

Elmstead Wood Primary School

March 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you are enjoying the warmer weather and the arrival of spring. It's hard to believe that we are already nearing Easter!

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all of our hardworking children who have continued to impress us with their dedication and commitment to their learning. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed, and it is great to see the progress that they are making.



We recently celebrated World Book Day which, as you know, is a day dedicated to the joy of reading and storytelling. The children and staff in the school wholeheartedly embraced the occasion, dressing up as their favourite book characters and engaging in various activities throughout the day. It was so good to see their enthusiasm and love for books.

In addition to this, we held our Book Fair, where the children had the opportunity to explore (and purchase!) a wide range of books to expand their reading opportunities. I am very grateful to Mr. Hemming, Miss Sheehan and the PTA who organised and supported this event to help foster a love for reading for our children.

On Wednesday 27th March, we will be holding our "Wear Green to be Seen" day, to raise funds for a local charity, CASPA. Kim and Evie from CASPA held an assembly in school, in which they told the children about the charity and all that it does to support autistic children and adults in Bromley. Please do help to support CASPA by encouraging your children to wear something green (if possible) to school on Wednesday 27th March, in return for a cash donation.

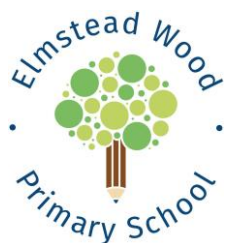
At the end of this week, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs. Frampton, our Beech class teacher, who is taking on a new position at a school nearer to her home. I'm sure that you will join with me in wishing her well in her future career. I am very pleased to let you know that we have secured a new teacher, Miss Angeli, who will be taking over as the Beech class teacher for the Summer Term.

To finish, I would like to express my gratitude for your ongoing support and involvement in our school community. Together, we can create a nurturing and inspiring environment for our children to thrive.

I would like to wish you all a very happy Easter break, and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday, 15th April.

Best wishes,

Mrs R Haig
Headteacher



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Dates for your Diary

27 th March	Wear Green to be Seen Day as part of autism awareness week
28 th March	Last day of the Spring Term - Easter Bonnet Parade
29 th March	Start of Easter holidays
15 th April	Pupils return to school for the Summer Term
20 th April	PTA Boot Fair
13 th May to 16 th May	Year 6 SATs
21 st May	PTA Cake and Coffee Picnic
27 th May to 31 st May	Half Term
3 rd June	Pupils return to school for second half of Summer Term
5 th to 7 th June	Y6 visit to Longridge
13 th June	Class Photos
18 th June	KS1 Sports Day (AM) KS2 Sports Day (PM)
20 th June	Nursery Sports Day (AM)
1 st July	Y2 Ash class visiting Horniman Museum
11 th July	Y2 Elder class visiting Horniman Museum

Reception

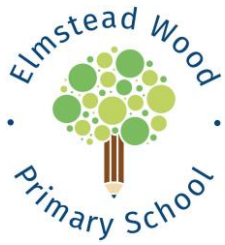
Apple and Cherry classes have had a marvellous time learning about Minibeasts this half term. We have really enjoyed all our topic books in our English sessions. We



participated in a Wiggly Wild Show and got to see, handle and find out about a variety of minibeasts. We all dressed up for our first world book day and loved reading, sharing and talking about books.

Our Forest school sessions have been very muddy this half term but we have still had fun!





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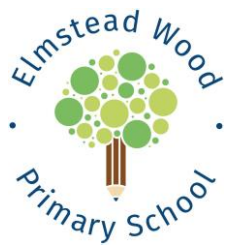
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Year 1

In English, we learnt about the features of instructions. We followed instructions to make chocolate rice crispy cakes.





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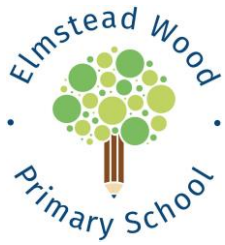
During science week, we made straw planes. We carried out a simple test and investigated and recorded how far they flew.



Year 2

Ash and Elder classes enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Docklands Museum in Canary Wharf. They learned all about how the River Thames has been utilised for trade over time. They had the opportunity to observe real artefacts, walk through a recreation of how the alleyways of the docklands would have looked, and to learn more through composing songs and singing shanties, bringing the sounds of the docklands alive. We finished our visit by learning more about the docks through water play, construction materials, balancing weights, lifting loads, dressing up, small world play and more! Our children were complimented on their enthusiasm by museum staff. A great day was had by all.





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Year 2 had a wonderful time on 'World Book Day,' and celebrated the occasion by dressing up as book characters. Children in Ash and Elder Classes, dressed as: Spiderman, Sleeping Beauty, Cat In the Hat, Harry Potter, Snow White, and Cinderella, to name but a few! Staff members appeared as Minnie the Minx, Miss Honey, Mary Poppins, Supertato and Matilda.

The PTA organised a highly successful event for 'Someone Special.' The children were able to choose a gift, wrap it, decorate and add a label.

During the afternoon, prizes were awarded for the short story competition and all the children were invited to show their costumes by parading around the hall.

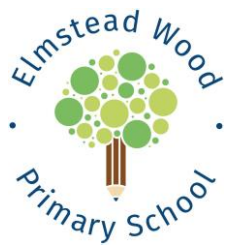
A fun, colourful and imaginative day was had by all.



Year 3 and Year 4

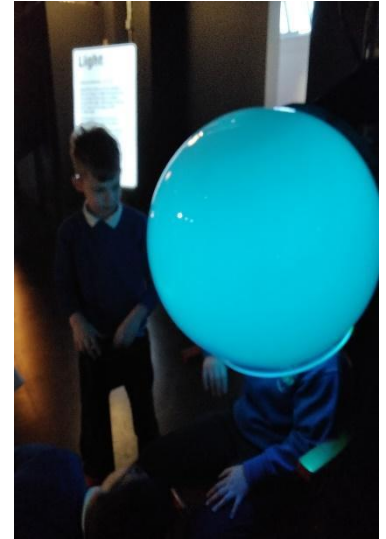


Year 3 and 4 had a fantastic time at the Science Museum this term. We visited the Wonderlab, where we had the chance to come up close and personal with all things Science. The Wonderlab enabled the children to use their scientific knowledge to make things happen - completing an electrical circuit by linking wires to light a bulb or using a pulley mechanism to make a chair move, even with a chair sitting on it. The highlight of the day was going down the three slides, looking at the different surfaces and how this impacted on the speed the children travelled. The children had a great time, and many passengers commented on how well the children behaved and how polite they were. Well done Year 3 and 4. Also, a massive thank you to our parent helpers who gave up their time to accompany us on our trip.



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Year 5 and Year 6

In Year 5/6, we have been working very hard on our artwork this half term. We have learnt about complementary and harmonious colours and explored this by looking at a range of artists.



World Book Day Short Story Competition Winners

Below are the winner's entries for the short story competition:

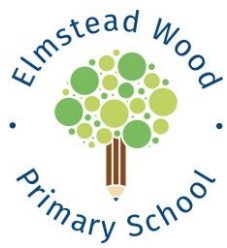
Y5/Y6 Short Story Competition

Alfie-Ray - Year 6

If I'd never learnt how, none of this would have happened. This is the story of how I broke the universe and (spoiler alert) why I am floating in the vacuum of space for eternity. It started when I saw an advert in the back of my comic book saying about a time travelling watch. There was a phone number on the bottom of the page. I quickly called the number. After a few seconds, I heard a man answer "Hello?" An unpleasant voice uttered "This is Tommy, what may I do for you?"

"I would like to buy the time travelling watch", I replied in an out of breath voice.

"OK, what is your name and address?" asked Tommy.



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"My name is Eddie and my address is 23 Phoenix Street," I answered hesitantly.
"Ok it'll arrive on the 12th March", Tommy retorted "Goodbye!"

The call ended and now all I had to do was wait; a few weeks later it arrived. I ripped the box open to find an old, rusty watch. It looked like it hadn't been cleaned in a millennium. The rust fell into my grubby hands. I didn't care, all I wanted to do was to see if it worked. On the instructions it said that you needed to set the date on the clock part of the watch and then press the middle of the clock to teleport to that time. The first time I wanted to go to was the Tudor times. I dialled the number on the clock and pressed the button. Red, yellow and orange lights flew past my fragile head. Then, I was there, right outside the Gunpowder Plot, just before it was about to happen. I wanted to help but suddenly I was grabbed by a mysterious figure and they pulled me into the shadows. My legs shook with fear. I tried to press the watch but couldn't. I knew what I had to do was to smash the watch. Colours didn't flash past me, instead there was just darkness and I was in space.

Darcie - Year 6

"Surprise!" they shouted, leaping out from behind the door. I screamed "What? Oh okay!" Sorry, this is how it all began. Darkness surrounded me, as the sound of guns, screaming, shouting and bombs falling directly on to me from the sky were overwhelming me. I could hardly think straight; my head and heart were pounding, as if they were going to jump out of my body. But I had to bear with it, I had to run, run, run as far as my legs could take my weight. I hit the floor with a thud. I woke up in silence. No silhouette in sight. I got up in pain wondering if anyone was even around. The floor was bare, not even a blade of grass in sight. The air was smoky and foggy. Everything around me smelt like burnt metal. I thought there was no point in staying since there was no one even there. "Sorry, I need popcorn, this is getting good. Do you want one?" Anyhow, I went to my house wanting to actually have a good sleep for once in two years. As soon as I woke up, I wanted to change plans and stay in bed for eternity! I then realised that wasn't an option so I got dressed and did all the "normal things" you do in the morning, went to the garage and ...

"Surprise!" they shouted, leaping out from behind the door. "Now that's where we're at!" I screamed with all the power I had, I barely recognised them, was it my friends? I hadn't seen them in ages!

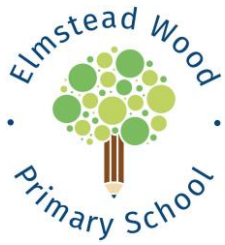
Y3/4 Short Story Competition

Hazel - Year 4

Tom couldn't shake the feeling he was being watched... he was exploring a dark, gloomy, dense part of the forest he thought he knew very well, but was realising that he didn't recognise it. He had a nagging feeling that something wasn't right. He heard a rush of movement from a nearby clearing and sprinted to investigate.

Tom was 13 years old. He was walking home from school on a Friday when he decided to take the long way through the woods. He had been through the forest many times, but had never seen this damp, dull, foreboding place before. He roamed through the trees, inspecting every inch of land for a trace of life. The forest seemed void of birds, insects or any living creature apart from himself.

Out of the corner of his eye, he glimpsed a dark shape dashing across his vision's edge and out of sight. Then, from the leaves he saw it... a human shadow! It was standing there, clear as day, moving of its own accord but not attached to a body. Concerned, Tom looked down and realised that his shadow was not falling on the forest floor, even though the sun glowed through the canopy and his shadow should have been there. Tom suddenly came to the realisation that it was his shadow standing separate from his body. His shadow slowly bent down and wrote with his finger 'show your other side' in the rich



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earth. As he moved, the finger changed shape, first short and stubby, then long and spindly. At the bemused expression on Tom's face, the shadow shook its head in exasperation and then beckoned to Tom to follow.

It jogged away, only glancing back to see if Tom was still behind him. As it stepped into the dense trees, it melted away. Tom was startled. His shadow, which had just proved itself to be solid as stone by writing a strange message in the ground, had disappeared into the damp earth in front of a bush. Tom ran forward, curious to see if his shadow had returned to its normal state of lying on the ground and mimicking his movements. But when he reached the lush bush the shadow had presumably disappeared into, he saw a blazing orange hole in the earth. He felt a sudden nagging urge to leap into it, he had a feeling in his heart that something good and magical was in that hole. He glanced upwards and noticed that the bush, which had been right in front of him before, had vanished. Then he heard something rustling behind him... it was the bush! Before he could turn around, the bush had gently nudged him towards the hole. Tom stumbled in shock and fell face first into the mysterious, cavernous hole. He was falling. Not into the earth's core but through the warm, orange sky of some unknown land!

He vaguely wondered how he was breathing. The air would be much too thin, if he was so high up. As he fell, the speck, which was clearly his shadow falling beneath him, floated up beside him. As it did so, white puffy clouds surrounded them, blocking the view of the sunset sky. Then he saw something. On the clouds, memories. The reason he knew this, is because they were his memories being projected onto the clouds from some unknown source. Sitting at school with his back straight, hand in the air, not showing his true opinion. Then, him telling his little brother off for breaking a vase, even though he thought it was absolutely hilarious that his brother had done this. Then suddenly he understood what the message meant that the shadow had written on the ground. It meant show your opinion and show who you truly are! Eventually, after falling through memories of himself trying to be someone he is not, he found himself lying on his comfortable bed. It was all a dream.

The following Monday, he remembered to show who he truly was in class. He stood up for himself and gave his opinion – even though he was still sensible and did the right thing, he always remembered to try his hardest, stand up for his beliefs and be who he truly was. All thanks to the shadow he met in his dream.

When he walked home from school, he decided to go through the forest as he had done in his dream. He walked the usual way through the lush, green leaves and beautiful spring flowers. On his way through the forest, a small crumbled wall caught his eye. It hadn't been there before. Then he noticed graffiti on it. There was a painting of a shadow holding a spray can. The words 'SHOW YOUR OTHER SIDE' were written in bright neon, orange, just like the sunset in the blazing hole. Smiling to himself, Tom wondered, was it really a dream?

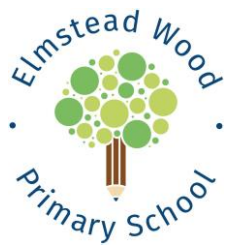
Harvey - Year 4

If I'd never learnt how to time travel, none of this would have happened. One day I was playing a Taekwondo game and my mum came in yelling "Nicholas!"

"Yes mum", I said.

"You need to do your homework".

Suddenly there was a blackout. When the power came back I was gone! It had appeared I had been SUCKED into the game!! When I woke up I was in an arena lying on the ground with the name SHADOW above me. I saw it was the finals, so I stood up and practised the moves that I did on my controller on my opponent.



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Eventually I won and the coach gave me a trophy. "I've never had a trophy before so it was exciting," I said.

The coach said "come to the next tournament".

I said "sure".

When I came, I made it to the quarter finals and semifinals but not the finals. But they let me compete in the finals because in the last round my opponent had drugged my water. I won three finals and got a gold cup. Meanwhile, at the house there was a black out. When the power came on, I was there holding two medals and my Taekwondo gear, My mum was still shouting "Nicholas!" but I kicked my foot high and said "Look at my medals." I think I should time travel more often.

KS1 Short Story Competition

George - Year 2

I had a dream last night. I was a dragon. I looked at myself. I had a long tail and long wings. I started to fly. I explored the world, I flew to the sky over the clouds and the mountain. Suddenly I saw a little girl waving her hand at me. I flew down to meet her. She was nice and brave. She jumped on my back. After a long time flying, we stopped to have a rest on the tallest mountain and we had a very beautiful sunset.

OPAL



Come rain or shine...

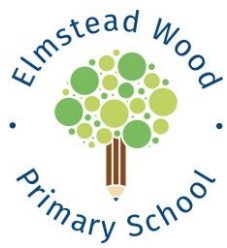
We would like **children** to be able to play outside in **all weathers** but this is dependent on the clothes and footwear they have in school.

Please remember that the mud kitchen and field are for children to enjoy in all weathers. So that they can play happily they **MUST** have **named wellies** and a warm waterproof coat in school to enjoy these and other areas. Without wellies, your child will not be able to go on the field. We have outdoor wellie sheds for each class to keep them dry.

Loose parts is something that we heavily rely on for creating the OPAL environment. They can be natural materials like logs and stones or man made items such as tyres, crates and planks.

This month we will be collecting:

- Suitcases
- Compost
- Bedding plants or gardening equipment



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We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continuous support.

The OPAL Team

The 'Theory of loose parts' (Nicholson 1971) says that the more moveable things there are in a play environment, the greater the number of possibilities there will be for invention, creation and imagination

Attendance

Attendance Matters!

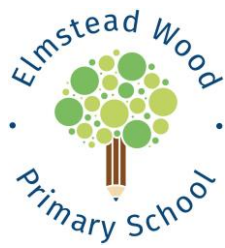


Every Student, Every School, Every Day

We need your help, please!

We know that sometimes our pupils cannot come to school because they are really unwell - and that's the right thing to do for them and other students. Medical advice is clear however that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend - for example if they have a cough, or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance "Is my child too ill for school?" (www.nhs.uk) is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.

We also know that pupils fall behind their friends and classmates when they miss school. At Elmstead Wood Primary School, we want the amount of missed education to be reduced as much as possible. We believe that our community is stronger together, with all of our pupils in school, on time, every day. We are building life skills, life-long friendships and preparing your child for future success.

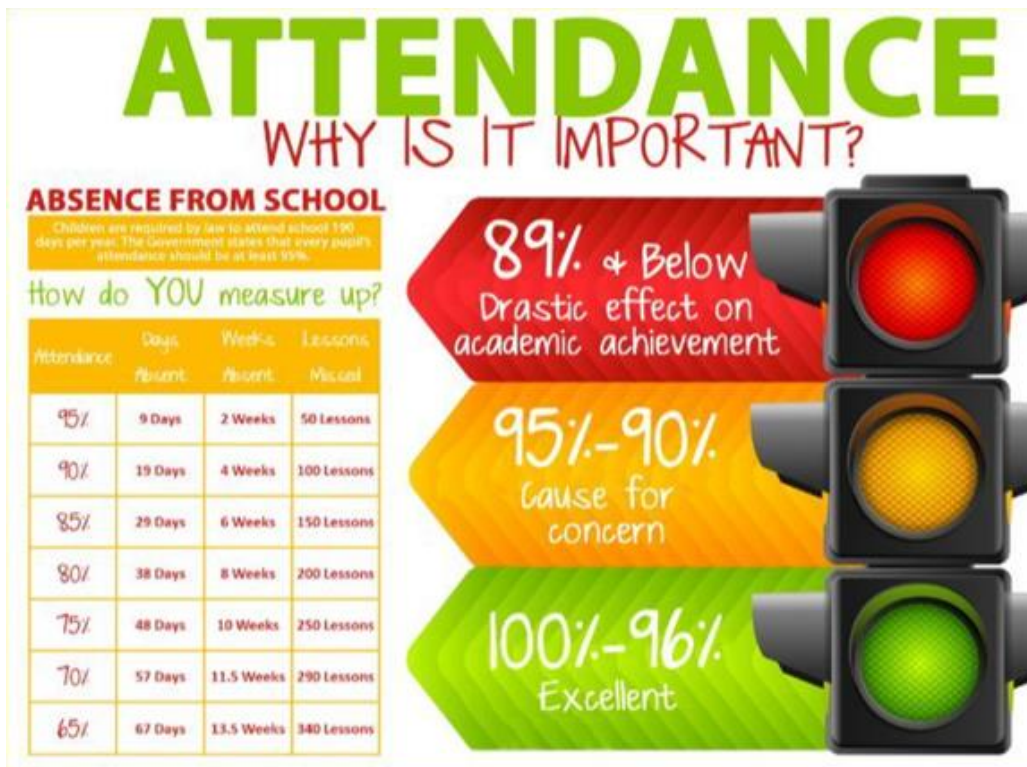


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We also know that you can have a significant effect on your child's absences this academic year and we would really appreciate your help and support ensuring that your child comes to school every day so that they can get the best possible outcomes. We want to work with you to achieve this – please call or come in and meet with me if there is anything we can do to support you or your child. We appreciate that every family's situation is unique.

Thank you - Mrs Arnold

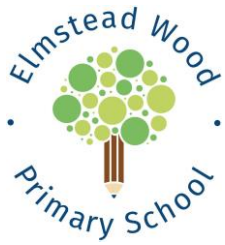


Word of the Term



'Remember, words are important!'

'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*



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Word of the Term

This term's word is:

nourishing



Meaning

Something that helps you grow or be healthy.



Challenge

What foods are really **nourishing**?



Word Joke



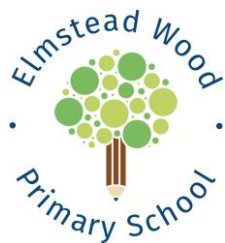
It's not a dad bod—it's a father figure!

Interesting/Unusual Words - *Boondoggle*

Boondoggle: to spend time on a project you'll ultimately regret.

Word Fact/Advice

Words we think of as 'English' quite often originate from abroad. 'Ketchup' comes from Malaysia, 'bacon' is French, 'chocolate' is from Mexico, 'barbecue' from the Caribbean and 'pyjamas' come from India. Do you know where other words come from?



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Bromley Holiday and Food Programme

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME

Bromley Youth Support programme will be delivering 4 sessions of fun holiday activities in each of 4 venues across the borough this spring break. That's 16 sessions of fun activities for young people.

To be eligible, you need to be 8 years of age or over receiving BENEFIT RELATED free school meals.

To see the dates and times and to secure a place on the programme please follow this link or use the QR Code:

<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/xfp/form/228>

Places will be confirmed by email once applications are received.

The activity on each day will include a meal and fun creative and sports activities. More details of activities to follow at:

Facebook: @BromleyYouthActivities

Twitter: @BromleyYouth

Priority of places will be given to those that live or attend school in the Bromley borough

This programme is funded by the Department for Education



Times Table Rockstars (TTRS) and Numbots

It is recommended that your child does a little bit of times table practice every night. Short bursts of practise on a daily basis are more effective than spending hours once a week.



All children in KS1 and KS2 have access to Numbots. It is geared more for KS1 children but all children can engage with the programme. We have been awarding certificates in assembly for children who have been participating regularly.

ABOUT NUMBOTS

What is NumBots?

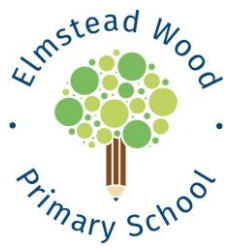
NumBots is an online maths learning platform that helps children learn how to add and subtract, improving their fluency and recall in basic mental maths, and equipping them with maths confidence.

Why is NumBots important?

Basic number skills are the essential building blocks for higher-level maths concepts. NumBots covers number recognition, number bonds, and addition and subtraction of double digit numbers; gradually helping your child to build a solid conceptual understanding of number sense.

How often should my child play?

We recommend a little and often approach; 3 minutes practice a day, 4 times a week is a good target.



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PTA

We have some amazing events coming up this year. We are looking forward to hosting and planning these events.

List of events for your dairy;

- Boot Fair on Saturday 20th April
- Cake and Coffee Picnic on Tuesday 21st May
- Own Clothes Days on Wednesday 3rd July
- Summer Fair on Saturday 6th July

Here is some information on these events:

- In April we are so happy to be holding our first Boot Fair! Many people over the years have asked for us to hold a Boot Fair! This will be a pre-booked event for a space. More information will be sent out after half term.
- During May, we will be holding a cake and coffee picnic in the playground after school. Come and join the children playing and having a nice chat with a slice of cake. More details will follow shortly.
- In July, we will hold our annual Summer Fair. We will have an own clothes day for donations of drinks and sweets for the tombola. More information to follow closer to the time.

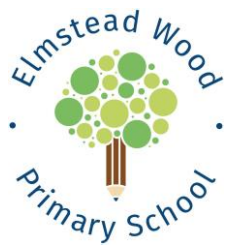
We are always looking for more PTA members to come and join our lovely team. We hold meetings every two weeks. If you are unable to attend meetings but would like to help out in events, please just let the office know and we will be in touch!

Thank you to everyone for all your help and support with all events that the PTA run. We really appreciate all the support and help.

Jo Wright
Head of PTA

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). The school has credit control procedures in place for any arrears.



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- 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 on the EntrySign in the entrance hall.
- 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.

Mottingham Health and Wellbeing

Join our free events. With refreshments and health information. Location: St Edwards Church, 35 St Keverne Road, Nottingham, SE9 4AQ.

- **Family Health and Wellbeing event. Wednesday 27 March 11am-3pm.** Open to all families, parents and carers. With mental health advice, tips and support; vaccination advice and booking help; blood pressure checks. Children activities.
- **Young Mums Wellbeing Café and MMR Vaccination Clinic 10 April 10am-2pm.** Meet other local mums, get health information and socialise. On the day we will have Dr Chris Fatoyinbo to answer your questions and a MMR pop-up clinic to get your child protected.

You can book your vaccine in advance on <https://qrco.de/MottinghamMMRclinic>, use the QR code or walk-in on the day

