



Elmstead Wood Primary School

March 2026 Newsletter

Dear Elmstead Wood Families

As we come to the end of another busy and productive term at Elmstead Wood, it is worth pausing to recognise just how much has taken place across the school community!

There have been many moments that have brought pupils together. Our Young Carers Easter Egg Hunt was a thoughtful and well-received event, and the PTA disco provided a lively opportunity for children to enjoy time with their friends outside the classroom. Events like these continue to play a role in building a sense of belonging across the school. The PTA are running a free Easter Trail in the holidays - look out for the posters!

Sporting opportunities have also featured strongly this term. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils represented the school well at the transition netball tournament, demonstrating both teamwork and resilience. Several children took part in the Bromley Schools Cross Country as well. These experiences continue to support pupils as they prepare for the next stage of their education.

World Book Day was another highlight, with a clear focus on reading for enjoyment across the school. It was encouraging to see pupils engaging with books in a range of ways, both in class and at home.

We have also seen growing engagement with our school communication. Our Instagram page continues to develop as a way of sharing what is happening in school. If you are not already following us, it is worth doing so to keep up to date with day-to-day life at Elmstead Wood.

Across the term, pupils have also been recognised for their effort and positive attitudes. The awarding of 300 Class Dojo point prizes reflects a consistent focus on rewarding those who **demonstrate the school's expectations in their learning and behaviour.**

Finally, it is important to acknowledge the contribution of our wider community. Thank you to all parent volunteers, including those involved in the PTA, parent readers, and the school council, as well as for your continued donations and support. These contributions, while often behind the scenes, make a noticeable difference to the children and I would like to take the opportunity to thank you so very much.

Enjoy the holidays and we will see you back at 8:40am on Monday 13th April.

With warm regards,

Mrs C Lewis
Headteacher



Elmstead Wood Primary School

March 2026 Newsletter

Dates for your Diary

30 th Mar	Start of the Easter Holidays
13 th Apr	First day of Summer Term
17 th Apr	PTA Quiz Night
1 st May	PTA Family Picnic (subject to weather)
11 th - 14 th May	Y6 SATs
25 th May	Start of half term
1 st June	INSET Day
2 nd June	Children back in school after half term
18 th June	Sports Day
25 th June	Nursery Sports Day
26 th June	PTA Summer Fair
2 nd July	Class Photos
7 th July	Y2 visiting Hornimans Museum
15 th July	PM Y6 Production
16 th July	Evening Y6 Production
17 th July	Y6 Leaver's Party
23 rd July	Last Day of Summer Term
3 rd September	First Day of Autumn Term

Nursery

This half term in Nursery, our theme has been Traditional Tales. The children have thoroughly enjoyed listening to a variety of classic stories and taking part in fun, themed activities inspired by them. One of the highlights was our exploration of



Jack and the Beanstalk. The excitement grew when a mysterious beanstalk appeared in our classroom! Things became even more memorable when the Giant paid us a visit— although his big, clumsy feet caused quite a mess! Luckily, the Giant later wrote to apologise for the damage and kindly left the children a small treat. It has been wonderful to see the children so engaged, using their imaginations and bringing



Elmstead Wood Primary School

March 2026 Newsletter

Reception

It has been a fabulous half term in Cherry class. We are so impressed by the progress the children have made and the continued kindness and support they show to each other. We truly are one team! We love to play and learn together!

Deepening our understanding of number bonds...



Ambition and collaboration...



Investigation and exploration



...



Elmstead Wood Primary School

March 2026 Newsletter

Year 1

In year 1 the children have been working hard on designing and making their own Easter bunting. They tried really hard to sew the tops of their bunting even when they found it tricky.



Year 2



Year 2 had an exciting time during Science week, exploring ecosystems. They gathered natural materials they thought would make a great nest from the forestry area. They added other suitable materials from the classroom to put their nests together. They had to use pegs like a beak to make their nests - it was very tricky! Finally they tested the strength of their nests by simulating wind with a fan.





Elmstead Wood Primary School

March 2026 Newsletter

Year 3 and Year 4

In Year 3/4 we have been doing a cultural study of Greece. The children have explored the physical and human features of Greece. They investigated the culture, including food, traditions, economy and climate. They identified similarities and differences and located Greece and its main islands on the map.



Year 5 and Year 6

In 5/6, we have been learning about different emergency situations and ways you may react. In one of our PSHE lessons, we learnt and practised the recovery position that can be used if someone is injured and unresponsive.



Attendance

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day



Elmstead Wood Primary School

March 2026 Newsletter

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



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...



Elmstead Wood Primary School

March 2026 Newsletter

OPAL



Outdoor Play and Learning - Where children thrive!

We are still collecting for Opal. If over the Easter 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 April.

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



Elmstead Wood Primary School

March 2026 Newsletter

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.





Elmstead Wood Primary School

March 2026 Newsletter



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:

- 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).



Elmstead Wood Primary School

March 2026 Newsletter

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.



Elmstead Wood Primary School

March 2026 Newsletter

Flyers

Stay and Play

Explore the Nursery.
Enjoy Messy Play & Fun Activities!
Weekly on a Monday.

Free Sessions for children aged 2+ with their adult,
led by Elmstead Wood Primary School staff.

Reserve your place:
call 02086571504
or email:
admin@elmsteadwoodprimary.co.uk
starting Monday 20th April 10:00 - 11:00

sporting way 

funetics

run + jump + throw

Building confidence through movement and fun!

Every Tuesday

4pm-5pm
For children aged 5 - 8 yo

5pm-6pm
Inclusive session for children and young people with SEND

Community Centre
Mottingham

COMMUNITY LINKS BROMLEY  PERSONAL BEST FOUNDATION 

Department for Education 

Spring Holiday Fun

Bromley's Holiday Activities and Food programme

www.bromley.gov.uk/HolidayActivitiesandFoodProgramme

Spring Programme

A free and exciting holiday programme for children and young people aged 5 to 16 in receipt of benefit related free school meals. Take part in sport, music, drama, art, cooking and much more during the 2026 spring holiday. Free, nutritious meals will be provided for each session.

Have fun with your friends, learn new skills, gain confidence and get involved!

To find out which activities are near you and to sign up please follow our website link: [Holiday activities and food programme | London Borough of Bromley](#)

Or contact: [HolidayActivitiesandFood@bromley.gov.uk](#)

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