



# Elmstead Wood Primary School

## July 2026 Newsletter

### Dear Elmstead Wood Families

As we reach the end of another busy school year, I would like to thank our children, families and staff for everything they have contributed to Elmstead Wood. There has been so much to celebrate this year. Our children have represented the school through sport, music, performances, trips and community events, while continuing to work hard in the classroom. We are particularly proud of the outstanding achievements across the school and the progress our pupils have made. Our recent [Instagram posts](#) provide a snapshot of just some of the many experiences and successes we have enjoyed together.

The final weeks of term have certainly been memorable, not least because of the heatwave. Despite the challenging temperatures, the children and staff have adapted remarkably well and continued to approach each day with enthusiasm. We now say a very fond goodbye to our Year 6 pupils. Many have been part of Elmstead Wood since Nursery or Reception, and it has been a privilege to watch them grow into the young people they are today. We are proud of all they have achieved and wish them every success and happiness as they begin secondary school. We hope they will take many happy memories of Elmstead Wood with them.

Thank you to our parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. I hope that you and your families have a lovely, restful summer.

School reopens to pupils at **8:40am on Thursday 3 September**. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the start of the new academic year.

With warm regards,  
**Mrs C Lewis**  
**Headteacher**

### Dates for your Diary

|                                             |                                |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> September                   | INSET Day                      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> September                   | INSET Day                      |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> September                   | First Day of Autumn Term       |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept                        | Nursery children return        |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> September                  | 9.30am and 5.30pm Open Morning |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> October                     | Individual School Photos       |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> October                     | PTA Glow Disco                 |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> October | Half Term                      |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> November                   | Parents Evening                |



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|                           |                                      |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 12 <sup>th</sup> November | Parents Evening                      |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> November | Flu Vaccinations Reception to Year 6 |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> November | 9.30am Open Morning                  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> November | Inset Day                            |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> November | PTA Christmas Fair                   |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> December | Last Day of Autumn Term              |

The inset day next year has been moved from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June.

### Reception

We had a lovely afternoon in the park. The children enjoyed playing on all the equipment and having an ice-cream. The trip helped the children enforce their learning regarding journeys.



### Year 1

We have had a fantastic half term in Year 1. In science we have been learning to use a key to identify trees around our school. We used a Venn diagram to help us sort and classify the leaves.





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### Year 2

Year 2 have worked hard learning the practical skills of joining and strengthening in their DT topic this half term. They designed and made durable packed lunch boxes with compartments, handles and insulation, inspired by the book 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch'. After spending a morning making their lunch boxes, they went onto the field to test their strength by sending them down a rope. They all did really well and their snacks survived!



### Year 3 and Year 4

This term year 3/4 have done many exciting things including creating their own juggling balls. They used tie dye to dye their material and then filled them with their filling of choice. Finally they sewed it up using a hemming stitch and then drew on their circus themed pictures.





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### Year 5 and Year 6

Our incredible Year 5 and Year 6 students have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to bring our upcoming production, *Grimm: Once Upon a Musical*, to life! From harmonising beautifully in rehearsals, to memorising lines and helping design the fairy-tale set, their dedication has been nothing short of magical. It has been inspiring to watch the children collaborate, step out of their comfort zones, and pour so much energy into making this show a spectacular success. We are incredibly proud of their hard work.



### 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



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**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

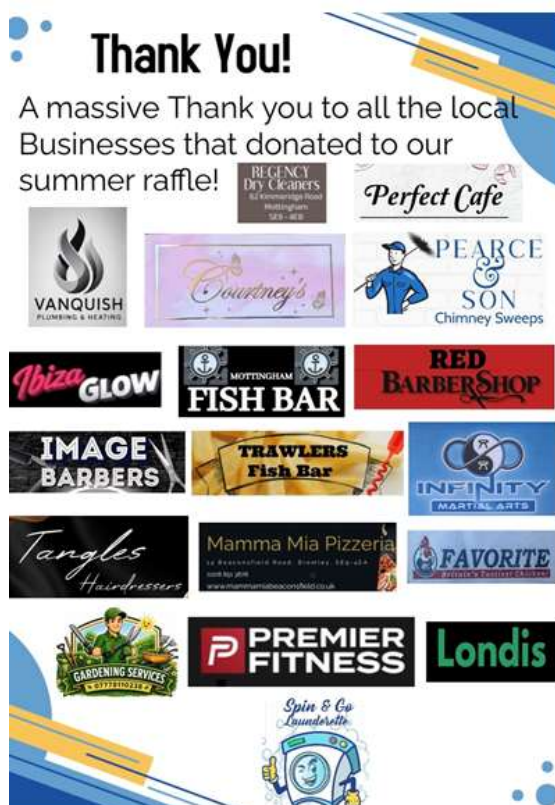
Help your child to come to school on time:

- 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...**

## PTA





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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:breakfastclub@elmsteadwoodprimary.co.uk) or [afterschoolclub@elmsteadwoodprimary.co.uk](mailto: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



### Join the free 2026 Summer Reading Challenge: Read to the Beat at your local library

Your child (age 4–11) can join the **Summer Reading Challenge** this summer. It's fun, free and helps keep up reading skills over the holidays!

- set a reading goal
- read whatever they like – books, eBooks, audiobooks, picture books, and more
- join in with library events
- Earn stickers, rewards and even a certificate

Starts 4 July and ends 5 September in England

It's a great way to boost confidence and make reading fun!

For fun digital activities and book recommendations, take a look online:

[summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)