

# Ellwood Community Primary School

*Believe, Achieve, Belong*

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**Our value this term is: Honesty**

**July 24th 2023**

## 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 94.4%**

Well done to **Willow class** for getting the highest attendance this week! In the next academic year 2023/2024, we need to see an improve in the whole school attendance. The local authority will continue to send penalty notices for holidays taken during term time, several have already been sent this year.

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	94.4%
Chestnut	92.2%
Beech	95.1%
Sycamore	94.7%
Willow	95.5%

## Goodbye and good luck!

Miss Comley, our lovely Oak class teaching assistant (and Friday Beech class teacher) will be leaving us at the end of this academic year to take up a full time teaching position in another local primary school. Well done and good luck Miss Comley we will miss you!

Mrs Lear, from Chestnut class who has completed her apprenticeship is also leaving us as she has been offered a teaching assistant role in another local school. Well done and good luck Mrs Lear, we will miss you!

## Hello and welcome!

We are pleased to welcome Miss Morcom to our team who is already a familiar face as she has been carrying out her placement here and is now a fully qualified teacher! Miss Morcom will work in Beech class, as a class teacher on a Friday and will also be a teaching assistant working across the school. In addition, she is also a P.E specialist, so will be delivering some great P.E lessons to our children. Welcome Miss Morcom!

We will also have some new pupils joining us in September in addition to our full intake in EYFS.

Dear Parents and carers ,

The last few weeks of term have contained some truly magical moments. Thank you to all parents, staff and pupils who have taken part in such a positive manner. Thank you to parents who have supported the staff and the school in the many events which have taken place. The memorial bench for Mrs Marshall was also revealed this week. It is a lovely stone bench and the base of it was reclaimed stone from St Whites primary school in Cinderford . It is lovely to think that these lovely crafted pieces of stone have been placed back in to a local primary school site for another 100 years or so! A lovely piece of history. The area surrounding the bench is beautiful and is a reflection area for children to spend time, reflecting, pondering and remembering.

We have also had a joyous sports day, which saw the whole school come together, a memorable whole school trip to the Wild Place, which created some lovely memories for the children, a lovely fantastic sponsored walk in memory of Mrs Marshall, transition days, the summer fare and the year 6 leavers assembly. Enrichment week was also a great success and hopefully inspired the children, gave them new experiences and helped to raise their aspirations, as well as having some fun! It was just as we had hoped. Thank you to staff for organising these fabulous events in addition to your normal teaching commitments.

Now the year has come to an end, we have many wonderful memories and the children have been a true delight. They have settled back in well to full time school, after the covid pandemic, which seems such a long time ago now. They have started to build their resilience back up. The teachers and staff have worked incredibly hard to close any gaps in learning the children may have had from the school closures and the vast majority are back on track with their learning. The children are also back in the swing of socialising with their peers, which is lovely.

Our Statutory assessment results this year have been incredible. As we are a small school, the percentages and results can vary depending on cohort size and the needs of the children but we are proud of each and every child and they all did extremely well. The data is provisional and has not been validated but the draft data is very pleasing. All we ask is that children do their best and reach their full potential.

The data for EYFS was 60% reaching a good level of development, with individual early learning goal areas ranging from 75-100% at the expected level. This is brilliant. Thank you to Miss Peart, with the support of Miss Comley, for working so hard with Oak class this year and giving them a fantastic start to school and preparing them for year 1.

Year one phonics screening was also great with 81% pass rate. KS1 reading was 78% achieving the expected standard and 22% greater depth (exceeding the expected standard), writing was 78% expected standard and 6% greater depth and maths was 84% expected standard with 28% Greater depth . Thank you to Miss Chisman, with the support of Mrs Rees and Mrs Olley, for working hard with the year 2 children to ensure they made fantastic progress this year and are ready and prepared for KS2. These results are strong, although national data hasn't been released yet for these tests we are positive that these results will be at least in line with national and probably a lot higher.

KS2 data was also very strong and higher than the provisional national this year. Reading was 79% expected standard and greater depth 37%, writing was 79%, maths expected level was 84% and greater depth 32%. This is brilliant too! Thank you to Mrs Woodhouse with the support of Mrs Genner-Morris. This data is strong and reflects the hard work of all staff, the support of parents and the children putting in effort to do their best. The greater depth results in reading and maths are very good, this demonstrates that we challenge all pupils.

The multiplication check results for year 4 were good too. Thank you to Miss Briggs, Mrs Hunt and Mrs Sheppard. They worked so hard with the children to ensure they were able to recall their times tables and complete the statutory test. Well done all, it is a team effort. Thank you to all staff who have worked so hard, in all year groups, to prepare these children for these tests and to parents for supporting them. This will set them in good stead for their next phase in education.

We have high expectations for all at Ellwood Community Primary School, pupils, staff and parents, and we wouldn't have it any other way. We want the best outcomes for the children, whether academic or social and we want to ensure they are prepared for the future. Therefore, we expect the children to be the best they can be and don't settle for anything less. This year the children have really risen to the challenge. Thank you for supporting your child, the staff and the school. We might not always appear to get it right and you may not always agree but the child/ren are always at the heart of any decisions we make. We are in it for the long term and make decisions which will help the children in the long run and their future life, not just for short term gain.

The recent pupil survey was also very pleasing and this has helped to confirm that what we strive to do has a positive impact on the children. They enjoy school, feel happy, enjoy the opportunities they are given, have good relationships with others and feel safe. What more can we ask!

Now the school has fallen quiet for the summer and we will start to organise and prepare for the academic year ahead. Never a dull moment - no wind down but a wind up for the next academic year! Although, I really hope staff have some time to relax and unwind after such a busy year. It seems to get busier and busier in schools each year. Thank you to all staff, in whatever role you play in school, for your dedication, hard work and support. It takes a team and they are a pretty fantastic team! I would also like to thank our governors for their commitment and time. It is a role that sometimes goes unrecognised but the responsibility for the governing board is huge and it is a voluntary role. They give up their own time in their busy schedules and work hard in the best interest of the pupils and do a very hard but fantastic job.

We wish our lovely year 6 children all the best as they move onto their next chapter. They have always been a lovely group of children and are good role models for the younger children. We hope these younger pupils follow in their footsteps. We look forward to meeting and welcoming our new EYFS class in September.

We also say goodbye to some wonderful staff members who are moving on in their careers. That is one sad thing about developing amazing quality staff and good leaders, as a school, you inevitably lose them. However, that means our job has been successful and they can continue to influence more children's lives in other schools and the wider community. We wish them all well with their new ventures.

This is what they will be moving on to.....

Miss Peart who is moving on to a much larger school with a large EYFS department and nursery, which she will lead.

Miss Briggs, who is going to teach in another local primary school. We wish her well in her new school.

Miss Comely is taking up a full time teaching position in a larger local primary school.

Mrs Lear, who has completed her apprenticeship, has also taken a teaching assistant position in a local school supporting children with SEND needs.

Mrs Threadgall, who is retiring and we wish her all the best for the future and hope she has a fantastic time.

We have some new staff joining us in September. Mrs King, EYFS class teacher, Miss Foxwell EYFS teaching assistant, Miss Morcom, working with Beech class on a Friday and also teaching P.E throughout the week, as she is also a P.E specialist, Miss Williams in year 4 and Sycamore class in the afternoons and Mrs Breakwell in Willow class two days a week. They have met the children already so they will be a familiar face. We welcome them to Ellwood school and we know they will enjoy working here.

We hope you all have a lovely summer and I too am looking forward to spending some quality time with my own children. We don't have many summers with our children before they are grown up and the time passes so quickly, so please enjoy this summer with your family.

Have a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing you all in September. Children return to school on Tuesday 5th September.

Kind regards

Mrs Milford

### A message from Miss Peart.....

I have loved every moment of working at Ellwood - it's a lovely school and I have been privileged to work here for 6 years starting as a newly qualified teacher back in 2017.

I just wanted to say a BIG thank you to the children and families who have made my 6 years at Ellwood so enjoyable and rewarding.

I appreciate all of the comments and positive messages of support that I have received over the years. It truly has been a brilliant start to my teaching career and I am so grateful for all of the things I have learnt and experienced.

I would also like to thank the wonderful staff team who make Ellwood school what it is. Thank you to Mrs Milford for believing in me and allowing me to develop the EYFS provision here at Ellwood.

It has really meant a lot to be able to help so many wonderful children learn over the years.

I will miss everyone at Ellwood so much but I am looking forward to a new and exciting teaching challenge.

Good luck to all of the children moving up into their new year groups in September.



## Thank you

Thank you so much for those who attended the fair on Thursday and/or contributed to the prizes and tombola items.

It was lovely to see so many people there and the children looked as though they were having a great time. It was a shame about the weather. We were hoping it was going to pass over us but unfortunately not. Thank you to the parents who helped us quickly move the event inside. We really appreciated all your help and it didn't go unnoticed.

Thank you to Mrs Genner-Morris, who organises all our fundraising events and does a fantastic job and thank you to all staff for supporting her. We raised £821 which is fantastic.

Thank you so much for participating and spending money! This fundraising will go towards subsidising school trips and outdoor equipment. We have also raised £163 from Fundraising Fridays!



## Plant Stall

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation on the plant stall. We have made £77 which we are very pleased with. Thank you for your generosity. Mrs Rees has already bought these gnomes to greet the children in the garden!



## Remembering Mrs Marshall

We are so pleased to announce that we raised a fantastic **£1718.50** from our 'Sponsored Memorial Walk' for Mrs Marshall.

We are going to send £750 to *Macmillan Cancer Support* and £750 to *Great Oaks Hospice* which are two charities who supported Mrs Marshall and her family.

Thank you SO much to our school community, parents/carers, family and friends for helping to raise this money through our sponsored event.

## Remembering Mrs Marshall

We used the remainder of the sponsorship money, along with donations, to install a bench in our 'reflection space' in Mrs Marshall's memory.

We would like to thank *Mrs Shppard* for sourcing the bench and *Mrs Rees* for creating the wonderful garden around the bench.

We would also like to thank *Mr Jones* for installing the bench and *Mr Sandford* for providing the wood chippings.



If you would like to view the bench please feel free to take a look after-school this week.



### A thank you from Miss Hek

Miss Hek would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Bishop, Miss Strathern and Mrs Sandford for coming in and listening to Year 1 children read. We are very grateful for your time and the children have loved being able to read to you!

Please contact Miss Hek if you would like to help with reading in September. It makes such a difference to the children as they get extra practise!



## Diary Dates

### JULY

\*\*\*\*\*SUMMER HOLIDAYS\*\*\*\*\*

### SEPTEMBER

- Monday 4th Sept - INSET DAY
- Tuesday 5th Sept - First day back  
- Swimming - Year 5 and 6
- Thursday 7th Sept - Gymnastics - Year 2
- Thursday 14th Sept - Gymnastics - Year 2
- Tuesday 19th Sept - Swimming - Year 5 and 6
- Thursday 21st Sept - Gymnastics - Year 2
- Thursday 28th Sept - Gymnastics - Year 2  
- Nasal flu vaccinations