

Ellwood Community Primary School



Bulletin - December 4th 2020

Update

December is upon us and we are really busy preparing to celebrate the Christmas period. We know that Christmas will look a little different in school this year, however, we are all working hard to create a Christmas celebration that we will be able to share with you remotely. More details to follow in the next few weeks. In fact, since school has resumed, we have been so proud of all the virtual services we have been able to share with you. We know you can't come into school but we really hope you are still able to get a sense of what we are doing in school and the fun we are having.

The children had a lovely surprise on Monday, as the staff spent Friday night and some of the weekend, decorating the school for the children. It looks fantastic! Each class has decorations and a Christmas tree. The corridors look amazing with pretty Christmas lights. Thank you to staff for doing this for the children - their faces revealed pure delight on Monday morning!

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our school community this term, particularly when we supported Children in Need and the Forest Foodbank. This is such a lovely gesture, particularly as some families are struggling themselves. Thank you also, for supporting our fundraising efforts and purchasing Christmas hamper squares for the classes and supporting the secret shopping event. Mrs Genner-Morris and her team of elves are helping to make this shopping experience a success. The children really enjoyed it last year.

We also have the Christmas film night planned for the children which we know they are excited about. Thank you to staff for helping with this event.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GIFTS

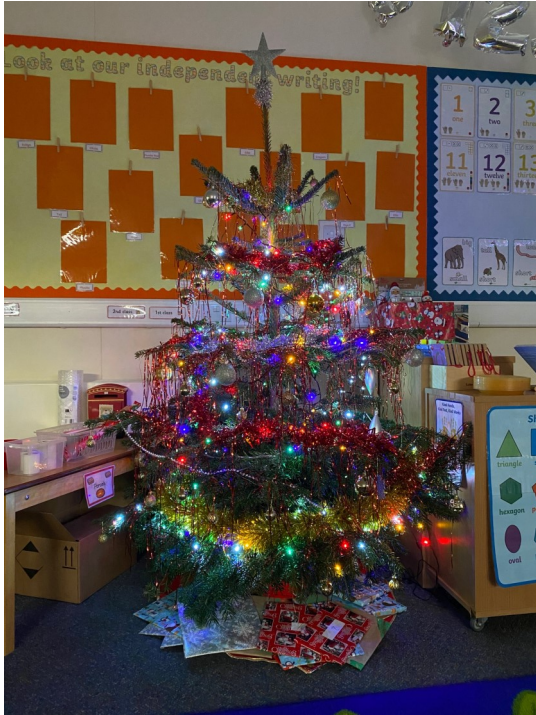
We have had a change of plan, due to a couple of children wanting to send Christmas cards. We were discouraging it this year due to COVID-19, logistics and environmental reasons but if families want to send them, they must be sent into school next Friday 11th December, where they will be quarantined over the weekend and then sent home on Monday 14th December. These will be the only the days they are exchanged in school. If you miss Friday 11th December cards will have to be distributed outside of school. If sending in cards, please ensure they have the child's name and class clearly marked on the envelope/bag.

If you want to give gifts to your class teacher, we will quarantine these within school in a lidded box. Please do not think this is an expectation to give staff gifts. It is a lovely gesture but please do not worry about this. We do not want any more pressure put on families and would rather parents spend money on their families.

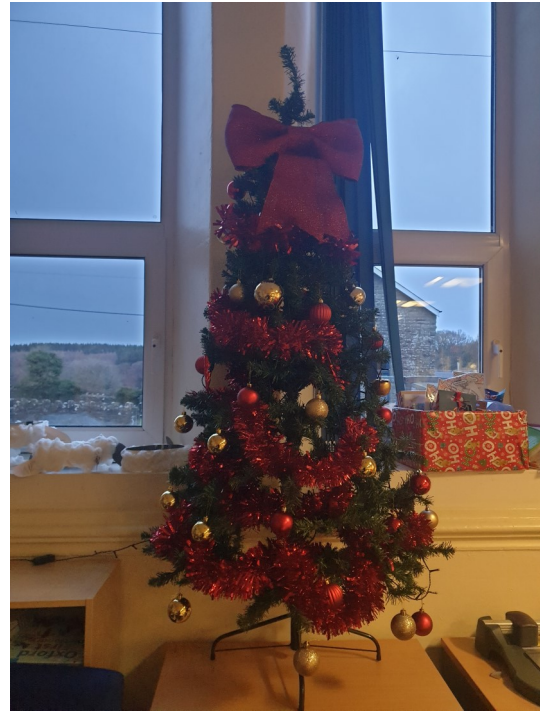
Thank you for your continued support.

Ellwood School—Decorated for Christmas

Oak Class



Beech Class



Sycamore Class



Pretty Corridors



Thank you

Many thanks to Frankie and Drew's Grandparents for kindly donating some Christmas trees for our outside spaces.

They look amazing and have really put us in a festive mood!



Cool Milk Reminder

Just a reminder that if you for wish your child to receive milk at school, you must register with Coolmilk. Children under 5 are entitled to free milk, with it being subsidised for children aged 5-11.

For further information on registering and payment, please visit www.coolmilk.com

Thank you.

Nasal Flu Vaccinations

The Nasal Flu vaccination day ran smoothly with the vast majority of children being immunised. The team commented on how well behaved and polite the children were.

If you received a letter from the immunisation team stating that your child did not have the vaccination, this was because consent was not given in advance, either on-line or by requesting a form, we did send a number of reminders via newsletter and e-mail.



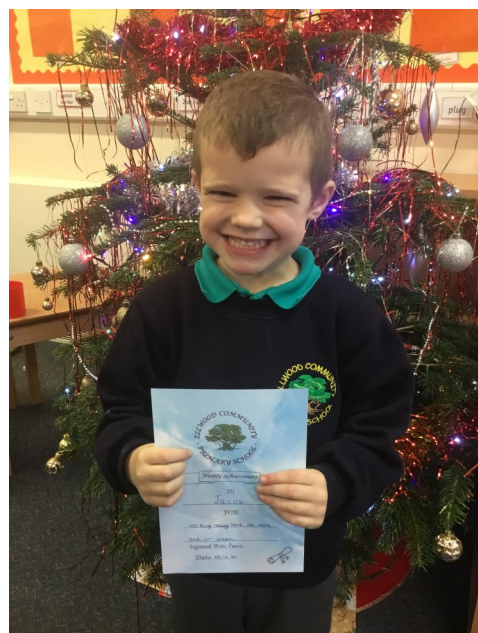
Weekly Achievement Oak Class

Olivia- for fantastic singing in our Christmas play.



Weekly Achievement Oak Class

Jacob - for working really hard at home and at school.

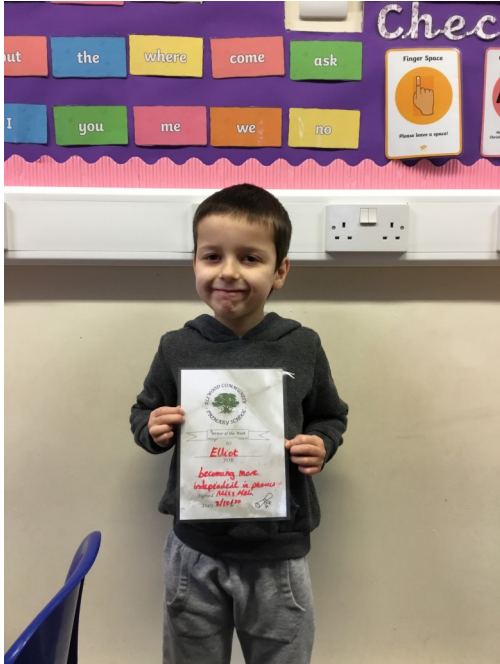


WEEKLY AWARDS

Writer of the Week

Year 1

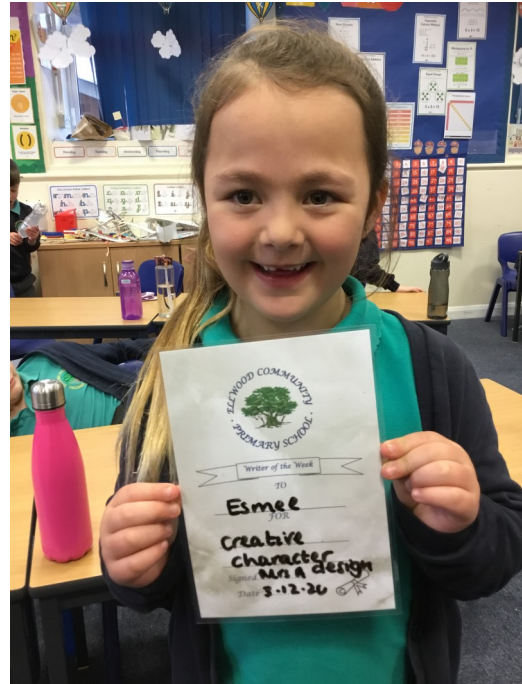
Elliot - For becoming more independent in phonics.



Writer of the Week

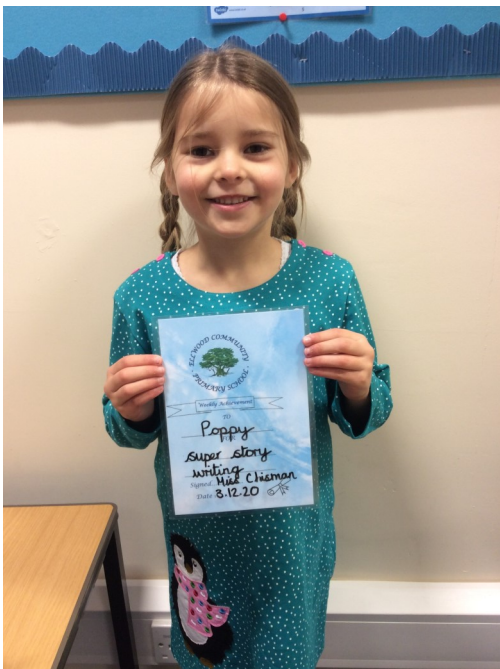
Year 3

Esmee P - for a creative character design.



Year 2

Poppy-Mae - for writing a super story.



Year 4

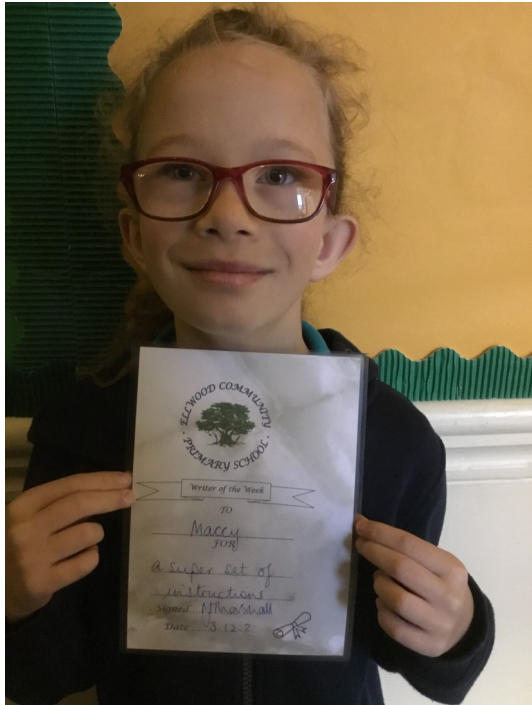
Riley N - for writing an excellent setting description.



Writer of the Week

Year 5

Maccy- for writing a super set of instructions.



Year 6

Macey - for persevering and writing a good length story.



Christmas Movie Night

Please can any outstanding Movie Night reply slips be returned to school by Tuesday 8th December.

Thank you



Cauliflower Cards

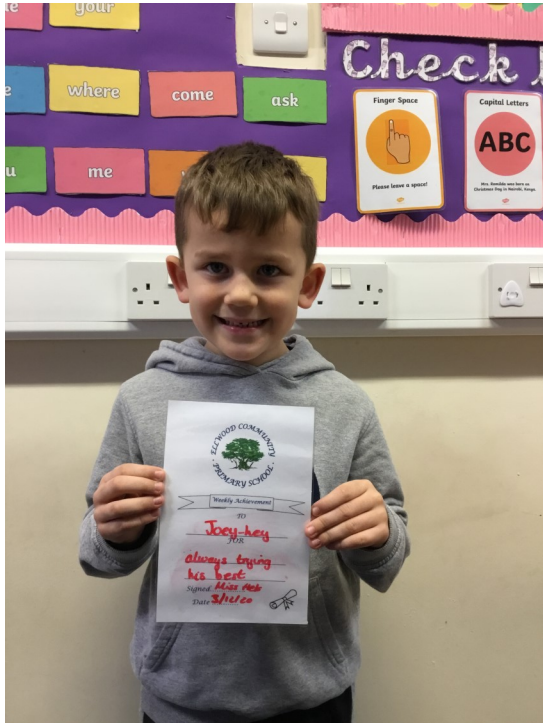
Thank you to all the parents/ carers who placed orders for the Christmas cards, gift tags, wrapping paper and mugs. They all looked amazing and we are sure that your family and friends will really love them too!

We would also like to give a big thank you to Miss Chisman for organising and co-ordinating this.

Weekly Achievement

Year 1

Joey-Leigh - for always trying really hard in lessons.



Weekly Achievement

Year 3

Bella P- for a great attitude to assessments.



Year 2

Drew - for being a super learner.



Year 4

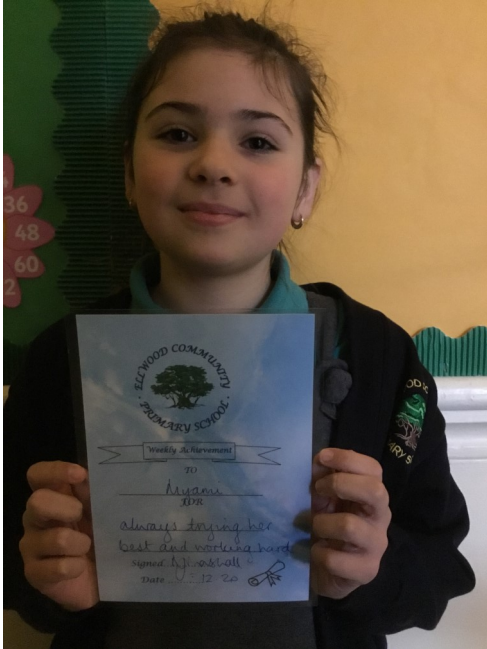
Darcie-Rae - for excellent work in topic lessons.



Weekly Achievement

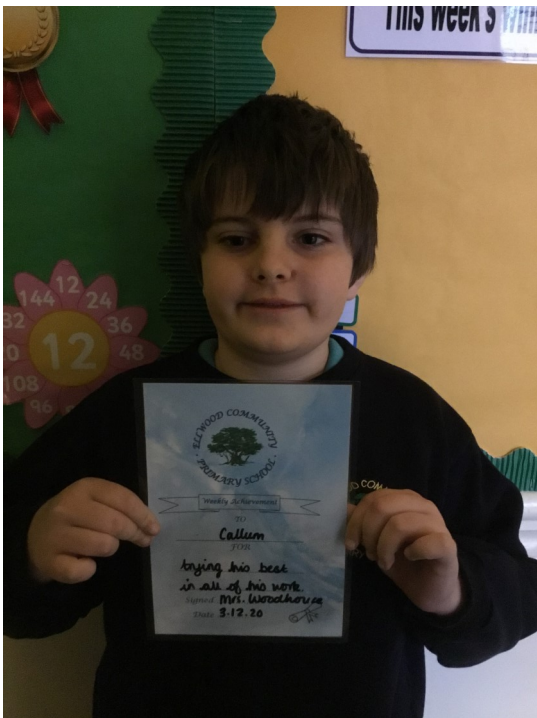
Year 5

Myami - for always trying her best and working hard.



Year 6

Callum - for trying his best in all of his work.



Christmas Hampers

Just a reminder that squares are still available to buy, for £1 a square. You may buy more than one square if you would like to.

Please send money into school in a named envelope.

Thank you.



Christmas Party Day

On the last day of term, Friday 18th December, children may come to school wearing a Christmas jumper with their school uniform, if they wish to do so.

To celebrate the end of term, children may bring a Christmas themed packed lunch and decorate their lunchboxes to celebrate Christmas. If you would like to order a school dinner you may of course do so.



One of our Families

Before the pandemic Bodi, Remy and Inidie took part in a photo shoot for Gloucestershire's fire and rescue service, for a recruitment campaign for on-call firefighters.

This was to create a booklet for potential candidates to give guidance on what it takes to be an on-call fire fighter. Families from on-call firefighters were able to give their views on how it affects them and how they feel about their parent/partner being an on-call fire fighter.

Thank you for sharing this with the school, the children really enjoyed finding out more about Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue.



Parent/Carer Christmas Hamper

We are really pleased to let you know that we are going to be holding a raffle for Parent/Carer hampers. This will be run in the same way as the children's hampers, where squares will cost £1 each. The hampers will contain a selection of edible goodies such as chocolates, biscuits, crackers and even some alcohol!

If you would like to be in with a chance to win one of these hampers, please send some money in a named envelope, stating it is for the Parent/Carer raffle. The draw will be held on the last day of term.

Thank you for your support.



Free School Meals

If you think your child/ren is eligible for Free School Meals please visit: www.glooucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals for further information.

Why should I apply?

For every child that is entitled to free school meals the school receives extra funding to enhance provision and improve progress and outcomes for children. So please apply even if you do not wish to take up your free school meal.

What are the qualifying criteria for Free School Meals?

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Infant free school meals in England

Your child will be able to get free school meals if they're in:

- Reception class
- Year 1
- Year 2

We still ask that you apply for this via the normal free school meals applications so as to prevent your child's school missing out on additional funding.

How long will it take to get a response?

You will receive an instant response as to whether you are entitled to free school meals once you have submitted your claim. All you need is your National Insurance Number and a current email address.

When your application is received, your eligibility will be checked with the Department for Education, Department for Work and Pensions and HM Revenue and Customs. If unsuccessful, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will still receive universal infant free school meals.

Diary Dates

December

- Monday 7th Dec - Parent/Carer Hamper
(Squares go on sale - £1 a square)
- Thursday 10th Dec - Movie Night (3.30—5.30)
All children invited
(See separate letter for exact times)
- Fri 11th Dec - Christmas Cards to handed into school
- Monday 14th Dec - Christmas Cards handed out
- Monday 14th Dec - Secret Shopping commences this week
- Friday 17th Dec
- Friday 18th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day
Christmas Party Day
Christmas Hamper Raffle Draw

Early Finish

2.05 p.m. Chestnut and Beech

2.15 p.m. Oak, Willow and Sycamore

