

Elmstead Wood Primary School

December 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn Term has come to an end and it has been a hive of activity! We have enjoyed many community events and are very proud of the level of engagement that we have had from everyone in our wider community. Thank you all for your unwavering support.

In November, our choir, supported by Mrs Dale, performed at the Mottingham Big Local Festive Event, where the Mayor got the chance to hear their chorus of carols. Always a favourite, the Early Years Nativity was performed wonderfully by our youngest children and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 carol concerts were equally fabulous - the children raised the roof of our humble hall. The PTA has been busy as well. The Christmas Fair was a huge success and another opportunity for the choir to showcase their wonderful voices. There was also a new addition at the fair - Mrs Lovell's Dance Troupe - who got the chance to display the results of their talent and hard work. We have had Christmas lunch, Festive Jumper Day, Class parties and the Christmas pantomime. Throughout all our events, the children have been incredible, showing such independence and confidence. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our wonderful team at Elmstead Wood. We have the most incredible staff who all care immensely about the success of the children in this school. A thank you from me to each and every one of them.

There has been lots to celebrate this term. Not only did we receive our TfL Gold Travel Award, but we have also added the Bronze Rights Respecting Award to our trophy cabinet. Well done and a huge thank you to Mrs Arnold and Miss Sheehan respectively for their hard work on these worthy schemes. Our £1 clubs have also been very popular - don't forget to book in for these for the Spring Term!

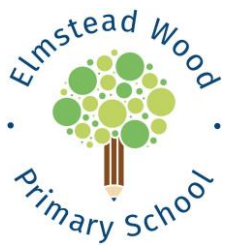
Our parent workshops have been another success this term: maths with Miss Mould, phonics with Mr Hemming & Mrs Sampson and Physical Development with Miss Mellors were all well attended. Look out for more parent workshops in the Spring Term.

At the end of this term, we say goodbye to Miss Lovell, who will be greatly missed by many at Elmstead Wood and we welcome Mr Smart, who will be the new teacher of Willow Class.

The children (and staff) are now ready for a well earned rest. On behalf of all the staff, I would like to say a huge thank you to all the children, parents and carers who have sent in cards, gifts and messages over the last week. A reminder that the children return on Tuesday 7th January 2025. Finally, I would like to send you good wishes for the Christmas break and hope you have an opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends. Whatever your plans include, I hope that you get time to relax and look forward to 2025.

With warmest regards and best wishes,

Mrs C Lewis
Headteacher

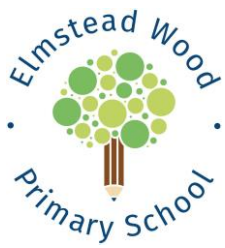


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December 2024 Newsletter

Dates for your Diary

7 th Jan	Start of Spring Term
7 th Jan	Y2 Great Fire of London Workshop
9 th Jan	Open Morning
10 th Jan	Y2 Elder Class Assembly
17 th Jan	Y2 Ash Class Assembly
23 rd Jan	Parent coffee morning (all welcome)
24 th Jan	Y1 Rowan Class Assembly
31 st Jan	Y1 Maple Class Assembly
3 rd Feb	PTA Reception/KS1 Movie Night
7 th Feb	Dress to express day
	Y5/6 Oak Class Assembly
10 th Feb	PTA KS2 Movie Night
13 th Feb	Y5/6 Trip to the Unicorn Theatre (subject to payments)
	School sandwich rollout option starts
17 th Feb	Start of half term
24 th Feb	First day back after half term
28 th Feb	Y5/6 Cedar Class Assembly
7 th Mar	Y5/6 Pine Class Assembly
14 th Mar	Y3/4 Elm Class Assembly
21 st Mar	Y3/4 Willow Class Assembly
25 th Mar	Parents Evening
27 th Mar	Parents Evening
4 th Apr	PTA Easter Fair



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Reception

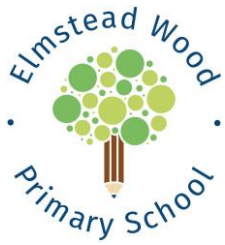
It's been a busy half term in Cherry Class. The children have been learning about Earth and Space and have been developing their number, shape and phonics skills. They had their first visit to the playground bus and had great fun pretending to be the driver. They also took part in the Nativity performance and did an amazing job of singing the songs and saying their lines.



Year 1



Year 1 has been looking at maps in geography and finding out what they can be used for. We know compass points are to help us with direction. We went on a school trip to our local woods and we used a map to find landmarks.



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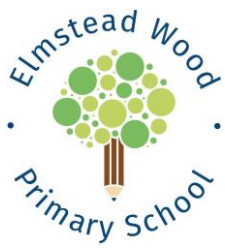
Year 2

Year 2 have been studying the artist Frida Kahlo as part of their work about colour mixing in Art. They learned how to mix the primary colours together to make secondary colours, and how to add white to tint and black to shade. They used these skills to mix their own colours to make a background for a self portrait in the style of Frida Kahlo. They even designed their own headdresses, just like the artist, to represent themselves.



Year 3 and Year 4

We have had a fantastic term in Year 3/4. We have particularly enjoyed our Geography unit of Mountains, Earthquakes and Volcanoes. We started off by looking at the structure of the Earth and how each part is a different size. We learnt about tectonic plates and discovered the massive impact they have. We then looked at the different types of mountains. We were surprised that there wasn't just one type! We then moved on to looking at how a volcano is formed and what happens inside to cause an eruption. Finally, we learnt about how earthquakes occur and what it is like to people who live who live in fault lines.



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Choir

On Saturday 30th November, our Elmstead Wood Choir performed some festive tunes at the local Nottingham Christmas Market. The children worked hard when practicing and gave an amazing performance to the public. Well done Choir!



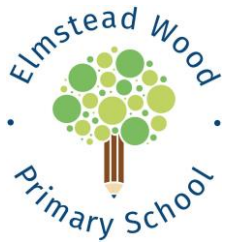
Sport and PE

A group of Year 3/4 children had the opportunity to attend a ten pin bowling event at Bromley Pavilion. They competed against other Bromley schools and showed amazing teamwork and support for each other. It was great fun and each child received a medal to take home!



£1 Clubs

The £1 clubs are continuing in January. Please see the letter that was sent out to see which clubs are on and when they are taking place.



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December 2024 Newsletter

PTA Fundraising Efforts

MacMillan Cake Sale

Our first event in September raised £183.91 for MacMillan cancer charity.

Glow Disco

This exciting & popular event raised £410. The children had a great time!

Christmas Cards

The children had a great time creating their own Christmas Cards. This raised £89.

Christmas Fair

Our fantastic team worked very hard to run our Christmas fair with helpers collecting raffle prizes, putting up Christmas decorations, selling raffle tickets and sorting and running games. We are pleased to say this event raised a whopping £1,475!!

PTA Spending

We bought a new school logo flag to support our children when representing the school at events including sporting events.

We bought furniture for the new improved library upstairs - photos to follow when the furniture is built and ready to use!

The children's Christmas lunch was enhanced by Christmas tablecloths and Christmas crackers. The tablecloths are reusable red glitter so can be used again and again.

Best of all was the pantomime - Beauty and the Beast - the PTA was able to pay for this to treat the children. The feedback from the children was fantastic!

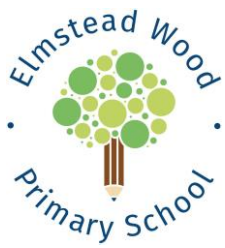
Attendance

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.



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December 2024 Newsletter

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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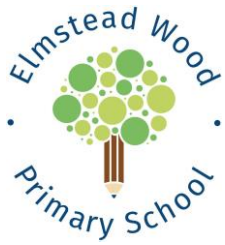
Universal Free School Meals

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).



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December 2024 Newsletter

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.
- 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.