

Elmstead Wood Primary School

December 2025 Newsletter

Dear Elmstead Wood Families

We have reached the end of the autumn term. It has been a particularly vibrant and memorable final half term at Elmstead Wood.

Alongside the many events and activities, children have continued to make strong progress in their learning. Across the school, pupils have worked hard in lessons, built confidence in key skills and shown positive attitudes to learning. This progress is supported by the partnership between home and school, and we would like to thank parents and carers for the time you give to reading, homework and wider learning at home. Your support makes a clear difference. Pupils' efforts and achievements were recognised at our end-of-term Excellence Awards. Our community events were a real highlight this half term. The PTA Glow Disco, Stay and Play sessions and the Christmas Fair were all well supported and helped strengthen our school community as well as raising some much-needed funds. Pupils also represented the school with pride in a wide range of sporting events, including the Year 2 boys' football competition, Bromley Schools Cross Country for Years 5 and 6, SEN ten-pin bowling, and the KS2 Trust football tournament.

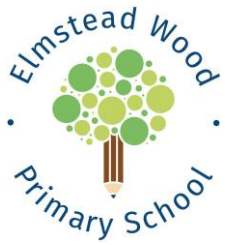
The festive period brought many opportunities for pupils to perform, celebrate and connect with the wider community. These included our Christmas Carol Concerts, The Early Years Nativity, Christmas carols at the local church, and a special choir visit to a local care home. Enriching educational experiences also took place, such as the Year 5/6 visit to *Shakespeare Shorts* and the Year 2 trip to the local library. Our SEN drop-in open mornings also provided a valuable opportunity for parents to engage with staff and discuss support.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our parent volunteers. This includes the PTA, the Parent Council and our parent readers, whose time, commitment and support make a significant contribution to school life and to the opportunities available for our pupils.

This term, we are saying farewell to three key members of staff: Mrs Goniou, Miss Carnegie and Miss Roschelle. We thank them for their work with our pupils and wish them every success in their next steps. Next term, we will welcome our new Assistant Head for Inclusion, Mrs Jacqui Brown. We would like to wish all our families a Merry Christmas and a restful and enjoyable break. See you in the New Year!

With warm regards,

Mrs C Lewis
Headteacher



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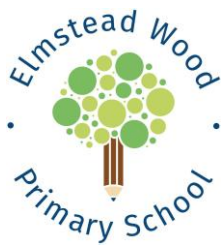
Dates for your Diary

5 th Jan	Inset Day
6 th Jan	First Day of Spring Term
8 th Jan	Reception and Y6 Height, Weight and Vision
13 th Jan	9.30am Open Morning
20 th Jan	Y3/4 Shang Dynasty Workshop
20 th Jan	Y2 Great Fire of London Workshop
28 th Jan	Y5/6 Holocaust Workshop Orpington Library
13 th Feb	PTA Disco
16 th Feb	Start of Half Term
23 rd Feb	First Day after Half Term
17 th Mar	Parents Evening
19 th Mar	Parents Evening
30 th Mar	Start of the Easter Holidays

Reception

What a fantastic half term we have had in Cherry class! The children have been working hard to develop their phonics skills to orally blend and read and write cvc words. They have been developing their collaboration skills and creativity when building using a range of resources. They even celebrated Kipper the dog's birthday by making play dough cakes, party bags and playing pass the parcel!





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Year 1



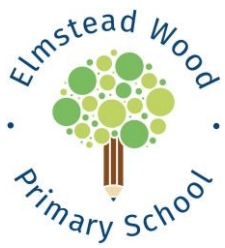
Year 1 were lucky enough to have music lessons from BYMT this half term, which we thoroughly enjoyed. We also followed a recipe to make our own salad in DT using new skills like grating and peeling. We made some adaptations to the recipe and many children thought it was yummy!



Year 2

Year 2 enjoyed a fun trip to the newly re-opened Mottingham Library this half term. They met the author Marcela Ferreira and listened to her story 'I could be eaten by a shark'. They discussed the theme of fears that was a focus of the book. They learned how to illustrate a shark, and some interesting facts about sharks too.





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Year 3 and Year 4

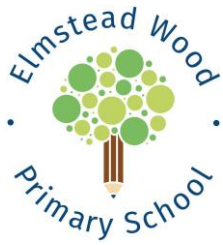


Year 3/4 have had a very busy and exciting term! In PE, the children have been developing their gymnastics skills, focusing on flight, take-off and safe landings, and showing great confidence and control. In Geography, they have been learning all about the United Kingdom and created informative booklets for each country - England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In English, the children became reporters and wrote their own newspaper reports based on the book *Krindlekrax*, a thrilling story about a mysterious monster hidden beneath a city. The children had lots of fun using descriptive language and eyewitness accounts. Some of their fantastic work can be seen proudly displayed in the classroom.

Year 5 and Year 6

Year 5/6 have had a busy half term. We have been to Eltham College to watch their KS3 students perform their rendition of a *Midsummer Night's Dream*. We have also had an animation workshop run by a local artist, where the children learnt about the history of animation and then created their own reel as a class. Furthermore, we went out into the local area to do some field work for Geography where we have been learning about sustainability. Thank you to all the parents that have supported us this term by volunteering to support us; it enables us to give more opportunities for children to learn outside the classroom.





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Timetable Rockstars and Numbots



Well done for everyone's efforts this half term on Times Table Rockstars and Numbots.

We have had lots of children winning certificates in assembly and getting on the top 30 amount of minutes played leaderboard each week.

Classes have also competed for 1st, 2nd or 3rd in our school competitions.

Remember you should be spending 5 minutes a day on Times Table Rockstar or Numbots as this supports your mathematical fluency and will support children to be successful in maths lessons.

On the penultimate week of term, we had a Trust Times Table Rockstars Competition.

Attendance

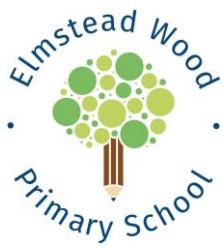
Attendance Matters!



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



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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



MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Help your child to come to school on time:

- Get everything ready for school the night before.
- 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...

OPAL

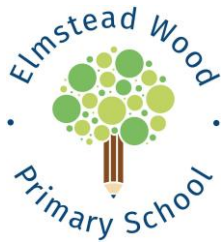


Outdoor Play and Learning – Where children thrive!

We are still collecting for Opal. If over the Christmas holidays you are throwing out any old items that are listed in the table, please could you donate them to the school and bring them in in January.

How to help.

In order to continue with the important benefits of a stimulating outdoor learning environment and for the development of our children, we would love even more parental and community support. We are therefore asking if there are any parents out



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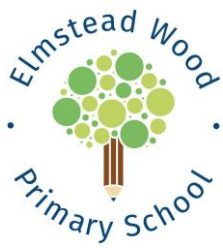
there who may have a trade (such as fencers, builders, gardeners etc.) or are able to retrieve items that would be useful in the playground? We have put together two lists of potential resources that would benefit the children.

Fabricated loose parts (see list A)- anything man made that is not a toy or a specific piece of sport equipment.

Natural loose parts (see list B)- is any moveable natural material that children can transport, mix, and construct with or incorporate into their play

Any donations or loose parts should be dropped at the front gate. Please ensure a member of staff is made aware, so that they can be taken and stored. Whilst we thoroughly check all items for their safety, it would be appreciated if you could check the items to ensure they are safe enough to play with.

Fabricated List (A)	Natural List (B)
Boards/ Panels	Branches/sticks
Brief cases	Logs
Buggies/push chairs	Pine cones
Cable drums	Play bark/wood chip
Foam pipe covers and noodles	
Guttering (any shape and size)	
Hoses and Pipes (gas, water, drainage)	
Keyboards	
Metal pots and pans	
Old household appliances (hoovers, fax machines)	



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Plastic road barriers	
Plastic trugs and bin	
Plastic Barrels (cleaned)	

Wellies

It is that time of year again, and as the weather changes 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 to enjoy these and other areas.

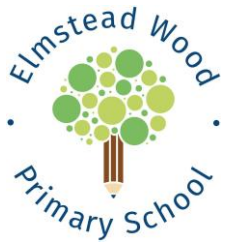
Without them, your child will not be able to go on the field. We have outdoor wellie sheds for each class so please bring in your wellies as soon as possible!



Many thanks!

The OPAL team.





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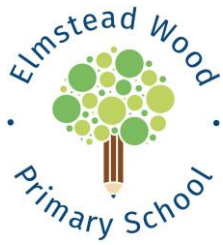
Universal Free School Meals

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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School Office Notices

- Medication - Prescribed medication can be administered by the school. If your child needs to have medication during the school day, please come in and complete a form to give us permission. However, we are no longer allowed to administer Calpol, Nurofen or Piriton.
- 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 on breakfastclub@elmsteadwoodprimary.co.uk or afterschoolclub@elmsteadwoodprimary.co.uk . 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.