



Elmtree Echo

Issue 3



Respect - Ambitious - Curious - Resilient - Inclusive



A Message from Mrs Ohene

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been a busy week with children continuing to settle into class routines, practising their Harvest performance, enjoying our delicious lunches and experiencing learning through play.

As the leaves turn golden and the days grow shorter, we enter one of the most meaningful seasons of the year—Harvest. It's a time steeped in tradition, when communities come together to celebrate the fruits of the earth and the efforts of the year gone by.

At its heart, Harvest is about abundance. It's a season where nature rewards hard work with ripe fruit, golden grain, and full baskets. In schools and homes, it's a time when we pause to acknowledge the blessings in our lives—not just in food, but in friendships, learning, kindness, and community spirit.

But Harvest is not just about what we receive. It's also a time to give. Traditionally, people would share their harvest with neighbours or those in need. Next week, we continue this tradition by donating food to our local elderly residents, helping others, and showing compassion to those who may be facing difficult times. Even the smallest act of giving can make a big difference. And finally, Harvest is a time to reflect—to look back on the year so far and recognise the seeds we've planted: in our work, our relationships, and our goals. What have we grown? What challenges have we faced? What have we learned? These moments of reflection help us grow stronger and move forward with gratitude and purpose.

As a school community, let us take this Harvest season as an opportunity to celebrate our growth, share our abundance, and look forward with hope. Whether through a tin of food, a kind word, or simply taking a moment to be thankful, each of us has something to offer. Happy Harvest!

Warmest regards
Mrs Ohene
Headteacher



Important Dates & Events



Elmtree Infant School - Term Dates & key Events



→ Key Dates

Monday 22nd Sep - Harvest donation day
 Thursday 25th Sep – Whole school Harvest assembly (hall) 2.30pm Parents and carers welcome.
 Thursday 25th Sep – DCGS – Year 1 Multi Skills – 9.30-11.30am Parent helpers needed.
 Friday 26th Sep – Nursery Harvest assembly 9.15am/ 2.45pm
 Monday 29th Sep – Parent Forum – 2.45pm
 Tuesday 30th Sep - New to Reception Tours 9.30am 26-27 intake

.....

Wednesday 1st Oct – Flu Immunisations (R/1/2)
 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
 Wednesday 22nd Oct ARP learning consultations
 Friday 24th Oct House colour Mufti Day

.....

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 .
 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.

📌 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 and 2

Reception	Year 1	Year 2
88%	97%	97%



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

Olivia - Oak

Lyla-Anne - Willow

Amira - Maple

Lenny - Maple

Evie-Mae - Oak

Faras - Willow

Eesa - Oak

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Aiyla - Maple

Ayla - Beech

Mahnoor - Birch

Michael - Birch

HEADTEACHER AWARD

Jimmy - Birch



Harvest Assembly Invitation

Date: Thursday 25th September

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: School hall









We warmly invite all parents and carers to join us for our annual Harvest Assembly.

A joyful celebration of community, gratitude, and giving. Come and enjoy songs, stories, and reflections from our wonderful pupils as we mark the season of abundance together.

Donation Day – Monday 22nd September

Help us support local families and food banks by donating non-perishable cupboard items, such as:

-  Tinned goods (vegetables, fruit, soup, beans, meat, fish)
-  Rice, pasta, lentils
-  Long-life milk and juice
-  Biscuits, cereals, tea, coffee
-  Sauces, cooking oil, stock cubes
-  Baby food and hygiene items (optional)

Every contribution makes a difference. Let's fill our baskets with kindness and care!



YEAR 2 HOUSE CAPTAINS

WENDOVER	CHILTERNs	LOWNDENs	WATERSIDE	PEDNOR
Musa Ismah	Anshika Lenny	Cleo Manahil	Marnie Gwen	Diana Amelia



ECO WARRIORS YEAR 2 : Harvey, Alfie, Miley

HEALTHY HEROES YEAR 2: Freya, Robyn, Khadijah K, Zunera

HEALTHY HEROES YEAR 1: Leo, Uswah, Enes, Amelia

POWER RANGERS YEAR 2: Rayaan, Anniyah and Esmae

POWER RANGERS YEAR 1: Jordan, Thomasina, Dexter and Kaja



WELCOME FROM THE EFF



**WEDNESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER, 3.10-4PM
SCHOOL HALL**



ENJOY A TEA/COFFEE WHILE YOU MEET & CHAT TO
THE EFF COMMITTEE AND OTHER PARENTS!
SNACKS AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM/PE KIT WILL ALSO BE ON
SALE!



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT EVENTS TO COME,
INCLUDING THE EFF AGM AND THE 100 CLUB!





📢 **BBC 500 Words opens for submissions on Tuesday 23rd September at 8am!** 📢

The UK's biggest children's story-writing competition is back—inviting young storytellers to write the kind of story they would love to read. No pressure around spelling, grammar or punctuation—it's all about creativity! Plus, there are loads of prizes to be won!

🕒 **Entry deadline: Friday 7th November at 9pm**

👉 Could you be a volunteer judge? 500 Words are looking for teachers, teaching assistants, SEND staff, and library staff to help read and judge entries.

👉 **Find out more:** www.bbc.co.uk/500words

500 Words 2025/26 will be open for entries from 8am on Tuesday 23 September to 9pm on Friday 7 November. There are two age categories: **5-7 and 8-11 year-olds** and spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked - as has always been the case for 500 Words, it's all about our writers' brilliant creativity! There are **prizes** to be won - each winner will take home a bundle of books and the gold winners will also win 500 books for their school library.

50 finalists will be invited to a star-studded grand final in February 2026, which will once again be supported by **Her Majesty The Queen**. If that's not enough, each winner will also see their story be read aloud by a superstar celebrity on TV, which will be shown as part of a special 500 Words programme with **The One Show**. Our official panel of celebrity judges, **Sir Lenny Henry, Malorie Blackman, Francesca Simon, Charlie Higson** and **Frank Cottrell-Boyce** will return to crown our next winners.

If you are a Teacher, Teaching Assistant, Librarian or SEND staff, and love to read and mark the work of 5-11 year-olds, then why not sign up to be one of our thousands of volunteer judges? **Registration is now open** and each volunteer judge is entered into a random draw and could see themselves attending the final.

What are the prizes?

See our prizes page for full details.

Each of the 50 shortlisted finalists will be invited to a **glittering grand final** - hosted by none other than **Her Majesty The Queen** herself. Here, in a star-studded event, the bronze, silver, and gold winners will be crowned, and the six winning stories will be read out by celebrities.

Books to take home

The gold, silver and bronze winners of both categories will receive a huge bundle of books:

Gold winning stories will receive the height of Sir Lenny Henry in books

- Silver win the height of Her Majesty The Queen in books

Bronze winners win the average height of a child relevant to their age category in books

The gold winners' schools will also receive 500 books each for their school library.

Fantastic illustrations

In addition to the book prizes, each of our winning stories will receive a framed illustrated cover produced exclusively by top children's illustrators.

All the illustrations and the stories will be showcased in a special 500 Words winners' book and given to the bronze, silver and gold winners in each age category.

Incentives

Any schools with 50% free school meals (or higher) that submit entries will receive a £75 National Book Token. All schools need to do is submit their stories and once the competition closes on Friday 7 November - we will be in touch if schools are eligible. We will be using the data of the **Education Company**.

As an added incentive for schools to enter, every story (excluding bronze, silver and gold winners) is entered into a random draw. The entrant will not only receive a ticket to the final (with a parent or guardian) and a bundle of books for themselves, but their school will also receive 500 books and a literacy wall art, to promote the love of story-telling. It only takes one submission per school to be in the draw to win a **Literacy Wall Art** and 500 books for your school!

Learning Consultations 2025-2026 (and beyond!)

As part of our ongoing commitment to developing children's oracy and public speaking skills from the earliest stages, we are excited to share a new approach to our learning consultations this year.

This year, children will be taking the lead in their learning consultations.

Each child will have a 10-minute appointment, supported by their class teacher, during which they will orally share their learning and talk about their progress and next steps. These sessions are an important opportunity for children to reflect on their achievements, practise speaking to an audience, and take ownership of their learning journey.

Appointments will take place during the school day on a set day for each class. This change is designed to allow children to lead their consultation within our familiar school environment and to help protect valuable family time in the evenings.

We do recognise that daytime appointments may be challenging for some of our working parents. However, our priority must lie with the children – ensuring excellence in their learning and development. By scheduling consultations during the day, we are confident that children will feel prepared and empowered to share their learning meaningfully. We look forward to seeing how they grow in confidence as speakers and learners.

Your child's consultation will take place on the following days (see table below). On this occasion, you will be assigned an appointment which we will inform you of shortly. We will review this for the Spring learning consultations following feedback in our parent forum next half term.

Nursery appointments will continue in the usual way.

Thank you for your continued support.

R Beech	Tuesday 14th October/ Thursday 16th October
R Birch	
1 Oak	Tuesday 21st October/ Thursday 23rd September
1 Willow	
2 Maple	Monday 20th October/ Wednesday 22nd October
ARP	

Understanding the impact of lateness and absence for your child



At Elmtree we have a soft start from 8.45-8.55am. Gates close at 8.55am. Registers close at 9.00am. If your child arrives after this, they will be marked as late.

If in a school year a child is late by-	Your child will have lost approximately this much learning-
5 minutes	3.2 days (16 lessons)
10 minutes	6.3 days (32 lessons)
15 minutes	9.5 days (48 lessons)
20 minutes	12.7 days (64 lessons)
25 minutes	15.8 days (79 lessons)

In order to achieve our expected 96% attendance success, children must be in school for at least 184 out of 190 days. This means that no more than 6 school days can be missed to ensure your child achieves their full potential and maximises their learning.

If a child's attendance during the school year is-	Your child will have lost approximately this much learning-
96%	6 days (30 lessons)
95%	9 days (45 lessons)
90%	19 days (95 lessons)
85%	29 days (145 lessons)
80%	38 days (190 lessons)
75%	48 days (240 lessons)



PREMIER HOLIDAY CLUBS



more fun, more friendships, more smiles
DURING THE OCTOBER HALF-TERM!



SPORTS
HOCKEY
FOOTBALL
BASKETBALL
TAG-RUGBY
GYMNASTICS

ADVENTURE
ARCHERY
FENCING
NERF GAMES
DEN BUILDING
GLOW DODGEBALL

ENRICHMENT
CRAFTS
EDIBLE ART
YOGA
DANCE
KARAOKE



Book today
premier-education.com



YOUR NEAREST MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP

**THOMAS HARDING JUNIOR,
CHESHAM, HP5 1LR**

**TRING SPORTS CENTRE,
TRING, HP23 5JU**

DATES:

Mon 27th - Thu 30th October

TIMES :

9:00 - 15:30

8:30 - 17:30

AGES:

4 - 12 years old

DATES:

Mon 27th - Fri 31st October

TIMES:

9:00 - 15:30

8:30 - 17:30

AGES:

4 - 12 years old

All venues are Early Years registered and children aged 4 and in reception can attend.



Looking for something exciting this October half-term? Our multi-activity holiday clubs are packed with fun, energy, and variety for children of all ages!

Each day brings something new – from archery and fencing to dodgeball, cricket, and loads more. With a mix of sports, team games, and seasonal crafts, there's never a dull moment.

Book now for an unforgettable half-term!

CAMPS ARE BETTER WITH FRIENDS!



**TREAT YOUR FRIENDS
TO 20% OFF...AND GET
20% OFF TOO!**

*T&Cs apply. Refer a friend discount on new bookings only.



Excellent



★ Trustpilot