



Ellington Primary News

Believe and Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the academic year 2023/2024. The children have settled brilliantly in their new classes and are now firmly established in their new routines. Each class has been learning about their class hero and how they share the same values as we do as a school. You should have received a curriculum map for your child's class detailing their learning this half term. We are looking forward to welcoming you into school for the parent consultations later this half term where you can look through your child's new books and celebrate their success.

Pearl of Africa Children's Choir

We have been honoured to host 'The Pearl of Africa' choir in school today. They performed an amazing show for all of the children before each class had a workshop with the choir.

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR CHILDREN LIVING IN SOUTHERN UGANDA.

They aim to break the cycle of poverty for Ugandan children by investing in education, health, water and sustainable food programmes, in consultation with our Ugandan partners.

The choir are performing concerts at various different venues over the coming weeks, please go and experience their show and help raise funds to support their cause. More information can be found [here](#).



Great North Run

A huge congratulations to three of our staff who completed the Great North Run on Sunday, in aid of three fantastic charities. Combined, they raised over £1900 for St Oswald's Hospice, the Sick Children's Trust and Edinburgh Hospital Children's Charity.

Well done Mrs Richardson, Miss Brooks and Mrs Dyer.

School Council

A new school council has been elected after each class had a vote to choose their class representatives. They will work together to share pupil voice and help to continue improving school.



Eco Council

An eco-council was elected in summer term with the vision of developing eco-projects that make Ellington more sustainable, increase environmental learning, and benefit the local community.

New Roof

Work on our new roof began back in July. Unfortunately, the work is falling further behind schedule. This is incredibly frustrating for us as a school. We hope that the work will be complete by October 13th. Thank you for your patience as this goes on.

School Improvements

We have had the Key Stage One toilets refurbished over the summer holidays. These look fantastic and are a huge improvement on the previous toilets. We also had brilliant new Nursery toilets installed last year. Further to that, we have had new doors fitted between Years 3 and 4 to replace the curtains that had previously been used. Various rooms have also been given a facelift during the summer.



Extra-curricular Clubs

You should have received information regarding extra-curricular clubs for this term. Places are still available in some clubs, please sign up via School Gateway if interested. All clubs start from Monday next week (18th September).

School Trips & Visits

Prior to the summer break, we shared our Enrichment Curriculum with you. Plans are underway arranging trips out of school and visitors coming into school. We want to give the children as many different experiences as possible.

The problem facing Ellington with regards to trips is our location. We need to hire a coach for any trip out of school because of where we are situated. Although some venues are free to visit, the cost of hiring a coach to Newcastle is between £350 and £400. We subsidise all school trips but without contributions from parents/carers, we cannot provide these experiences.

Red Sky Foundation

At our EYFS/Key Stage One entrance, you will find a large recycling container. This can be used by anyone in Ellington. The container belongs to the Red Sky Foundation and we are delighted to support them by asking parents/carers and the local community to donate any of the following unwanted items that you may have:

Clean Reusable Clothes

Paired Shoes

Handbags

Bedding

Accessories

Belts

Towels

Toys

Curtains

Bric-a-Brac



The Red Sky Foundation are a charity who raise vital funds for babies & children with heart problems across North East England. Every penny raised through our recycling container goes to charity.

Please find our more information [here](#).

Diary Dates

Year 6 Parents' Meeting 5:30pm	21st September
Online Safety/Mental Health Day	4th October
Online Safety Parents Workshop	4th October 9am
EYFS Parents Reading Workshop	9th October 8:45am
KS1 Parents Reading Workshop	10th October 8:45am
KS2 Parents Reading Workshop	11th October 8:45am
Year 6 Cragside Trip	17th October
Parent Consultations	25th October
Break up for half term	27th October

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.

Attendance 06/09–15/09

Reception– 95.5%
Year 1–97.0%
Year 2–94.6%
Year 3–98.8%
Year 4–92.9%
Year 5–99.2%
Year 6–91.2%
Whole School–95.5%

Mr Hodgson–Headteacher

PEARL OF AFRICA
CHILD CARE

THE PEARL OF AFRICA CHILDREN'S CHOIR UK TOUR



SINGING SO
OUR FRIENDS
CAN GO
TO SCHOOL



Donate now!

Your local concert:

6.00pm	Friday 15th September	Grange View CE First School, Widdrington
7.00pm	Saturday 16th September	Morpeth Methodist Church - Featuring Rock Choir
6.00pm	Monday 18th September	Chantry Middle School, Morpeth
6.30pm	Tuesday 19th September	Prudhoe Community High School, Prudhoe
TBC	Wednesday 20th September	St Aidan's CE Primary School, Gateshead (TBC)
3.00pm	Thursday 21st September	Durham Cathedral
6.30pm	Friday 22nd September	St Paul's Church, Alnwick
7.00pm	Saturday 23rd September	St Helen's Church, Low Fell
		- Featuring Ryton Singers Sing Gospel

Contact Leonie using the details below, or contact the venues directly for more ticket info

Find us on:



WWW.PEARLOFAFRICA.ORG/DONATE

Tel: 0772 505 6233 Email: leonie@pearlof africa.org.uk

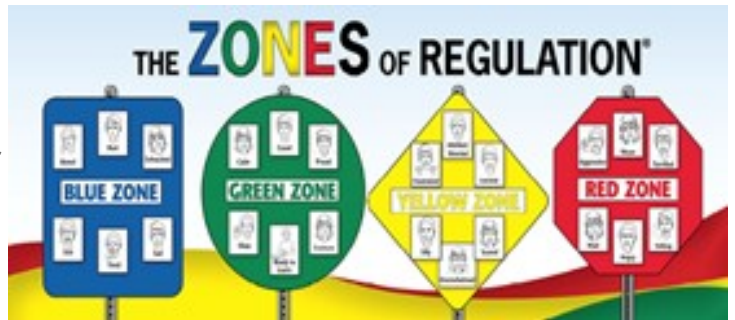
UK registered charity number: 1122809

Nursery News

The nursery children have had a busy and exciting start to the new term. We are very impressed with the children and how well they have settled. The children have had a fantastic time exploring our new classroom environment, both indoors and outdoors. We have had great fun outdoors where the children have shown fantastic gross motor skills on the bikes and trikes. A very popular area is our outdoor mud kitchen where the children have enjoyed using the pots, pans and utensils to make mud pies.



We have been spending time getting to know our friends and learning about the rules and routines of nursery. We have also been learning all about our feelings and emotions linking to our whole school approach 'The Zones of Regulation' which uses four colours to help children self-identify how they are feeling. We talked about how we can help ourselves and others when we feel sad, angry or scared as well as what makes us feel happy.



This week in nursery we have been learning all about ourselves. We have been celebrating the similarities and differences between children in our class and we have talked about how we are all unique. We looked carefully at ourselves in the mirror and discussed our features before painting self-portraits for our class display. We also made some funny face biscuits.



Reception News

What a brilliant start we have made in Reception! The past two weeks have been full of catching up with our friends, settling into our new classroom and learning our new routines. The children have been amazing, I could not be prouder of the start they have made to the new school year.



In literacy, we have been learning all about ourselves and have started to read the story 'Once There Were Giants' by Martin Waddell. We have enjoyed having a guess at what the story would be about using only the title and the clues on the front cover. The little girl in the story started life as a baby, just like us! We used some catalogue to create a list of items that baby's use. We then had a think about how we have changed since we were babies and how we need different things now.



In maths, we have been busy consolidating our knowledge of numbers to 5 to help us in the coming weeks.

We have also been making some jellyfish in our RE work as we have been learning about God the Creator.

A fabulous first fortnight Reception- keep up the great work!



Year 1 News

We have had a busy 10 days settling into Year 1. The children have settled well into their new class and have adapted to their new whole class teaching lessons. I would like to take this opportunity to say that the transition from EYFS to Year 1 is one of the biggest jumps they will make during their time in education. Please help support us by encouraging them to read daily and complete their homework. The more reading, writing, and number work you support your child with at home, the easier the Autumn term will be for them to settle into their new routines.

We have been busy completing baseline activities in Maths to allow us to fill in any missed gaps in their learning. They have enjoyed our CLIC sessions this week, counting forwards and backwards, doubling and halving and counting how many are altogether.

In English, we have been practising how to form letters correctly. This is one of the most important skills for their writing as the formation taught in year 1 will help with their joining in Summer term and coming years. Please reinforce the correct letter formation at home so this becomes second nature.

We have also started in our new phonics groups. Your child will have received two reading books today to practise at home.

As well as all this we have also started our science topic: The Human Body, RE unit of work: Faith Communities, DT; Windmills, PSHE: Family and Relationships, Geography: What is it like in Ellington as well as having 2 sessions of PE.

Mrs Horsley.



Year 2 News

We have had a super start to our learning journey in Year 2. The children have really impressed Miss Gray and Mrs Curtis which how they have adapted to our new routines.



We have started using our new maths program: Big Maths and are getting to grips with the 'CLIC' sessions where we practise basic skills. In addition (ha ha!) to this, we have been focusing on place value. We have represented numbers in lots of different ways and revised how to say and spell some of the tricky 'teen' numbers.

RWI phonics is back in full swing. Some children, who have completed the programme, are now doing comprehension activities with Miss Gray. We are learning how to retrieve information from a text, by scanning for key words and phrases. Our text this half term is 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' by Jill Tomlinson. Our writing is based on 'Meerkat Mail' by Emily Gravett. We have been gathering vocabulary to support us in writing character descriptions of Sunny (the main character in the story).



In science, we have been bird watchers! We are learning what different groups of animals need to survive and we sat very quietly observing the birds in our school grounds. We saw lots, including a very portly pigeon! There were no penguins to be seen and we decided that this was because they are flightless birds who can't leave their icy habitats in the colder regions of the Southern Hemisphere. We now know that mammals and birds need water, food, shelter and air to be able to survive. This might help us to look after our pets too.

In history, are learning about how schools have changed over time. We would love to know interesting facts about Ellington Primary School if any parents or grandparents are willing to share?

It is great to be back.

I have a feeling this Year is going to be AMAZING!

Miss Gray

Year 3 News

What a wonderful start to the new school year! There have been lots of smiles and all of the children are settling well into the routines of Year 3.

During the first week the children found out all about our 'Class Hero'; Sir David Attenborough. They also found out more about each other by making a 'Me Museum' to showcase items that were meaningful to them.



This week has been very busy as we have started to learn about lots of interesting new topics. We have started a new book called 'The Tunnel' which sees a brother and sister going on a magical adventure. Our reading lessons this term focus on the book 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl. We also visited the school library on Monday to find another Roald Dahl book for our story time each day; we settled on 'The Twits'.



In maths, we have started the year with lessons to consolidate our knowledge of place value. We have been using practical equipment and different representations to help us.

Afternoons have been fully packed as well! We started our Geography topic by learning about the layers of the Earth. In science, we began learning about the human skeleton and Mrs. Morris was impressed with our existing knowledge. We also had a great time using the Commando Joe's equipment to design our own fitness activities for the class to use.



Year 4 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

As this is the first newsletter of the academic year, I would just like to say Welcome to Year 4! It has been a brilliant start to the Autumn Term. We have been very busy getting to grips with our learning. The children's behaviour so far has been impeccable and I am incredibly excited for all the learning opportunities the children have coming their way this year. As always, any questions or problems, don't hesitate to catch me at the start or end of a day or send me a message on Class Dojo.

In English, to get back into the swing of writing, we have started to work towards writing a diary entry based on the short animation *The Present* by Jacob Fray. The children have explored the story by making predictions and summations. They have also used drama activities to get into the mind of the character and think about their thoughts and feelings.

In Maths, we have introduced Big Maths to the children which is our new scheme of work. The children are currently learning about place value of thousands including where to find these numbers on a number line.

In Science we have looked at what makes vertebrates including why mammals are different from birds and fish etc. We have also looked at invertebrates and the differences between insects, spiders and soft bodied invertebrates.

In PE the children had an excellent first swimming lesson as well completing a Commando Joe session based on the explorer Levison Wood. This session aims to build the children's resilience and ability to work in a team (Ellington Champion Values). The children had to use pipes and other materials to transport water from one bucket to another.

A great start to the year. Well done, everyone!



Year 5 News



What a fantastic start to the academic year we have had in our new class. This week we thoroughly enjoyed a live webinar with our favourite author, SF Said! He spoke to us about his life as an author and the importance of reading and writing. He loved reading Varjak Paw last year and he explained how he created this wonderful story.

In English, we recently watched a short animation called Rock, Paper Scissors which is our first writing stimulus in year 5. We made predictions about the short film and have been exploring how each of the three characters are portrayed.

Our class text for this half term's reading is Kensuke's Kingdom. The children used clues from the front cover, the blurb and the intriguing map on the first page to predict what might happen to Michael, a young boy who ends up ship-wrecked.

- In maths, we have completed our baseline tests for Big Maths and will now be focusing on our place value knowledge for a few weeks. We began with 3-digit numbers and are now exploring numbers up to one million. The children have adapted very well to the high expectations of independent work in year 5. We aim to show resilience in order to complete difficult problem-solving tasks.



Our geography unit for this half term is 'What is life like in the Alps?' where we will be starting off by locating the Alps on a world map and then more specifically on a map of Europe. Did you know the Alps are spread across eight countries?

I have been so impressed with the children, their start to year 5 has set the standards very high so long may this continue.

Mr Todd

Year 6 News

Year 6 have made a busy start to the new academic year!

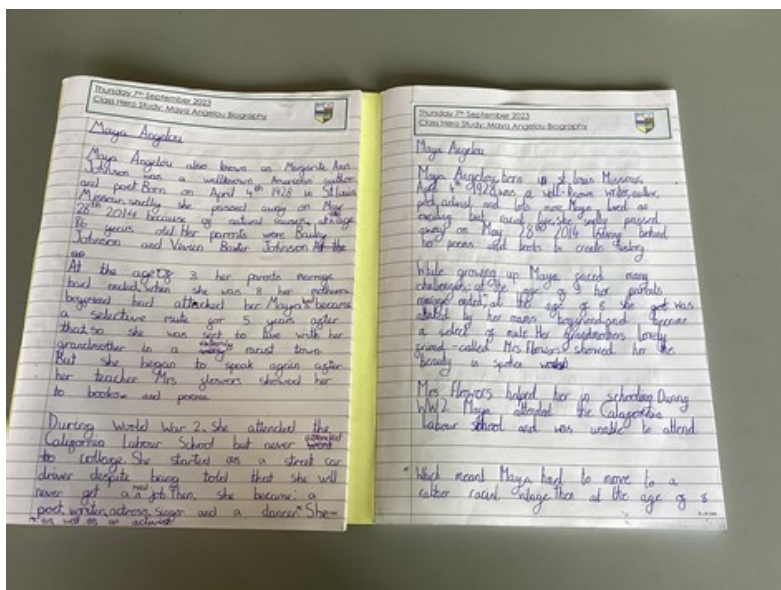
In order to understand our new novel, *Another Twist in the Tale* by Catherine Bruton, we had to spend some time exploring some fundamental ideas about the Victorians as well as the Dickensian classic, *Oliver Twist*. Our novel is a “twist” on this important piece of literature and follows the journey of Oliver’s little-known sister, Twill Twist. Meanwhile, in our writing, we have been exploring the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm and how their versions differ from those of Disney.

We also had the pleasure of joining Waterstones online for an interview with author SF Said - renowned for writing such exciting stories as *Varjak Paw*. Did you know it took him 5 years and 17 drafts before *Varjak Paw* was finally published? That’s resilience for you!



In maths, we have been revising and developing our knowledge of place value as well as completing our first CLIC, SAFE and Learn-Its challenges ready for the start of Big Maths.

History this term is taking us back to World War 2 and we have been exploring the inter-war years. We researched some key events in that time period and how they were significant in causing the Second World war. This coincided nicely with our first Commando Joe’s session in PE linking with the work of spy, Nancy Wake.



We were also introduced to Year 6’s class hero: Maya Angelou. We heard about her life and found that she embodied our School Values of resilience and pride. We then wrote a short biography about her life and were amazed by some of the obstacles she overcame and how much she achieved throughout her life.