

Ellwood School News



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All Newsletters are also available
on our website.

Welcome back to the Autumn term!

We hope you all managed to make the most of the summer holidays this year. Below are some reminders and further guidance surrounding our return to school under these strange and very different circumstances. We hope you find them helpful.

Bringing belongings in to school

The Government guidance stipulates that *'pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day, to essentials such as lunch boxes, hats, coats, books, stationery and mobile phones. Bags are allowed.'*

In order to ensure that we can *'implement sensible and proportionate control measures which follow the health and safety hierarchy of controls to reduce the risk to the lowest reasonably practicable level'*, we have asked that the children only bring in the essentials: a lunch box, water bottle, book bag and reading book.

If your child has a book bag, then this would be ideal, as it can easily fit on a child's peg, be wiped down, cleaned easily and help to hold any items that your child may bring into school.

With this in mind, if you do not have a book bag and your child needs to place their essential items in a bag, then a simple small backpack will be suitable. However, please be mindful that we cannot have large fashion bags in school which do not fit on a school peg or mobile coat racks and are filled with unnecessary items, as this does not enable us to limit the amount of equipment that comes into school.

New Reception class

We are looking forward to welcoming the new reception children in to school in the next few weeks. Miss Peart and Mrs Morris are participating in home visits in the next few weeks and are getting to know the children and their families. We hope you enjoy your time at Ellwood School.

Assemblies

There will be no traditional whole school or key stage assemblies during the first part of the Autumn term; these will be replaced by class assemblies and we are hoping to be able to take part in virtual assemblies with Reverend Michelle, which will be watched by children in multiple classrooms on the interactive white boards.

We recognise that whole school celebrations like Harvest and Christmas are unlikely to be able to take place as they normally would. We will of course be looking at how we celebrate these events within our community using different mediums so watch this space!

Reading Books

Reading books can still be brought home, however, on their return to school they will be placed in a box and left for 72 hours before being returned to the shelves. Each class has their own set of books which do not get mixed up with other classes. If your child has any reading books at home from before the Summer, please return them to school.

Before your child leaves home in the morning

Please check for any of the following symptoms

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to the sense of smell or taste

If any of these symptoms are evident do not send them to school, contact us on 01594 833232 or send an email to admin@ellwood.gloucs.sch.uk

Government advice must be followed, it can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus?qclid=EAIaIQobChMI_tzD-Mvd6QIVxbTtCh3s_QgYEAAAYASAAEgKB4fD_BwE

Travel to and from school

In accordance with our current risk assessment we encourage parents, staff and pupils to walk, use a scooter or cycle to school if at all possible. We appreciate the school is in a rural area but it might be an option. Children and families should ensure they are following social distancing guidelines whilst travelling to and from school and waiting around the school site.

Face coverings are required at all times on public transport (including for children, over the age of 11). Car sharing between families is a potential risk, so bear this in mind.

Broad and balanced curriculum.

Although there are some restrictions in place (eg singing in large groups/indoor PE/sharing of equipment) we fully intend to continue with our normal ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects in the next few weeks. We will not be planning to take the children off site for activities such as swimming/trips at the moment but we will constantly review this to see when we can resume such activities.

Curriculum for reconnection and recovery

Whilst we are confident that many children will quickly 'bounce back' after the lockdown, we are aware that there will be some children returning who have experienced anxiety or stress during this time as well as some children who may have experienced bereavement. We still want to celebrate the positives of lockdown as we know some children had lovely experiences and additional family time but remain aware some may need that little bit more nurturing. We will be following our PSHE framework and are currently having a whole school focus on wellbeing, mental health and wellness. The children are also taking part in additional growth mindset sessions, resilience and an e bug module, which looks at staying healthy and being mindful of germs and hygiene.

Learning Platform - Year 1 only

Can Year 1 parents/carers, please send an email to r.tait@ellwood.gloucs.sch.uk for their child to be logged on and registered for the learning platform.

We need your child's name, year group, class and the email address to be used. If you have another child in a different year that has previously been set up on the learning platform, we will need a separate email address.

Thanks.

Contact sheets

Contact sheets will be sent out today for you to check - please can you return them asap. You will also receive a home-school agreement and a Covid-19 home-school agreement, please sign and send them both back in to school as soon as possible. It is important we have up to date addresses and email addresses for you. Please also inform us of any changes to medical conditions or any new ones we need to be aware of. If your child has a care plan please email the office with any changes or request a new health care plan if needed. It is the parents responsibility to inform the school of any medical needs.

Thanks.

School photos

Several classes will have some photos sent home this week from before the summer holidays. If you would like to purchase them, please do so [online](#). We are not currently accepting them back in to school to send off, as we have done before.

Thanks.

Rotary club- Art competition

Well done to those who took part in the Rotary club's Art competition.

A number of children have received a prize for entering, along with an additional prize for any category winners. A big thanks to the Rotary club for their donation to the school.

Well done to the following children:

Darcey McLinden
Frankie Jones
Finley Davies
Ruby Hampson
Harry Bishop
April Donoghue
Melissa Bishop
Jack Paterson
Kiyen Aston
Tegan McAuliffe

We hope recent information we have given has helped to clarify the reasoning behind the choices and changes we have had to make in order to keep everyone safe. Your support in these challenging times has been very much appreciated by our school community. We know that the return to school for our whole school community may present more challenges in the future and raise anxiety amongst us all, so thank you for being so considerate and supportive.

Layla's Project: To Make a Nesting Box

Below are some photos of Layla Roberts making a nesting box during her time away from school, to her own design and colour scheme.

Well done Layla what a great project!



If you or your child has coronavirus symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the result.

Main symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

What to do if you have symptoms

If you develop one or more of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- ◆ Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
- ◆ Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.
- ◆ Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.

Anyone with symptoms can book a test online or over the telephone through 119 to get the certainty they need to protect themselves and those around them.

There is no need for the whole household to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic.

As schools across England return, pupils and students may feel unwell for example with a sore throat, stomach upset or a headache. These pupils don't need to book a test but may need to stay off school and seek medical advice through their GP or pharmacist as usual.