

# Ellwood Community Primary School

*Believe, Achieve, Belong*

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**Our value this term is: Respect**

February 22nd 2024

## Weekly Attendance

Our aim is to have our weekly attendance above 97% in line with the Local Authority's expectation. This week, our **whole school attendance was 97.4%**.

Well done to Oak class this week for both getting 100% attendance!

Please remember to report a child's absence before 9.30 a.m. ideally before the start of school by either phoning the school on 01594 833232 or emailing

[admin@ellwood.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ellwood.gloucs.sch.uk)

Thank you.

Oak	100%
Chestnut	97.6%
Beech	93.8%
Sycamore	98.2%
Willow	98.3%

## British Science week -

Science week will be held week commencing Monday 11th March.

We have chosen not to ask them to dress up this year, but we have a fun week planned full of Science based activities and experiments which we are sure the children will love.

British  
Science  
Week  
2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you had a good half term break.

We cannot believe how quickly the time is passing. We are nearly half way through the year! There are only 4 more weeks to Easter. This term is an important term particularly as all the statutory assessments for EYFS, Yr 1, Yr 4 and yr 6 happen around May time. The teachers are working hard to ensure the children are working to their full capacity and making the progress they should. Please continue to support your child at home with their reading and homework as it helps them to stay on track and in line with their peers. We are grateful to parents for supporting their child, sending homework back on time as this makes things so much easier for the teachers as they can mark it quickly and review it.

We are looking forward to archery enrichment day tomorrow. Thank you to Miss Hek for organising this. The children thoroughly enjoy these opportunities.

Next week we should send more information regards to parents evening which is coming up in the next few weeks. Please look out for the email and sign up. If your child is pupil premium (in receipt of free school meals) or has a My Plan (SEND need) you do not need to book and teachers will arrange a separate appointment with you. It would be lovely to see all parents attending so teachers can share your child's learning progress with you.

Reverend Michelle (Chair of Governors) visited this week and carried out a monitoring visiting looking at learning behaviours of the pupils. She was looking at independence, resilience and motivation. She was pleased with what she observed and she stated that both children and adults were respectful to each other. Children were supported well by staff and were given help when needed. They were provided with resources and used these appropriately. The children were praised for their effort. Well done to all children and staff. Mr Lord and Mrs Cornock also visited before half term and Mr Lord has added a section to the newsletter. They both enjoyed their time in school and were impressed how smoothly lunchtime went.

We look forward to another busy but exciting term full of different events such as; clubs, archery enrichment day, disco, science week, world book day and Easter activities.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Milford

## Willow Class focus -

Willow class have finished their D&T unit this week with their come dine with me experience and have made a mixed fruit and apple crumble today! The children had to use a range of skills such as peeling, chopping and dicing. They had to think about flavor combinations and evaluate the flavor after cooking it!



## Children's Mental Health week

To celebrate Children's Mental Health week the children took part in lots of activities looking at different ways to share their voice and support their own wellbeing. Chestnut and Beech were very lucky to meet Rob Holmes who has written the book 'Wise Owl' which is all about mindfulness.

The children asked some great questions and we found out that Rob lives in Devon, enjoys making others happy and has made lots of bookmarks for children all over the country and he is the author of 4 books!

He is about start his 5th book which will be ready in the Autumn. All children across the school received a bookmark with mindful tips on to share at home.



Congratulations to Year 4 who won the half term Battle of the Bands TTRS competition, this was thanks to the fantastic effort from James T, Libby, Charlie R and Ellis.

The most valuable players overall were James T (year 4), Phoebe (year 3) and Edith (year 6).

Special mention to all children who took part in the competition.

Year 4: James T, Libby, Charlie R and Ellis.

Year 6: Edith and Abbie-Grace.

Year 3: Phoebe, Harper and Ted.

Year 2: Noah, Isabelle, Myles, Kuba and Kacey.

Year 5: Macey, Angus, Maisie and Amelia.

TTRS is a fun way of learning times tables and a valuable resource to use at home. TTRS will be part of Maths homework for years 2-5 this half term, please ensure your children are logging on each week and completing their homework as it will be checked weekly.

If you need any help logging into TTRS from home please speak to your child's class teacher so that your child can continue their Rock Star journey!

	Class Average Correct	Class Total Correct	
1	Year 4	8,244	
2	Year 6	957	
3	Year 3	946	
4	Year 2	611	
5	Year 5	586	

TTRS can be downloaded as an app on multiple devices so that you child can easily access it.

Times tables matter and multiplication facts are non-negotiable basic building blocks that the children need in order to be successful in all areas of Maths.

Knowing the times tables (and their associated division facts) supports mathematical learning and understanding and those children who have a strong grasp of them tend to be more self-assured when learning new concepts. Every pupil should start secondary school with a fluent, accessible and automatic knowledge of their times tables.



### **Uniform reminders -**

A reminder that children should be wearing black or navy blue sensible sport/running trainers for P.E. Fashion trainers and trainers that are not appropriate for P.E cannot be worn.

Leggings should also not be worn in place of school trousers.

Earrings - only small studs that need to either be taken out or taped up before P.E sessions. Not doing this could result in your child missing out. Please can children also not wear jewelry to school such as bracelets etc.

Long hair should be tied up and no extreme hair colours to be worn during term time.

We need to be fair and consistent with all children across the school.

Please can children also wear sensible clothing on Forest Adventure days, we are noticing more and more than fashion items are starting to be worn for this too.

For further information on uniform please visit the school website.

Thank you for your understanding.

### **Tesco Stronger Starts Community Grant**

Mrs Milford recently put in a grant for funding from Tesco Community grants. Part of the application process was having the blue tokens in local Tesco stores. We are pleased to announce that we have been successful in going through to the last phase of the process in receiving a grant of £500 which will go towards creating a small 'hub' outside space for children to use at playtime and lunchtimes.

The intention is for it to be used for children to relax in, have a quiet space, carry out reading activities, talk to friends and can also be used for as a quiet space for family support workers to work with children to enhance their well being.

We hope to be able to update you more in the next few months.

## What's Up Gov?

The non-staff Governors at Ellwood School are all unpaid volunteers, usually co-opted or voted onto the Board by the parents/carers, for tenures of 4 years, which can be renewed.

Governor of all schools in England have 3 key, non-operational duties, as follows:  
Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the School and its pupils' outcomes and the effective and efficient performance of staff management.

Overseeing the financial performance of the School and ensuring its money is well spent.

Ellwood's governors (whose details you can see on the School's website), carry out these duties via a combination of in person meetings in School and online meetings via Microsoft Teams, throughout the School year. Ellwood's Board has 2 committees, to which responsibilities are delegated; Performance and Standards and Resources. Individual governors also visit the School during the school day to witness and evidence pupil learning and activities via regular reports to the Board.

One visit took place on February 6, when 2 governors visited School at lunchtime to see how the lunch system was working, particularly after we introduced crockery plates and trays for the EYFS and Year 1 pupils. Historically, they have used partitioned plastic trays and the governors wanted to try proper plates to make eating lunch more enjoyable and normal and for the pupils to develop the motor skill of carrying a proper tray with lunch on. The children are also more likely (as we saw) to use both a knife and fork to eat.

The pupils we spoke to mostly liked it, but it does take a little more time to serve and clear away in quite a busy environment. But we feel the benefits outweigh this and after a discussion with Mrs Milford we feel we are able to extend this to Year 2 pupils.

As a note, the pupils were engaging, polite and very keen to convey their opinions – we like that!

**Helen Cornock and Andy Lord**

**Resources committee governors.**

## *Diary Dates*

### **FEBRUARY**

- Tuesday 20th February - Swimming Years 3 & 4
- Thursday 22nd February - Year 4 Gymnastics  
- Follow my lead (biking) for Oak class
- Friday 23rd February - Archery enrichment day - whole school to wear PE kit (If your child has Forest Adventures they can wear clothes suitable for both)
- Thursday 29th February - Reception & Y6 height weight and vision checks (just R)  
- Year 4 Gymnastics  
- Follow my lead (biking) for Oak class

### **MARCH**

- Friday 1st March - Non-uniform day in exchange for Easter choc
- Tuesday 5th March - Swimming - Years 3 & 4
- Thursday 7th March - Year 4 Gymnastics
- Friday 8th March - World Book Day (Dress up)
- Monday 11th March - Science week starts
- Thursday 14th March - Year 4 Gymnastics  
- School disco