

Ellwood Community Primary School

BELIEVE, ACHIEVE, BELONG

December 17th 2021



End of term message

What a busy term we have had. We are so proud of the children and how hard they have worked this term. They have worked their socks off and have really tried hard to catch up with any missed learning due to previous school closures. We feel the progress across the school this term has been amazing. The staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure all the children are having their needs met, academically, socially and emotionally. They truly are one amazing team! Thank you to the school Governors who have given up their time to support and challenge us, to make sure the children are having the best possible education and opportunities. We would also like to thank you, parents/carers, for your ongoing support and working in partnership with us. It really makes a difference. We look forward to seeing all the children back at school on Wednesday 5th January (Tuesday 4th is an Inset day so no children in school). In the meantime, we hope you all have a safe, happy and restful Christmas and New Year.



Christmas Nativity photos

Here are some more photos from our Christmas nativity, you can find more on the school website!



Oak Class

Oak class have been busy this week writing letters to Father Christmas. They then went to the local post box to send them to the North Pole.



Some of our Christmas Raffle Winners



West Midlands Santa Safari

On Monday we went on our whole school trip to West Midlands Safari Park. The children were all so well behaved and a real credit to the school. The Santa Safari was fantastic and the children were all so pleased with their gifts. Thank you so much to those parents who were kind enough to send us lovely thank you messages for making the trip happen and to tell us how much their children enjoyed themselves, it really is lovely to have nice feedback! We have shared some photos from the day with you all and there are plenty more on the school website.



West Midlands Santa Safari



The children had a fantastic day on Monday at West Midlands Santa Safari!



Here are some photos of our day!







Spring Term 1



Please send your child into school wearing the appropriate clothing for either PE or Forest Adventures.



Monday	Oak class: PE kit <small>(Yoga with Caroline)</small>	Beech class: PE kit <small>(Yoga with Caroline)</small>	
Tuesday	Swimming: Year 3 & 4 (starting 18.01.21 – alternative Tuesdays)		
Wednesday	Chestnut class: Forest Adventures	Sycamore: PE kit	
Thursday	Chestnut class: PE kit <small>(Gymnastics Centre)</small>	Sycamore class: PE kit <small>(Gloucester Rugby)</small>	Willow class: PE kit <small>(Gloucester Rugby)</small>
Friday	Oak class: Forest Adventures	Willow class: PE kit	
Oak	Chestnut	Beech	Sycamore
<p>*If your child is swimming or doing 'Forest Adventures' please note this is counted as a PE session.</p>			

Chestnut and Beech Classes

After Christmas, Chestnut and Beech classes will be learning about local history. They will be looking at local mining and farming. If any parents, grandparents or relations have any interesting artefacts or stories related to this we would love to hear from them.

Please email: admin@ellwood.gloucs.sch.uk and a teacher will contact you.

Many thanks for your support.

Mrs Milford's Christmas Gift to the children

This year, instead of Mrs Milford giving Christmas cards, she has sponsored a couple of goats (Audrey and Deirdre) from the local Dean Farm Trust. Mrs Milford loves animals and thought this was a lovely idea and would also support a local charity.

Audrey and Deirdre

Audrey and Deirdre came to live at the sanctuary when a farm park had too many goats to handle, they were rescued in October 2018, aged three.

Rescued along with three other goats, these twin sisters now live happily at Dean Farm.

They are super friendly and love to get head rubs from the staff and volunteers. They spend their days sunbathing on their trampoline and enjoy climbing and jumping.



COVID Guidance

In response to recent guidance changes and rising Omicron cases, the following is intended to clarify the current situation.

Daily testing of close contacts

From today, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between **5 to 18 years and 6 months identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, are strongly advised to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.** Daily testing should be undertaken even if close contacts are within 90 days of confirmed infection. The 90 day pause is only applicable to routine asymptomatic testing.

The guidance states that daily testing should commence when identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace. We recommend that schools also advise daily testing for close contacts that they have identified within their settings.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

For primary aged children [LFD test kits are available through the usual routes](#) (community test sites, local pharmacies or online).

Attendance Letters

Some parents received a letter this week about attendance. Please don't be alarmed by this, schools have to formally notify parents of any pupils with attendance under 90 % as this is classed as a persistent absence.

We tried to take into account COVID-19 and other medical reasons. We know that it is hard at the moment to know whether the children have COVID or a cold but if they have a temperature or a cough, they must have a PCR test before they return to school or isolate for 10 days.

Sickness bugs, children must be off for 48 hours to help ensure it doesn't spread through the class.

Holidays in term time are unauthorised and could result in fines.

Our Autumn Term attendance figures are:

Oak	90.4%
Chestnut	93.5%
Beech	91.6%
Sycamore	93.0%
Willow	92.3%

Merry
Christmas

Attendance Ladder



Forest New Life Church

At Forest New Life Church, Parkend, we are again holding a Covid secure Christmas Grotto with our animatronic Father Christmas. We are running it from Monday 20th to Thursday 23rd December, 4pm - 7pm. It is a booking only event.

We have spaces still available for families to experience our Grotto and winter 'wonderland'. It is a free event.

If you are able to pass this on to your parents, that would be very much appreciated.

This is this the link for families to book.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44ABAC28A5FCC52-christmas>

Young Voices—Postponement

Unfortunately, we have heard from Young Voices that they are postponing the concerts due to take place in January. We are yet to be given a new date but as soon as we hear from them we will let you know.

Thank you.

Film Night

The children all had a great time at the Christmas Film Night yesterday and were so well behaved.

We would like to thank Tesco Lydney for their kind donation of popcorn for the children, it was certainly appreciated by the children.



STEM Activities for children and young people:

We also have 2 very exciting STEM based activities that families can reserve tickets for that involve engineering and computer science. Please see details below:

Educraft: 6-16 year olds can travel back in time to discover what coding was like 40 years ago by using the very same computers which were used back then! Children will be designing and animating their very own video game as well as having the opportunity to kick back and play some classic games. A great opportunity to learn and play for all the gamers out there! [Click here for more information and to book.](#) You can also view a trailer they have put together to advertise their offer this December by [clicking here](#).

Bloodhound: 6-15 year olds will have the opportunity to see 'engineering in action'; learning about various science engineering technologies such as the Bloodhound Land Speed Record Car. Afterwards, children will have the opportunity to build and race their very own prototype car! At the end of the day, you will be leaving with a souvenir from the day and activity pack for the family to take part in back at home. [Click here for more information and to book.](#)

Please see attached photos of both activities.

For any queries please contact HAFPparentenquiries@gloucestershire.gov.uk

YogaBugs

Parents are now able to get free access to virtual healthy screen time until mid-February 2022. Taking less than 60 seconds to sign up, YogaBugs virtual is a digital yoga and wellbeing platform that includes hundreds of children's & adult's videos for families to take part in from the comfort of their own home!

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch a short video to find out why it's good! [For all terms and conditions please click here](#)

Why sign up?

It is free and has tonnes of benefits including improving sleeping patterns, helping everyone feel calm and relaxed, improving confidence, and keeping everyone active over the cold winter months. It is suitable for children with SEND. To begin the process to claim access to the site and sign up, parents will need to visit: <https://gloucestershirecounty.coordinate.cloud/event/120134>

Contingency planning for Remote Learning

As you are most probably aware from the recent news coverage, there is a significant increase in COVID cases nationally. With this in mind, we have outlined below what will happen if a class, key stage or full school closure occurs. Please do not be alarmed. At this present time, **we have not been informed that schools will close** but we are putting a contingency plan in case, as often the announcements are given at very short notice.

If individual children are off for a few days while waiting for a test or having to isolate, the class teacher will email work to parents for the children to complete. However, we appreciate, that if a child is experiencing symptoms of Covid, it could mean they aren't well enough to complete remote home learning tasks. In this instance we would ask that you use your parental judgement. If your child does require work, please inform the office when you report their absence.

The DfE has stipulated that schools have a duty to offer remote education: 'Where a pupil, class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate, or there is a local lockdown requiring pupils to remain at home, DfE expects schools to be able to immediately offer them access to remote education'.

Please be aware that this is a possibility. Please ensure you are prepared (pupils and parents) and equipped to carry out online learning tasks at home. The online learning platforms (Tapestry and Calibrae) can be accessed through a phone, tablet, laptop or PC. Some game consoles are also able to be used.

Our remote education offer is the same as we provided last year.

- Oak class (EYFS) will have their learning delivered through Tapestry. Parents are familiar with this.
- Years 1-6 will have their learning delivered through the school's learning platform - Calibrae. Each child has their own log in for this platform which you would have been informed of previously. Year 1 were sent a letter this term (Sept 21). Here is a link for Year 1 parents to help them become familiar with the platform: <https://ellwood.calibrae.com/@/parent-notification>. Other parents will have seen this previously. All pupils have their own account and login - <https://app.calibrae.com/signin>

The children will then be able to on daily and access their learning.

Diary Dates

JANUARY

- Monday 3rd January - Bank holiday
- Tuesday 4th January - Inset day
- Wednesday 5th January - First day back in school (Start of Spring Term)**
- Thursday 6th January - Gymnastics Chestnut Class
- Monday 10th January - Young Voices concert (Birmingham) - **POSTPONED**
- Wednesday 12th January - Clarinet Lessons (Year 4)
- Thursday 13th January - Glos Rugby - Tag Rugby Willow/Sycamore (during school hours)
- Thursday 13th January - Gymnastics Chestnut Class
- Tuesday 18th January - Swimming Years 3 & 4
- Wednesday 19th January - Clarinet Lessons (Year 4)
- Thursday 20th January - Glos Rugby - Tag Rugby Willow/Sycamore (during school hours)