



Elmstead Wood Primary School

May 2026 Newsletter

Dear Elmstead Wood Families

As we reach the end of another busy and successful half term at Elmstead Wood, I would like to take a moment to reflect on some of the wonderful experiences, achievements and memories our children have made over recent weeks.

Firstly, a huge well done to our Year 6 pupils who completed their End of Key Stage 2 tests last week. We are incredibly proud of the resilience, maturity and determination they showed throughout the process. They approached each day with positivity and gave their very best – exactly what we could have hoped for!

There has been so much excitement across the school this half term. Year 1 had a fantastic trip to Pizza Express this week, where pupils enjoyed learning about food preparation and, of course, making their own pizzas! Our Nursery Stay & Play sessions have also been a great success, providing lovely opportunities for families to come together and enjoy learning through play.

Sport continues to thrive at Elmstead Wood. A huge congratulations to our KS2 boys' football team for their fantastic victory against Harris – a brilliant achievement! Alongside this, we have enjoyed many other sporting events and competitions, with children representing the school with enthusiasm, teamwork and excellent sportsmanship.

Creativity has also been flourishing, with our exciting Centre Stage workshops inspiring confidence and performance skills in our pupils. Around school, there has been great excitement as Cherry Class watched their butterflies grow and prepared for their release, while our school-wide sunflower competition has brought plenty of enthusiasm (and a little healthy competition!) to classrooms too.

It was also wonderful to see so many families at our May Day Family Picnic – a lovely celebration of our school community and the start of the warmer weather. Thank you for supporting this event.

We are delighted to see our school Instagram continuing to grow, helping us share and celebrate the fantastic learning, events and achievements happening every day at Elmstead Wood. Thank you for following and celebrating school life with us.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support this half term. Please continue to read, practice phonics and times tables over the half term as Y1 and Y4 have their statutory testing after the half term break. We wish all of our families a restful, enjoyable and safe half term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 2nd June at 8:40am.

With warm regards,
Mrs C Lewis
Headteacher



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Dates for your Diary

25 th May	Start of half term
1 st June	INSET Day
2 nd June	Children back in school after half term
5 th June	Make the Rules day
8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th June	Nursery Stay and Play Sessions 10am - 11am
8 th June	PTA Stay and Play after school
11 th June	Y5/6 Bake Sale
12 th June	Own clothes for PTA Unwanted Gifts for Summer Fair
15 th June	PTA Stay & Play after school
18 th June	Sports Day
25 th June	Nursery Sports Day
26 th June	Own clothes for bottle tombola donation PTA Summer Fair
26 th June	PTA Summer Fair
2 nd July	Class Photos
3 rd July	PTA Bingo Night
7 th July	Y2 visiting Hornimans Museum
7 th July	Transition Day
15 th July	PM Y6 Production
16 th July	Evening Y6 Production
17 th July	School Reports come out
17 th July	Y6 Leaver's Party
20 th July	Celebration of Learning
22 nd July	Nursery Graduation
23 rd July	Y6 Leaver's Assembly
23 rd July	Last Day of Summer Term
3 rd September	First Day of Autumn Term



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Nursery

In the nursery this half term we have been reading lots of books about animals and farms. The children have had lots of fun learning the Makaton signs for different animals. We also enjoyed reading the story *The Little Red Hen*, about a hen who worked hard to make bread. Inspired by the story, we decided it would be even more fun to decorate our own biscuits together!



Reception

Reception class has been learning about minibeasts and animals. We watched caterpillars transform into butterflies, and it was very exciting to release them into the playground and watch them flutter away.

We also enjoyed a visit from the Wiggly Wild Show, where the children had the opportunity to see and touch a variety of minibeasts, including a giant snail.





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Year 1

Year 1 has had a fabulous half term of learning which they shared in their class assembly. They have enjoyed a trip to Pizza Express to learn about hygiene and food preparation, where they got to make their own pizza to take home. They also got to see and handle some mini bugs and other animals at The Wiggly Wild Show!



Year 2

Year 2 have been learning how to produce lots of different prints in Art. They have made leaf prints by rubbing and impressing into clay and explored making prints with classroom objects and paint.





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Year 3 and Year 4

In year 3/4, we have been doing DT. We learned how to be safe when cooking so we don't hurt ourselves and make sure our food is safe to eat. We discussed that we need to wash our hands before cooking, making sure we do not contaminate food across chopping boards and we store foods correctly. We made a couscous salad by cutting up a range of foods such as tomatoes, cucumber and peppers. We then mixed it together and added cheese on top. Lots of us enjoyed our food and even asked for seconds!



Year 5 and Year 6

Year 5/6 have continued to show great determination and resilience this term, working incredibly hard and facing new challenges with a positive attitude. We are extremely proud of all they have achieved, particularly our Year 6 pupils, who approached their SATs with maturity and dedication after months of hard work and preparation. We have to also acknowledge our year 5 children, who were so adaptable and understanding during this time. A massive well done to you all. Excitement is also building following the reveal of our end-of-year production, *Grimm: Fairy Tales*, and we cannot wait to see the children bring the performance to life. As part of preparing for their transition to secondary school, Year 6 also visited Orpington Fire Station to take part in a Junior Citizenship Workshop, where they learned valuable life skills and safety awareness. Meanwhile, Year 5 have enjoyed deepening their understanding of Islam in RE, showing thoughtful discussion and curiosity throughout their learning.

Sports and PE



Children have taken part in a variety of sporting competitions and events over the last half term, including football, athletics and cricket. All of the children demonstrated great resilience, perseverance and teamwork throughout each activity, and represented the school brilliantly.



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Attendance

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

Attendance is a key priority for Elmstead Wood Primary School and our target for overall attendance this year is 96.5%. Good attendance underpins academic achievement and we want all of our children to achieve and succeed.

We will soon be sending out letters to parents of children whose attendance is falling **below the Department for Education's minimum expectation of 96% attendance. If you would like to discuss any concerns regarding your child's attendance, please do contact** me. We want to offer support early so that we can resolve any issues as quickly as possible.

Thank you for supporting your child at school.

Mrs Arnold



**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Help your child to come to school on time:

- Get everything ready for school the night before.
- Have the same bedtime routines every night.
- Get up early enough every morning.
- Eat a good breakfast.
- Allow plenty of travel.
- Form good habits

Children only get one chance to attend school and to take advantage of all we have to offer!

THEIR FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS...



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OPAL



Outdoor Play and Learning – Where children thrive!

We are still collecting for Opal. If over the Half term holidays you are throwing out any old items that are listed in the table, please could you donate them to the school and bring them in in June.

How to help.

In order to continue with the important benefits of a stimulating outdoor learning environment and for the development of our children, we would love even more parental and community support. We are therefore asking if there are any parents out there who may have a trade (such as fencers, builders, gardeners etc.) or are able to retrieve items that would be useful in the playground? We have put together two lists of potential resources that would benefit the children.

Fabricated loose parts (see list A)- anything man made that is not a toy or a specific piece of sport equipment.

Natural loose parts (see list B)- is any moveable natural material that children can transport, mix, and construct with or incorporate into their play

Any donations or loose parts should be dropped at the front gate. Please ensure a member of staff is made aware, so that they can be taken and stored. Whilst we thoroughly check all items for their safety, it would be appreciated if you could check the items to ensure they are safe enough to play with.

Fabricated List (A)	Natural List (B)
Boards/ Panels	Branches/sticks
Brief cases	Logs
Buggies/push chairs	Pine cones



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Cable drums	Play bark/wood chip
Foam pipe covers and noodles	
Guttering (any shape and size)	
Hoses and Pipes (gas, water, drainage)	
Keyboards	
Metal pots and pans	
Old household appliances (hoovers, fax machines)	
Plastic road barriers	
Plastic trugs and bin	
Plastic Barrels (cleaned)	

Many thanks!

The OPAL team.

Universal Free School Meals

The Mayor of London's office has confirmed that they are extending the Universal Free School Meals offer for the Academic Year 2024 / 25. However, if you are eligible to receive free school meals as per the criteria below, please do apply as this results in extra funding for the school.

Parents can apply through the London Borough of Bromley link for Pupil Premium at regular intervals throughout the year. <https://www.bromley.gov.uk/FreeSchoolMeals>

To be eligible for Pupil Premium, families should be in receipt of the following:



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- Income support
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (providing you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit), with a gross annual household income of no more than £16,190 (as assessed by Her **Majesty's Revenue and Customs**-HMRC)
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment received for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit, with a net annual household income of £7,400 or less (after tax and not including any other benefits you receive).

School Office Notices

- Medication - Prescribed medication can be administered by the school. If your child needs to have medication during the school day, please come in and complete a form to give us permission. However, we are no longer allowed to administer Calpol, Nurofen or Piriton.
- Contact details - Please make sure the school office has 2 points of contacts for your children. It is part of our Safeguarding Policy that you have 2 contacts on Arbor. Remember to update us when you have changed your circumstances. Please contact us either by the school office on 020 8857 1504 or email admin@elmsteadwoodprimary.co.uk
- Absence - When reporting absences for your child please either contact the school office by 9 am on 020 8857 1504. You can also report this by email attendance@elmsteadwoodprimary.co.uk
Please do not report absences on Class Dojo
- Arbor - Everyone should be able to log-in into arbor this system is to update any info regarding your child such as: Family, Guardian Contacts (all people that collect your children need to be on arbor) Medical Consents section (you will need to consent to your child attending local trips, photographs and many more
- Please ensure that all changes in collection arrangements for your child are phoned into the school office before 2:45pm.
- All paid school services must be paid for in advance (breakfast club, after school club). The school has credit control procedures in place for any arrears.
- If you need to book breakfast club or after school club on an ad hoc basis, please email the relevant club in advance on breakfastclub@elmsteadwoodprimary.co.uk or afterschoolclub@elmsteadwoodprimary.co.uk . Payment on ParentPay must be made before your child attends and does not automatically notify the club that your child will be attending.
- Please could all late arrivals be signed in on the EntrySign in the entrance hall.
- If children are not collected by 3:30pm and the school has not received notification from a parent or guardian, they will be taken to the after school club. This is a chargeable service.



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Flyers

demelza

Rainbow Run

Sunday 6 September | 10am - 1pm
Avery Hill Park, Eltham

Get ready for a family fun run like no other. With every step, you'll be showered in bright colourful powders while helping Demelza support families whenever and wherever they need us most.

Tickets from £10

Find out more  demelza.org.uk/rainbow-run
 Registered Charity No. 113800



Access Sport

Inclusive Multi Sport Festival

The Alex Lee Leifwood Arena SE24 6QR

www.AccessSport.org.uk

Multi-Sport SEND Festival

The Lewisham-Charlton Sports Network are providing multi-sport SEND-friendly activities for disabled young people aged 5-25.

Event Details
 Date: Saturday 27 June
 Time: 10.00 - 12.00
 Location: The Alex Lee Leifwood Arena, SE24 6QR

Book your spot
 You can register by visiting the site or scanning the QR code below.

Register now > 

Contact
 For more information, please contact: info@access-sport.org.uk or call 020 7961 4465

Registered Charity No. 116481

SUMMER 2026

THE WOW CAMP

TECH CAMP & MORE EXPERIENCES

Build skills, have fun, have an unforgettable summer!

WEEK 1 (9th - 13th July) **£199**

WEEK 2 (14th - 18th July) **£199**

TECH CAMP & MORE EXPERIENCES

BOOK YOUR PLACE
 Find your nearest camp > www.nextthing.education

Book now, limited spaces!
www.nextthing.education 01442 872152

Upcoming Free Webinars

The 11+ Game Plan for Parents

Join our free live Zoom sessions for expert guidance on the 11 Plus journey ahead.

These sessions are led by experienced education specialists and students who have successfully been through the process, giving families practical advice on what strong applicants do in Years 4 and 5, what schools look for, and how to avoid common mistakes.

What to expect:

- Clear 11 Plus guidance from education experts
- First-hand advice from successful students
- School specific guidance
- Practical next steps for the year ahead
- Live Q&A in every session

Trusted by parents and schools across the UK.

Places are limited. Register early to secure your place.

THURS 25 MAY **How to Get Into the Top South West London Schools**
 For families considering schools such as King's College School, Wimbledon, Wimbledon High, Putney High, Tiffin, Tiffin Girls', Surbiton High, Lady Eborac Holles, Hampton, and other leading selective schools in the area.

MON 15 JUNE **How to Get Into the Top West London Schools**
 For families considering schools such as St Paul's, Latimer Upper, Godolphin & Latimer, Notting Hill & Ealing, Queen's College, City of London School, and other leading selective schools in the area.

MON 29 JUNE **How to Get Into the Top South East London Schools**
 For families considering schools such as Dulwich College, Alleyn's, James Allen's Girls' School (JAGS), Sydenham High, Eltham College, Whitgift, Trinity Croydon, and other leading selective schools in the area.

  

Questions? Contact us at hello@thesouthfinchinitiative.org

THE PATHFINDERS INITIATIVE