

# Ellwood Community Primary School



**Bulletin - November 12th 2021**

## Attendance

Here is the attendance for last half term.  
This is obviously much lower than normal due to COVID 19 and children having to isolate.

Oak	93.2%
Chestnut	94.5%
Beech	91.5%
Sycamore	95.5%
Willow	93%

## Remembrance Day

To mark Remembrance Day we held our minute silence outside in the playground.



## Oak Class — Remembrance Day

This week they have been learning about Remembrance Day in Oak class. The children created a poppy in their hands using finger prints. How beautiful!



They also each painted a poppy.



## Reading Expectation

We are clarifying the 4 reads a week expectation at school. Children are required to read four times a week, with reads being counted on a Thursday morning in school. We need to be consistent and equal for all children.

Reading is a valuable skill and it is essential for children to be able to read well and to be able to comprehend what they are reading. It can only take a few minutes to hear a few pages of a reading book and sign the reading diary and that will help your child no end.

Please be reminded that Reading Club is not a punishment. Staff are kindly giving up their break to hear children read, who haven't been given the opportunity to ready at home. If there is a genuine reason (family circumstances) for not reading then please let a staff member know.

Please do not ask staff to change your child as it is an expectation of

the expectations for all children.



## Parent Pay Debts

Please check your child's ParentPay account for any outstanding payments, such as hot meals, swimming or trips/activities.

We still have a few outstanding payments for our DT club which has already started. Please can payment for this club be made as soon as possible. This goes towards additional resources purchased for the club.

Please also be reminded that payments are due for Manor Adventure and West Midland Safari Park.

Without your financial contributions we would not be able to run these activities or trips, so your support is much appreciated.

Thank you.

## Remembrance — Year 6

Year 6 have been busy in English this week, writing Haiku poems linked to their WW1 topic. Some of the children read their poems in our Remembrance Service as well as the poem 'Flanders Fields' by John McCrae.

## Year 6 - Police Visit

Year 6 enjoyed an interesting discussion session with the police, PC Greg Steer this week on Internet Safety. Topics included advice on age appropriate online games and the safe use of social media sites. Thank you PC Steer for coming to our school.



## Swimming Award

The following children: *Oscar J, Charlie J, Alfie P, Poppy U, Harry P, Henry B, Ryan W, Ruby H, Frankie J, Alesha-May E, Niall E, Lee T, Ben T, Robert F, Harry B and Leo C*, all achieved their Personal Safety Level 1 award this week at swimming.

Well done all of you - what a great achievement!

## Odd Socks Day – Monday 15th November

Week commencing Monday 15th November is the start of anti-bullying week. To start the week off, children may come to school wearing odd socks.



## Anti- Bullying Week

The Anti-Bullying Alliance's theme this year is 'One Kind Word' and to help raise awareness we will be selling anti-bullying wrist bands at a cost of £1 each, all money raised will be going towards the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

Merchandise will be on sale on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, so if you would like your child to buy a wristband please send money into school with your child on these days.

Many thanks for your support.



## Sycamore Act of Kindness - Litter Picking

Sycamore class went litter picking on Wednesday afternoon. As part of their PSHE lesson they chose this as their 'act of kindness'. They all enjoyed the activity and did a great job picking up the litter in our local area. Well done!



**Children in Need**  
**Friday 19th November**

Just a reminder that children may come to school wearing their Pyjamas on Friday to celebrate Children in Need. We would also kindly ask for a suggested donation of £1 towards this really worthwhile cause.



**Poppy Appeal**

Thank you to all those who purchased Remembrance Day items in school this week, we have pretty much sold out of everything!

A big thank you to our house captains for taking on the responsibility of selling these items at break and lunch time. They did a great job!

We will let you know how much we have raised shortly.

Many thanks for your support.



## Covid — Update

We have had two positive cases this week. Which is relatively good news, as it doesn't seem to have increased significantly and the children haven't been too poorly. We will continue to monitor the situation and make any adjustments we feel necessarily.

## Contacting Teachers

If you feel you need to speak to your child's teacher, please leave a message on the gate with an adult, email the office or leave a message with office staff.

The office is open from 8.30-3.30, however staff aren't always available to answer the phone if they are in meetings or on other calls, so please feel free to leave a message as they are checked regularly.

Unfortunately Teachers are unable to answer phone calls or speak to parents in the school day (unless urgent and is concerning something that cannot wait until after school) as teachers are teaching their class and supervising the children. We aren't able to disrupt lessons, as it then impacts on all children in the that class.

## Photograph Orders

*Dear Parents/Carers*

*Have you ordered your school photos yet? A polite reminder that the closing date for **free delivery** back to school is **Wednesday 17th November 2021**. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit [www.tempest-orders.co.uk](http://www.tempest-orders.co.uk)*

*If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3).*

*Many thanks,*

*Tempest Photography*

### **Carpark Safety**

- Please remember to drive slowly and leave plenty of time to arrive and leave so there isn't a rush.
- Please be careful when reversing out of spaces and be aware of pedestrians, particularly younger children, who are harder to see.
- Please supervise your children carefully and do not let them go out of the gate to your car unattended or allow them to cross the car park without an adult.
- Please also supervise younger pre school children carefully on the school site and carpark. Please keep your children with you at all times.

### **Parents' Evening**

Thank you for attending parents' evenings this week. It has been lovely to see parents back in school, following COVID guidance.

If you didn't manage to book a slot, there will be another one held in the Spring term. Year 6 parents evening will be re arranged for the end of this term.

### **Fairy Magic!**

Would your little one like to join the Forest of Dean's very own Book Fairy in our magical reading forest at Books for Bugs?

Make your very own woodland wand, listen to her story all about the grumpy fairy and sing along to a special festive carol, one you have never heard before!

Each ticket includes a special book from the book fairy herself and you are welcome to take photos at the end with the Book Fairy in front of our enchanting backdrop into the forest.

These sessions are aimed at children aged 5+ and there are just 8 spaces per session so book now to avoid disappointment!

Simply visit [Forest Book Fairy Tickets - Books for Bugs](#) for more information and to book your tickets

Or USE : <https://booksforbugs.co.uk/product-category/forest-book-fairy-tickets/>

## **Rotary Club — Shoebox Scheme**

We are taking part in the Rotary Shoebox Scheme again this year, as it has proved very successful over previous years. This is a scheme that sends boxes to many different countries in Central and Eastern Europe. The boxes are delivered to disadvantaged children and their families, as well as hospitals and orphanages.

The Rotary Club is a non-religious, non-political organisation whose aim is to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Your gift could be the first real gift they have received for a very long time.

If you would like to take part, you will need one of our special flat packed Rotary Club boxes. Please collect a box from the school office.

Filled boxes will need to be returned to school by Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November for collection by the Rotary Club

### **Oak and Chestnut Class - Shoebox Scheme**

Oak and Chestnut class are going to pack some boxes as part of our 'Act of Kindness' PSHE work.

If you would like to donate anything to fill the shoe boxes, please give them to Miss Peart or Miss Hek.

Suggested donations:

#### **Child / Toys ~ For Boys & Girls**

Cars, trucks, etc, balls, complete jigsaws, action figures, colouring books, pens, crayons, lego blocks, yo-yo, bubble blowers, wooden and plastic toys, building blocks, pencil case, pencil sharpener, dominoes, play-doh / plasticine & cutters, fluffy toys, dolls, stickers, writing pads, skipping rope, scarf, mittens / gloves, hat, harmonica, games, cards...

#### **Teenagers ~ For young people up to 18 years age**

Sportswear, scarf, gloves, socks, hat, football memorabilia, writing materials, games, playing cards, tennis ball, tooth brush & paste, roll-on deodorants, comb, mirror, costume jewellery, make-up, hair brush, toiletries, school stationery, clothing repair kits, sketch pad, coloured pens / pencils...

#### **Household Goods ~ For older folk & families**

Scarves, gloves, hats, wrapped soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, disposable razors, shampoo, soap flakes, pan scourers, antiseptic cream, bandages, face or body creams, cosmetics, pens, writing pad & envelopes, T lights, candles, sewing kit, scissors...

#### **Baby ~ Age up to 12 months**

This is given to new mothers and can include baby wipes, baby shampoo, baby oil, talc powder, bonnet, booties and mitts, baby grow, baby blanket, small soft toy or plastic rattle...



**Prostars  
Christmas Football  
Camp**

The Dean Academy Secondary School  
Five Acres High School  
Dene Magna Secondary School

Tuesday 21st December | 10:00-3:00 | £10 |

To view our venues & book visit:  
[prostars.class4kids.co.uk](http://prostars.class4kids.co.uk)

**CONTACT MARK ON  
07444436637/MARK.PROSTARS@GMAIL.COM**

# Please support your school and the steps they are taking to protect your children

Your school may be advised to take extra action to help tackle rising Covid cases. The steps taken will vary from school to school and might include some of the below. Please support them and the measures they put in place.

-  Face coverings in communal areas and classrooms for secondary school pupils
-  Face coverings for staff when indoors
-  Parents and carers may also be asked to wear a face covering in crowded areas for example at the school gates
-  Cancelling large events or moving them outdoors
-  Postponing indoor 'all school activities' including assemblies
-  Daily rapid Covid testing for household siblings aged 11 years and over
-  Rapid Covid testing for household siblings of a confirmed case

Lateral flow testing (LFT) for primary aged children might be advised but will be at the discretion of parents or carers.

## Here are the steps you can take to help prevent your child from catching and spreading COVID-19:

-  Get vaccinated. This remains the best way to protect yourself and your family from the serious affects of COVID-19. If you or your child are eligible for a Covid jab please do not delay in taking up the offer
-  Wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces including public transport
-  Continue with twice-weekly testing testing for people with no symptoms (everyone aged 11 years and over)

 If your child has symptoms of Covid or has tested positive using a lateral flow device get a PCR test and keep them at home until you receive your results. If your child or anyone in your household tests positive for COVID-19 they must stay at home and isolate for ten days. This means not going to work, school or any other public places. Close contacts of a positive case will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and will be advised to take a PCR

# Holiday Activity And Food Programme

#HAF2021

## What?

The Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF), funded by DfE, is returning this December for children aged 5-16 years eligible for free school meals.

## When?

The programme will be running for 4 days from: 20th - 23rd December.

## How?

You will be able to sign up to our Children Activities Booking Site (CABS) from November.

Activities will be available to book from 1 December.

To stay up to date on all things HAF, email us at:

[HAFParentEnquiries@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:HAFParentEnquiries@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

to join our newsletter where we will have updates, insights, recipes and crafts from November.

## What is available?

We will be offering a variety of face-to-face activities with your local providers:

- ✓ exciting activity packs for all ages
- ✓ an opportunity to claim your own winter food hamper to enjoy over the holidays
- ✓ tickets to local events and more!

To find out more and stay up to date, you can follow us on social media @GlosCC or visit [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf)



# Holiday Activity Programme

## What?

Using grant funding, this year we are extending our holiday activity programme for December to all children in Gloucestershire.

Open to children of any age, this makes sure all children can access holiday activities locally.

## When?

The HAP programme will be running for 4 days from 20th -23rd December.

## How?

You will be able to sign up to our Children Activities Booking Site (CABS) from November.

Activities will be available to book from 1 December. You will be able to book any activities marked HAF in the title.

## What will be available?

- ✓ Face to face activities for children to socialise and play
- ✓ Ticketed activity schemes to your favourite venues
- ✓ A large online video activity library and more!
- ✓ A potential free meal at your local activities (Please contact providers directly for more details on this).

To find out more and stay up to date, you can follow us on social media @GlosCC or visit [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf)



## *Diary Dates*

### **NOVEMBER**

- Monday 15th November - Anti-bullying week  
Wear odd socks to school
- Open evening for new starters (4.30 p.m.—6.00p.m.)
- Friday 19th November - Children in Need  
(Children may come to school in pyjamas)
- Tuesday 23rd November - Swimming Y5 & Y6
- Friday 26th November - Author Visit (Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6)

### **DECEMBER**

- Tuesday 7th December - Swimming Y5 & Y6
- Monday 13th December - West Midlands Santa Safari
- Friday 17th December - Last day of term