

# Elmstead Wood Primary School

July 2024 Newsletter

## Dear Parents and Carers

As I sit down to write this newsletter, I find myself in a reflective mood. This will be my last newsletter to you as the Headteacher of Elmstead Wood Primary School, and I wanted to take this opportunity to share some thoughts with you all.

Over the past seven years, we have been through a great deal together. The path has not always been easy, and there have been challenges along the way. However, as I look back on this journey, I am filled with an immense sense of pride and gratitude.



Recently, I've been taking time to think about everything that has happened during my time at Dorset Road, Castlecombe and Elmstead Wood. What stands out most prominently in my mind are the children who have come through our school. Watching them grow, learn and develop into the young people they are today has been an absolute privilege. As they stand ready for the next stage in their education, I am filled with confidence in their abilities and excitement for their futures.

These young people are a testament to the hard work, dedication and passion of our entire school community. From our talented and committed staff to our supportive parents and carers, everyone has played a crucial role in shaping these young minds. It is this collective effort that has made Elmstead Wood Primary School the wonderful place it is today.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your unwavering support over the past seven years. Your engagement, enthusiasm, and commitment to our school have been invaluable. Together, we have created a nurturing environment where children can thrive, learn, and reach their full potential.

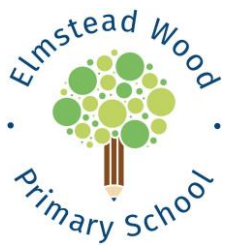
As I prepare to move on to the next chapter in my own journey, I leave with a heart full of wonderful memories and a deep appreciation for the Elmstead Wood community. While change can be bittersweet, I am excited for the future of the school and the new perspectives and ideas that will come with new leadership. To our pupils, past and present, thank you for your energy, curiosity, and the joy you bring to our school every day. To our staff, your dedication and passion for education continue to inspire me. To our parents and guardians, your partnership and support have been the backbone of our success.

As I bid farewell, I want to wish you all the very best for the future. I have no doubt that Elmstead Wood Primary School will continue to flourish, providing an excellent education and nurturing environment for generations of children to come.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this wonderful community. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your Headteacher.

With warmest regards and best wishes,

**Mrs R Haig**  
**Headteacher**



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## Dates for your Diary

17 <sup>th</sup> July	1.30pm Y6 Production
18 <sup>th</sup> July	6.00pm Y6 Production
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	End of year picnic
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Celebration of work event 3:30 – 5:00
24 <sup>th</sup> July	9.15am Y6 Leavers Assembly Last day of the Summer Term
2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Start of Autumn Term

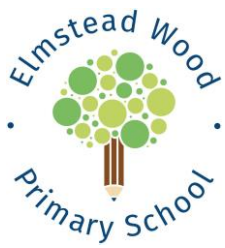
## Reception

Reception has had a fantastic final half term learning all about Traditional Stories. The children have really engaged with the books we have been reading through acting out the stories both with the small world resources and dressing up as the characters. Apple class also went on their trip to Mottingham Library. Their behaviour was exemplary and everyone enjoyed listening to the story read by the Librarian and exploring the books.

Both Apple and Cherry class did an amazing job, reciting their poem and singing songs to all the parents and carers in their class assemblies. This is a big task to remember all their lines and perform in front of an audience. We are very proud of them.

We will miss you all next year but with the brilliant learning you have done this year in Reception, you are definitely ready for Year 1!





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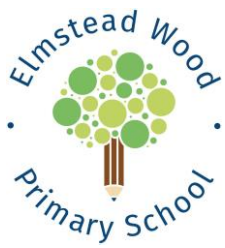
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## Year 1

The children in year 1 had a fantastic time on their trip to the Cutty Sark. They were in awe of the ship and, after storytelling and drama workshops, they had a chance to explore each deck. It was agreed by all children that the top deck was the best! They tried out the bunk beds that the sailors slept in and pretended to steer the ship using the helm. They had a great view of the river Thames and London and spotted lots of boats and buildings including the Shard and O2. All the children followed our school rules of being respectful, ready and safe.





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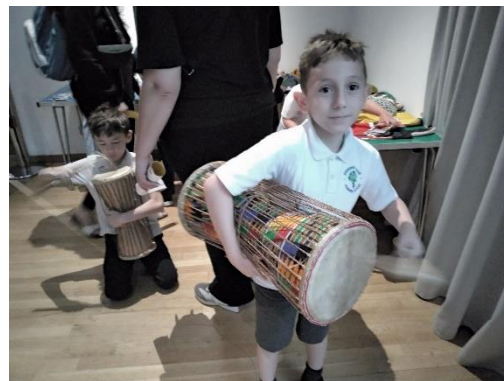
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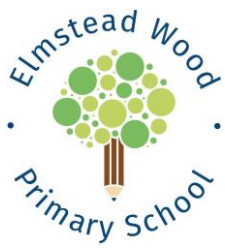
## Year 2

On Monday 1st July 2024, Ash class went on a trip to The Horniman Museum. The children have been learning about Kenya in Geography and they took part in a workshop on African Culture. They looked at clothes from Africa, necklaces from the Massai tribes and also handmade toys which were made from recycled materials.

The children enjoyed taking part in the interactive street market, playing with the traditional musical instruments, trying on the clothes and also handling all of the artefacts.

They were very well behaved and a credit to Elmstead Wood Primary School.





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After the workshop the children visited the onsite aquarium, where they saw many lovely fish, including jellyfish and frogs. To complete the day out the children went to the see the animals which were in the onsite zoo. They were all very friendly!

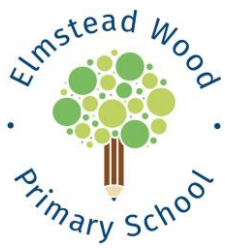
Back at school the children created their own colourful Masaai necklaces. Here are some for you to admire.



### Year 3 and Year 4

In Year 3/4 our science topic this term has been 'Animals including humans'. We looked at the role the stomach plays in the digestive system. We know that our digestive system starts in our mouth, where food is broken down by our teeth and saliva. It is then pushed around by our tongue to start its journey to our stomach. To understand how the stomach works, we crushed some crackers to mimic chewing, we then placed the crushed crackers into a plastic bag where we added water (saliva) and orange juice (stomach acids). We then squeezed the bags, to simulate our stomach muscles breaking the food down further. Once the 'stomach' had finished its role in the process, we transferred the contents in a pair of tights (to represent the intestine) and gently squeezed to allow all the nutrients to pass through. We had a fantastic time and the children loved working practically to aid their understanding of the digestive system.





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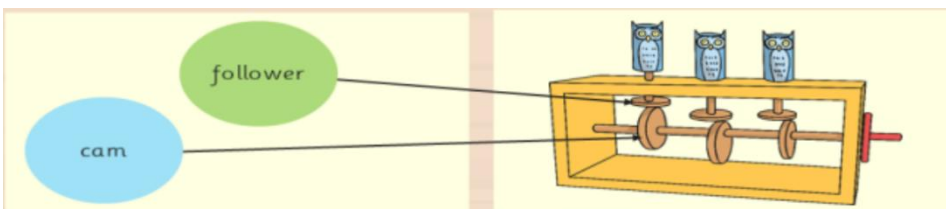
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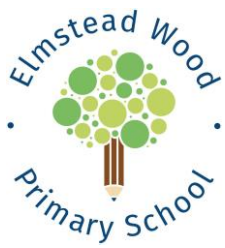
In DT this term, we started our juggling ball unit. To start with, we needed to design our juggling ball based on a circus theme. Once we did this, we needed to use tie dye to transform our backgrounds. We had a great time mixing the colours. Once the dye had dried, we washed them really to reveal what pattern we had made. Once we did this, we used fabric pens to draw our image onto the material, before hemming the material using a running stitch. Our next step is to sew all the pieces of material together.



### Year 5 and Year 6

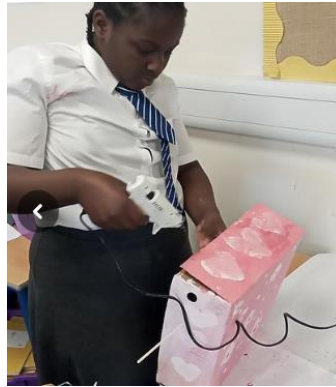
Year 5/6 have had a fantastic term and have worked really hard. Recently, we have created our own Animal Automata using cardboard boxes. Our design brief was to create a device which would raise awareness for endangered animals. We learnt about how we could use a cam mechanism - made of a cam and a follower - to move our follower in a linear or rotary motion. The children created their cardboard animals to attach to the top of their boxes which would then move in the motion they had designed. The children went on to evaluate their devices in line with how they met the brief, considered any difficulties we encountered and how we would overcome these challenges if we recreated our design.





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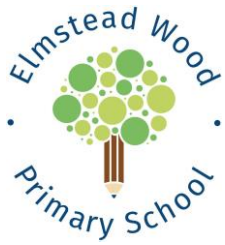
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## PE and Sport

What a fantastic time we had on our sports day! The children participated with great enthusiasm and enjoyment and demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship. Many children loved the 'long races' at the end and there were some amazing sprint finishes. A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who came and supported the children.





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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 Pond

Please can I take this opportunity to give a big thank you to Gemma Lloyd, Sophie Trimble and Gemma Carroll and other parents who have put a lot of hard work into developing the school pond over the past couple of weeks. They have great plans for the pond moving forward and it will soon be a thriving natural habitat for a diverse range of wildlife.

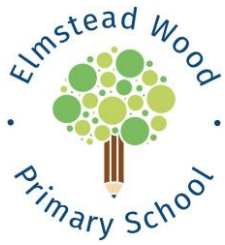
## OPAL



**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:



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- Named wellies
- Named waterproof coat
- Football boots if they wish to play football on the field
- Sun protection cream applied in the morning on sunny days
- Sun hat on sunny days

## Attendance

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

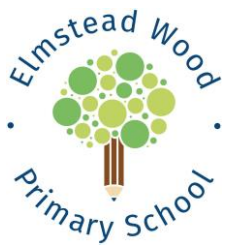
We need your help, please!

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.

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



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## ATTENDANCE


### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

**ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL**  
Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 95%.


How do YOU measure up?

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons


89% & Below  
Drastic effect on academic achievement



95%-90%  
Cause for concern



100%-96%  
Excellent



## 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?

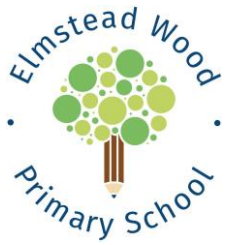
NumBots is an online maths learning platform that helps children learn how to add and subtract, improving their fluency and recall in basic mental maths, and equipping them with maths confidence.

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.

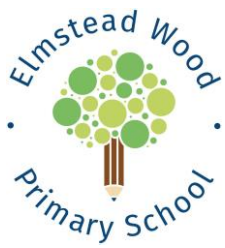


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## School Office Notices

- **Medication** - All children's medication should have been sent home at the end of term. If they are still needing this medication at school, it will need to be returned at the beginning of the school year. The school will be open on Friday 30th August between 1pm - 3pm please feel free to come along to school to hand over your child's medication and complete the relevant forms before school starts on Monday.
- **Contact details** - Please make sure the school office has 2 points of contacts for your children. It is 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](mailto: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](mailto: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. 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.



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## Flyers

**PLATFORM CRICKET COACHING 2024**  
SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

**FREE** places available for children eligible for Free School Meals

Blackheath Cricket Club,  
Rectory Field, Charlton Road,  
Blackheath, SE7 7EY.

WEEK ONE: MONDAY 29th JULY TO FRIDAY 2nd AUGUST  
WEEK TWO: MONDAY 5th AUGUST TO FRIDAY 9th AUGUST  
WEEK THREE: MONDAY 12th AUGUST TO FRIDAY 16th AUGUST  
WEEK FOUR: MONDAY 19th AUGUST TO FRIDAY 23rd AUGUST  
Every day runs from 10am-4pm

**PLATFORM**  
Supporting young people to progress through and in cricket



Presented by **PerformR**

**SUMMER**



**DANCE FEST**  
A DANCE CAMP FULL OF FESTIVAL FUN!  
29TH JULY - 2ND AUGUST

Scan here to book!



**THE STUDIO**  
CHISLEHURST, BR7 5AG  
9:30 AM - 2:30 PM  
£125 FOR 5 DAYS  
£30 PER DAY  
AGES: 4-14

✉ [INFO@PERFORMR.UK](mailto:INFO@PERFORMR.UK)

**EARLY BIRD**  
COUNT: £120 FOR 5 DAYS