

# Ellwood School News



**Headteacher: Mrs D Milford**

**Tel: 01594 833232**

**Autumn 11 2018 - 23rd Nov 2018**

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

All newsletters are also available  
on our website.

## Weekly Attendance

This week's attendance was a bit lower than we would like, with only Oak class making it over 97%. Well done Oak class!

There is a link between attainment and progress, so the more the children are in school, the more they will succeed.

Penalty notices have been issued this term. 100 % is our expectation unless ill or exceptional circumstances, with 97% our target for the term.

Oak	98.1%
Chestnut	96.2%
Beech	95.3%
Sycamore	96.6%
Willow	90.5%

## Christmas Play

Many thanks to all those parents/carers that have returned their slips and payment for tickets. Your voluntary contributions really make a difference and help toward the cost of hiring the venue and other production costs.

We appreciate that this is an expensive time of the year but all contributions are truly welcome.

Many thanks for your continued support.



## Dinner Accounts

School dinner accounts should be kept in credit at all times. If there is a debt on your child's dinner account, please clear it immediately. We will unfortunately not be able to provide dinners for children if their dinner account is in arrears.

Thank you.

## Friends - AGM

Friends will be holding their AGM on Thursday 29th November 2018 commencing at 1.30 p.m. at Ellwood School.

The PTA plays a vital part in the school community, which parents are a part of. Please come along to find out what Friends do and how you can get involved.

All welcome to come along.

## Polar Ambassador Visit

On Monday 19th November, our Polar Ambassador Ricky Munday visited us to give an inspiring assembly to the whole school. This assembly launched our participation in the Polar Explorer Programme which will raise the profile of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths in schools across the country in conjunction with the building and subsequent launch of RSS Sir David Attenborough (Boaty McBoatface).

Ricky has worked for the British Antarctic Survey and has volunteered for the Red Cross as well as pursuing his own expeditions on six continents. In 2017, Ricky attempted to climb Everest but with a lack of oxygen and worsening weather he made the decision to turn back a few hundred meters from the summit. He returned home to reflect on failing in his dream and thought about what he would do if he ever had another chance to attempt to reach the summit, including carrying extra oxygen bottles and food that he would be able to digest more easily and that would provide the energy needed.

In May 2018, 6 months and 1 day before his visit to Ellwood, Ricky successfully reached the summit of Everest. His message to Ellwood was to 'Follow your dreams, don't let anyone tell you you can't do it. If you don't manage it the first time try again, try again, try again!'



## Volunteers for the Christmas Fayre Saturday 1st December 1 p.m.—3 p.m.

We need as many volunteers as possible to help us before, during and after the Christmas Fayre. Please come forward to help in ANY way you can—we always welcome the extra help! Please speak to one of the Friends if you would like to volunteer.

Thank you.



## Uniform

We have had several instances of uniform going missing at school. If your child comes home in uniform that does not belong to them can you please ensure it is returned to school. Please clearly label all uniform so that it may be returned to the correct child. If you have lost any uniform, please come and have a look at our lost property box.

Thank you.

### **Coleford Christmas Lights Competition**

If children would like to take part in the Coleford Christmas Parade and join the procession into town, please take a look at their Facebook page for further information.

<https://www.facebook.com/colefordchristmaslights/>

### **Forest Foodbank**

The Christmas distribution centre opening hours are:

***Monday 24th December (Christmas Eve) - Coleford open 9 a.m.—11 a.m.***

***Tuesday 25th December (Christmas Day) - Food Bank Closed***

***Wednesday 26th December (Boxing Day) - Food Bank Closed***

***Thursday 27th December—Food Bank Closed***

***Friday 28th December—Cinderford open 9.30—11.30 a.m.***

***Monday 31st December (New Year's Eve) - Coleford open 9 a.m.—11 a.m.***

If you are in need of food bank vouchers over the Christmas period, please speak to our Family Support Worker Mrs Charles.

Thank you.

### **Request for donations.**



**Please speak to Miss Peart or Mrs Morris if you have any items that you would like to donate.**

### **Remembrance Day**

Several of our children took part in Remembrance services, Ethan Butler was chosen by his Cub Leader to carry the wreath in the Remembrance parade. Oliver Donoghue, April Donoghue and Connor Edwards played their brass instruments at Remembrance Services also.

We are very proud of all of you that took part in Remembrance Services.



### Skillzone Trip Year 5 and 6

The children have been to visit Skillzone in Gloucester and also the Police HQ to learn about internet safety.

We hope they had a good time and made aware of staying safe on line.

Please remember to ensure your child/ren are safe and that they avoid live streaming and don't give information about themselves e.g. name, address, telephone number, school.

Current games and apps that may make children vulnerable to abuse and exploitation are Tick-Tock (replaces Musically), Snapchat, Fortnite to name a few.

The Police have had worrying incidents of children accessing these games and have knowledge of predators online searching for vulnerable children. They strongly recommend it is for 12 years or above. Online activity is the biggest danger for our young children at this present time and we want to keep our children safe.

### Achievement Assembly Awards

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

**Oak Class - Drew Jones and Ella Knight**

**Beech Class - Frankie Jones**

**Sycamore Class - Theo Wilkins and Luis Williams**

**Willow Class - Louie Hancock and Melissa Bishop**



*Well done!*

### Weekly Writing Awards

This week's weekly writing awards were given to the following pupils:



**Beech Class - Joshua Pegler**

*Well done!*

*We are proud of your writing achievements!*

### Rotary Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

We still have some Rotary Shoe boxes available, if you would like to fill one. Please collect one from the school office.

All filled boxes to be returned to school by Wednesday 5th December.

Thank you



### Spelling Challenge

Each term we hold a Whole School Spelling Challenge. Each child has been sent home a sheet of spellings, please take a few minutes to help your child learn them in preparation for the spelling challenge. Please note these are the words they should know by the end of the year, not specific to children.

The Spelling Challenge will take place on Friday 14th December.

Thank you!

**Spelling**



### Jolly Jars

Start filling those empty jars (any size) with your leftover Halloween treats, small toys, party bag items and novelty bits and pieces.

The best designed jar from each class will win a prize!

Some ideas to fill your jars are as follows:

- Small notebooks, pencils, rubbers, sharpeners
- Leftover party bag items (bubbles, bouncy balls etc.)
- Wrapped sweets, chocolates, lollipops, wrapped biscuits
- Handmade items or items for crafts (stickers, collage items)
- Keyrings, small purses, good quality miniature toys.



We look forward to collecting your donations of Jolly Jars in the week commencing 26th November

### Debi Evans 'Author Experience' at Ellwood Primary School



#### **'The Secret Adventures of Rolo'**

Debi Evans will be in school to introduce her fantasy adventure series about a time travelling dog and dragons in assembly and inspire creative writing. Signed and dedicated books can be purchased by completing the form & returning to school.

**Tuesday 27 November 2018**

*Rolo is a rescue dog. When he settles in his new home he discovers he is 'the chosen one'; whatever that might mean! Aided by a dragon, the little Jack Russell embarks upon an incredible secret life by night when he undertakes historic adventures. Rolo appears during moments in history, witnesses and sometimes influences events. All 4 books are written as if narrated by Rolo, interspersed with his everyday life in humorous blogs, loved by children and adults.*

[www.debievans.com](http://www.debievans.com)

The author Debi Evans will be available after school on Tuesday 27th November to sign books, in the school hall. So please come along, if you would like to meet the author and get your book signed.

Thank you.

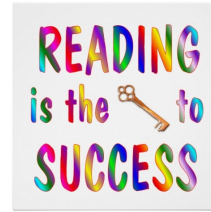
## Reading

Thank you for supporting our weekly 'regular reading'. One of the key indicators of success in later life is linked to reading ability and vocabulary

Vocabulary at 3 years = SATs Results

Vocabulary at 5 years = GCSE Results

Vocabulary at 16 years = future income



*We are trying to close the gap to give every child the best chance of success. We need your help!*

We can improve this by talking to our children; discussing and sharing things with them and by reading with them. By reading 4 times a week it really helps improve this, so thank you!

Ideas to help develop vocabulary:

Listen to them read, read a page each, read a longer story in a chapter book, chat about the story and the characters.

It doesn't have to be for long just 5—10 minutes, in a nice cosy, encouraging environment. Not only will that help their reading and vocabulary but also their self-esteem.

Friends and the school have invested a great deal of money in our books and we are so grateful for the lovely new and relevant books.

In school we strive to hear your child read as often as we can; individually, as part of a small guided reading group and in a whole class situation. We will move them through the Book Band levels as they make progress and we will give extra support for those children who are struggling but help at home with this is really beneficial.

We have noticed more and more children are spending a great deal of time on their Tablet, Xbox, phones and Playstation so it might be a good idea to monitor their usage and encourage other activities and read a good book. So press the off button on the remote control and settle down for the main event—a good book.

We are really grateful and so proud of our parental support.

Thank you!



# Diary Dates

## November 2018

Mon 26th Nov	-	Jolly Jar Week
Tue 27th Nov	-	Author Visit (Y3-Y6)
Thur 29th Nov	-	Friends AGM 1.30 at school (all welcome)

## December 2018

Sat 1st Dec	-	Christmas Fayre 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Tues 4th Dec	-	Flu Vaccination (R, Y1/2/3/4/5)
Wed 5th Dec	-	Book Bug Book Fair (more details to follow)
Tues 11th Dec	-	Christmas Play (Day and Evening performances)  Swimming (Y5/6)
Tues 18th Dec	-	Christmas Lunch
Thurs 20th Dec	-	Whole School Pantomime Trip  Carol Concert (Sycamore & Willow) 2.30 p.m. in School Hall - Parents welcome to come along
Fri 21st Dec	-	Break up for Christmas (2 p.m. finish)