

# Ellwood School News



Headteacher: Mrs D Milford  
Tel: 01594 833232  
Spring 4 2018 - January 26th

[www.ellwoodschool.co.uk](http://www.ellwoodschool.co.uk)

All newsletters are also available  
on our website.

## Attendance

Well done to Chestnut Class for having the highest attendance so far this term. Well done!

Please contact the school office by 9.15 a.m. if your child will not be attending school, stating the reason for absence.

Oak	94.2%
Chestnut	97.5%
Beech	97.1%
Sycamore	96%
Willow	96%

## Outstanding Money Owed

Please ensure any outstanding debts for swimming and school dinners are paid as soon as possible.

Please be reminded that payments should be made via ParentPay.

If you require a ParentPay login letter, please contact the school office.

Thank you.

## Beech and Willow Classes

Beech and Willow classes have produced some lovely writing work this term, based on the Aladdin theatre trip. Some examples of their work are on display in the school corridors. Please come and take a look.



## Brass Lessons

Brass Tuition is available at school with Mrs Kerry Ford. If you think your child may be interested, please contact the school office for further information.

Thank you.

## Sex and Relationship Education

Reminder - this term we are introducing a new sex and relationship education (SRE) scheme produced by the local authority and it will be taught through the school. A letter was sent home last week giving more details. Next year SRE education will become statutory in all schools, so we are preparing for this.

Please come and look at the resources if you are concerned, as correct terminology for body parts will be used in lessons, even for the younger children. Materials and resources have been available for viewing today but if you were unable to make it, please see Miss Chisman if you have any concerns or questions as lessons will be starting soon.

Thank you.

## Spelling Challenge

All children have taken home their spellings to practise for the whole school spelling challenge. Please take a few moments to have a look at these with your child/ren and help them to learn them.

The spelling challenge will take place on Friday March 23rd.

# Spelling

## School Values—Respect

We are proud of our children and the many positive comments we receive about their behaviour but we have noticed recently that an increasing number of children are not showing polite manners or respect when being spoken to for their poor behaviour. Some pupils display poor body language e.g. rolling their eyes, shrugging their shoulders or answer adults back etc. This is not acceptable behaviour. We would welcome your support in reminding children of the importance of good manners.

Thank you for your support.

### Mornings

Thank you to parents/carers for leaving their child/ren at the door in the mornings and not entering school. Oak class children may now come into class independently and may be left at the door by their parent/carer, as they have all settled into school. This allows the corridors and classrooms to be left clear in the mornings.

Pupils all need to develop their independence and sort out their own belongings. There will, however be staff on hand to help out, if needed.

Please do not enter the classrooms as this disrupts the start to the school day and precious learning time.

Please remember to use your child's link book for any non urgent messages. The link books are checked daily.

Many thanks for your support.

### Family Support Worker Drop-in Session

Mrs Charles will be holding a drop-in coffee afternoon on Wednesday 7th February from 2.30 p.m. in the hall. Please come along if you have any concerns or worries related to your child. Mrs Charles will be available for you to talk to or you can just come along and have a tea or coffee.

We look forward to seeing you.



### Y5 Forest Adventure

Children in Year 5 had a great but wet time this week at Forest Adventure.

Thank you for sending in children with appropriate clothing. Please remember Y5 will have Forest Adventure every Tuesday afternoon up until Easter.

Thank you.



### Playtime and Lunchtime Equipment

We are very fortunate to have been able to purchase some new playtime equipment for lunchtimes. This has been funded using some of our Sports Premium money (additional money from the government to help promote exercise and healthy living). Mrs Marshall and the sports leaders will be organising the equipment for the children to start using in the next few weeks.

How exciting!

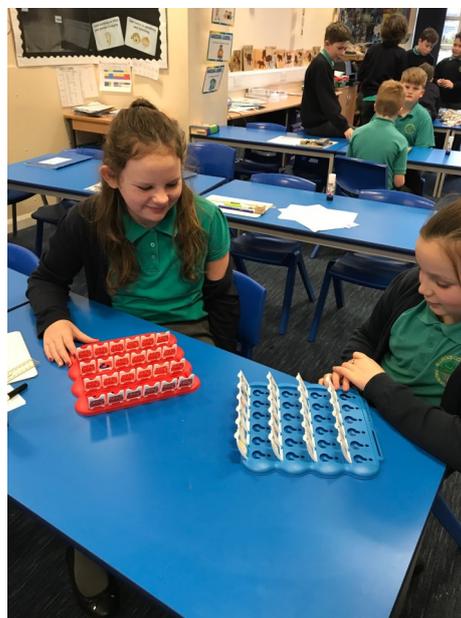
### Swimming

Please be reminded that swimming lessons for KS2 children is compulsory as it is part of the curriculum, so all children are expected to take part and attend.



### New Wet Play Games

At the last Governors meeting it was agreed that some of the school fund be used to purchase some much needed, indoor wet play equipment, for each class. This will enhance their playtimes in the wet weather. We hope the pupils enjoy the new games and equipment!



### School Disco

The Friends of Ellwood have arranged a school disco to take place on Friday 9th February, in the school hall.

*Reception, Year 1 and Year 2*

6.00 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.

*Years 3, 4, 5 and 6*

7.15 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.

Entry £1.50 per child - please pay at the door

Refreshments are available!

Free Drinks all night!

Entry will be via the main front school entrance.

Parents are welcome to stay.



### Reverend Michelle

This week Reverend Michelle visited school for the afternoon and spent time in Beech and Chestnut Classes. She then delivered a lovely whole school assembly on 'Daniel and the Lions'. The main purpose of this assembly was to help children to become brave, have courage and be bold and to do the right thing even when others are not.

We can't wait for the next assembly!

### Fruit Trees

We would like to thank Mr Blackburn for kindly donating some fruit trees to school. He will be liaising with Mrs Rees to find the best location and to arrange the planting of them.

Thank you so much for your support and we look forward to the children being able to look after them and watch them grow.



### Parent View

Just a reminder to log into the Parent View website and register your views. You can log in via the schools website or directly at [www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk)

If you have a few moments to spare it would be great to receive your feedback. All views welcome.

Thank you.

### Thank you!

We would like to thank Mr Donoghue, Mrs Beard and Mrs Bishop who help in school on a weekly basis, supporting classes, clubs and individuals. It is really appreciated.

If you would like to volunteer in a class, please speak to your child's class teacher. We usually don't encourage you to help out in your child's class but in one of the other classes, completing tasks such as listening to readers, supporting groups or administrative tasks.

### Author Visit

Yesterday, our whole school enjoyed a captivating visit from Sam Densham (our 'Author of the Month'). Sam is an actress, scriptwriter, director and producer and we were very excited to discover that she wrote the script for the Aladdin production that we enjoyed at the start of term. Sam spent an inspirational hour with Year 5 and Year 6 children. The children were delighted to learn lots about her life and work - and as a special treat, she read an extract from a new novel that she is hoping to have published. We were the first people to hear it! Later, Sam led a whole-school Assembly where she was hugely impressed with our children's listening skills, attitudes and behaviour. Sam praised the quality of our children's writing and she was very excited to present our weekly writing awards to each class's winner. She enjoyed her time with us so much that she has asked for permission to return in a few weeks. What a compliment! We are very excited that we will get to see her again soon.

Well done, boys and girls! You are a credit to our school.

## Growth Mindset

We are currently carrying out a research project with other forest schools and the University of Gloucestershire. We are looking at the impact of growth mindset on the children's resilience and approach to their school work.

Miss Abbott launched the work with an assembly that introduced the concepts of perseverance, determination, resilience and rising to the challenge. The children in KS2 have completed a questionnaire to assess their current ability to cope with struggles with work or with their friends. This will be repeated in the summer term after we have embedded growth mindset in our teaching practice to see whether it has had any impact on the children's resilience.

All of the activities will be carried out as part of the normal school day and will not impact adversely on your children. All questionnaires will be kept confidential unless we contact you to ask for permission to use them. Children will be encouraged to challenge themselves in lessons and will learn that mistakes are a good learning opportunity. If you have any questions or concerns about the project please don't hesitate to contact Miss Abbott.

### Developing a growth mindset

Instead of thinking...	Try thinking...
I can't do this.	I can't do this yet, but with effort I can.
It's good enough.	Is this really my best work?
This is too hard.	This may take some time and effort.
I can't make this any better.	I can always improve.
If I make mistakes, I'm no good.	Mistakes help me to improve.
I don't like to be challenged.	I want to challenge myself.
I give up.	I'll persevere and use different strategies.
My friends are cleverer than me.	I will learn what they do and try it myself.

### Achievement Assembly Awards

This week's individual achievement awards were given to the following pupils:

*Oak Class - Dexter Butler and Eliza Breese*

*Chestnut Class - Tianna Williams and Jamie Chandler*

*Beech Class - Harvey Hancock and Riley Gane*

*Sycamore Class - Jayden Edmunds and Astrid Elsmore*

*Willow Class - Macey Mills and Oscar Evans*



*Well done!*

### Weekly Writing Awards

This weeks weekly writing awards were given to the following pupils:

*Chestnut Class - Frankie Jones*

*Beech Class - Ethan Butler*

*Sycamore Class - Melissa Bishop*

*Willow Class - Emily Mitchell*



*Well done!*

## Diary Dates

### February 2018

- |               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| Fri 2nd Feb   | - | K'nex Challenge (Y5, Y6)<br>Number Day  |
| Tue 6th Feb   | - | Swimming (Y3, Y4)   |
| Wed 7th Feb   | - | Family Support Worker drop in<br>coffee afternoon. 2.30 p.m.  |
| Fri 9th Feb   | - | Break up for half term<br>School Disco (R, Y1 & Y2 6 p.m.- 7 p.m.<br>Years 3,4,5 & 6 7.15 p.m.—8.30 p.m.) |
| Mon 19th Feb  | - | Back to school  |
| Mon 26th Feb  | - | Parents in School Week<br>(More information to follow)  |
| Tues 27th Feb | - | Swimming (Y3,Y4)  |
| Wed 28th Feb  | - | Vision and Hearing Screening (Reception class)  |

### March 2018

- |                |   |                                  |
|----------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Thurs 1st Mar  | - | World Book Day                   |
| Mon 5th Mar    | - | Parents in School Week           |
| Tues 13th Mar  | - | Swimming (Y3, Y4)                |
| Thurs 15th Mar | - | Healthy Breakfast                |
| Fri 16th Mar   | - | Healthy Breakfast                |
| Tues 20th Mar  | - | Parents Evening (3.30—6.30 p.m.) |
| Thur 22nd Mar  | - | Parents Evening (3.30—6.30 p.m.) |
| Fri 23rd Mar   | - | Whole School Spelling Challenge  |
| Tue 27th Mar   | - | Swimming (Y3, Y4) last session   |

