



# Elmstead Wood Primary School

February 2026 Newsletter

Dear Elmstead Wood Families

This half term has flown by! It has been filled with a rich and varied range of learning, enrichment and community experiences, offering pupils many opportunities to grow academically, socially **and personally**. **This week, Children's Mental Health Week** provided a valuable focus on wellbeing, helping pupils to reflect on emotions, resilience and strategies for supporting themselves and others. Safer Internet Day complemented this work, with thoughtful discussions and lessons around staying safe online, making responsible choices and showing respect in digital spaces.

Pupils have also enjoyed a number of whole-school events that have strengthened our sense of community. The Friendship Disco, taking place this evening, has generated a great deal of excitement and provides a fun and inclusive opportunity for pupils to celebrate friendships. Young Voices was a particular highlight of the half term, with participating pupils representing the school exceptionally well at a large-scale performance, demonstrating confidence, teamwork and commitment throughout rehearsals and on the day.

Sport and physical activity have played a significant role this half term, with pupils taking part in **Boccia, boys' and girls' football, netball and swimming**. **Year 3 and Year 4 pupils have made** strong progress through their swimming programme, while team sports and inclusive competitions have helped pupils to develop confidence, resilience and a strong sense of teamwork.

Curriculum learning has been further enriched through high-quality workshops and educational visits. History workshops on the Shang Dynasty and the Great Fire of London brought learning to **life and deepened pupils' understanding through engaging, hands-on** experiences. Visits to the local library and church strengthened links with the community and supported learning in reading and RE. We ended the half term with a vibrant Holi assembly, celebrating culture, diversity and shared values, and providing a meaningful and memorable conclusion to a highly successful half term.

Have a great holiday and we'll see you back Monday 23rd February!

With warm regards,

Mrs C Lewis  
Headteacher



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## Dates for your Diary

13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	PTA Disco
16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Start of Half Term
23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	First Day after Half Term
17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parents Evening
19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parents Evening
30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Start of the Easter Holidays
13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	First day of Summer Term

## Reception

This half term we have been learning about superheroes. We read the story Supertato and had fun using our blending skills to read and follow clues to find evil pea, a character from the story.



We had a visit from the police. They showed us their equipment and even let the children try on some of the different hats that they wear.



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We celebrated Chinese New Year by making dragon puppets, counting gold coins into red envelopes and acting out 'The Great Race' story. We also tried some fortune cookies.



## Year 1



In year 1 we have been reading Oliver Jeffers 'The Way Back Home' and thinking about what we might do if we crashed on the moon. In science we have been exploring the properties of materials. We used our classification skills to sort the materials based on their properties.





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## Year 2

The children really enjoyed the Great Fire of London workshop; they found it interactive and interesting. They explored the story of the great fire and the factors that made it spread so fast. They were also reintroduced to Samuel Pepys and his recollection of events.

Children's quotes:

"It was fun to pretend to be some of the buildings during the acting part"

"The fire spread so fast because the houses were made of wood"

"The London Fire Brigade did not exist yet"



## Year 3 and Year 4



This Spring Term, Year 3/4 have been exploring colour theory and developing their painting skills in Art. The children studied the work of landscape artist Scott Naismith and the expressive portrait artist Edvard Munch, learning how artists use colour to create mood and atmosphere.

They explored the concepts of warm and cool colours and applied this knowledge in their own artwork, creating vibrant ocean sunset paintings and expressive self-portraits inspired by emotion.

We are very proud of their creativity and the beautiful artwork they have produced.



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## Year 5 and Year 6

We have had busy half term in Y5/6, in English we began a new story (Pig Heart Boy) and have explored the Science behind xenotransplantations, we then used this research to write a balanced argument on the ethics. In History, we have begun learning all things World War two, from the blackout to the Windrush and the effects the war had on Britain. We even took our learning outside of the classroom and headed to Orpington Library for a workshop about the Holocaust to remember the tragic events that took place there.

## 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.**

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...**

## Olive Dining

Olive Dining have sent through the QR code below, which is a link to a parent survey. If you would like to take part, please click on the QR code below.





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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 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



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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)	
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



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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 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](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



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- 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](mailto:breakfastclub@elmsteadwoodprimary.co.uk) or [afterschoolclub@elmsteadwoodprimary.co.uk](mailto: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.

## Flyers

**BYMT**  
BRITISH YOUTH MUSIC TRUST

### EASTER SOUNDS

TUESDAY 7 - THURSDAY 9 APRIL 2026  
9.30am - 12.30pm

**BAND ON THE RUN**  
BEGINNERS COURSE - LEARN TO PLAY THE CLARINET, SAKOPHONE, TRUMPET OR TROMBONE IN A BAND

**STRINGS ON THE RUN**  
BEGINNERS COURSE - LEARN TO PLAY THE VIOLIN, CELLO OR DOUBLE BASS IN AN ORCHESTRA

**PERCUSSION ON THE RUN**  
BEGINNERS COURSE - LEARN TO PLAY DRUMS, ORGANS & ORCHESTRAL PERCUSSION

**KEYBOARD & UKULELE ON THE RUN**  
BEGINNERS COURSE - LEARN TO PLAY THE KEYBOARD AND UKULELE

TUESDAY 7 - THURSDAY 9 APRIL 2026  
1.30pm - 4.30pm

**BYMT WIND BAND**  
FOR ALL WOODWIND, BRASS & PERCUSSION PLAYERS WHO CAN READ MUSIC FROM BEGINNER TO GRADE 3 STANDARD

**BYMT STRING ORCHESTRA**  
FOR ALL STRING PLAYERS WHO CAN READ MUSIC FROM BEGINNER TO GRADE 3 STANDARD

**PIANO ENSEMBLE**  
INTERMEDIATE COURSE (GRADE 2-5) - PLAY AS PART OF A KEYBOARD ENSEMBLE

£15 PER COURSE  
For more information & to register scan the QR code or visit:

[www.bymt.co.uk/sounds](http://www.bymt.co.uk/sounds)

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0203 8467 1544 | [info@bymt.co.uk](mailto:info@bymt.co.uk) | [www.bymt.co.uk](http://www.bymt.co.uk)