

Elmstead Wood Primary School

October 2025 Newsletter

Dear Elmstead Wood Families

Welcome back to Elmstead Wood Primary for the start of our **Autumn Term**. I hope you and your families enjoyed a restful summer break. It has been wonderful to see the children return to school full of energy, ready to learn and eager to take on the challenges of the year ahead.

The term is already off to a fantastic start. Our pupils have taken part in a number of **sporting events**, showing great teamwork and determination. We are especially proud of our baseball team, who achieved an impressive **3rd place out of 18 schools** – a brilliant result that reflects their hard work and commitment. Football and netball fixtures have also been well-attended, with children representing our school with pride.

The **Harvest Festival assembly** has been another highlight - thank you so much for your generous donations. These are gratefully appreciated by those in need. We have packed a lot on as we've also had **Citizenship Week**, where we had lots of visitors and pupils had a chance to reflect on the importance of kindness, respect and responsibility through a variety of activities.

In lessons, the children are already showing great enthusiasm for their new topics, and it is inspiring to see their curiosity and determination to succeed.

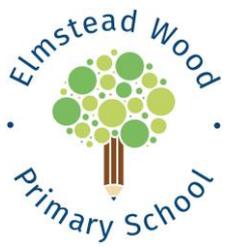
Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I look forward to sharing more of the children's successes throughout the term.

With warm regards,

Mrs C Lewis
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

6 th Oct	Harvest Festival
7 th Oct	Parents Evening
9 th Oct	Parents Evening
20 th -31 st Oct	Half Term
3 rd Nov	First day back after half term
7 th Nov	PTA Glow Disco
18 th Nov	Rec to Year 6 Flu Vaccinations
20 th Nov	9.30am Open Morning
21 st Nov	INSET day (children not in school)



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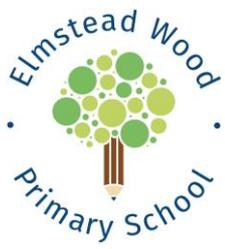
29 th Nov	Christmas Fair
11 th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
18 th Dec	Christmas Dinner
19 th Dec	Last Day of Term
6 th Jan	First Day of Spring Term

Reception

What a fabulous couple of weeks our reception children have had! They are settling in beautifully, learning new routines and beginning to form lovely friendships.

It has been a joy to see so much fabulous play and learning taking place. They have shown great collaboration, problem solving and curiosity and a readiness to learn.





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Year 1



Year 1 have enjoyed our English book 'The Gruffalo' and have spent time exploring the school with our self-made binoculars.

Year 2



Year 2 have been learning to play the Pbuzz in their Music lessons this half term. They have loved finding out how to make a sound from this fun instrument. Now they have mastered the basics, they are working hard learning to play simple songs by altering the notes.



Year 3 and Year 4

This term in Science, we've been exploring the human body – focusing on bones, muscles, and how they help us move. The children took part in a fun experiment to investigate whether there's a connection between the length of their legs, how fast they can run, and how far they can jump. It was a great hands-on way to apply what we've been learning!





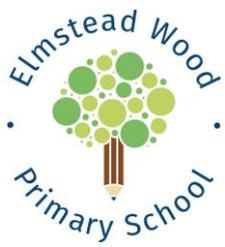
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Year 5 and Year 6

We have had a great start to the Autumn term.
We have been learning lots throughout the curriculum.
In art we have been looking at light and shade trying to give our artwork tone through shading





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PE and Sport

What an incredible term of sports it has been! Our children have shown excellent sportsmanship, resilience and teamwork across all the competitions - values that we are incredibly proud of!

Teams competed in a trust football event, netball and baseball, giving their absolute best on and off the field. With determination and a positive attitude they represented our school with pride, supporting one another and showing respect to their opponents.

We are thrilled to share that our baseball team came third place and each child received a medal!



Attendance

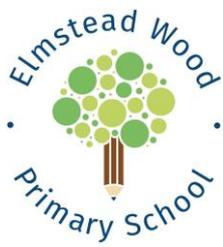
Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

Attendance is a key priority for Elmstead Wood Primary School and our target for overall attendance this year is 96.5%. Good attendance underpins academic achievement and we want all of our children to achieve and succeed.

We will soon be sending out letters to parents of children whose attendance is falling below the Department for Education's minimum expectation of 96% attendance. If you would like to discuss any



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concerns regarding your child's attendance, please do contact me. We want to offer support early so that we can resolve any issues as quickly as possible.

Thank you for supporting your child at school.
Mrs Arnold



Help your child to come to school on time:

- Get everything ready for school the night before.
- Have the same bedtime routines every night.
- Get up early enough every morning.
- Eat a good breakfast.
- Allow plenty of travel.
- Form good habits

Children only get one chance to attend school and to take advantage of all we have to offer!
THEIR FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS...

OPAL

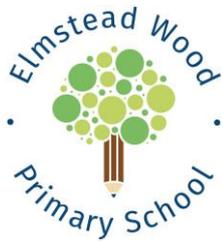


Outdoor Play and Learning – Where children thrive!

Since OPAL has been introduced at Elmstead Wood Primary, the children have continued to thrive at lunchtimes with the continuous introduction of new play equipment and loose parts. The Bus is a prominent feature in the playground, and children are able to access the mini library located upstairs with 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,



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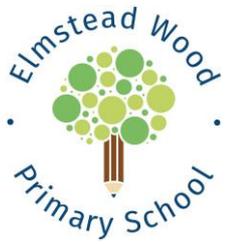
gardeners etc.) or are able to retrieve items that would be useful in the playground? We have put together two lists of potential resources that would benefit the children.

Fabricated loose parts (see list A)- anything man made that is not a toy or a specific piece of sport equipment.

Natural loose parts (see list B)- is any moveable natural material that children can transport, mix, and construct with or incorporate into their play

Any donations or loose parts should be dropped at the front gate. Please ensure a member of staff is made aware, so that they can be taken and stored. Whilst we thoroughly check all items for their safety, it would be appreciated if you could check the items to ensure they are safe enough to play with.

Fabricated List (A)	Natural List (B)
Boards/ Panels	Branches/sticks
Brief cases	Logs
Buggies/push chairs	Pine cones
Cable drums	Play bark/wood chip
Foam pipe covers and noodles	
Guttering (any shape and size)	
Hoses and Pipes (gas, water, drainage)	
Keyboards	
Metal pots and pans	
Old household appliances (hoovers, fax machines)	
Plastic road barriers	



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Plastic trugs and bin	
Plastic Barrels (cleaned)	

Wellies

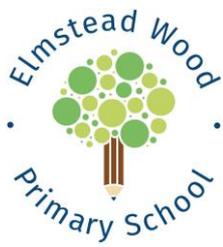
It is that time of year again, and as the weather changes in order for children to enjoy the mud kitchen and the field, they MUST have named wellies or an alternative pair of shoes in school to enjoy these and other areas.

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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Universal Free School Meals

The Mayor of London's office has confirmed that they are extending the Universal Free School Meals offer for the Academic Year 2024 / 25. However, if you are eligible to receive free school meals as per the criteria below, please do apply as this results in extra funding for the school.

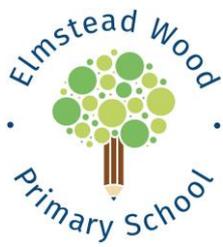
Parents can apply through the London Borough of Bromley link for Pupil Premium at regular intervals throughout the year. <https://www.bromley.gov.uk/FreeSchoolMeals>

To be eligible for Pupil Premium, families should be in receipt of the following:

- Income support
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (providing you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit), with a gross annual household income of no more than £16,190 (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs-HMRC)
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment received for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit, with a net annual household income of £7,400 or less (after tax and not including any other benefits you receive).

School Office Notices

- **Medication** – Prescribed medication can be administered by the school. If your child needs to have medication during the school day, please come in and complete a form to give us permission. However, we are no longer be allowed to administer Calpol, Nurofen or Piriton.
- **Contact details** - Please make sure the school office has 2 points of contacts for your children. It is



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part of our Safeguarding Policy that you have 2 contacts on Arbor. Remember to update us when you have changed your circumstances. Please contact us either by the school office on 020 8857 1504 or email admin@elmsteadwoodprimary.co.uk

- **Absence** - When reporting absences for your child please either contact the school office by 9 am on 020 8857 1504. You can also report this by email attendance@elmsteadwoodprimary.co.uk Please do not report absences on Class Dojo
- **Arbor** - Everyone should be able to log-in into arbor this system is to update any info regarding your child such as: Family, Guardian Contacts (all people that collect your children need to be on arbor) Medical Consents section (you will need to consent to your child attending local trips, photographs and many more
- 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.
- If you need to book breakfast club or after school club on an ad hoc basis, please email the relevant club in advance on breakfastclub@elmsteadwoodprimary.co.uk or afterschoolclub@elmsteadwoodprimary.co.uk . 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.

Flyers

HALLOWEEN SPOOKY TRAIL
20th - 31st October

Join in our trail to find the animals hidden in Halloween pictures around the farm
Collect your prize from the Tea Room

Open daily (except Tuesday)
from 1.30pm - 4.30pm

£4 per entry

FOAL FARM
Animal Rescue

Foal Farm Animal Rescue
Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, TN16 3AX
www.foalfarm.org.uk