



Ellenbrook

COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Ellenbrook News

The weekly newsletter for Ellenbrook Community Primary School

Friday 24th November 2023



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Autumn Term

Issue 164

24/11/2023

Important Diary Dates

November 2023

- * 28th Parents' evening
- * 30th Parents' evening

December 2023

- * 4th Nursery Performances
- * 4th and 5th Reception performances
- * 6th and 7th Year 1 performances
- * 6th EYFS panto AM
- * 7th and 8th Year 2 performances
- * 7th open day for prospective new parents 5pm
- * 8th KS1 panto PM
- * 8th Christmas jumper day
- * 15th Christmas Dinner
- * 15th school closes at 3.30pm

Anything Means Everything to Someone.....!

It's been a very busy and very purposeful week at Ellenbrook this week as we move towards the productions which start the week after next. The children are working really well in class and having had an opportunity to look at some of their English books last week, the SLT and I were pleased with what we saw. You will be able to see the work for yourself next week on our two parents' evening which run on Tuesday between 4pm—6.40pm and Thursday between 5—7.40pm. If you haven't booked your slot yet, you still have until Tuesday morning to do so using the login information you were sent earlier in the term.

We also have our full Governing Body meeting next week and in preparation for it, I write a Headteacher's report to reflect what has happened at Ellenbrook during the Autumn term. I focused a lot on attendance for this report and I have put quite a detailed explanation on the next page that I would really appreciate you all reading. Although our overall attendance is very good, the amount of children who have 90% or less attendance is very large at just over 10% and that is a lot of missed days of school and education. This early in the term, illnesses can really impact attendance but this is something we need to be very vigilant about as we move through the school year and there are some statistics on the other side of the newsletter about the impact absences can have over the school year.

Next week, the PTA will be holding their Christmas Fayre on Friday from 3.30pm—5.30pm and we are hoping to see as many of you there as possible to support another really important event for the school. The work the PTA does often goes unmentioned but their contributions to the school during my time as Headteacher has been amazing and has allowed us to provide the children with resources and experiences that they would never have had had we not had the PTA. A huge thank you to the current PTA team for organising next week and to the committee members that have served on the PTA over the last few years.

Lastly, Happy Thanksgiving to our families who celebrated it this week and I hope you all have a fab weekend and I will catch up with you all next Friday! Mr Blackburn & the Ellenbrook Staff



Weekly Attendance

Our attendance figure for this week is

96.1%



Updates from the Office....

- ⇒ When a child comes into school through the office if they are either late or have been to an appointment you **MUST** sign them in with a reason.
- ⇒ **Parents please can we remind you that you MUST inform the office if your child is unwell and not attending school. This can be done either via Weduc Absence reporting or the Telephone Absence Line**
- ⇒ Please make sure that if your child has any medicines/inhalers which are kept in school that they are up to date and you have completed a medical permission form for this academic year.
- ⇒ Any letters, slips or forms can be posted in the white post box attached to the wall outside the school office. This box is checked regularly during the day.
- ⇒ If your child is attending an independent school for an entrance exam can we ask that you complete a leave of absence form and return it to the office. This absence will be authorised by the school.

Thoughtful time

This week we have been thinking about...the importance of power & responsibility!

1. Are you a responsible person?

Yes because at play time me and my friends always have a job to do.

2. What power do you think you have?

I think my power is instead of a fighting game I would pause the game and play chase instead.

3. Why is having power such a hard thing to have?

Because if you want to do a little chore you just have to be patient and confident.
Year 2, Bridgewater

1. Are you a responsible person?

Yes because I'm in Year 4 so I have to be responsible for me to be a good person so I can show people what to do and what not to do.

2. What power do you think you have?

Good power over Year 3, Year 3 and Year 1 because if I see someone being mean in Year 3 I will say stop because I'm older so I need to make better choices.

3. Why is having power such a hard thing to have?

It's because you have to think of good choices to have good power and responsibility so you know you are a good person.
Year 4, Peel

1. Are you a responsible person?

Yes because I look after my little brother but sometimes I tease him and then I get shouted at.

2. What power do you think you have?

My power is loving people and being kind.

3. Why is having power such a hard thing to have?

My power is hard because if someone is being mean sometimes they don't take my kindness.
Year 3, Bridgewater



HOUSE POINTS

BRIDGEWATER	ELLESMERE	LOWRY	PEEL
2100	2005	2198	2175

The winner of this weeks' house point challenge was.....

BRIDGEWATER

Things to Remember

- Please can you let the office know if your child is going home with another adult before pick up. Can we also ask you to make sure they are aware of the school's collection arrangements.
- Please remember we need two weeks notice if your child is changing from school meals to packed lunch and vice versa. Please do not change without informing the office.



Letter sent this week.....

This week we have sent letters for...

- ⇒ Year 5 permission for film
- ⇒ Year 2 trip to Staircase House
- ⇒ Parents evening booking reminder
- ⇒ PTA Christmas fair reminder
- ⇒ Christmas fair helpers



Football

Huge congratulations to our ladies football team who played three games on Wednesday evening. They did such a great job considering it was only the second time they have played together.

The girls followed a defeat with a win and a draw and played superbly throughout. Really well done ladies!

School Attendance

In preparation for next weeks' Governors meeting, I have reviewed pupil attendance for the academic year so far.

As you will be aware, we take attendance very seriously at Ellenbrook and although our overall attendance is very high, the amount of children who are deemed as persistent absentees (less than 90% attendance) is very high at 10.5%. At this stage of the term, an odd missed day can really reduce pupil attendance and this is seen most clearly in our figures for holidays during term time.

To date, 234 school days have been lost to holidays during term time. As of today, we have had 54 school days since the start of the year in September. We have had 100 requests for holidays which means, on average, just over 4 days of education have been lost each school day since the beginning of the year which I am sure you will agree is far too high.

We would ask you all to consider the impact on your child's education to taking holidays during term time...as you can see, this is a lot of lost days.

95%	=	47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	=	95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	=	142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	=	190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

In the classroom this week.....

Nursery!

Nursery have been busy explore shapes today and choosing them carefully to make pictures. We have been exploring shape names and the language we can use to describe them e.g. sides, corners, straight, flat, round [#Ellenbrooknursery](#)

Reception

[#receptionhazel](#) have been reading the story all about the Gingerbread man this week. Today we used our ICT skills to count his buttons on the different Gingerbread men and then we challenged ourselves further to match to the correct numerals [#Ellenbrookmaths](#) [#Ellenbrookcomputing](#) This morning [#receptionjuniper](#) created 'The Gingerbread Man' story maps, painted their friends names using ginger scented paint and used the iPad to count the gingerbread man's buttons, matching it to the corresponding number

Year 1!

[#YearOneFir](#) had a great session with Miss Jancy using the equipment for gymnastics!

Year 2!

Some great beginnings to our Great Fire of London narratives! [#year2birch](#) [#Year2](#) Willow discussing today's maths problems

Year 3!

Year 3 have had fun this afternoon in Science! We have been looking at which materials make the best shadows, we even tried to make words in the shadows of objects

Year 4!

[#Year4Beech](#) are designing the bodies of their sling shot cars thinking about how they can make the shape more aerodynamic in order to win the race! [#Year4Maple](#) have been designing the body of their slingshot cars and generating a design criteria - some great aerodynamic designs!

Year 5!

Gathering vocabulary and phrases using figurative language to describe the tents at Camp Green Lake. [#year5elm](#)

Year 6!

[#year6voyagers](#) have been exploring the idea of salvation and reincarnation. [#EllenbrookRE](#) Year 6 Discoverers have started a bit of sewing practice this afternoon ready for making our waistcoats! We can't wait to wow you with our unique Christ-massy creations!! [#year6discoverers](#) [#watchthisspace](#)

CLUBS

KEY STAGE / YEAR GROUP	DAY	ACTIVITY
YR 1&2	TUESDAY (3.30-4.30pm)	Games
YR 1&2	WEDNESDAY (8-8.45am)	Dodgeball
YR 3&4	THURSDAY (3.30-4.30pm)	Dodgeball
YR 5&6	FRIDAY (3.30-4.30pm)	Dance