

# Ellwood Community Primary School

## *BELIEVE, ACHIEVE, BELONG*

*September 2022*



### **Welcome back!**

Welcome back to the Autumn term! I hope you all had a great summer. We would like to welcome Miss Briggs, Miss Hayward and Mrs Hunt to Ellwood. we hope they enjoy their time working in our fabulous school community.

Mrs Pole who worked in the school office, left us during the summer for a job nearer her home. We will be replacing her next term. We wish her well and thank her for all her hard work . Mrs Tait will continue to work in the office on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. We will strive to man the office as best we can on the other days, but please email during the day and if you have any urgent messages, please leave a message on the answer phone and we will get back to you.

The term has started well and all activities are resuming as normal. Please see the after school clubs information sent out separately and sign up as soon as possible, they will start week commencing 19th September and run up until the end of term.

Please also see the letter overleaf which was sent out earlier this week containing other useful information and dates/times for the meet the teachers meetings taking place.





Dear Parents/Carers,

## *Welcome Back!*

We hope you all had a lovely summer break. We would like to welcome Miss Briggs, Miss Hayward and Mrs Hunt to the Ellwood School team. We are looking forward to another great term and we have lots of exciting learning opportunities planned for children. The staff have been busy over the summer preparing lessons and their classrooms. We are excited to welcome the children back into school tomorrow (Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September).

### **Back to School Reminders**

- All children (apart from our new Reception starters) are being welcomed back into school tomorrow (Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September).
- The gate will open at 8:45am and close at promptly 8:55am. If your child arrives after 8:55am they will need to go to the office to register. You will also need to sign them in and provide a reason for lateness. We need to ensure children are not wasting valuable learning time in the mornings as this can greatly impact educational attainment.
- Please return all reading books that were loaned to the children for summer holidays on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September.
- Please ensure your child has a labelled water bottle (no fizzy drinks/juice) in school every day.
- Children in reception, year 1 and 2 are provided with a free piece of fruit/raw vegetable every day. Children in year 3, 4, 5 and 6 will need to bring a piece of fruit or raw vegetable for snack time. No items in plastic wrappers to reduce litter on our playground.

### **Phase Leaders**

This year we have two phase leaders. Miss Peart will lead EYFS and KS1 (year 1 and year 2). Mrs Woodhouse will lead KS2 (year 3, 4, 5 and 6). They form part of the senior leadership team alongside Mrs Milford.

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They will be able to support parents, carers and children within their key stage. You are welcome to make contact with them if you have any queries.

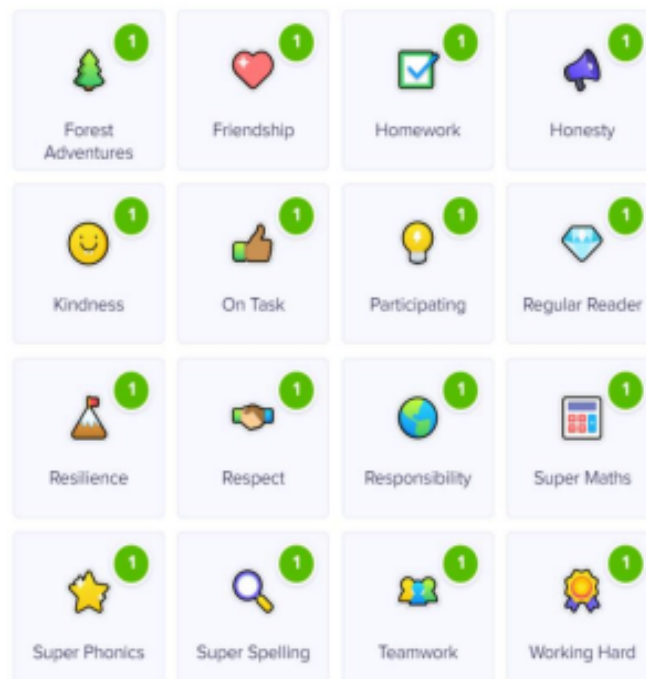
### **ClassDojo**

This year, we are going to introduce ClassDojo for parents/carers to provide a home-school link.

Each parent/carer (with parental responsibility) is encouraged to sign up to ClassDojo to access their child's account.

Parents/carers who have signed up to ClassDojo will be able to see their child's house point total and see what they have been awarded their house points for.

Children can earn house points for a range of skills...



### **Class Story**

When families join ClassDojo, they also get the opportunity to view their child's class story. In class story you will be able to see:

- Photos and videos of classroom moments
- Events with reminders about upcoming events
- Files
- Links to resources

## **Messaging**

Please note we will NOT be using this system as a two-way method of communication.

## **Get Started**

To link to your child's ClassDojo account please follow the links below:

**Reception:** <https://www.classdojo.com/invite/?c=CSVGDTU>

**Year 1:** <https://www.classdojo.com/invite/?c=CX4WRLW>

**Year 2:** <https://www.classdojo.com/invite/?c=CBX6K26>

**Year 3:** <https://www.classdojo.com/invite/?c=CZ4L99D>

**Year 4:** <https://www.classdojo.com/invite/?c=CGWCMML>

**Year 5:** <https://www.classdojo.com/invite/?c=CLV65WX>

**Year 6:** <https://www.classdojo.com/invite/?c=C2NL5NU>

## **Safety**

Please note this is a secure system 'fully compliant with all UK privacy laws, is certified under the EU - US Privacy Shield and is fully compliant with GDPR'. Please be reminded that none of the content that is shared on ClassDojo is allowed to be shared outside of the platform.

If you have more than one child, you will only need one account which you can then link to your children.

Don't forget to download the app to enable easy access to your child's account.

## **PE Schedule for Autumn Term 1**

At Ellwood Community Primary School, we are keen to ensure all children have great opportunities to access physical development opportunities.

We are pleased that we are able to have external coaches into school this term to give the children lots of wonderful physical opportunities such as biking, yoga, dance etc...



Autumn Term 1				
Please send your child into school wearing the appropriate clothing for either PE or Forest Adventures.				
Monday	Chestnut class: PE kit (Dance)		Beech class: PE kit	
Tuesday	Year 5 & 6: Swimming (every Tuesday) Starting on: 13.09.22			
Wednesday	Beech class: PE kit (Yoga)	Sycamore class: PE kit	Willow class: PE kit	
Thursday	Chestnut class: Forest Adventures	Year 2s: PE kit (Gymnastics)	Sycamore class: no dresses/skirts & trainers (Biking)	
Friday	Oak class: Forest Adventures			
Oak	Chestnut	Beech	Sycamore	Willow
*If your child is swimming or doing 'Forest Adventures' please note this is counted as a PE session.				
Oak class PE kit: you will be informed about this when the children have completed their transition into school.				

## PE Kit

From **September 2022** our PE kit is as follows:

- Plain white t-shirt.
- Navy joggers/shorts.
- Black daps/trainers.
- School jumper/cardigan.

Children are **NOT** permitted to wear hoodies/jackets with logos or branded sport's wear/football kits.

## Biking

If your child is biking please send their bike and helmet into school. Your child will also need to wear trainers (no dresses/skirts).

## Forest Adventures

If your child is going on Forest Adventures please send them into school wearing a long sleeved top and trousers (which can get dirty). Please send wellingtons into school in a carrier bag. Your child may also need waterproofs/coat in the wet weather.

## Meet the Teachers

We are looking forward to getting to know the parents/carers of the new children in our classes. It would be great if as many parents/carers as possible could attend their child's 'Meet the Teacher' meeting to receive important information about the rest of the academic year.



## Reading

At Ellwood Community Primary School, we are passionate about reading and aim to ensure that all children leave school as confident and capable readers.

Our expectation is that all children read **at least four times weekly** at home. Children who do not read at least four times a week at home will attend reading club in school once a week, at playtime, to give them another opportunity to develop their reading skills.

The research linked to reading for pleasure is clear...

- There is a growing body of evidence which illustrates the importance of reading for pleasure for both educational purposes as well as personal development (cited in Clark and Rumbold, 2006).
- Evidence suggests that there is a positive relationship between reading frequency, reading enjoyment and attainment (Clark 2011; Clark and Douglas 2011).

### Reading for Pleasure Research



## Volunteers

We are so grateful to our school volunteers who give up their time to support the children in our busy school. If you have a couple of hours free, please get in touch as we are looking for more volunteers to hear our children read to help raise reading attainment across the school.



### Volunteering Opportunities

- We are looking for **reliable** volunteers to help out in our busy and dynamic school.
- Ideally, we would like volunteers to hear children read across the school from infants to juniors.
- You may also have skills which would be beneficial to our school community (such as sewing, art, woodwork etc).
- All volunteers will be subject to an enhanced DBS check.
- Please note if you are a parent/carer you will not be able to work in your child's class.

**If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact:**  
**[oak@ellwood.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:oak@ellwood.gloucs.sch.uk)**

## Cyber Safety

During today's INSET day, all of the staff took part in Cyber Safety training to enable us to support your children in staying safe online.

It is really important that parents/carers also protect their children online. We know that many children are accessing apps/content online which are not appropriate for their age.

For more information about keeping your child safe online please visit:  
[Internet Matters](#)

We want to ensure the children are safe online and aren't being upset by games or messages.

**Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back tomorrow!**

Kind regards

*Ellwood Community Primary School*

*Welcome Back to Ellwood Community Primary School*

### **Rags2riches**

Our next rags2riches collection will be on 21st September! This is a great time to have a sort out post summer and donate any unwanted clothing items!



### **FSM—Free school meals**

A reminder to those with children in Reception class and children that have started year 3 this year, to sign up online for free schools meals or to check your eligibility. Children in reception class automatically receive free school meals however once they moved to year 3 this stops. Signing up now means you wont have to remember to do it in the future.

### **Authorisation to pick up children**

If there are any changes to adults authorised to pick up your child/ren from school, please contact the office and let us know.



## *Diary Dates*

### **SEPTEMBER**

- Monday 5th September - Inset Day (School closed to children)
- Tuesday 6th September - First Day of Autumn Term
- Friday 9th September - Year 2 Meet the teacher 3:30—4:00
- Monday 12th September - Year 3 Meet the teacher 3:30—4:00
- Tuesday 13th September - Year 4 Meet the teacher 3:30—4:00
- Wednesday 14th September - Year 5 Meet the teacher 3:30—4:00
- Thursday 15th September - Year 1 Meet the teacher 3:30—4:00
- Friday 16th September - Year 6 Meet the teacher 3:30—4:00
- Wednesday 21st September - Rags2riches collection

### **OCTOBER**

- Thursday 13th October - Cheltenham literature festival—Year 6
- Wednesday 19th October - Nasal flu vaccinations—Whole school
- Friday 21st October - Harvest assembly, children are invited to dress as a farmer for the day and to bring in a donation for the food bank.
- Friday 21st October - Last day of term*
- Monday 31st October - Start of Autumn term 2*

### **NOVEMBER**