which covers entry, a hot dog, crisps and juice. Children should bring in their £3 before Monday 12th February. Nursery will be having their own disco during the school day on the 14th.

Mr Hodgson—Headteacher

Mental Health

We have celebrated children's mental health week this week. At Ellington, we prioritise the mental health of our children above everything else we do. We have an excellent PSHE curriculum, we have trained Peer Mentors, Mrs Morris has had Senior Mental Health Lead training, we have a school nurse, Ciara Drape, who comes into school once a fortnight, we have links with Be You Northumberland, we have senior leaders available every lunch time for drop-ins, each class has a worry box where children can share their worries and a member of staff will support with this, we have mental health assemblies, we talk openly about our feelings and we have an open door policy so children know they can talk to any trusted adult in school. If you need any support with your child's mental health, or if we can help you with your mental health, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Selfish Giant

Following the successes of previous shows over the last two years, we are delighted to announce that we have another performance for the children! On March 13th, all children from Nursery to Year 6 will be able to watch The Selfish Giant with ten children also taking part in the show. Last March, we had the interactive performance of Wind in the Willows, and the previous year we had The Sword and the Stone. These performances have been a huge success, so we are thrilled that the same company are returning.

We aim to have at least two shows each year for the children, but we do require your support with these events. We are kindly asking for a £2 contribution per child. This can be paid by School Gateway. This will subsidise the cost for school and enable us to continue providing these experiences for the children.



IMAGE MUSICAL THEATRE
PRESENTS
The Selfish Giant
A PARTICIPATION MUSICAL FOR ALL AGES

This wonderful production is one of a series of participation musicals created by Image Musical Theatre for all the family. The show itself is preceded by a rehearsal workshop where some of the children are chosen to take part in the show while the remainder of the audience are rehearsed into four chorus songs.

Image Musical Theatre has an excellent reputation for producing work that is stimulating and entertaining while maintaining very high production values.

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Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube

PREPARATIONS WILL BE PROSECUTED

Mr Hodgson—Headteacher

Attendance 29/01–09/02

Reception– 92.5%

Year 1–98%

Year 2–92.4%

Year 3–98%

Year 4–99%

Year 5–98.3%

Year 6–90.8%

Whole School–95.6%

Up from 95.1%

Diary Dates

School Photos	12th February
Valentines Disco (Rec–Y6)	14th February
End of spring term 1	16th February
Return to school	26th February
Celebrating Ellington History	1st March
World Book Day	7th March
Comic Relief	15th March
Science/Careers Week	18th– 22nd March
Parent Consultations	20th March
Y4 Residential	25th–27th 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	28th June
Y6 Residential	5th–7th July
Summer term reports	12th July
End of summer term 2	19th July

Nursery News

Nursery have had an exciting fortnight at school! Our key story has been 'We're going on a bear hunt' and the children loved all of the different activities on offer! We had to use positional language to describe where the bear was as well as going on our very own Bear Hunt!

We went through the swishy swashy grass, through the deep, cold river, through the squelchy mud, into the deep, dark forest, past the howling snow storm and into a gloomy cave. We found a bear!

The children loved acting out our story so much so they wanted to go on another bear hunt later on!

This week, we've been talking about our feelings for children's mental health week. We talked about how we might be feeling, which zone we might be in and how to get back to 'green'. The children have been really sensible when discussing this and they've been very caring towards their friends.

Well done Nursery!



Reception News

Another very busy two weeks in Reception! Last week we completed a mini topic 'Women in Space' based on the very inspirational Mae Jemison. The children were very sensible when discussing Mae's life and the obstacles she overcame to be an astronaut. We made our very own space passports looking closely at our features to help us describe ourselves and then we watched some videos of what it is like to be in space. The children were amazed that everything was floating and had some lovely discussion about gravity.

This week we have been learning all about Chinese New Year and the story of the animal race. The children have retold the story through drama and a story map. We found out what zodiac animal we are and have enjoyed making our own Chinese dragons using our folding skills. We will continue our work on Chinese New Year next week.

In maths we have been continuing our work on doubles and have learned a fabulous song to help us remember them, perhaps we could give you a performance at home!

We were incredibly lucky to have Shirley from Tiddlywinks join us for a story telling session on Tuesday this week. She made the story of the Gingerbread Man come to life and we had a wonderful time acting out the story. Thank you Shirley!



We have also completed activities around Safer Internet day and Children's Mental Health week. What a busy time we have had!

Year 1 News

This week year 1 have been very busy investigating different materials. We set up and carried out an investigation to see which material would be best to make a pair of curtains. We used fabulous scientific vocabulary. Ask your child all about transparent and opaque materials.

In PSHE we have been learning how to stay safe. For internet safety day we read the story Mo and Jaz. We held a discussion on how they felt when a new video opened and they didn't like it. The message was; Stop, Close it, Tell a grown up. We have also been learning how to recognise trusted and safe adults in and out of school.

In DT, we have completed our puppets that we planned and designed. A lot of work has gone into these puppets with the children and Mrs Redpath. The children needed to use their independent thinking and resilience to complete their puppets.

Today, we have finished the week with a great movement festival and Dress to Express day. We loved our workshop and learned a fabulous dance. Great job Year 1.

Thank you,

Mrs Horsley



Year 2 News



We have begun our new English unit, 'The Tin Forest' by Helen Ward. We are working up to writing a setting description of the beautiful forest, we entered our own classroom forest to help us explore our senses and have been working super hard on identifying adjectives, nouns and verbs.

During story time we have been reading a range of different stories and adding these to our new scrapbook '100 Books to Read before Leaving Ellington'. The books cover a variety of different topics and we have loved them all so far! The children are encouraged to read every day, at home and at school.

We took part in NSPCC Number Day, we completed a range of different activities and battled it out on TTRS. We used our teamwork skills and in teams we raced against each other to see who could solve their mystery first! All of the children worked super hard and had fun while solving some hard maths questions! In our Maths lessons we have started looking at Fractions and in our CLIC sessions we have started to learn our 3x times table. Keep practising on TTRS at home!



On Tuesday 6th February it was Safer Internet Day and we talked about the importance of online safety. We looked at positive changes online and the ways technology can affect how we think and feel both online and offline. We have learned the importance of 'STOP, CLOSE and TELL' when we see something online that makes us feel upset, uncomfortable or scared. We used lots of different stories, scenarios and activities which led our internet safety discussion.

Next week, we will be taking part in a virtual lesson about Plastic Pollution. This is part of our Curriculum Enrichment, as a class we will be discussing Plastic Pollution and how it affects our environment. There will be a range of fun, engaging activities to complete and we will also be out collecting any plastic rubbish we see around school!

Miss Brooks

One week to go until half term!

Keep displaying all our school values and working super hard!

Please keep reading at home, learning your times tables on TTRS and practice telling the time!




Year 3 News

The last two weeks have been really busy in Year 3.

Last Friday, we had a special maths day where we had the chance to tackle an exciting maths puzzle to really get our minds working! We also had an extended Times Tables Rockstars session. It was a lot of fun. In English we are in the middle of writing some brilliant persuasive adverts all about the services the Iron Man could offer!

The ZONES of Regulation™

			
BLUE ZONE	GREEN ZONE	YELLOW ZONE	RED ZONE
Sad Sick Tired Bored Moving Slowly	Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Relaxed	Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control	Mad/Angry Terrified Elated/Ecstatic Devastated Out of Control

This week is Children's Mental Health week so we have been further developing our understanding of the Zones of Regulation. We played 'Zones Bingo' where we had to identify lots of different emotions. We are really looking forward to our 'Dress to Express' day on Friday.

We have also been lucky enough to have our story time in the library this week. We were really cosy with our dressing gowns, oodles and slippers!



On Tuesday, it was Safer Internet Day so we joined a nationwide online lesson about Artificial Intelligence. We learnt lots of valuable information and joined in with the live activities. After the lesson, we designed posters to convey what we had learnt.



In French, we have been working hard to learn the names of ten different musical instruments. I wonder how many of these the children could tell you at home? Soon we will be able to put these words into sentences to explain what instruments we play. Our computing unit this half term is based around understanding what a network is and how different devices are connected together.

Year 4 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy fortnight in Year 4. We have, as always been working our (odd) socks off. We have had a couple of nice events in school this week. We had our Internet Safety Day on Tuesday which involved watching a BBC live lesson on artificial intelligence. Some children also designed some great posters for the classroom.

We also had our Dress to Express Day in celebration of Children's Mental Health Week. As part of this, we reviewed our Zones of Regulation which the children use to help regulate their emotions.

In Maths, last week we had NSPCC number day. The children were challenged to complete a Maths investigation. They were posed the question, would you rather have a shallow but wide box of popcorn or a thin but deep box? The children had to make their own popcorn boxes using a template and they then had to decide how they would measure which box held the most popcorn before presenting the results in a table.

In English we have been preparing to write a newspaper article based on the book Arthur and The Golden Rope by Joe Todd-Stanton. We looked at the features found in a newspaper (including using a catchy song) and started to write simple, compound and complex sentences to help make up the main body of the text. We have also looked at the difference between direct and reported speech and we have written examples of both.

In History we have been learning about Sutton Hoo as part of our work on Anglo-Saxons. We looked at different artefacts that the British Museum have removed from the burial site and made inferences about the Anglo-Saxons based on these.



Year 5 News

We recently celebrated NSPCC Number Day where we worked as secret detectives to solve a maths mystery. The children worked hard on their problem solving skills and were successful when working effectively as a team. We also participated in Safer Internet Day where we joined the BBC'S live lesson before completing a range of online safety activities.



In English, we created imaginative freeze frames to create ideas for our diary writing during the 1944 volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in Pompeii. The children used knowledge of their senses and figurative language to write descriptive sentences. We will be writing in our diaries to note the events that occurred on this day in history.



In maths, we have progress onto our next unit; shape! The children were confident to recall previous knowledge such as properties of 2D/3D shapes, perimeter, area and measuring sides and angles. We have been using our knowledge of acute, right-angle, obtuse and reflex angles to sort shapes correctly. Recently, we explored the concepts of 'symmetry' and 'irregular polygon' to further expand our knowledge of sorting shapes based on their properties.

In science, we have reached the end of our space unit which the children worked tremendously well throughout. We can name the correct order of the planets using our secret method, explain the difference between geocentric and heliocentric models and explain how we have night and day! The children have explored theories by key scientists when learning how long it takes for the earth to fully orbit the sun and for the earth to rotate on its axis.

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

Mr Todd

Year 6 News

Over the last couple of weeks, Year 6 have been enthusiastic learners.



In English, we came to the sad - yet fantastically written - ending of *Private Peaceful*. It brought on a lovely discussion about why we care so much about the two brothers' relationship and the harsh realities of WW1. We have now started the spooky novel *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman. In our writing lessons, we have started our unit of work on balanced discussions and also took part in a Red Cross workshop on migration and empathy in order to understand one side of the argument.

During maths, we have been flying through work on fractions, decimals and percentages as well as moving on to ratio and proportion. We are becoming much speedier in our CLIC sessions as we recall more and more key facts as well as previously learnt methods. We also applied our knowledge of fractions and proportion to a problem solving activity during our recent "Number Day".

As part of Children's Mental Health week, we were part of a national assembly learning about online safety and showed our true selves during "Dress to Express" day. Throughout our PSHE unit of work, we have continually focused on our mental and physical health so that we can notice when we're not feeling great as well as when we're feeling fit and healthy. We understand the importance of a growth mindset as well as what good habits look like. As part of our work on physical health, we created presentations on immunisation in order to understand how they work and why the World Health Organisation encourages people to get their vaccinations.



In history, we have been continuing with our work on the Ancient Maya, exploring their creation story and finding out about their gods and goddesses.

