

Ellwood School News

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All Newsletters are also available on our website.



Dear All,

In late March when it was announced that schools would close, we were all in shock, as we never could have imagined something like this happening in our lifetime. However, all staff were adamant that our children would not suffer during this unprecedented time and we wanted to ensure that our children continued to flourish. We hope that in some ways we were able to make this possible for the children. We know that a few children have struggled through this time but from meeting the children who have returned to school, they seem happy and pleased to be back. We want them to hopefully be able to remember the opportunities they had during this time, rather than being darkened by the difficulties we all faced. We know there have been times of challenge for us all and days which have been very stressful but as a community, we know there have been many moments when we have all pulled together and continued to rise to the challenge.

We have loved seeing all of the opportunities that our children have had during school closures, we have seen lots of happy children who have clearly made some lovely memories with their families. As a school, we feel that we truly have worked together and we are very thankful for all of your support and communication with us throughout this time. We do believe that as a school community we have lived out our vision of Achieve, Believe and Belong.

As the summer holidays approach rapidly, I am sure you have questions about what school will look like in September. You may be aware that the Government have produced a lengthy document that outlines expectations for September: you can find the whole document here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirusoutbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

We have also emailed you a lengthy document, giving you more information about the return. ALL children will return to school, full time on **Wednesday 2nd September**. Please remember that the virus is still in the community and remains just as dangerous. There is talk of another possible wave in the autumn term, possibly worse than the first and therefore we need to take this very seriously and we need to protect our own community and the wider community. Therefore we have to continue to put even more stringent safety and preventative measures in place, as we will have over 170 adults and children on site at any one time and this requires the full support of the whole community - pupils, parents, staff and their families. A full risk assessment will be emailed to you and available on our website from Monday.

Please see overleaf for a brief summary of useful information regarding the return.

Here is a brief summary of useful information.

Summary:

- Staggered start and finish times - see timetable below. Children must be on time.
- Lunch boxes only for the first half term initially - brought from home or ordered in school from Caterlink (ham, cheese, egg or tuna).
- The class/year group bubbles will not mix.
- Staggered playtimes.
- Allocated toilets per bubble.
- Regular hand hygiene - hand washing/sanitizing.
- Additional cleaning.
- Children will have their own equipment which they use regularly in school e.g pencil case provided by the school.
- Uniform to be worn .
- No PE kits needed - you will be informed of days the children need to wear them.
- Sun cream to be applied before school.
- No other belongings to be brought to school. No big bags. Only bring: water bottle, sun hat, coat, snack, reading packet and lunch box.
- Children wash hands before leaving home and when they return from school.
- Inform us if any family member is showing COVID symptoms and they must be tested. School needs to be informed of when the appointment is and the result.
- No child to be sent to school if they are unwell.
- No parents/visitors on the school site - phone the office/email for contact.
- Social distancing to be adhered to at all times.
- No link book will be used for the first half-term.
- Unfortunately there will be no clubs until further notice. This will be reviewed in October.

As mentioned above - please see the separate email if you require more details.

Drop-off and Pick-up

Class	Drop-off Time	Pick-up Time	Location
Oak EYFS	8.55am	3.15pm	Bottom gate - rear playground
Chestnut	8.45am	3.05pm	Bottom gate - rear playground
Beech	8.45am	3.05am	Front yard gate - Hub door
Sycamore	8.55am	3.15pm	Front yard gate - Hub door
Willow	8.55am	3.15pm	Double gates - rear playground

I know that all of these changes are a lot to take on board but hopefully they will enable us all to start the school year as normally as possible.

Once again, can I just say how supported we have all felt by our school family; thank you. We honestly can't wait to have everyone back in school, every day of the week.

We have attached information to this newsletter to help celebrate the great things that have happened this year. Thank you to all the staff who have worked tirelessly this year - you have been great - we are honoured to work with such an inspirational and dedicated team.

We wish all our families the best over the summer holidays and we look forward to seeing you all again in September. 

Governors

Thank you to all of our fantastic governors for all of their hard work and support over the last academic year, it hasn't been an easy year. Mrs Ulyatt (Chair of Governors) has put together a lovely governor annual report to parents, which has been sent out in a separate email. It really celebrates the schools successes, even under these challenging circumstances.

Forest Adventures

When we return to school in the autumn, Mrs Rees will be carrying out forest adventures with Sycamore class and Beech class on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. More information will follow on this, however, she will be in need of volunteers to ensure that she can go off site safely.

We would be really grateful if anyone can help. Please let Mrs Rees know in the autumn term if you think you may be able to help. The children really do love forest adventures, so we want to ensure that it is still able to carry on.

Thank you!

Attendance - September

The government expect all children to return to school full time in September.

As the Government guidance explains, from the beginning of the new school year, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- Parents' duty to ensure that their child attends school, where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- Schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence; and the option to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

Some of the fun activities we have carried out the school this year!



Forest Felling



Forest Schools



Gamelan



Gardening Club



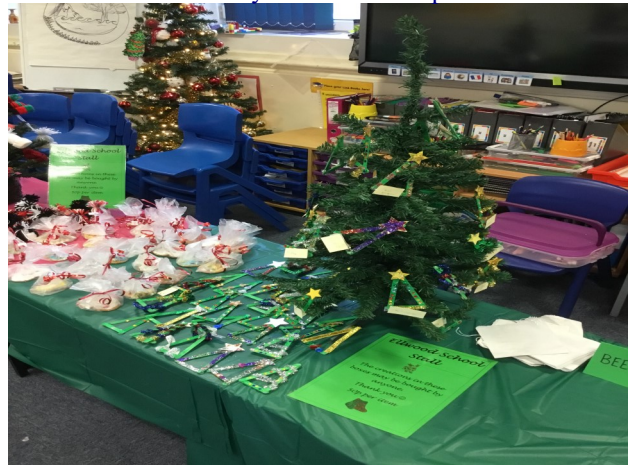
Beech class castle project



Money Sense workshop



Christmas carols at the Elms



Christmas Fayre

Some of the different activities we have been doing in school during lockdown!



Garden

Thank you so much to Mrs Rees, who spent a lot of time in the school garden over lockdown and has done a fantastic job. Below are some pictures of how beautiful it looks!



Oak class had their own Sports Day with Mr Yearly. The children carried out various different activities and races and all had a brilliant time!



Some quotes from the children about their favourite moments this year.

"Building a castle in the library"

"I enjoyed golden time"

"I liked all of the teachers"

"I liked doing the Christmas play all together"

"I liked going to the Gymnastics competition"

"I liked doing Maths - counting the counters"

"I liked going on Forest Adventures"

Year 2 'keeping in touch days'

Thank you to everyone who came to the Year 2 'keeping in touch' days. It was lovely to see you chatting and being together with your friends (at a safe distance!). Everyone adapted to the changes and new rules really quickly and we still found lots of games that we could play. You created some brilliant art work which will proudly be on display in September.



Stormbreak

Stormbreak is a children's mental health and movement charity, based in the South West.

To help families and primary school aged children in response to Covid-19 to develop mental and emotional well-being skills in resilience, relationships, self-worth, self-care and hope and optimism, Stormbreak are inviting schools, children, families and trusted adults to take part in the "Stormbreak Summer Challenge".

Starting on **August 1st**, Stormbreak, with the support of BBC Children in Need, will be challenging children and families across the UK to participate in daily online live and recorded Stormbreak sessions.

The Stormbreak Summer Challenge asks families, carers and trusted adults to participate with the children they live with, care for or support and take part in the **Stormbreak Summer Challenge**:

- Sign up from August 1st at www.stormbreak.org.uk
 - Watch and participate in daily Stormbreak mentally healthy movement challenges
 - Log stormbreaks
 - Earn badges and certificates
 - Love a Stormbreak summer

Virtual School Games

Well done to those to took part in the Virtual School Games, we had the highest participation in the Forest and 7th in the County overall! Below are our results.

KS1

Speed Bounce - District (FOD) winners and 4th in the County

Catch and clap - 2nd district and 7th county

Shuttle run - 15th county

KS2

Speed Bounce - 2nd district, 4th county

Catch and clap - 13th county

Shuttle run - 20th county

Joshua Powles also came 3rd in the Gloucestershire School Games Photography competition, there were 83 entries in total so this is an excellent achievement. Well done Josh!

COVID-19 Cases - Summer Holidays

Parental Guidance re: COVID cases in the first weeks of the holidays.

As we move towards the summer holidays, we need to consider how parents notify us or how we deal with any COVID cases that emerge in the early weeks of the summer holiday and how we communicate this with our families who had children attending school in the same bubble. Whilst we hope this will not be necessary we need to be confident that we have the right communication channels in place. The only way that we can see to handle this, is for parents to notify the school as soon as they know of a positive case for a child by leaving a message or emailing admin@ellwood.gloucs.sch.uk. Staff will also notify us if they test positive.

So if your child/ren or close family member does develop confirmed COVID-19 (following a positive test) in the first two weeks of the summer holidays, you need to alert us so we can inform other families of other children who were in the same bubble and also inform our staff. This would then trigger more communication to other parents in that bubble and notification to PHE in the usual way for advice.

Thank you.

Good luck to our Year 6 leavers, we will miss you all. We wish you the best of luck at secondary school. Thank you so much for the bird box, we will put it in the school garden.



We hope you all have a wonderful summer break and look forward to seeing everyone in the autumn term!

