

# Elmstead Wood Primary School

May 2024 Newsletter

## Dear Parents and Carers

As 2024 is flying along at a whirlwind pace, it's hard to believe that we're already nearing the end of another school year! As we approach the final stretch, there's so much to celebrate and look forward to.

First and foremost, I would like to give a resounding well done to Year 6 who recently tackled their SATs tests with remarkable determination and resilience. Their hard work and dedication truly shone through, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements.

Speaking of hard work, it's been an absolute joy to witness the unwavering commitment of all our children throughout the year. Their enthusiasm for learning and personal growth has been nothing short of inspiring, and we're incredibly grateful for their efforts.

As we enter the final term, there's no shortage of exciting events and activities on the horizon. The Year 6 residential trip promises to be a highlight, offering them a chance to bond, explore, and create lasting memories. Additionally, we're eagerly anticipating the Year 6 production of *The Jungle Book*, where our talented performers will undoubtedly dazzle us with their creativity and stage presence.

Mark your calendars for our annual Sports Day! This beloved event is a fantastic opportunity for our children to showcase their athletic abilities, foster a spirit of friendly competition, and, most importantly, have fun!

Furthermore, we have a variety of educational trips and visits planned, providing our children with invaluable hands-on learning experiences that will enrich their understanding of the world around them.

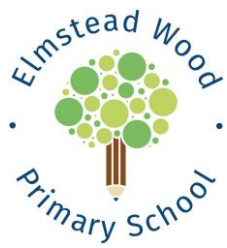
As we navigate through these exciting times, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and, of course, our remarkable children. Together, we've made this year a resounding success, and we look forward to ending it on a high!

Best wishes,

**Mrs R Haig**  
Headteacher

## Dates for your Diary

27 <sup>th</sup> May to 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Half Term
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Pupils return to school for second half of Summer Term
5 <sup>th</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 visit to Longridge
13 <sup>th</sup> June	Class Photos



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18 <sup>th</sup> June	KS1 Sports Day (AM) KS2 Sports Day (PM)
20 <sup>th</sup> June	Nursery Sports Day (AM)
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Y2 Ash class visiting Horniman Museum
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Own clothes day for Summer Fair
4 <sup>th</sup> July	Y1 Trip to the Cutty Sark
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Y1 Trip to the Cutty Sark
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Fair
11 <sup>th</sup> July	Y2 Elder class visiting Horniman Museum
17 <sup>th</sup> July	1.30pm Y6 Production
18 <sup>th</sup> July	6.00pm Y6 Production
24 <sup>th</sup> July	9.15am Y6 Leavers Assembly

### Staff Changes

As you are aware, I will be leaving Elmstead Wood at the end of this term. I am very pleased to let you know that a new Headteacher, Mrs. Cat Lewis, has been appointed. Mrs. Lewis is known to the Spring Partnership Trust, as she worked as a teacher at Midfield Primary School until a couple of years ago and will be a great asset to Elmstead Wood.

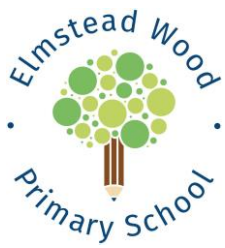
Unfortunately, we also have some other staff departures to announce. Mrs. Thorn will be leaving us this week to take up a position at a preschool for children with SEND. Additionally, at the end of this term, both Mrs. Golding, our SENCO, and Mrs. Oke will be leaving the school. They have been valued members of our team for many years, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

We are in the process of recruiting replacements for these positions and ensuring a smooth transition for the benefit of all of our children.

**Mrs R Haig**  
Headteacher

### Reception

Reception have had a great half term exploring Space through their topic and finding out lots of interesting facts and information. The children have really engaged with the Space texts we have been reading. We have carried out some science investigations including making rocket fuel to send Baby Bear home from the moon. We have designed and made our own rockets too.



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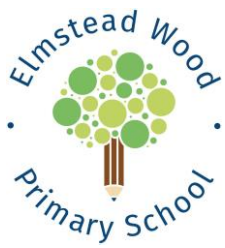
The warmer and finally drier weather has meant we have really been able to make full use of our outside classroom. The children are enjoying exploring, digging, painting, cooking in the mud kitchen, using the construction area and playing with water. We released our butterflies into our garden at the beginning of term and they revisited us on a few occasions. We have begun to do some planting of seeds for our garden area. We also had fun on the climbing apparatus in the main playground.

Cherry class visited the local Library in Mottingham and Apple class will visit too in due course.



### Year 1

This term year 1 have been looking at plants and how they grow. We have learned all the different parts of plants including roots, trunk, stem, leaves and branches. We went on walks around the school and investigated what kinds of plants we could find.



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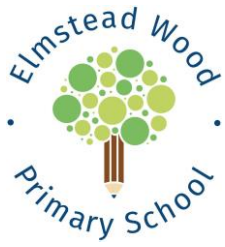


We have also been looking at sharing in maths. We have shown this in a range of ways using different manipulatives to show how sharing needs to have equal groups of the same amount.

## Year 2

Year 2 have been busily practising playing songs on their PBuzz instruments in music lessons. This is in readiness for their concert to parents. We have all been impressed with how well they have learned to play different notes, read music and play in time with each other. Well done Year 2!





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## Year 3 and Year 4

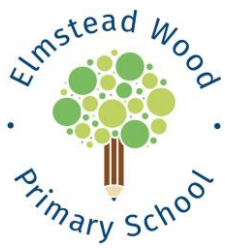
This term in Science, Year 3 and 4 have been looking at electricity. We started off the unit thinking about how we can keep ourselves safe and the dangers that electricity can pose. We thought about all the different power sources there were and sorted objects into whether they were run off the mains or from a battery, sorting these into a Venn diagram - we discovered that some objects fitted into both categories!

To help develop our understanding we thought about how electricity is produced and thought about the question 'Would electricity ever run out?' We continued our learning by making electrical circuits using a cell, two wires and a lightbulb. We needed to work together to try and make the bulb light by making a complete circuit. It is important that a circuit is complete as this enables the current to flow through and make the bulb light. Once we mastered making the bulb light, we added in a switch. We discovered that for a switch to work it needs to be in the closed position as this allows the current to flow through and complete the circuit. When the switch is open, we discovered this caused a break in the circuit and the bulb would no longer light. As an additional challenge, we needed to make our own switches using a piece of card, two butterfly clips and a paperclip. At first, we thought this would be impossible, however after working scientifically and thinking of our value of collaboration we managed to make a switch which we could turn on and off.



In DT this term, we have been planning our own seasonal meal, looking at where food comes from and how it gets to our plate. We started the unit by tasting different fruits and vegetables, some of which we enjoyed and some we were not so sure of. To end this unit, we will be making our own cous-cous salad which we will hopefully enjoy!

## Year 5 and Year 6



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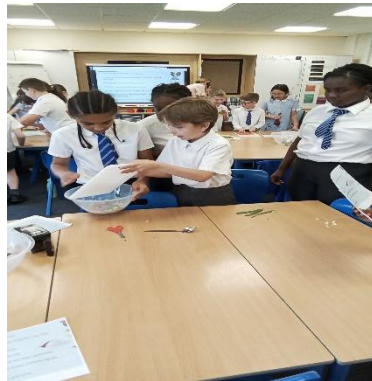


The children in Year 5/6 have all worked exceptionally hard this half term and it is important to recognise all their efforts - we are very proud of all of the children! Congratulations to Year 6 who all worked incredibly hard in their SATs and all tried their best!

We have had a very positive half term and have been learning more about World Foods in Design and Technology. The children have had the opportunity to learn more about a variety of different cultures and delicacies. We discussed the importance of hygiene and safety when preparing food and learnt more about the

importance of a

healthy, balanced diet. The children have made spring rolls, quesadillas, guacamole and salsa and were then able to rate their creations based on their taste, appearance and texture. We then thought about how the ingredients we used and how they matched up to the different parts of the healthy eating plate: carbohydrates, fruit and vegetables, protein, dairy, oils and spreads.



## OPAL

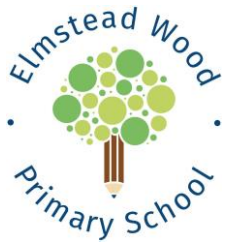


### Come rain or shine...

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

So that your child can play happily they should always have in school:

- Named wellies
- Named waterproof coat



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- Football boots if the field
- Sun protection on sunny days
- Sun hat on sunny

This month we are collecting...

ROLLS OF LINING PAPER FOR  
COLOURING, CHALKS AND PENS

COMPOST AND BEDDING PLANTS

they wish to play football on  
cream applied in the morning  
days

**Thank you for your support!**

## Attendance

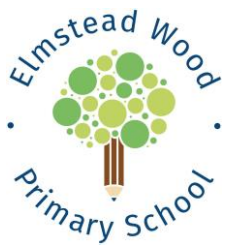
Attendance Matters!



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](http://www.nhs.uk)) is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.



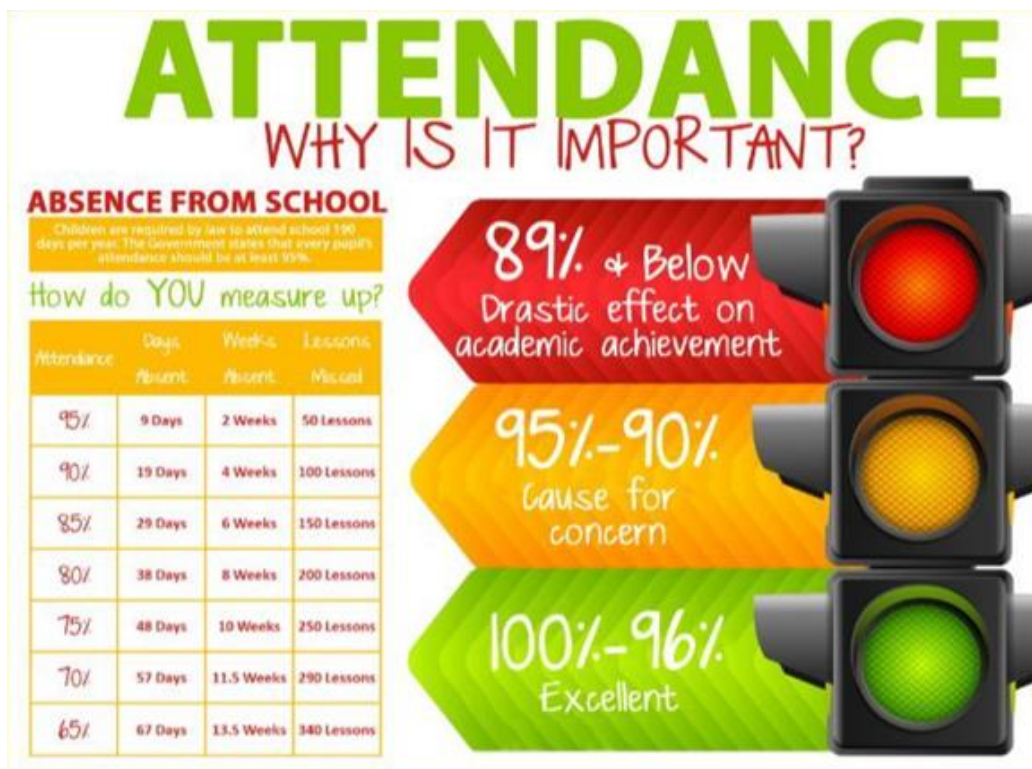
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We also know that pupils fall behind their friends and classmates when they miss school. At Elmstead Wood Primary School, we want the amount of missed education to be reduced as much as possible. We believe that our community is stronger together, 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.

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.

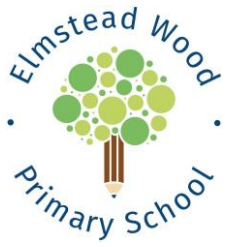
Thank you - Mrs Arnold



## 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.





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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.

### 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 diary;

- Own Clothes Days on Wednesday 3rd July
- Summer Fair on Saturday 6th July

Here is some information on these events:

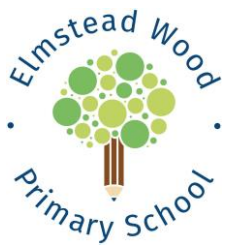
- In July, we will hold our annual Summer Fair. We will have an own clothes day for donations of drinks and sweets for the tombola. More information to follow closer to the time.

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.

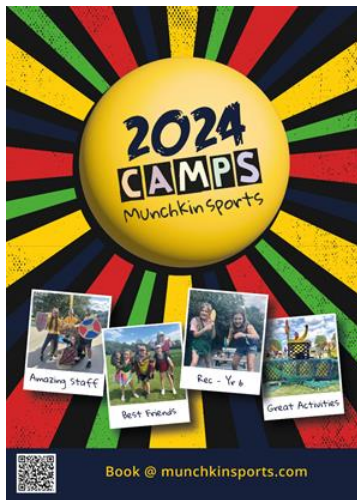
Jo Wright  
Head of PTA

### Rugby



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### MUNCHKIN SPORTS MAY HALF TERM HOLIDAY CAMPS

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31 May 2024

For further information on our camps and to book, follow this link.

<https://mailchi.mp/munchkinsports/may-half-term-camps-now-open-for-booking>

### 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.
- 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.