

Elmstead Wood Primary School

October 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you and your families have had a fantastic start to the new term. It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome our children back and see their enthusiasm and excitement as they embark on another year of learning and growth.

I am delighted to report that our children have settled in exceptionally well and are already making great strides in their learning. It is truly pleasing to see their smiling faces as they engage in their lessons, eager to absorb knowledge and develop new skills. I am confident that this positive start will set the tone for a successful and fulfilling year ahead.

In other exciting news, I am thrilled to inform you that our new nursery outside space has been completed! This beautiful space, designed to inspire creativity and exploration, will provide our youngest learners with a stimulating environment where they can develop their physical and cognitive abilities. We are immensely grateful to the Mottingham Big Local Refocused for generously funding some of the items that have made this project possible.

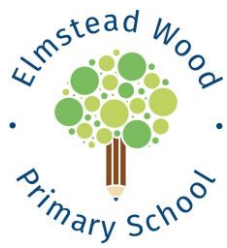
Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your children's education. Together, we can make this a truly remarkable year of growth and achievement.

Best wishes,

Mrs R Haig
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

16 th October to 27 th October	Half Term
10 th November	PTA Glow Disco
17 th November	Own Clothes – Children in Need
24 th November	INSET Day
28 th November	YR to Y6 Nasal Flu Vaccination
7 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
9 th December	PTA Christmas Fair
12 th December	9.15am Y1 and Y2 Christmas Concert to Parents 1.30pm EYFS (Reception and Nursery) Nativity
13 th December	9.30am EYFS Nativity 2pm Y3 and Y4 Christmas Concert to Parents
14 th December	2pm Y5 and Y6 Christmas Concert to Parents
18 th December	Christmas Dinner



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The new school year

If your child is late to school, after the gate closes at 8.50am, please will you bring your child in and sign them in to school. Children should not be left at the school gate to walk in on their own.

	Times from September 2023
Gates open for all children	8:40am
Gates close for all children	8:50am
End of the day for EYFS and KS1 children	3:20pm
End of the day for KS2 children	3:25pm

We will be continuing with our high expectations of uniform. We believe that school uniform helps to maintain high standards of appropriate dress and creates a school identity. We are proud of our distinctive royal blue uniform, worn with grey trousers or skirt. The uniform is practical, comfortable and easily washable and should be worn by all the children.

Boys and girls with long hair need to tie it back. No makeup, fake tan, nail polish, false nails or tattoo stickers to be worn at any time.

School Uniform:

- Royal blue jumper or cardigan
- Grey trousers or skirt (no jogging bottoms or leggings or jeans)
- Grey or white socks or tights
- White shirt or blouse
- School tie (KS1 and KS2)
- Black shoes, black trainers or black leather boots with no heels. No sandals, peep-toe shoes, fabric boots [Converse or Uggs] or heels should be worn.

Summer Uniform:

- Tailored grey shorts or trousers (No jogging bottoms, leggings or jeans)
- Light blue and white checked dress
- White shirt or blouse

School PE Kit:

- Blue or white T-shirt
- Blue shorts
- Black plimsolls or black trainers



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- For outdoor PE during the colder weather, navy blue or black jogging bottoms or leggings may be worn

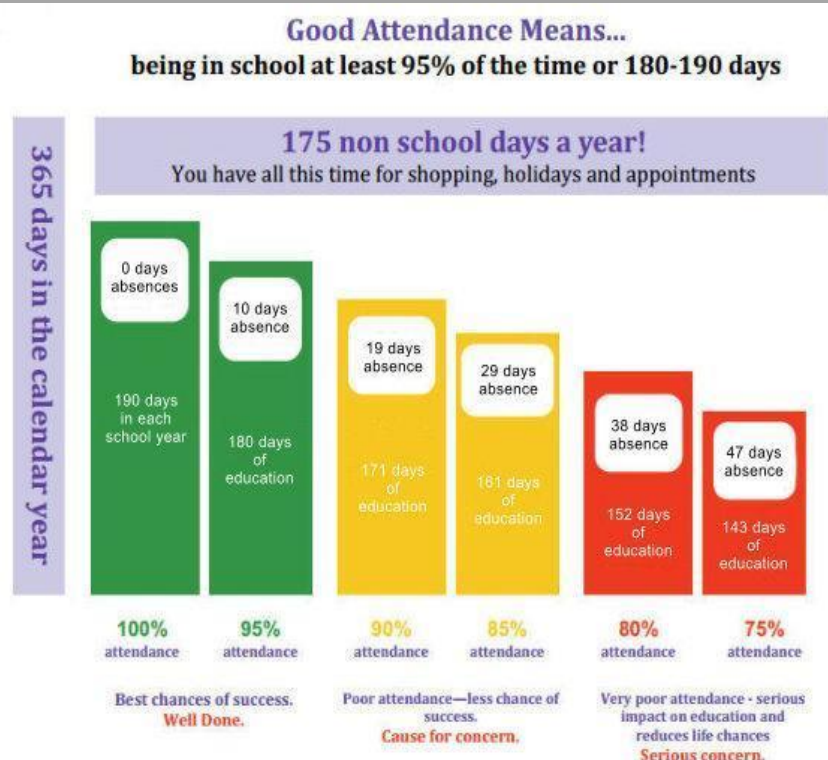
Jewellery: Only plain silver or gold stud earrings and a watch may be worn. No other jewellery is allowed. These should be removed for P.E. Children should be able to remove these.

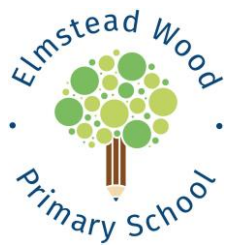
Our uniform is provided by:

JK Clothing
148 Well Hall Road
Eltham
SE9 6SN
Tel: 0208 859 4004
Web: www.jkclothing.net
Email: jkclothing@btconnect.com

In addition to this, we will be moving back to children changing in school for PE from September. Children should come to school wearing their smart school uniform each day, and bring their PE kit to school in a PE bag to be left here.

Attendance Matters





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Reception



Reception has had an amazing first half term in school. They have all made a successful start and settled extremely well. They are quickly adjusting to school life, routines and expectations. They have enjoyed exploring in our inside and outside learning environment as well as around the school. We participated in Harvest

Festival, met the guinea pigs and had fun on the school bus. We are enjoying our daily phonic lessons and love our play to learn time that we have every day. We had a fantastic time in our first Forest School and PE sessions too.

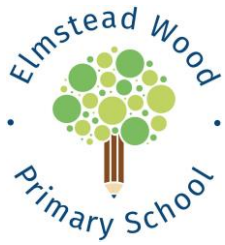
Well done to all the Reception Children all your teachers are very proud of you all!



Year 1

Year 1 has had a busy half term. In science, we discovered what a scientist does and explored the different equipment that they use. We even made our very own potions!





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In English, we have been reading 'The Gruffalo.' We followed clues to find out about the character and then used playdoh to create a model of him. We practised writing sentences and made some Wanted posters.



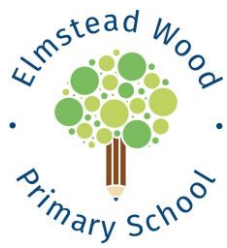
In Maths, we have been deepening our understanding of numbers up to 10. We have been counting, matching, finding one more and less and using mathematical vocabulary such as greater than to compare.



Year 2

Year 2 had a delightful afternoon when Mrs Wright and her young son came to visit. We have been learning about animal life cycles, including humans in Science lessons. We wrote questions about the care and growth of babies to ask Mrs Wright. We learned a lot about the changes that occur as humans grow.





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Year 3 and Year 4

The children have settled well into their new classes and have worked really hard across all areas of the Curriculum.

Elm Class have had Forest school this term with Ms Emma and have enjoyed learning outside the classroom, making giant spider webs as well as some spider art.



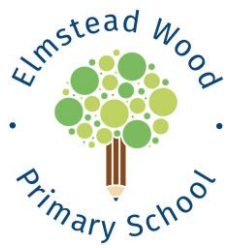
In music, the children have been learning to play a boomwhacker. These are long tubes with different musical notes which the children have learnt to play in tune to produce an accompaniment to a piece of Jazz music.



Willow Class have started their swimming lessons down at Eltham College - the children are enjoying these lessons although not the walk back to school after.

Beech Class have worked hard on their landscape art this term, looking at the work of Van Gogh and Lowry. We focussed on their style and tried to recreate this in our own pieces.





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Year 5 and Year 6

Year 5/6 have had a fantastic start to the year and we are so proud of every single one of them. We have looked at Macbeth and Skellig in English this term. Skellig follows a young boy called Michael, who is adjusting to his new house, when he discovers a mysterious owl-man living in his garage. With the help of his new friend Mina, the pair try to help Skellig, whilst keeping him a secret from Michael's parents. We have used Skellig as inspiration in our writing and have all worked really hard to create excellent setting descriptions and diary entries.

The Year 5's have been having a fantastic time at Kingswood and have had the opportunity to participate in a variety of exciting team-building activities: such as night-line and the leap of faith. The children have been practicing their listening and communication skills with each other in a variety of different scenarios.



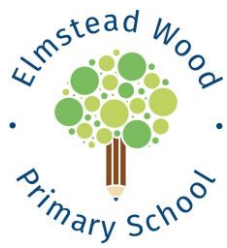
PE and Sport



It has been a busy start to the year for sport and PE!

Some of our year 4 girls took part in a football competition. They showed fantastic resilience, perseverance and fair play. There were some amazing defending skills and goal saves, as well as good footwork and striking. Our year 6 children participated in a netball tournament. We were really proud of how well they worked as a team against other schools.

We held a cricket competition to celebrate the start of the world cup. Children researched a country and then answered a range of questions. Congratulations goes to Elm for getting all of the questions correct. They will receive a cricket certificate and extra playtime with a range of sports equipment.



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Some of our children also had the opportunity to attend a cricket festival where they learnt a range of new skills including batting and bowling.



Word of the Term



As a school, we have begun to follow the Word Aware programme to teach vocabulary.

Word Aware is a structured whole school approach to promote the vocabulary development of all children.

There is clear evidence between children's vocabulary and language development and their success through school and beyond.

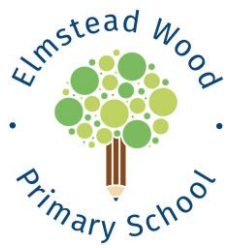
'Children who are behind in language development at **age five** are **six times less likely** to reach the expected standard in English at age eleven, and **11 times less likely** to achieve the expected level in maths.' *Department for Education, 2017*

'The correlation between vocabulary size and life chances is as firm as any correlation in educational research. Vocabulary is important because it embodies and communicates concepts.' *Ofsted 2019*

We will be sending out some more information about Word Aware over the coming months. In the meantime, we will be including a 'Word of the Term' and some word trivia on our termly newsletter.

Word of the Term

This term's word is:



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determined



Meaning

When someone is sure they want to do something, even if it is difficult.



Challenge

Ask someone at home to say the word **determined** in a sentence.



Word Joke

Q: Why was six scared of seven?

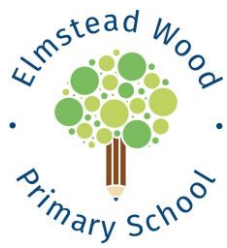
A: Because seven ate nine.

Word Fact

As adults we need to know at least 30,000 words. Most of these words are learnt in childhood which means children need to learn seven new words every day. Reading to your child is one way to expose your child to more words. If you come across an interesting word in a book, try and use it again in a conversation with your child.

Interesting/Unusual Words - Cacoethes

Cacoethes [kak-o-ee-thees] is the desperate urge to do something very inadvisable.



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Adrian



Adrian had a great weekend in Manchester where it was the last 2 National BMX Rounds this year, overall he's 5th the fastest boy in Male10 category in the Country. Earlier this year in August World BMX Championships he was in Glasgow where he managed to get 23rd position.

After BMX Regional Series Rounds Adrian overall is 1st in South Region. Adrian has qualified to take part next year in World BMX Championships in United States, South Carolina Rock Hill Supercross track, and Adrian's love for this sport is massive.

Adrian is looking for Sponsors, to support him in any way possible: gear, helmet, travelling, hotels etc

PTA

Welcome back to another great year at Elmstead Wood Primary School.

This academic year we will be holding a disco, cakes sales, Christmas and a summer fairs; we'll also be funding Easter treats for all, a Christmas pantomime, a movie afternoon and much more.

We want the best of our academic and extra-curricular opportunities for the students and we are grateful for all the support from parents who turn up to all our fundraising activities.

To be able to host and enjoy these lovely events we also need parent volunteers to help make them run smoothly and help raise as much as we possibly can. Without them none of this would be possible and I can't thank them enough for giving up their free time to help.

I would also like to take the time to thank the parents who helped host our yearly MacMillan cake sale and to everyone who attended the event. You helped raise £357.26 for McMillan Cancer research which is wonderful so thank you all!

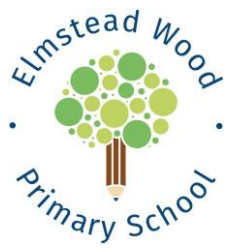
Our up coming event is a 'glow disco' which will be held on the 10th November. Information will be sent out soon.

In the spirit of planning ahead our Christmas fair this year will be held on Saturday the 9th of December. Come along and have a go at our Christmas games, meet Santa, enjoy some refreshments and maybe even pick up some Christmas gifts. We always have such a great turn out and everyone has lots of fun so hope to see lots of you there!

We are always in need of volunteers to help with our events so please let the office or Jo Wright know if you are able to help at all (even if it's just for an hour or two, any help is always hugely appreciated)!

We wish you all an amazing October half term and we look forward to seeing some of you at our upcoming events.

From all of us at PTA , Joanna Wright head of PTA



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Opal



Outdoor Play and Learning – Where children thrive!

Since OPAL has been introduced at Elmsteadwood Primary, the children have continued to thrive at lunchtimes with the continuous introduction of new play equipment and loose parts such as cones, dressing up clothes, suitcases and tyres. The Bus is a prominent object in the playground, children are able to access the mini library located upstairs and creative play downstairs!

How to help.

In order to continue with the important benefits of a stimulating outdoor learning environment and for the development of our children, we would love even more parental and community support. We are therefore asking if there are any parents out there who may have a trade (such as fencers, builders, gardeners etc.) or are able to retrieve items that would be useful in the playground? Examples would include:

- Garden Storage Units
- Pallets
- Tarpaulin
- Large plastic buckets

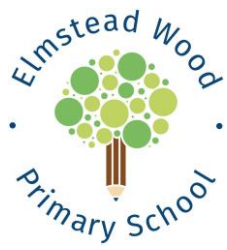
Wellies

It is that time of year again, and as the weather changes in order for children to enjoy the mud kitchen and the field, they MUST have named wellies or an alternative pair of shoes in school to enjoy these and other areas.

Without them, your child will not be able to go on the field. We have outdoor wellie sheds for each class so please bring in your wellies as soon as possible!

Many thanks!
The OPAL team.

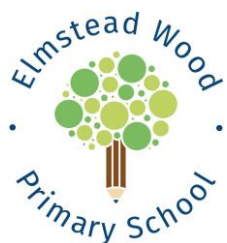




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Gerald Moore Gallery

SPOOKY OCTOBER HALF TERM WORKSHOPS



This October half term, the **Gerald Moore Gallery** is hosting art workshops that are fun, educational and **SCARY.....**

10am - 2.30pm, lunch break 12.00 - 12.30pm

Tuesday 17th October
Painting Club
Aged 9 - 16



Wednesday 18th October
Create Zombie Limbs
Aged 7 - 13

Thursday 19th October
Spooky Shadow Puppets
Aged 7 - 13



Monday 23rd October
Transform into a Monster!
Costume Making
Aged 7 - 13

Tuesday 24th October
Create a Spooky Haunted House
Aged 9 - 16

Wednesday 25th October
Origami Toys Workshop
Aged 7 - 13

Thursday 26th October
Pumpkin Carving
Aged 9 - 16



For more information or to book, please go to www.geraldmooregallery.org/holiday-workshops or scan the QR code.

All materials are provided. Run by artists.

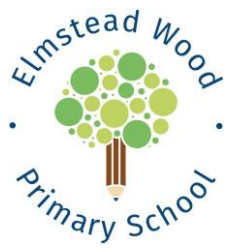
Gerald Moore Gallery
Mottingham Lane
London SE9 4RW

geraldmooregallery.org
info@geraldmooregallery.org
02088570448



**GERALD MOORE
GALLERY**

at Eltham College



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Presented by **PerformR**

HALLOWEEN

DANCE CAMP

23RD - 25TH OCTOBER
10:30 AM - 3:30 PM

*Early drop off service available from 10AM
each day for a small additional fee*

THE STUDIO CHISLEHURST,
BR7 5AG

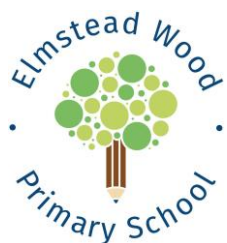
AGES: 4 - 14

£75 FOR 3 DAYS
£30 PER DAY

Fancy dress on
the last day!
Prize for the
best dressed!

 @PERFORMR_  INFO@PERFORMR.UK  @PERFORMR

PerformR are offering students of Elmstead Wood Primary School a **special discount!** Book on for all 3 days and pay only £70. Use the code: ELMSTEADWOOD5 to claim your discount!



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Bromley Youth Music Trust

Piano Lessons

at Elmstead Wood Primary School



Learn to play piano at school!

One-to-one piano lessons available for Years 3 to 6 to start from September.

Please contact the school office for an application form

RECOMMENDED FEES FOR LESSONS DELIVERED BY BYMT LICENSED TEACHERS SEPTEMBER 2023-JULY 2024

Fees will be reviewed annually by licensed teachers, who will communicate any increase to you directly in writing.

2 sharing 20 minute lesson OR 3 sharing 30 minutes..... £71.66 per term

Individual 15 minute lesson OR 2 sharing 30 minute lesson..... £107.50 per term

Individual 20 minute lesson..... £143.33 per term

Individual 30 minute lesson..... £215.00 per term

BYMT can provide financial support through the Young Musician's Bursary Scheme. For more information, please apply online via www.bymt.co.uk or call 020 8467 1566

CHARGES FOR INSTRUMENT HIRE THROUGH BYMT SEPTEMBER 2023-JULY 2024

To apply to hire an instrument please visit www.bymt.co.uk

To hire a 1/2 size violin or smaller, pibones, p/trumpets or Clarinets..... £35.00 per term

To hire any other instrument..... £55.00 per term
(we are unable to hire pianos, keyboards or guitars)

BROMLEY YOUTH MUSIC TRUST

BYMT also offers a wide range of bands, orchestras & choirs
Visit www.bymt.co.uk or call 020 8467 1566 to find out more!

Adult Choir | Adult Ukulele | Advanced Piano Maestros | Bromley Adult Musicians Orchestra | Big Band | Bromley Male Voices | Bromley Youth Chamber Orchestra | Bromley Youth Concert Band | Children's Choir | Elementary Band | Elementary Strings | Intermediate Strings | Jazz School | Junior Band | Junior Singers | Music Makers | Music Theory | Musical Theatre | Piano for Adult Beginners | Piano Virtuosi | Pop Band | Rock School | Roundabout | Saturday Strings | Concert Orchestra | Bromley Youth Symphony Orchestra | Saturday Bands | Sing! Bromley | Songwriting | Steel Pan Band | Ukulele Band | Young Music Makers | Youth Choir



BROMLEY YOUTH MUSIC TRUST LESSON APPLICATION FORM

At BYMT our vision is that all children, young people and the wider community have the opportunity to benefit from the enriching and transformative power of music.

BYMT places licensed teachers within your school and can offer individual musical instrument and vocal lessons.

For more information and to register online, please scan the QR code below or visit www.bymt.co.uk



If you do not have access to our website, please contact BYMT or complete the attached application form.

Bromley Youth Music Trust | Southborough Lane | Bromley | BR2 8AA
www.bymt.co.uk 020 8467 1566 @OfficialBYMT

Arbor

TERMILY DATA CHECK!

Due to the introduction of the Arbor Parent App last term, we are asking for your help in checking our pupil data. If you have not done so already, please register for our Arbor Parent App by going to

<https://elmstead-wood-primary.uk.arbor.sc/?/home-ui/index> and selecting 'First Time Logging in'.

Please ensure that the following information is up to date and correct:

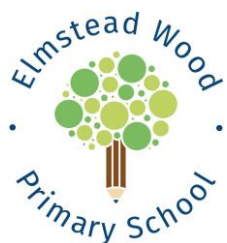
Ethnicity

Religion

Language

Home Address





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Family, Guardians & Contacts (<i>you can only amend and view your own details</i>)	
Dietary Requirements	
Medical	
Consents (<i>please review consents as some of these have changed</i>)	

Free School Meals - vouchers

As you are probably aware, the provision of weekly £15 food vouchers during school holidays is continuing for any child who is eligible for benefits related free school meals.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are able to get free school meals. This is for **all** children no matter what you earn or benefits you receive. This is claimed automatically by the school and is called Universal Free School Meals.

If you receive any of the qualifying benefits below, you may qualify for free school meals, regardless of which year group your child is in. The school will also receive additional funding known as Pupil Premium.

You should still make a claim, if you can, even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2.

If you get any of the following benefits, it helps your child **and the school** when you make a claim.

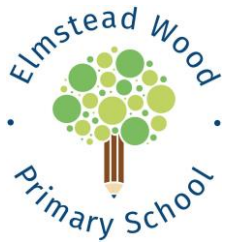
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they are in on 31 March 2022.

You can make a claim via the website

https://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/200086/schools_and_colleges/62/free_school_meals

or contact the school office for more information



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School Office Notices

- Please ensure that all changes in collection arrangements for your child are phoned into the school office before 2:45pm.
- All paid school services must be paid for in advance (breakfast club, after school club, school dinners). The school has credit control procedures in place for any arrears.
- If you need to book breakfast club or after school club on an ad hoc basis, please email the relevant club in advance. Payment on ParentPay must be made before your child attends and does not automatically notify the club that your child will be attending.
- Please could all late arrivals be signed in at the school office.
- If children are not collected by 3:30pm and the school has not received notification from a parent or guardian, they will be taken to the after school club. This is a chargeable service.