

Elmstead Wood Primary School

October 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

What a fantastic start to the new term we have had! Thank you to everyone in our school community who has reached out to make me feel so welcome. Elmstead Wood is a fantastic school, the children are wonderful, and I am thoroughly enjoying my journey so far.

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome the children back after the Summer break and see their enthusiasm and excitement as they embark on another year of learning and growth. I am delighted to report that they have settled in 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.

We have had several successful events already this term – our Physical Development Workshop for families in Early Years and our Phonics Workshop for parents in Early Years and KS1 and of course our Open Day and Parents' Evening, including the Book Fair. Look out for further events on using Google Classroom and supporting your child with Maths later in the term.

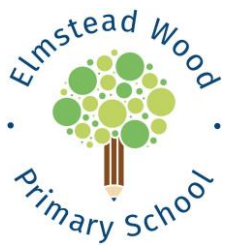
Finally, I would like to express my thanks to those parents who generously donated to the Harvest food bank at St Edwards Church in Mottingham. Your donations will mean a lot to families in need.



Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your children's education.

With warmest regards and best wishes,

Mrs C Lewis
Headteacher



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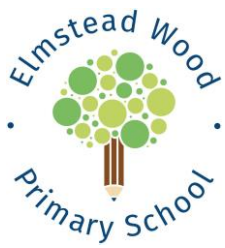
Dates for your Diary

14 th to 18 th Oct	Y5 Trip to Kingswood
18 th Oct	Show Racism the Red Card (wear something red to school)
21 st Oct to 1 st Nov	Half Term
4 th Nov	Start of 2 nd half of Autumn Term
15 th Nov	PTA Glow Disco
21 st Nov	NSPCC Kindness Challenge (wear something happy to school)
22 nd Nov	INSET Day
28 th Nov	KS2 Maths Workshop
5 th Dec	KS 1 Maths Workshop
7 th Dec	PTA Christmas Fair
10 th Dec	9.15am Y1/Y2 Christmas Concert
	1.30pm EYFS Nativity
11 th Dec	9.30am EYFS Nativity
	2pm Y3/4 Christmas Concert
12 th Dec	2pm Y5/6 Christmas Concert
18 th Dec	Christmas Lunch and 'Festive Clothing' Day
20 th Dec	Last Day of Term
7 th Jan	Start of Spring Term

Reception

The children in Reception have had a fantastic start to the year. In forestry they enjoyed exploring the natural environment describing what they could see, hear, feel and smell.





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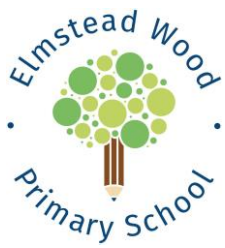
They have been learning about emotions and the zones of regulation and have been developing their understanding of this through stories and play. They showed fantastic care and kindness when they discovered a worm and its babies in the outdoor area. They even made a home for them!



Year 1

Year 1 have been really busy with Maths this half term. We have been learning all about number. We have been practicing our numbers to 10, ordering them, finding 1 more and 1 less than a number and making sure that we know which one is bigger and which one is smaller. We have been singing lots of fun songs about our numbers too!





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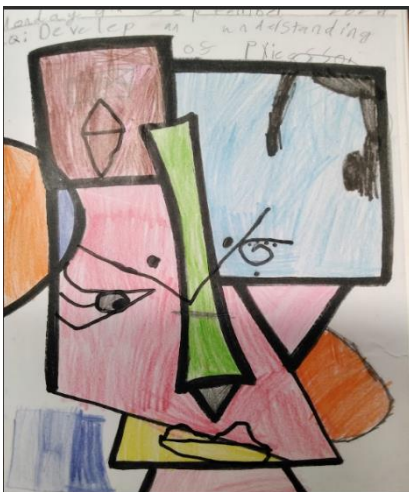
Year 2

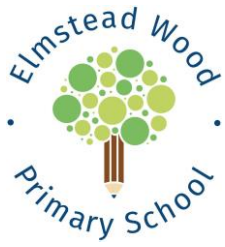
Year 2 has begun working on a programme called Mastering Number. Every afternoon, the children have been practising and strengthening their quick recall of number bonds using a piece of apparatus called a rekenrek. We hope this daily practice will help develop the speed and accuracy of their calculation skills in lessons.



Year 3 and Year 4

This half term in Art, the children have been looking at different ways of creating collage. They have studied the work of Giuseppe Arcimboldo, Piet Mondrain and Pablo Picasso. The pictures attached show the abstract portraits they created using cubism. Picasso was the co-founder of this movement. It uses cubes and other geometrical shapes to create a picture. They also explored using this technique in an abstract way, so the shapes and colours used express feelings rather than an accurate portrayal of a person.





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Year 5 and Year 6

This half term, Year 5/6 were given the fantastic opportunity of a science workshop. Our special guests came in to run 'Potions' where we learnt about mixing substances together and making predictions based on what would happen. Thank you Mrs Arnold for organising this



PE and Sport

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

Football

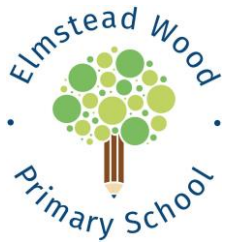
Some of our year 5 boys took part in a trust football competition. They showed fantastic resilience, perseverance and fair play. There were some amazing defending skills and goal saves, as well as good footwork and striking.

Cricket

KS2 have had the opportunity to learn to play cricket with coaching from Kent County Cricket. They have developed fantastic batting and bowling skills. Some of the children have been learning how to become leaders and developing their ability to deliver high quality inclusive playground games and challenges for all at lunchtime.

Cross Country

Some of our Year 5 / 6 children have entered a Cross Country event at Crystal Palace on Saturday 12th October. We are looking forward to it and we know that they will be amazing!



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£1 Clubs

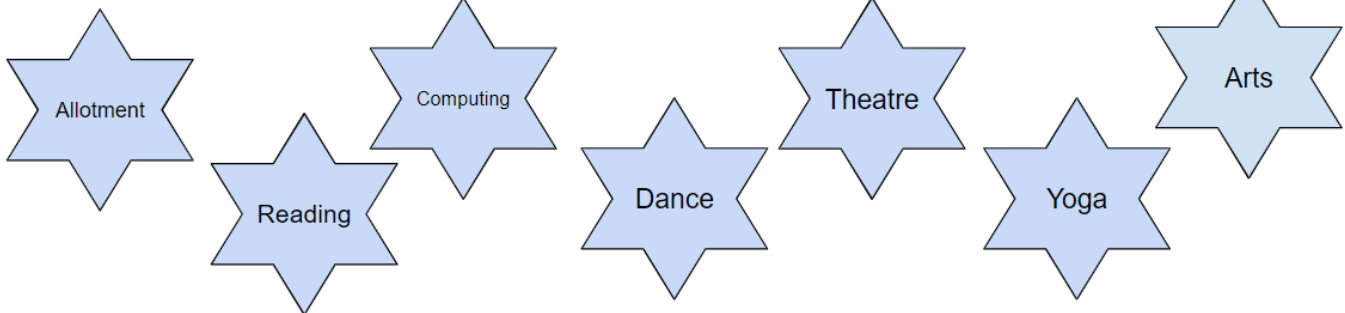
New

Elmstead Wood Primary £1 Clubs

New

Exciting News...

We are excited to announce the launch of some new clubs being offered in school. The clubs will be run by school staff. The clubs will be £1 a session and will run for the half term. Children can sign up to one £1 club per half term. These will start after the October Half Term.



Attendance

Attendance Matters!

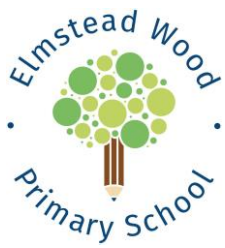


Every Student, Every School, Every Day

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 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



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**MOMENTS MATTER,
ATTENDANCE COUNTS.**

OPAL



Outdoor Play and Learning – Where children thrive!

Since the introduction of OPAL Elmstead Wood Primary, the children have continued to thrive at lunchtimes. Our play equipment and loose parts such as cones, dressing up clothes, suitcases and tyres have proved very popular. The Bus is a prominent feature in the playground, where children are able to access the mini library located upstairs and creative play downstairs.

A huge thank you to the PTA for organising the pond. Their hard work and efforts have definitely paid off and we are slowly starting to see different wildlife make their homes there. The children are really enjoying this new feature, and are excited to see the final product. Watch this space!

How to help.

In order to continue with the important benefits of a stimulating outdoor learning environment, 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 source items that would be useful in the playground? Examples would include:

Garden Storage Units

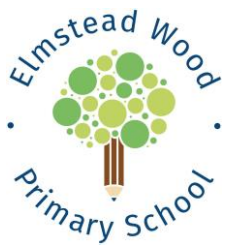
Pallets

Tarpaulin

Large plastic buckets

Baby Dolls

Pushchairs



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Wellies

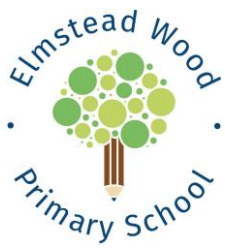
It is that time of year again - the weather is changing! In order for children to enjoy the mud kitchen and the field, they **MUST** have named wellies or an alternative pair of shoes in school. Without them, your child will not be able to access the field. We have outdoor wellie sheds for each class so please bring in your wellies as soon as possible!

Many thanks!

The OPAL team.



Children in Y2 upwards have been working hard on Times Table Rockstars. We have had weekly competitions, individual winners and other prizes. Well done to the classes and students that have won so far this year! Below is some information on some of the different games.



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Garage – This is the main mode the children should play. The questions will only come from the times tables the teacher has set for the week or they have been set based on their gig. As pupils start to answer questions, Rock Stars works out which facts they take longer to answer and will give them more of these questions to answer.

Jamming - children choose their questions.

Studio - the questions in the Studio can be anything from 2x2 up to 12x12. TT Rock Stars calculates each the mean speed from their last 10 games in the Studio and translates into a Rock Status.

Sound check - this is can be anything from 2x2 up to 12x12 but will be in the format of the year 4 multiplication check.

There are also multi-player modes:

Rock Arena - The Arena allows players to compete against all other members of their Band/Class (their Band mates would need to join the same game in order to compete together).

Rock Festival - The Rock Festival games are open to players from around the world. The questions are selected at random from 2x2 to 12x12.

It is recommended that your child practises times table every night. Short bursts of practice 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?

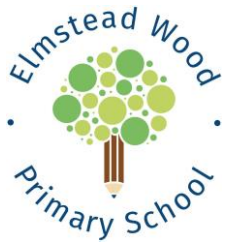
Basic number skills are the essential building blocks for higher-level maths concepts. NumBots covers number recognition, number bonds, and addition and subtraction of double digit numbers; gradually helping your child to build a solid conceptual understanding of number sense.

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.

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.



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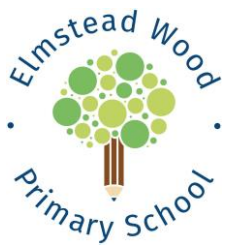
Parents can apply through the London Borough of Bromley link for Pupil Premium at regular intervals throughout the year. <https://www.bromley.gov.uk/FreeSchoolMeals>

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** - 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
- **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. 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.



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- 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



Get Ready For SEND Celebration!

Bromley Council and the Bromley SEND Partnership are dedicating the whole of November 2024 for sharing and celebrating the achievements of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) living in Bromley.

This annual event shines a well-deserved spotlight on the work of families, service providers, carers, school staff and anyone that makes a difference to the lived experiences of our children and young people with SEND and their families.

1 NOVEMBER
SEND Local Offer Live!
Taster sessions, fun, games and information for all the family. Join us at The Warren in Hayes from 11am to 3pm, to find out more about the SEND services available in Bromley for parents, carers, children and young people.

4 NOVEMBER
Information Stations running!
SEND information stations will be located at various Children & Family Centres in Bromley and Mytime Leisure Centres.

5 NOVEMBER
In the Spotlight Exhibition
A display of creative works from SEND children and young people.

6 NOVEMBER
Social Media 'Shout Outs'
Small messages, quotes, pictures, podcasts or video recordings posted on social media, sharing successful SEND achievements that has filled you with pride and made you smile.

11 NOVEMBER
SEND Matters Live!
An evening opportunity for parents and carers to meet Senior Leaders in the SEND Partnership and the Bromley Parent Carer Forum.

13 NOVEMBER
SEND Network Champions
Are you passionate about SEND? Do you want to champion SEND in your team, setting or service? Join us and be part of the SEND Network Champions.

28 NOVEMBER
SEND Stars Awards!
An afternoon of awards, celebration, refreshments and fun at The Warren in Hayes.







October Half Term Workshops for kids

Learn new artistic skills at the Gerald Moore Gallery in our fun, creative and educational workshops.

Workshops run from 10am - 3.30pm
£40 per workshop per student except for Pumpkin carving (£44)

Monday 21st October
Spooky shadow puppets
Aged 7 - 13

Tuesday 29th October
Pumpkin carving
Aged 9 - 15

Wednesday 23rd October
Scary sculptures
Aged 7 - 13

Wednesday 30th October
Create your own spooky soft puppet
Aged 9 - 15

Thursday 24th October
Painting and drawing large-scale monsters
Ages 7 - 13

Thursday 31st October
Construct a haunted house
Aged 9 - 15

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

All materials and equipment 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