

Elmstead Wood Primary School

February 2025 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the school year already. It has been a fantastic start to the year: the children are making incredible progress with their learning. I have particularly enjoyed seeing the children sharing their learning with parents at their class assemblies - we have seen some fabulous ones this half term. I hope you have enjoyed them as much as I have. I hope the children are also sharing what they learn with you at home. You can find our curriculum newsletters, which detail the term's learning on our class pages on the school website. We would love to share more photos with you so please make sure your photo permissions are up-to-date.

Soon, we will be celebrating World Book Day. There are few things as powerful as regularly reading with your child. It has astonishing benefits for children: comfort and reassurance, confidence and security, relaxation, happiness and fun. Giving a child time and full attention when reading them a story tells them they matter. It builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves their sleeping patterns. To support your child at home, please enjoy a book with them every night.

Spring is on its way so soon, the children can really make the most of the fantastic grounds we have here at Elmstead Wood Primary - it really is a unique setting. If your child is interested in gardening, or the outdoors, or has any other budding interests, please do sign up to one of our £1 clubs. They really are very good value!

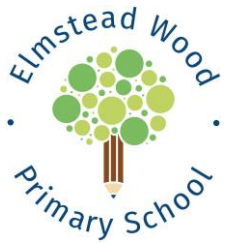
I have some more exciting news to share - we are proud to announce that we have secured funding to be a part of the myHappyMind Family! MyHappyMind is a whole school programme grounded in science and dedicated to building positive mental wellbeing, myHappyMind helps children understand how their brains work and creates a culture that helps to build children's resilience, confidence, and self-esteem. myHappyMind also teaches the children how to self-regulate and manage their emotions in stressful times, allowing them to be their very best selves! This will link very closely with the work that we have been doing on the Zone of Regulation. You can learn more about myHappyMind [here](#).

At the end of Spring Term we've got our PTA Easter Fair - an event you cannot miss. Put the date in your diaries now!

As always, thank you for your continued support. Together, we're creating an environment where our children can thrive, learn, and achieve great things.

With warmest regards and best wishes,

Mrs C Lewis
Headteacher



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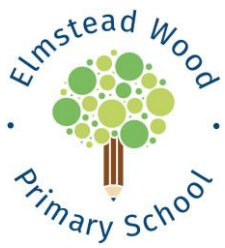
Dates for your Diary

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
3 rd Apr	Reception and Year 6 Height, Weight and Vision Screening
4 th Apr	2.30pm PTA Easter Fair
22 nd Apr	First Day of the Summer Term
12 th – 15 th May	Y6 SATS week
26 th May	Start of half term
2 nd June	INSET Day
3 rd June	First day back after half term
12 th June	Class Photographs

Reception

In Reception, we have been learning about superheroes. We have been making capes and masks and taking part in drama and role play. We have learnt about real superheroes such as the police, doctors, nurses and firefighters. We also talked about what makes us super. We read 'Supertato' and went on a hunt for the villain in the story, the evil pea.





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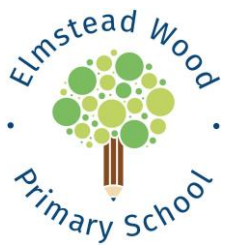
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Year 1

In Year 1 we have been learning about materials in Science. We have learned new words to use in our descriptions of properties including waterproof, transparent and durable. We have also taken part in fun investigations. We had to design a raincoat for the class teddy by finding out which materials are waterproof and we also investigated which materials are durable. We have really enjoyed our Science topic this half term.





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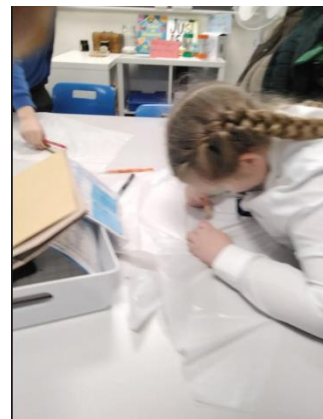
Year 2

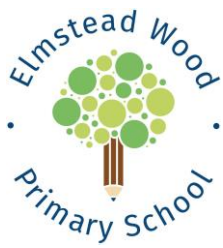
Year 2 has really enjoyed exploring materials in Science. They have participated in a range of comparative investigations such as finding the best materials for curtains and using a torch to find the most reflective materials. They have practised key Science skills such as predicting, observing, recording results and drawing conclusions.



Year 3 and Year 4

In DT this term, year 3/4 have been making kites. We started our unit looking at the history of kites, and how one sixteen year old boy used a kite to help measure the distance of Niagara Falls. We looked at the different shapes kites come in and learnt about the structure, and how this helps with flight. We then thought about our own designs and who our target audience would be following a design brief. Once we had this in mind, we created three very different designs for three different groups of people. The fun part was actually making our designs come to life, drawing on plastic bags and attaching to the wooden frame. To end our unit, we are going to attempt to fly our kites before evaluating whether they work and would we could do in the future to improve our designs. We have really enjoyed this unit and it has been fun to work practically, seeing our paper designs come to life.





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Year 5 and Year 6

In Year 5 and 6, we have been learning different gymnastics movements and putting them into routines. Synchronising with a partner, we have thought about effective movement from one skill to another and how we can travel in an artistic way. We have then judged others performances suggesting things that have gone well and ways we could improve our routine. We have used different forms of equipment such as balls, hoops and the large apparatus. We have enjoyed expressing our creativity and learning new skills.

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.

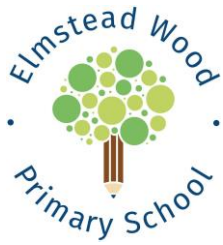
Thank you for supporting your child at school.

Mrs Arnold



Help your child to come to school on time:

- Get everything ready for school the night before.



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- 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...

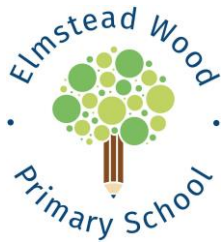
Universal Free School Meals

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).

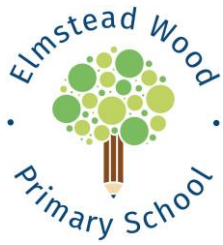


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School Office Notices

- **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.



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Flyers

Eric Liddell Sports Centre - The February half term Groups and 1 to 1 swimming lesson bookings have just launched. These will be taking place:

Monday 17th – Friday 21st February 2025

GROUPS

Beginners Stage 1 & 2 (45 minute lessons)

10am and 11.30am

Sophia O'Neill

£63.75 for 5 days

Improvers Stage 3 & 4 (45 minute lessons)

10.45am and 12.15pm

Luke Oladele-Ajose

£63.75 for 5 days

Swim Fit Stage 7 & Beyond (1 hour lesson)

9am

Luke Oladele-Ajose

£63.75 for 5 days

1 to 1s

9am – 1pm (30 minute lessons)

Michael Shaw

1 to 1s cost £31.80

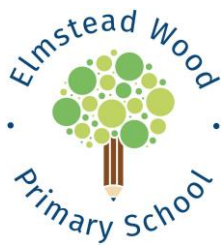
2 to 1s cost £47.70

If you are booking a 2 to 1 lesson, please email me directly to book the second swimmer as the system will only allow you one space at the moment

In order to book you need to login to the bookings system via the free [iScuba](#) app or the website www.elsc.london to book and pay for the lessons you would like.

If you have not used this system before:

1. Go to the blue menu box in the top left corner, select login/register.
2. Select 'existing user'
3. Click on 'forgotten password'
4. Enter your email address
5. Check your email inbox (and possible junk/spam)
6. Click the link in the email your receive to create a new password
7. Login with your new details
8. Click on 'Holiday Swimming Lessons / NPLQ Courses'
9. All of the available lessons will now appear.



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FIRST CLASS LEARNING
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- Our tuition programmes are tailored to each student, adapting to their learning needs.
- Designed around the National Curriculum, this improves your child's performance in school.
- Step-by-step learning breaks down complex subjects making learning easier.
- Printed worksheets and handbooks enable better retention than online learning.
- Regular progress tests give you parental peace of mind.
- A tuition programme that helps your child learn every day through a personalised study plan.

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For more information contact our friendly team:
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