



# Ellenbrook Express

## Spring Term Newsletter 2026

Welcome to the trial of a new termly newsletter, the Ellenbrook Express, in which we aim to give you further details of events already advertised through our apps and messages, together with advanced notice of activities to happen in the coming months. We also want to give you a flavour of current school themes and development ideas, whilst, most importantly, also use this as an opportunity to celebrate the many strengths of our wonderful children and school community.



### Our Vision and Purpose

**At Ellenbrook, we want our children to love, learn and thrive in a community founded upon moral values, nurtured to develop the knowledge and skills to become lifelong learners and make a positive contribution to their future society.**

### Our Values

All that we do at Ellenbrook is based upon the following five school values:

**Respect – Resilience – Consideration – Confidence – Independence**

The children are very aware of these values, behave according to them in and around school and understand that our house-point reward system is based upon them.

However, when talking to the children about these values during assemblies and citizenship lessons recently, the consensus was that an addition was needed. As a key strength of the school is the collaboration between children, families, staff and local community, our pupils have voted to have 'Teamwork' added as our sixth value.

### Our school motto/strapline – can you help?

On the theme of teamwork, we would like the help of our families and wider community to help us **create a short motto to summarise our school's values and purpose**, so we are opening this up to gain as many suggestions as possible by the first week back after the Easter holiday. After that, we will gather all the ideas and give the final vote to children. You may have seen varying mottos around other schools, such as:

'Aspire and Achieve', 'Moving Forward Together', 'A Happy School for Happy Children' etc. We wonder if you can reflect upon the strengths of our school and its values, and come up with a motto that sums us up; **maybe something to reflect the school logo and link it with growth**, given that a primary school has children at the start of their life journey? Please send in any suggestions you have.

## Trips and Visits

As part of our commitment to providing our pupils with as varied and engaging a curriculum as possible, we aim to take them outside of the classroom regularly and provide real-life learning experiences. Beneath these photographs is a section detailing our belief in residential visits, but before that we would like to share some images of recent one-day educational experiences out and about. In each case, the excitement on the children's faces tells us all we need to know about the impact of such activities.



Salford Schools' Mixed-Rugby Festival



Young Voices, Co-op Live



Worsley Schools' Football Cup



FA Let Girls Play Day – GM's biggest ever!

## Residential Trips & Visits – Engaging Education. Naturally.

At Ellenbrook, we believe so strongly in the benefits of school residential that we run two such for our children. In Year 4, we go somewhere relatively local (Ironbridge, Chester, Lake District), whilst in Y6 we take our pupils a little further afield to Lledr Hall, Salford's own outdoor centre in Snowdonia. Both trips offer invaluable outdoor education experiences related to the children's class topics and to learning amongst nature, but even more rewarding is the way that valuable life skills are developed on such visits. Team-building, problem-solving, managing risks, taking on challenges, building self-esteem, supporting others and developing empathy are just some of the many skills that children cultivate so effectively whilst on such visits. These are attributes that will serve pupils well in the latter years of their time at primary school, and then equally so as they take the next steps in education on to high school.

## PTA News

We are extremely grateful for the tireless efforts of our school PTA, generating vital funding with which we can further enrich the children's curriculum. New members are always welcome, so please ask at any time if you are interested and look out for further details on the PTA's own newsletter that came out recently.

## Further Fundraising

As well as raising funds for school, we also have a duty to raise awareness amongst our young people of the responsibility to support those in need in wider society. We talk to the children about simple ideas for local, national and international charities, such as creating food parcels around harvest-time, or collecting toys for homeless children at Christmas. We are mindful to balance this with keeping costs as low as possible.

## Parking Around School

We appreciate that parking space is at a premium around school and are grateful to all those in our community who drive and park carefully, taking note of the many children and families who are pedestrians at the start of end of the school day. We politely remind all road users to be aware at these times and ask especially that those drivers who use the school car park for drop-off and collection at EBASC, our before- and after-school club, please do so very carefully, as we have had a number of near-accidents in this area recently. Thank you for your co-operation.

## Going Greener

Our pupil council and eco-team have been working hard to increase the school's commitment to a greener environment. The children are looking at ways to increase recycling opportunities within school and have joined in with all classes to collect litter from our grounds and further afield in the local community. They have also led the school in focusing on the Great British Birdwatch, helping to encourage us all to be more aware of biodiversity in our area. And of course, our Walk to School scheme continues to be an invaluable daily effort for families to reduce carbon emissions. If anyone has further ideas of ways in which the children can be more environmentally conscious, please talk to your child for them to pass the ideas on to pupil council reps.

## Behaviour and Wellbeing

The ethos within Ellenbrook is one that we are extremely proud of, with children repeatedly showing great manners and living out the values that we outlined on Page 1. With this in mind, we are looking to develop our Behaviour and Wellbeing Policy to increase the choice of rewards for pupils who consistently display our values and make it simpler and easier for parents to be notified of such successes. We will work with the children on this, particularly in developing simple rewards that are cost-free, such as earning extra break time, sitting with a friend in class for a day or being the DJ for assembly. We're also looking at a way to enable our school apps to notify parents when good behaviour is rewarded. This will not happen instantly but it's something we're working on.



## Year 6 Leavers' Events

We have adapted our Year 6 school-leavers' events for this year. The idea is that the focus remains, of course, on the children, but that their families have been a major part of their Ellenbrook journey too, so we wanted to involve them as well.

In July (Weds 15<sup>th</sup> tbc), instead of a trip to Albert's for the children, our Y6 Leaver's Evening will involve inviting the Y6 pupils and their parents into school from 6pm; the first hour will see the children present their leavers' assembly, then serve their family members with food and drinks to say thank you. At around 7.15pm, parents/carers will leave for a while, so that the children can enjoy their disco/leavers' party with their classmates, with parents/carers returning at 9.00pm to collect them.

Of course, this is in addition to the usual wide range of end-of-school events, such as the Lledr Hall residential, high-school transition days, leavers' hoodies, Y6 fun day, BBQ, and more. This is a major time for our pupils and we want it to be memorable.

## Ellenbrook's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On the subject of our school building, did you know that Ellenbrook is 30 this year? From September 2026, we will hold a series of events to celebrate 30 years of our fantastic school; if you have any suggestions for school and community events, please let us know.

### Building Developments

We are extremely lucky to have such a modern and spacious school building, together with extensive grounds. You will notice over the coming months some simple changes outside, such as increased seating, waiting and play spaces for children and parents. Inside, we are looking to develop certain areas to provide even more individualised education opportunities, with ideas like splitting some of our shared spaces to create smaller rooms for focus groups of children to work with staff. All very exciting, depending upon budgets; look out for the changes occurring!

### Working with the community

We are very lucky that the Ellenbrook community is so supportive of school and has such a wide range of skills. We want to harness this in two ways and are looking to:

1. Involve family and friends in the curriculum by asking if anyone wants to volunteer to hear readers in school (this is still the biggest area of support need in every school). If you are interested in supporting for an hour or two a week, please ask.
2. Open up our building and grounds for community use outside of school hour, such as holiday sports clubs for children or fitness sessions for adults.

We recognise the support we get from the local community and we want to play our part.



Secret readers engage the children.



Amazing support for the Book Fair.



Old & young pupils as reading buddies.

**Dates for your diary:** *(more events are being organised all the time; details will come via Weduc.)*

02/03/26 – School Book Week; Book Fair  
04/03/26 – Y5 Magistrates Court Trip  
05/03/26 – World Book Day  
06/03/26 – Dress-up for Book Week  
06/03/26 – FA Let Girls Play Day  
11/03/26 – Worsley Woods Relay Races  
13/06/26 – Y6 to Crucial Crew (Life Ed)  
16/03/26 – Spring Term Assessment Wk  
16/03/26 – EYFS Mother's Day Stay & Play  
18/03/26 – Dental Team with EYFS  
24/03/26 – Y5 Chester Zoo Science Trip  
27/03/26 – Worsley KS2 Swimming Gala  
30&31/03/26 – Parents' Evenings, 4-6pm  
31/03/26 – Y1 Class Assembly

02/04/26 – Break up for Easter Holiday  
20/04/26 – Bikeability – Y5 Pine  
20/04/26 – Y4 Residential to Chester  
23/04/26 – Silent Disco  
27/04/26 – Bikeability – Y5 Cedar  
30/04/26 – Salf Y3/4 Boys' Football Festival  
07&08/05/26 – KS2 Technology Days  
11/05/26 – Y6 SATs Week (Mon-Thurs)  
11/05/26 – Nursery Smithills Farm Trip  
11/05/26 – Y1 Kings and Queens Day  
18/05/26 – Y6 Lledr Hall Residential  
21/05/26 – Pupils' last day of half-term  
22/05/26 – Teacher Development Day, then break for Whit holiday

### And finally... congratulations Mrs Baird!

Our families will know the great care and commitment given to Ellenbrook by Mrs Baird for many years. On top of this, in the past 12 months, she has worked tirelessly to lead the school in the transition of headteachers, stepping up to the acting-deputy head role to support Mr Platt (to whom we are also very grateful). We are now delighted to announce that, following a rigorous interview process last month, Mrs Baird has more than proven her worth in making this position permanent and richly deserves her new position as our full-time deputy headteacher.