



Elmtree Echo

Issue 6



Respect - Ambitious - Curious - Resilient - Inclusive



A Message from Mrs Ohene

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a buzzing week of learning here at Elmtree.

Over the last few weeks, we have been using a new learning tool called 'The Bee Line' – and the children are already getting stuck in!

The Bee Line helps children become more independent and confident learners by encouraging them to think through a challenge before asking an adult for help.

Here's how it works: before going to the '**boss**' (the class teacher or staff member), children are encouraged to try four other steps:

- Use their **brain** – what do I already know?
- Look at the **board** – are there examples to guide me?
- Check their **book** – is there something we've done before that could help?
- Ask a **buddy** – can my partner explain it in a different way?

Only then do they go to the adult – building independence step by step. We're really proud of how the children are embracing this approach!

The children have been writing across the curriculum. Reception children are learning letter formation, in line with their sounds. We have seen some wonderful examples of emergent writing, name writing and individual graphemes (written representation of a sound). Maple class have been writing about how we can help bees by protecting their habitats. We are so impressed with the attitude to learning at Elmtree. Children are showing true determination and resilience in their learning.



On Monday, we kicked off our celebrations for Black History Month, exploring what it means and why it's important.

The children came up with brilliant ideas for how we might celebrate – including parties, food, and fun activities! We'll be continuing our celebrations during Wonderful World Week (20th–24th October), culminating in our International Day on Thursday 23rd October, when children are invited to wear traditional clothes that represent their heritage. We also have our Diwali dance workshops to look forward to on Friday 24th October. It's a busy month but one full of celebrations and inclusivity which is at the heart of Elmtree.

In Thursday's assembly, we had an important and thoughtful discussion about racism – what it means and how we can show kindness and respect to everyone. Our puppet friends Jamila, Peter, Malachai and Elmer joined us to help the children understand that while we all have differences, we also share many things in common – and that's what makes Elmtree such a special and inclusive place to be.

Today, staff wore yellow to mark World Mental Health Day – a gentle reminder that looking after our mental wellbeing is just as important as looking after our bodies.

At Elmtree, we support every child to feel well and be well, and this week gave us all a chance to pause and reflect on the importance of kindness – to others and to ourselves.

I hope you have the chance to do the same this weekend.

Kind regards,

Mrs Ohene

Headteacher

New Phonics Scheme & Reading Book Update

We're excited to let you know that we have started using our new phonics scheme, *Little Wandle*, across the school. As part of this, we are currently assessing all the children to ensure they are matched with the right reading books to support their progress.

We hope to start sending books home very soon so children can continue practising their reading with you – an important part of developing confident, fluent readers.

In the past, a large number of reading books have unfortunately not been returned to school, which has come at a significant cost. To make sure we can continue to provide high-quality reading resources for all children, we will be putting a fair and consistent system in place moving forward.

- ◇ Please ensure reading books are returned to school on time and are in school every day.
- ◇ If a book is lost or not returned, a £5 charge will be applied to cover the cost of replacement.

Books will be checked in and out by members of staff to ensure they are returned.

We really appreciate your support in helping us take care of these valuable resources so that every child can benefit from them. Thank you for working with us to make reading a positive experience for all!

Calling All Parents – Join Our OPAL Team!

We're looking for a **Parent Rep** to join our exciting **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)** initiative!

What is OPAL?

OPAL is all about transforming playtimes and learning opportunities by making the most of our **amazing outdoor spaces**. Through creative, inclusive, and adventurous play, children develop key life skills such as problem-solving, collaboration, resilience, and imagination – all while having fun in the great outdoors!

We're building a team of passionate people to help make this vision a reality, and we'd love to have a **parent voice on board**. As a Parent Rep, you'll help us:

- ✿ Support and promote play-based learning
- ✿ Contribute ideas and feedback
- ✿ Be part of enhancing our school grounds for all children
- ✿ Help with small projects or events (as time allows)
- ✿ Attend working group meetings (the first one is on Wednesday 3rd December from 1.00-3.00pm)

If you're enthusiastic about outdoor learning and want to help bring more joy and creativity to our children's day, please **get in touch** – we'd love to hear from you!

Let us know if you're interested in being part of the OPAL journey. Together, we can build something truly special on our mission to save childhood!



Important Dates & Events



Elmtree Infant School - Term Dates & key Events



→ Key Dates

Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th Oct – Beech/ Birch learning consultations

Tuesday 14th Oct – Vancol's individual school photos

Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd Oct – Oak and Willow learning consultations

Monday 20th and Wednesday 22nd Oct – Maple learning consultations

Thursday 23rd Oct ARP learning consultations (these will follow class consultations)

Thursday 23rd Oct International Dress Day—Children can wear their own international/traditional clothes, colours of a flag etc.

Friday 24th Oct House colour Mufti Day (PE appropriate) – Diwali dance workshops (children can wear pe clothes to school)

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Wednesday 5th Nov – Snow white panto – school hall - Payment via MCAS app.

Tuesday 11th Nov – Year 2 stay and learn 9am

Wednesday 12th Nov – Reception stay and learn 9am 26-27 intake

Thursday 13th Nov – Year 1 stay and learn 9am

Friday 14th Nov – Nursery stay and learn 9 and 2.45

Tuesday 25th Nov – New to Reception tours 9.30 26-27 intake

Wednesday 26th Nov – New to Nursery tours 10-10.30

Tuesday 9th December – Dress Rehearsal 9.30am Babes in arms/siblings.

Thursday 11th December – Christmas production 9.15 **No siblings**

Friday 12th December – Christmas production 9.15 **No siblings**

Tuesday 16th December – New to reception tours 9.30 26-27 intake

Wednesday 17th December – Nursery Xmas songs 10-10.30 Parents welcome.

Thursday 18th December – Nursery last day (Xmas party)

Friday 19th December – New nursery (January) visit and play.

Friday 19th December – School closes 1.30pm
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📌 Important Reminders

- **Please book school lunches** via ParentPay.
- If you would like to volunteer for Wild Woods or Reading please do let the office know.

📌 Stay Updated!

Keep an eye on our **school website** and **social media pages** for any last-minute changes or additional events.

Website: www.elmtreeschoolandnursery.co.uk

Contact: Office@elm.odbst.org / 01494 771474

Attendance

School attendance over the last 7 days is **95%**

Let's aim to be in **#SchoolEveryDay** next week

The champion year group this week is Year 1

Reception	Year 1	Year 2
94%	96%	94%



Remember that **#MomentsMatter**

We expect all children to attend school for at least 96% of sessions across the year.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



ATTENDANCE
EVERY DAY COUNTS!

Expected attendance means having no more than seven days off in the school year!

Attendance matters!

Below 90%
Serious Concern.
Persistent absence.

90 - 95.9%
Concern. Low
Attendance.

At least 96%
Expected
attendance.





CONGRATULATIONS



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Lola– Hope - Oak

Noah - Oak

Leo - Willow

Livia - Willow

Harvey - Maple

Zunera - Maple

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Tessa - Beech

Leno - Daisy

Cassidy - Willow

Manahil - Maple

Lyla-Anne - Willow

HEADTEACHER AWARD

Wyatt - Oak

Anniyah - Maple

Amelia - Maple

Harvey - Maple

Marnie - Maple



Family Connect is an informative website for parents and families. They offer a range of articles and virtual family learning courses about different aspects of parenting and child development (see link below).

[Why does she always do that? | Early Years Alliance Family Corner](#) (article)

[Family Connect | Early Years Alliance Family Corner](#) (family learning online courses)

[Family Connect: exploring schemas](#)

09/10/2025, 1:00 pm

[Family Connect: how babies communicate before words](#)

29/10/2025, 6:30 pm

[Family Connect: BBC CBeebies Parenting: supporting your child's development](#)

04/11/2025, 6:45 pm

[Family Connect: songs, stories and rhymes – supporting early communication](#)

10/11/2025, 10:00 am

[Family Connect: supporting children's emotional wellbeing](#)

26/11/2025, 6:30 pm

Could You Be a Parent Governor?

We're currently looking for enthusiastic and committed parents to join our Governing Body!

Parent Governors play a vital role in shaping the strategic direction of the school, supporting leadership, and representing the voice of our parent community. You don't need to be an expert in education — just someone who is keen to make a positive difference to our school and has a few hours to spare each term.

It's a great way to get involved, learn new skills, and contribute to your child's school experience.

Interested? We'd love to hear from you! Please contact the school office for more information or to express your interest.

🌸 Support Chesham in Bloom – Vote with Your Blue Token! 🌸

We're excited to share that **Chesham in Bloom** is one of the charities taking part in the **Tesco Blue Token Scheme** – and **your vote could help us win up to £1,500** for new planting projects around Chesham!

Where to vote:

Look out for the blue token boxes at these local Tesco stores:

- 🛒 Tesco Express, Chesham
- 🛒 Tesco Amersham Superstore
- 🛒 Tesco Express, Amersham (next to the tube station)
- 🛒 Tesco Express, Little Chalfont

How to vote:

Just **ask for a blue token** when you make a purchase in-store, and **pop it in the Chesham in Bloom slot** to support us!

Winning this funding would help us make **Chesham even more beautiful** with new flowers, greenery, and planting projects – benefiting the whole community, including local schools.

Every token counts, so please spread the word and help us grow something great! 🌱 🤍

restore hope

Fireworks

by the lake

BOOKINGS NOW OPEN!

SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2025, 5.30PM - 7.30PM

Restore Hope, Latimer Park Farm, Chesham, HP5 1TU

TICKET PRICE INCLUDES: FOOD & HOT DRINKS • KIDS' CRAFTS • LIVE MUSIC • PARKING

This event will enable Restore Hope to continue supporting local families in need

Adult, Child and Family Tickets available, under 2s free
Pre-booking essential, book on at restorehopelatimer.org

restorehopelatimer.org 01494 765555



Mental Health
Support Team
Buckinghamshire



FREE

**FOR PARENTS
AND CARERS**

LIVE WEBINARS

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH



**DATES:
OCT- DEC
2025**



**TIME:
6PM - 7.30PM**

To register, scan the QR codes on the next page!






01865 901566



bucksmhst@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SECURE YOUR PLACE:

Topic	Date	Link	QR code
Overview of Mental health – Primary	Monday 20th of October 2025	https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/c250a6a6-2c15-4997-be09-407feae1ef4e@759ac89b-2aa4-4973-b048-e6903b46a8b6	
Overview of Mental health– Secondary	Monday 3rd of November 2025	https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/0d1c87a5-b3b5-4a9b-a4b2-dbbcbee77abf@759ac89b-2aa4-4973-b048-e6903b46a8b6	
Childhood Anxiety	Monday 17th of November 2025	https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/741a9c4f-0eb4-4a23-9694-def68b6eb3b5@759ac89b-2aa4-4973-b048-e6903b46a8b6	
Adolescent Anxiety	Monday 1st of December 2025	https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/ffeb1299-da8c-44dc-8d3b-6ad980e5c729@759ac89b-2aa4-4973-b048-e6903b46a8b6	