

Elmstead Wood Primary School

February 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that the start of term has been a positive experience for both you and your children. It brings me great joy to see our pupils settling back into the school routine and working hard in their classes. The dedication and enthusiasm they have shown is truly commendable.

As we approach the halfway mark of this term, I wanted to take a moment to inform you about a small issue that has arisen in our school. We have noticed a growing number of 'Prime' drinks bottles being brought into school, which has caused some problems, particularly on the playground. Therefore, I kindly request that after the upcoming half term break, no Prime bottles are allowed in school. This applies to all Prime bottles (including Prime Hydration bottles), regardless of their contents. We encourage students to bring their own tap water in alternative reusable bottles instead. This small change will help us maintain a focused and productive learning environment for all.

Additionally, I would like to address another matter that has come to our attention. While it is lovely for children to bring treats to share with their friends on their birthdays, we have noticed a significant increase in the amount of sweets and cakes being brought in. With the health and wellbeing of our children in mind, I kindly ask that, if you wish to bring a birthday treat to celebrate your child's special day, please consider a non-edible gift instead. A small token such as a pencil or a rubber for your child's classmates would be greatly appreciated. Alternatively, you may choose to purchase a book for our school library. We will make sure to write in the front of the book, acknowledging whose birthday it was, as a special way to celebrate their day.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in these matters. By working together, we can ensure that Elmstead Wood Primary School continues to be a nurturing and inclusive environment for all our students.

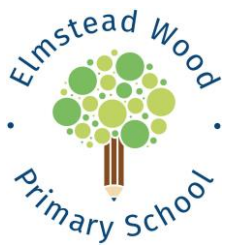
Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half term break.

Best wishes,

Mrs R Haig
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

12 th February to 16 th February	Half Term
19 th February	Inset Day - no children in school
20 th February	Pupils return to school
28 th February	Y3/4 visiting the Science Museum



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1st March	MMR vaccinations
6th March	Y2 trip to The Museum of London
8th March	PTA Someone Special Day World Book Day
19th March	Parents Evening
21st March	Parents Evening
26th March	Y5/6 visiting Imperial War Museum
27th March	Wear Green to be Seen Day as part of autism awareness week
28th March	Last day of the Spring Term - Easter Bonnet Parade
29th March	Start of Easter Holidays
15th April	Pupils return to school for the Summer Term

Reception



The Reception classes have been very busy this half term learning through our topic 'Come on a Journey With Us.' I'm sure you'll agree that the children's reading and writing skills have really developed this half term. We have enjoyed listening to them read and it has been lovely to see how excited and proud of themselves they are with all the different things they are writing.

The children have been developing their communication skills in the airport role play area, serving customers their food on the aeroplane, issuing tickets and checking passports at the check in desk and of

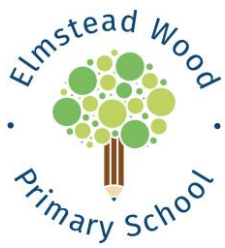
course, making their way through security with their luggage.

Forest school has enhanced their learning of the books "The Naughty Bus" and "Where the Wild Things Are". Their 'naughty' vehicles went on an epic journey through forest school and the children became 'wild creatures' and had a rumpus party.



We are all looking forward to our train journey to the London Transport Museum on Friday to learn about old and new transport.





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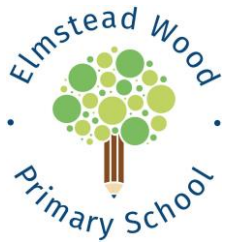
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Year 1

In year 1 in science we have been looking at everyday materials. We have investigated different materials and their properties as well as whether they are waterproof or absorbent. In history we have been looking at toys of the past and toys of the present and comparing them. We were able to bring in our own toys and so did the adults. We then asked questions about the toys and learned about what people played with in the past. We discussed whether we would play with some of the toys from the past, now and why. In art, we have been looking at artists Keith Haring and Henri Matisse. These artists are known for their collage. Over the term we have been using layering of different materials to create a collage.





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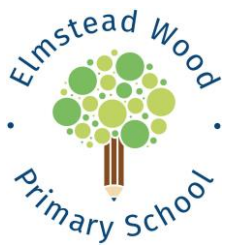
Year 2

Year 2 have been studying printing in their art lessons. They have used a variety of common objects to print with. They have also experimented with different mediums to make prints such as wax crayon, paint and wax.



Year 3 and Year 4

We have a great start to the new academic term and have enjoyed starting our new units. In Computing, we have been programming and debugging using Scratch. The children's confidence in writing their own algorithms and then testing them out has really improved. We have learnt to create our own maths game by programming the computer to ask a question and then responding to whether you have answered it correctly or not. As part of our art, we have been looking at colour mixing, mixing the primary colours with different tints to create different shades. We have used this knowledge to paint sunsets, colour mixing the right colours to reach our desired effect. We are looking forward to our visit from the Science Ambassador on the 2nd February showing us an investigation around our Science unit States of Matter. We look forward to telling you all about it.



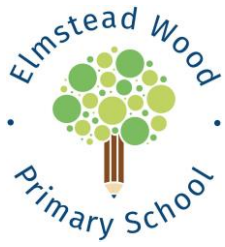
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Year 5 and Year 6

This half term Year 5/6 have been looking at colour theory and painting. We have been looking at Van Gogh and will also be looking at Pablo Picasso. We have been practising how to shade, tone and tint different hues. We each created still lifes in our classrooms using different inanimate objects. We made sure to choose objects which were all the same colour so we could showcase our ability to mix paints and create a palette based upon colours observed. As you can see in the pictures of some of our art work, you can see our different painting styles starting to flourish!





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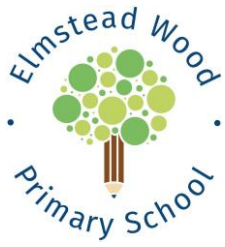
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Mental Health Week



As part of Children's Mental Health Week, we have held an assembly and had our first whole school Mindfulness practice. There are lots of other activities this week and the finale will be our own clothes day on Friday.





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Word of the Term



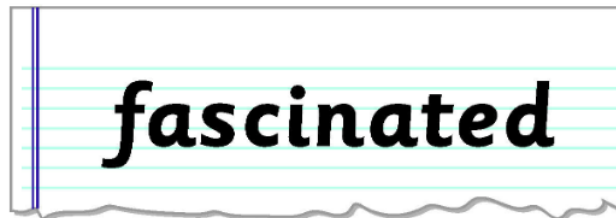
'Children who are behind in language development at **age five** are **six times less likely** to reach the expected standard in English at age eleven, and **11 times less likely** to achieve the expected level in maths.' *Department for Education, 2017*

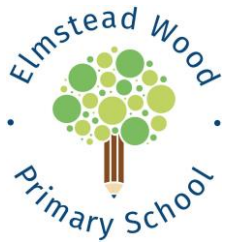
'The correlation between vocabulary size and life chances is as firm as any correlation in educational research. Vocabulary is important because it embodies and communicates concepts.' *Ofsted 2019*

Remember, words are important!

Word of the Term

This term's word is:





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Meaning

You are really interested in something and you keep thinking about it.



Challenge

What things are you **fascinated** by?



Word Joke



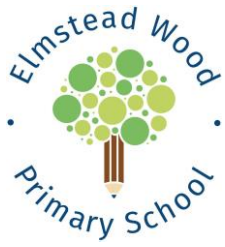
I'm going to stand outside. So if anyone asks, I'm outstanding.

Interesting/Unusual Words - *Moodle*

Moodle: to busy oneself in an unmethodical and entirely ineffectual manner.

Word Fact/Advice

Keep on reading. Amidst the business of family life, it is hard to always find time to read to children. If you read to your child for 15 minutes per day, in a year they will have heard 1.5 million words. Reading slightly more challenging books to your child than they can read will help boost their reading too.

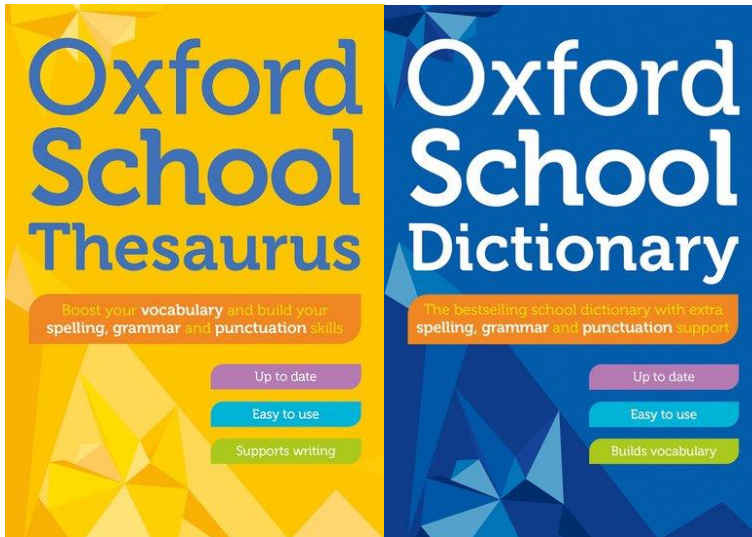


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Dictionaries

Thanks to the **PTA** for funding new dictionaries and thesauruses for the KS2 classes. The children have already started using these in their lessons!

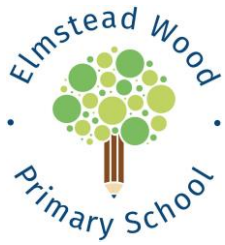


Times Table Rockstars (TTRS) and Numbots

It is recommended that your child does a little bit of times table practice every night. Short bursts of practise on a daily basis are more effective than spending hours once a week.



All children in KS1 and KS2 have access to Numbots. It is geared more for KS1 children but all children can engage with the programme. We have been awarding certificates in assembly for children who have been participating regularly.



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ABOUT NUMBOTS

What is NumBots?

NumBots is an online maths learning platform that helps children learn how to add and subtract, improving their fluency and recall in basic mental maths, and equipping them with maths confidence.

Why is NumBots important?

Basic number skills are the essential building blocks for higher-level maths concepts. NumBots covers number recognition, number bonds, and addition and subtraction of double digit numbers; gradually helping your child to build a solid conceptual understanding of number sense.

How often should my child play?

We recommend a little and often approach; 3 minutes practice a day, 4 times a week is a good target.

PTA

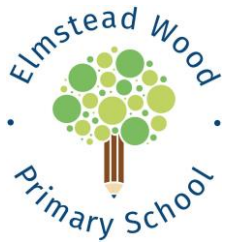
We have some amazing events coming up this year. We are looking forward to hosting and planning these events.

List of events for your dairy;

- Someone Special Day on Friday 8th March.
- Boot Fair on Saturday 20th April
- Cake and Coffee Picnic on Tuesday 21st May
- Someone Special Day on Wednesday 12 June
- Own Clothes Days on Wednesday 3rd July
- Summer Fair on Saturday 6th July

Here is some information on these events:

- For the Someone Special Day we are looking for unwanted gifts or gift sets, chocolate etc. that you have laying around for all age ranges and genders. The children will get to choose something, wrap it and give it to someone they feel is special to them.
- In April we are so happy to be holding our first Boot Fair! Many people over the years have asked for us to hold a Boot Fair! This will be a pre-booked event for a space. More information will be sent out after half term.
- During May, we will be holding a cake and coffee picnic in the playground after school. Come and join the children playing and having a nice chat with a slice of cake. More details will follow shortly.
- In June we will hold another Someone Special event. We will send more information closer to the time.



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- In July, we will hold our annual Summer Fair. We will have an own clothes day for donations of drinks and sweets for the tombola. More information to follow closer to the time.

We are always looking for more PTA members to come and join our lovely team. We hold meetings every two weeks. If you are unable to attend meetings but would like to help out in events, please just let the office know and we will be in touch!

Thank you to everyone for all your help and support with all events that the PTA run. We really appreciate all the support and help.

Jo Wright
Head of PTA

Safer Neighbourhood

STREET
meets

Police

Your local Safer Neighbourhood team will be here

Come and meet your local policing team

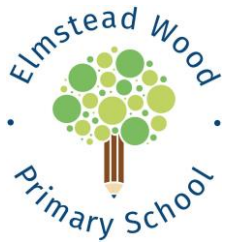
Morleston St Car Park

Monday, July 1
6pm-8pm

For further details visit: www.derbyshire.police.uk

101
In an emergency always call 999
Derbyshire Communications. All Derbyshire's 101

YouTube Facebook Twitter
www.derbyshire.police.uk



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School Office Notices

- 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. 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.