

Ellwood School News

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All Newsletters are also available on our website.



Hello everyone, we hope you are all well!

We are pleased to be able to offer the opportunity for more children to attend school for a short period of time over the next few weeks.

Year 6 return - You will receive a letter today telling you which group your child is in.

Year 5 - Year 5 will be told towards the end of next week which stay in touch day they have been allocated, either Friday 3rd or Friday 10th.

EYFS and Year 1 return has been successful. The children are having a good time in school and enjoying the activities. Please don't worry if your child hasn't returned to school, we will support them in the Autumn term.

We are hoping to welcome Years 3 and 4 back for sessions in the last week of term. You should have received an email about this.

Summer Holidays

There is no expectation for the school to be open over the summer period, the last day in school will be Friday 17th July. We will be completely closed to all children, including keyworker children. The Family Information Service for Gloucestershire have details of childcare providers and we know that Ellwood Nursery are offering summer childcare. Please look at their website or email ellwood@miarosenursery.co.uk or phone 01594 835624 for more details.

Schools are only expected to provide very brief annual reports, however we have continued to provide a report for each child, as detailed as we can, under the circumstances. As the children have not covered all of the years curriculum, it not possible to give an end of year summative formal assessment, so the grades on the reports are based on objectives covered until the March closure. I would like to thank staff for all their hard work putting the reports together for the children and for going above and beyond again. The reports can be collected anytime next week, along with the summer packs (EYFS - Year 5), which you'll find more info about on the next page.



Summer Packs

There is no expectation for schools to have an online learning platform and our teachers, have yet again excelled in this area. This was another task for them, on top of all the other jobs and working in school during the closure. So for the summer holidays the platform will not be used in the same way. There will be a small number of tasks loaded on there but they will be for the whole of the summer. The staff will not be responding to emails or commenting on the platform over the summer. A paper pack has been provided and can be collected from school next week, if you haven't already collected them. Your child/ren don't have to complete the tasks in the pack, but can do so if you feel it will be beneficial for them

September - Class Split

With all the Government announcements, the general public hear this news at the same time as us, at school. At the moment we are assuming all children are returning as normal in September, however, as you know this could change. We are still waiting for further guidance on how this will look in practical terms, but will keep you up to date and informed as we are given further information.

We have planned the class split (for years 2 and 5) as we normally do. The letters are in with the reports.

Please note the class split is by age and the decision is final and unfortunately we cannot accommodate changes. Hopefully if things continue as normal, the children will be able to continue to be taught in their small year group numbers in the mornings of approximately 20 children. This is such a fantastic opportunity and we would like to thank the governors for ensuring we are able to do this due to excellent financial management of our school budget. This is a luxury compared to what other schools are usually able to offer.

If your child is currently attending, or is starting to attend school in the next week or so, please make sure you are following the current guidance.

This is the current guidance and remains in place until the 4th July - please make sure you are following this guidance, otherwise the school may have to remove the offer of the children attending to ensure we protect our children, staff and their families and not put at any risk.

Current guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-people-from-outside-your-household>

New guidance from the 4th July - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-after-4-july>

Please make sure you are following the guidance before this date.

To the staff

We would like to thank ALL staff for their hard work and dedication to the school and the children during this challenging period and meeting the task with good humour and dedication. The school reopening took a lot of planning and physical preparation. All staff helped prepare for this. They have continued to work non-stop behind the scenes from the minute we were given notice of the school closures. Many of them having to balance their own childcare and families, but remain working full time, either in school or at home. We know this would often be late in to the evening and weekends. They have worked through their contractual holidays without a fuss or a moan and deserve some down time over the summer to recharge for what is likely to be a full on Autumn term and beyond.

We want to ensure that we hit the ground running in September and help the children to fill any gaps in learning and get them back up to speed as quickly as we can. Do not worry about where your children are academically due to school closures, all children are in the same position and the teachers are skilled in ensuring they make progress. This is what they do day in and day out. They assess and teach the children based on their needs and are used to a range of abilities, so please do not worry. The children will return and it will be as if they have never been away. Some children might need a little bit more support with their social, emotional and well being, but that's our job and we do it very well - we are not worried - so we don't want you to be. Our only worry will be the external pressures that are placed upon us e.g government and Ofsted, which unfortunately change like the wind but we know what needs to be done for the children and will do it to the best of our ability.



Sports challenge



Well done to the families that took part in the challenge this week! Ellwood was the second small Primary school - a fantastic achievement!

Below are some pictures of the children enjoying all of the activities we have been doing.



Making bird cakes



Dance



Making bug hotels



Mud kitchen



Pond dipping



Rock painting and pictures

