



Elmtree Echo

Issue 2



Respect - Ambitious - Curious - Resilient - Inclusive



A Message from Mrs Ohene

Dear Parents and Carers,

Children have a wonderful week of learning, playing, having fun and settling into their new classes this week. The staff have worked incredibly hard to make our environments engaging and inspiring.

Reception have now finished their staggered start– thank you to all our families for your patience with this. Children are happy and enjoying life at Elmtree. From Monday, we will welcome them in full time!

In the next couple of weeks, we are launching our new synthetic phonics scheme, ‘Little Wandle.’ We will have a parent briefing about this in a few weeks time. Please do make every effort to attend as this briefing will explain how we teach your child to read.

A gentle reminder that we are a healthy school. If your child is having a packed lunch then it is water and milk for drinks and healthy options for foods– nothing with too much sugar, no nuts and no fruit shoots please. Thank you for your understanding.

As we experience more autumnal weather, please ensure your child has the right garments– a coat and welly boots in school every day. We do go out in all weathers unless there is a particular weather warning in place that we have to adhere to for safety reasons. Remember to name all items that come into school.

Remember to book your child’s lunch if they are having school lunch. These need to be booked a week in advance. If you experience any technical difficulties in booking then please do come and ask us for help.

From next Friday, your child’s year group will provide a home learning and update sheet. Please do take the time to read this as it contains information, ideas and activities relevant to your child and their learning.

Finally, thank you so much for your trojan efforts in getting your children ready for school. We have been so impressed by their new uniforms, haircuts, hair accessories and more! We look forward to working in partnership with you as the year progresses. As always, if you have any questions or concerns then please do not hesitate to get in contact with us.

Kind regards,

Mrs Ohene

Headteacher

Attendance

School attendance over the last 7 days is **98%**

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

The champion year group this week is Year 2

Year 1

97%



Year 2

98%



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

Faye - Oak

Ismah - Maple

Miley - Maple

Prayag - Oak

Emily - Willow

Jordan - Willow

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Gwen - Maple

Ella - Birch

Shazain - Birch

Rayaan - Maple

Zaynah - Willow

Otis - Nursery

HEADTEACHER AWARD



Important Dates & Events



Elmtree Infant School - Term Dates & key Events



→ Key Dates

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

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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

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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 .
 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

📌 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

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	

A Note on Toys from Home

At Elmtree, we want every child to feel happy, safe, and included at school.

Recently, we have noticed an increasing number of children bringing toys, key rings, shoe charms, and similar items (including Labubus) from home.

While we understand that children may enjoy having these items with them, we have some concerns around the **inequity** this can create.

Personal items can easily go missing or get damaged, which can be very upsetting, and we are unable to replace them. They can also cause unnecessary pressure for other children who may feel they want similar items, which can be difficult for some families.

To help ensure a fair and focused learning environment for all, **we kindly ask that no toys or personal items be brought into school, unless express permission has been given by Mrs Ohene or Mrs Dowling** – and this will only be in exceptional circumstances.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us make Elmtree a place where all children feel valued and included.

Healthy Lunches at Elmtree



YES PLEASE



NO THANK YOU

Chapattis/ wraps/ sandwiches with healthy fillings such as: chicken, cheese, tuna, cucumber, potato.	Chocolate, chocolate biscuits, chocolate spread/ jam, any other chocolate.
Fruits and vegetables (some may need to be chopped up).	Cakes/ biscuits of any kind.
Yoghurts	Sweets
Breadsticks	Crisps
Chicken bites/ veggie bites	Smoothies/ Yoghurt drinks
Spaghetti/ pasta/ noodles/ rice (in a thermos); wholegrain would be even healthier!	Flavoured water/ juice (Fruitshoots of any kind).
Cucumber/ carrots sticks and Hummus.	Junk foods: pizza, nuggets, chips, fried chicken.
Mini cheddars/ crackers	NUTS



**NUT FREE
ZONE**

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)