



Ellington Primary News

Believe and Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now firmly into the final countdown to Christmas with lots of events happening in school where we hope you can join us. The children are continuing to work hard and Years 2 to 6 have been demonstrating their progress this week during assessments. Autumn term reports will be shared with you on Friday 16th December. Over the last few weeks, the weather has become colder and colder so please ensure that your child comes to school with a coat every day.

Aladdin Pantomime

On Thursday 30th November, the children had a fantastic time watching the pantomime Aladdin. Children from Nursery to Year 6 laughed, shouted and screamed for 90 minutes. This was the perfect way to begin our Christmas celebrations.



Schoolgateway



Extra-Curricular Clubs

Spring Term extra-curricular clubs will start week beginning 16th January. We have a huge array of clubs on offer for the children at Ellington, some provided by external coaches but others provided by school staff volunteering and giving up time after school for the children. For a small school, I am very proud of the extra-curricular clubs that we are offering the children.

Construction Club is fully booked, but we have places still available on all of the other spring term clubs. All bookings and payments are managed through School Gateway.

Christmas Performances

The children have been practising so hard for the upcoming Christmas shows!

Years 1 and 2 will be performing 'Hey Ewe' for their Christmas nativity performances 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 be performing their Christmas show 'The Nativity' on Monday 19th December at 9:30am.



Please note that we can only accommodate a maximum of 3 people per child attending any show.

We will be holding two Carol Concerts for children from Years 1 to Year 6 on December 21st and 22nd at 9:30. Children will be singing a range of traditional Christmas carols and we would love you to join us. For the concerts, we can only accommodate two adults per child. We would ask that you only attend on one day, not both, so all parent/carers can have the chance to attend.

Christmas Challenges

Over the Christmas holidays, the children will not have their usual homework. We are aware that everyone will be busy over Christmas with finishing the term so late. But we do not return until January 9th which leaves lots of time after the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Children will be set some reading and maths activities which will be part of individual and class challenges. More details will be shared before we break up on the 23rd.

Diary Dates

Christmas Dinner	14th December
KS1 'Hey Ewe' Performance	15th December (9.30am)
KS1 'Hey Ewe' Performance	16th December (9.30am)
ADULTS ONLY	
EYFS 'The Nativity' 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
Teacher Training Day	13th January

Grand Raffle

We will be drawing the raffle at the Carol Concert on Thursday 22nd December.

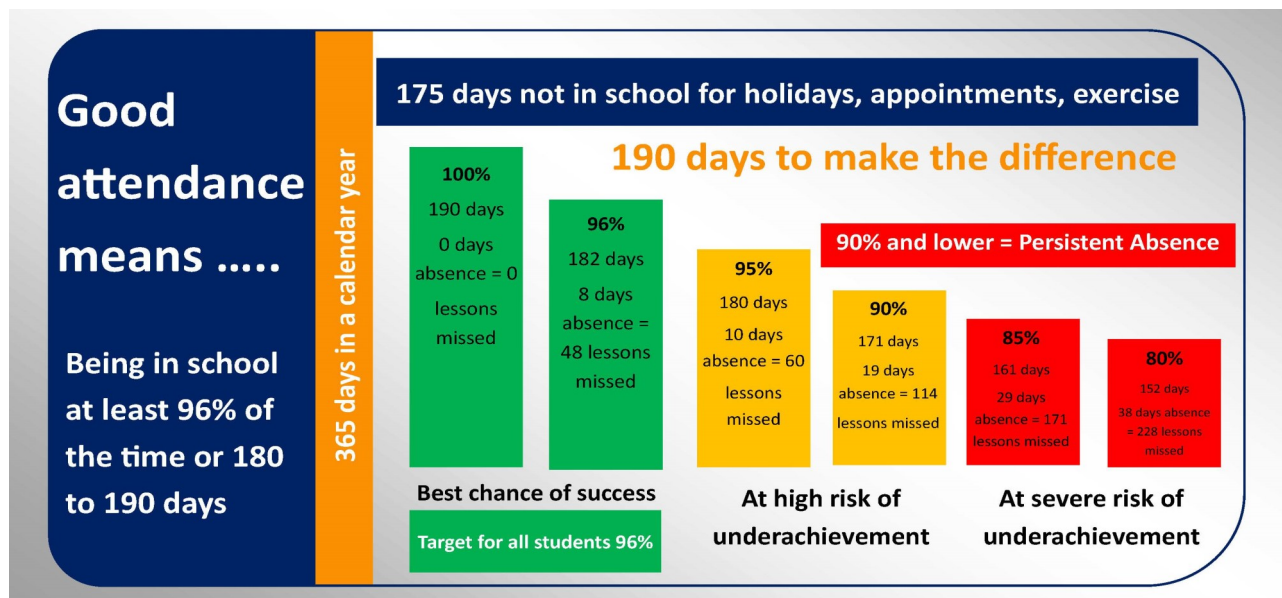
Please ensure all ticket stubs and money are brought back into school by Wednesday 21st December at the very latest.

If you have any unused tickets, please return these to school as soon as possible so that they can be redistributed. If you need more tickets, please contact the school office.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance remains low. Our target for this academic year is **96%**. Poor attendance leads to many difficulties in school. This term we have particularly noticed children finding it difficult to catch up with missed work when they have been absent from school. Please note, as a school we are unable to authorise any holidays during term time. Ellington is working closely with Northumberland County Council and the Educational Welfare Department. Any child who has attendance less than 90%, is classed as a persistent absentee and this information has to be recorded and shared with the council. We understand that children can be poorly and completely sympathise with this but please follow the guidance [here](#) to help you decide if your child is too poorly for school.

Punctuality forms part of our high attendance expectations in school. Lateness is very disruptive for both your child and their classmates. Any child who is late for school should be brought in the main entrance. If your child misses registration in the classroom they will receive an unauthorised late absence mark for the morning session. Children up to year 4 must be accompanied to school by a parent/carer.



Attendance 28/11– 9/12

Reception— 90.7%	Year 1—93.0%
Year 2—94.3%	Year 3—93.3%
Year 4—92.9%	Year 5—90.8%
Year 6—93.4%	

Whole School—92.6%

Down from 94.7%

Nursery News

We have been very busy as usual. We have been finding out about the changing seasons and went outside to explore the frost. We could explain how the leaves in the shade were still frozen. We found a special stick and the story of Stickman. We have joined in with the story and could sequence what happened.



We used sticks to measure with and made different shapes with them in our mathematics sessions. We helped Stickman to count his leaves carefully.



In reading we found out it was non-fiction November so we all visited the library and found a story book and paired it with a non-fiction book to share at home.



We had lots of fun playing X-Ray vision in our Mathematics activities and wore special glasses to help us to work out the mystery numbers. Some of us were dressed up as elves because we have been helping Santa in his grotto to write cards, decorate the tree, wrap presents and look after Rudolph. We are all super excited and working hard to learn our Christmas songs.

Nursery News Continued.

We have had so many special story readers over the last few weeks. We are so good at listening to stories and have found out so much about different people and what they do for a job. We had a super story from Alan all about keeping our oceans free from rubbish and he told us all about his job to keep everywhere tidy and talked to us about recycling to help look after our world.

Laura, a mental health nurse read us a special story called Ruby's Worries about a little girl and her worries. She talked to us all about sharing our worries to make things better. We all thought this was a very important story and Laura was so helpful.

Shelby was so kind and volunteered to come back to school when her school was off and did a fantastic job of reading us a story all about animals in winter and told us how they were kind to each other.

Judith who helps at the vets came to read us a story about different beasts. She explained all about how the vets helped to make animals well again. Her teddy was all bandaged up and had to be on a drip but would soon be better.

One of the most surprising visitors was Esmae's Auntie Vanessa who came to school to read us the story called Sugar lump and the Unicorn. The rocking horse in the story wanted to be someone different. Peppa the pony came with Vanessa and he wanted to be a reindeer! We listened to the story outside in the garden and all got to say hello to Peppa.



A great big thank you to all of our special readers. Look out for photos of Noah's dad and Charlotte's (from Reception) Grandma in our next newsletter.

Reception News

We have had another fun and busy two weeks in Reception. We have been reading and learning about the story of The Little Red Hen. We sequenced the parts of the story and then used our fantastic phonics knowledge to do some writing. At the end of the story the Little Red Hen asked who would help eat the bread...

“WE WILL!”

We used our fine motor skills to spread butter and jam on bread and then ate it just like the Little Red Hen did in the story.



In Art, we had great fun making child-led collages using mixed media. The children had great imagination and created some brilliant collages.



In RE, we are exploring the question ‘Why is Christmas special for Christians?’. We have been learning about The Nativity story and have enjoyed using the Nativity Scene in our class. Nursery and Reception are well underway with rehearsals for our EYFS Nativity on Monday 19th December!



Talking about Christmas...



We are well into the Christmas spirit in Reception. It started with a little visitor that arrived in our classroom. The children are super excited each day to see what our elf has been up to.

We have thoroughly enjoyed exploring in our Santa’s Workshop making toys, designing Christmas cards and wrapping presents. In our small world area, we have had great fun playing with the Christmas toys and Nativity scene.



We all had a fantastic time watching the Pantomime Aladdin.

We also enjoyed our Christmas jumper day and Christmas film night!

Roll on the next two weeks of Christmas fun and excitement!



Year 1 News

Wow! What an extremely busy couple of weeks we have had.

We have finally finished our DT project making windmills for the 'Mouse from Amsterdam'. The children worked so hard, designing, constructing and evaluating their windmills. They may not all work but I am sure you would agree they look fantastic!



We have started our final English focus 'Kevin the Carrot'. This week we have been performing some role-play, pretending to be Katie Carrot reporting missing Kevin Carrot to the police, giving clear descriptions of what Kevin looks like. We have also written a Character description of Kevin and we have made these into Missing Posters. The children have really enjoyed creating these and using their adjectives to describe Kevin, so Kevin can hopefully be found. For the remaining weeks before we break up we will be continuing working on 'Kevin the Carrot' writing explanation texts.

We are continuing our learning on 'Everyday Materials' and we have been carrying out investigations to see which materials are; bendy, rigid, waterproof, absorbent, transparent and opaque. We are looking forward to investigating which material will be best to keep teddy dry in the rain next week.



In PSHE we have been learning how germs spread and ways we can prevent these spreading and the importance of this. We did a simple glitter experiment that acted as bacteria. The children shook hands and high fived each other. The different coloured glitter then spread throughout the classroom and the glitter acted as a visual representation of bacteria

and how germs can be spread. We discussed the importance of washing hands with soap and the correct technique we should use when washing our hands.

Year 2 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been assessment week in Year 2 this week. It has been incredibly valuable to see how the children found completing a test in 'test conditions' for the first time. Headlines are that Maths went well, but children found the reading papers harder to access. It has really highlighted the need to give a real push on reading at home. Read Write Inc. Book Bag Books need to be read as much as possible at home. Each Book Bag Book needs to be read at least three times. Those children that have been doing this at home showed much increased levels of progress compared to those that do not.

In Maths, we have started to look at addition and subtraction involving two-digit numbers. We have been using known facts to support. For example, by knowing $2 + 5 = 7$ we know $32 + 5 = 37$ etc.

In English, we have we are starting to look at writing instructions using How to Clean a Woolly Mammoth. The children have written a set of instructions on how to brush their teeth using imperative verbs.

In Design Technology, we have been starting to look at stability. We investigated different 3D shapes to see which is more stable. We made the shape on a whiteboard and measured how high we had to lift it before it rolled off. The higher we lifted the board, the more stable. We found that a sphere was least stable and the pyramid was the most. This told us that for a shape to be stable we needed a low height and a wide and flat base. We then looked at different types of chairs to see which would be the most stable linked to these principles.

In RE we have been learning about the Nativity Story from Luke's Gospel and what Advent means to Christians.

Finally, in Geography, we have been learning about farms and the animals that live on them.



Year 3 News

We are starting to get excited about Christmas in Year 3. The pantomime was a great way to start the fun!



In English, we are continuing to work on 'The Lost Happy Endings'. We are planning to write our own endings for the book next week, and we have lots of inventive ideas about what could happen to the evil witch! We also enjoyed visiting the school library. We had some chocolate cake as we happened to be at the Bruce Bogtrotter chapter in Matilda!

In maths we have been continuing to develop our skills with mental calculations and we have continued to learn our times tables. We are very enthusiastic about joining in with the 'Supermovers' dances on the BBC website!

In history, we have been learning about the Stone Age. This week, we wrote diary entries as a Stone Age child. Our art lessons have also linked to the Stone Age, as we have experimented with some of the materials that would have been available to people then. We have worked in charcoal and we explored how natural products can be used to make different colours.



We have been getting to grips with all the lovely carols that we will be singing at the Carol Concert in a couple of weeks and we can't wait to share them with you! There are so many confident singers in the class and we have started to work on small group and solo parts for the songs as well.

Year 4 News

Over the past two weeks, we have been using our DT skills to design and create pavilions. In teams, the children carefully planned what their structure would look like, created the frame out of a range of materials and then added cladding to it using woven paper or folded paper to create a corrugated look. The end-products were great and the children were also able to develop their teamwork skills.



In our other lessons, we have been learning about biomes and how they are formed due to the different geographical climate zones we have in the world; science allowed us to look at the effects of environmental changes in our world; and in PSHE, we looked at visualisation as a relaxation technique as well as celebrating mistakes. The children have been very enthusiastic learners and have entered into mature discussions about some of these subject areas.

In PE, the children's gymnastics skills have improved and they have been developing routines using their different movements and putting them to music.

Year 5 News

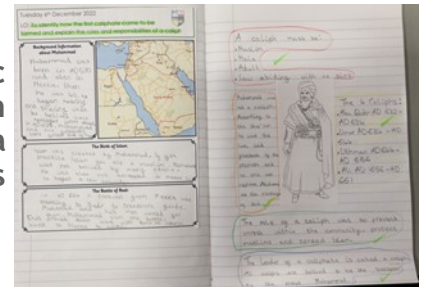
This week has been a very busy and productive week where the children have been completing their assessments for reading, writing and maths.



In English, we are near the end of our book (Journey to Jo'burg by Beverley Naidoo) and have made predictions about how we think the story might end. The children have learnt a lot about the apartheid system in South Africa and have impressed hugely through their writing tasks in English this term. We are now exploring two African weather poems; Rain and Rain, Rain, Rain and identifying various poetic features that we are familiar with. The children will then be planning and writing their own stanzas for the poem.

In maths, we are focusing on short multiplication and division. This week the children have been learning how to partition numbers in order to make our multiplications much easier. We then progressed to column method multiplication where all the children demonstrated their knowledge really well and applied their learning of the times tables in order to correctly answer questions.

In history, we have continued to explore the Early Islamic Civilisation and we know are all familiar with what a caliph is, the characteristics of a caliph, the important roles of a caliph and we have also learnt about the first four caliphs after the death of the Prophet Muhammed (pbuh).



In science this week we have been comparing life cycles of plants and animals. The children had the task of being a narrator for a new wildlife program called, "Life" and their job was to compare the life cycles of plants, mammals, amphibians, insects and birds by discussing the similarities and differences.

With assessment week finished, we will work together as a class to address common misconceptions in our tests so that we improve our scores for the Spring assessments! Year 5 have worked extremely hard this week and should be very proud of themselves.

Mr Todd