



Elmtree Echo

Issue 28



Ambitious - Curious - Resilient - Inclusive



A Message from Mrs Ohene

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an incredible week of learning it has been at Elmtree! Our staff and pupils have thoroughly enjoyed Wonderful World Week 2, with a special focus on climate change and sustainability. The children have been exploring the dangers facing our planet and, just as importantly, learning how we can care for and protect it.

Through thoughtful discussions and engaging activities in both assemblies and lessons, pupils have developed a deeper understanding of why the Earth is so precious and how each of us plays a part in conserving its resources. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, curiosity and growing sense of responsibility as they consider how their actions can make a positive difference now and in the future.

Our learning was based on the story, 'The Journey Home' by Frann Preston-Gannon; a powerful illustrated story that explores humanity's impact on the Earth through the eyes of animals whose home is being destroyed.

The story follows a group of animals who are forced to leave their natural habitat because it has been damaged and made unliveable by human activity. Their environment is polluted, trees are cut down, and the land no longer provides shelter or food. With nowhere safe to stay, the animals set out on a long, uncertain journey to find a new home. Along the way, they face danger, exhaustion, and loss. Eventually, they reach a place that seems safe again, but the story leaves readers reflecting on whether this new home will also be threatened if humans do not change their behaviour.

I do hope you joined in with THE BIG SWITCH OFF on Earth Day itself (22nd April). Thank you to everyone who emailed in to share their experiences: story time by torchlight, taking a walk, looking at the stars, cloud watching, playing games together. At Elmtree, we've partnered with Thomas Harding Juniors for our Eco-Pledges as part of our work towards gaining our Eco-Schools Green Flag status:

- Promoting a culture of reduce, reuse, recycle throughout the school.
- Minimising paper and paper towel usage to reduce environmental waste.
- Ensuring correct sorting of waste, including food waste and recycling.
- Monitoring and reducing water consumption across the site.
- Conducting regular litter picking activities in and around school grounds.
- Leading pupil-driven initiatives to reduce energy consumption and raise awareness.
- Educating pupils on water pollution impacts and proactive solutions.
- Constructing and maintaining habitats such as bug hotels and hedgehog houses to support local wildlife.
- Developing biodiversity-focused learning zones with class-specific environmental responsibilities:
 - EYFS: Bird Champions (trees and bushes)
 - Year 1: Butterfly Champions (wildflower and grass meadows)
 - Year 2: Bee Champions (wildflower and grass meadows, flower planters)
- Expanding wildflower gardens and pollinator-friendly planting across the school grounds.



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We are already making wonderful progress in many of these areas and are excited to continue building on this work together. We are delighted to be working with Chesham in Bloom, who are helping us care for and maintain our pond area. Over the spring months we have welcomed a wonderful variety of pond life, and we are very much looking forward to seeing our plants burst into bloom as summer approaches.

This year, we are also hoping to plant a wildflower meadow as part of Chesham in Bloom's gardening club, led by Mr Curd and supported by some of our children. This will be a fantastic opportunity for pupils to get hands-on, learn about nature, and help create a space that supports local wildlife.

Looking ahead, we will also be focusing more closely on reducing carbon emissions, particularly at drop-off and pick-up times. We would love to encourage everyone to turn car engines off when waiting outside school, helping to improve air quality for our children, families and staff. Standing at the gate each day really brings home how significant air pollution can be at these times, and even small changes can make a big difference.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support as we work together to create a healthier, greener environment for our school community. Please keep our family pledge in mind:

Family Pledge #5: Our Planet Is In Our Power

We pledge to take small, meaningful steps that protect our planet's future.

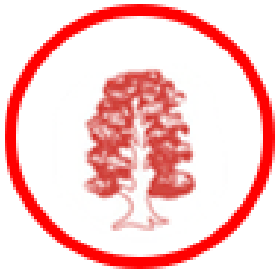
Together, we agree:

- To reduce single-use plastics wherever we can.
- To be mindful of energy and water usage.
- To support biodiversity through planting, wildlife care, and awareness.
- To talk as a family about making sustainable choices—and act on them.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Ohene

Headteacher



Elmtree Infant and Nursery School

Family Pledges



Family Pledge #1: Smartphones Can Wait – On site? Out of sight

We pledge to help our child stay focused, respectful, and safe by supporting the school's phone-free environment.

Together, we agree:

- Smartphones stay out of sight.
- We'll model healthy screen habits at home.
- We'll prioritise real connection over constant connection.



Family Pledge #2: Healthy Eating Starts with Us

We pledge to fuel our child's body and mind with nutritious food at school and at home.

Together, we agree:

- To pack or provide balanced meals that include fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and water.
- To offer healthy after-school snacks.
- To talk positively about food and make healthy eating part of our family life.



Family Pledge #3: On Time, Every Time

We pledge to make school attendance and punctuality a top priority.

Together, we agree:

- ✔ To arrive at school on time, ready to learn every day.
- ✔ To plan ahead so mornings are smooth and stress-free.
- ✔ To value being present—not just in body, but in mind and spirit.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Family Pledge #4: Moments Matter – Attendance Counts

We pledge to make every moment at school count—because every day matters.

Together, we agree:

- ✔ To avoid unnecessary absences and holidays during term time.
- ✔ To be in school all day, every day—because learning builds one day at a time.
- ✔ To recognise that attendance shapes success and belonging.



Family Pledge #5: Our Power, Our Planet

We pledge to take small, meaningful steps that protect our planet's future.

Together, we agree:

- To reduce single-use plastics wherever we can.
- To be mindful of energy and water usage.
- To support biodiversity through planting, wildlife care, and awareness.
- To talk as a family about making sustainable choices—and act on them.

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 Reception and Yr 1

Reception	Year 1	Year 2
95%	95%	93%



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.



Parent Governor opportunity for Elmtree

We are currently seeking to appoint a Parent Governor to join our Governing Body for a four-year term. This is an exciting opportunity to play an active role in supporting the continued growth and development of Elmtree, helping to shape the strategic direction of the school and ensure the very best outcomes for our children.

Parent Governors bring a valuable parental perspective, and we particularly welcome parents who have specific skills or experience they feel could contribute to the work of the Governing Body. No prior governance experience is required — enthusiasm, commitment, and a desire to make a positive difference are key.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the school office for further information: office@elm.odbst.org



CONGRATULATIONS



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Harvey - Maple

Masha - Oak

Marnie - Maple

Emily - Willow

Eve - Willow

Ayaan - Oak

Faye - Oak

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

James - Willow

Tommy - Birch

Khadijah - Maple

Thomasina - Willow

Inaaya - Beech

Abdulla - Birch

HEADTEACHER AWARD

Marnie - Maple

Scarlett - Maple

Michael - Birch

Jimmy - Birch

Tiffany - Birch

Umaiza - Birch

Sakeena - Birch



Important Dates & Events



Elmtree Infant School - Term Dates & key Events



→ Key Dates

Friday 1st May - Class Photographs

Tuesday 5th May - Year 2 to Dr Challoner's High School - Year 2 Games

Tuesday 12th May- Farm Visit (in school)

Wednesday 13th May - All classes stay and learn 9.00am

Wednesday 13th May - Carnival Club - 3.10 (Parents to attend)

Wednesday 20th May - World Culture Day – Wear cultural clothing

Wednesday 20th May - School Disco 3.10-4pm

*****Friday 22nd May- INSET Day*****

*****Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May Half Term*****

Wednesday 3rd June - Carnival Club - 3.10 (Parents to attend)

Wednesday 10th June - Carnival Club - 3.10 (Parents to attend)

Friday 12th June - Year 2 to Legoland

Saturday 13th June -Chesham Carnival

Tuesday 16th June - Early lunch 11am; 1.00pm- SPORTS DAY at THJ

Friday 19th June - DADS BEHAVING DADLY 2.30PM

Tuesday 23rd June - Nursery sports day 9.15am (PM children to attend)

Saturday 4th July - Summer Fayre

Monday 6th July - NEW TO RECEPTION PARENT MEETING

Tuesday 7th July - NATIONAL TRANSITION DAY

Wednesday 15th July – Reception Vision Screen 9am

Tuesday 21st July - Year 2 Leavers performance and assembly.

*****Wednesday 22nd July - End of term 1.30pm*****

The JR Sports Group

Making each day brighter for every child



Welcome to the JR newsletter! We want to share with you on a weekly basis, what your children get up to during their time at JR. We want to remind you of our values below to keep children feeling safe and supported.



Last week the children used arts and crafts to help create a birthday wall so we know when to celebrate the children's special day.

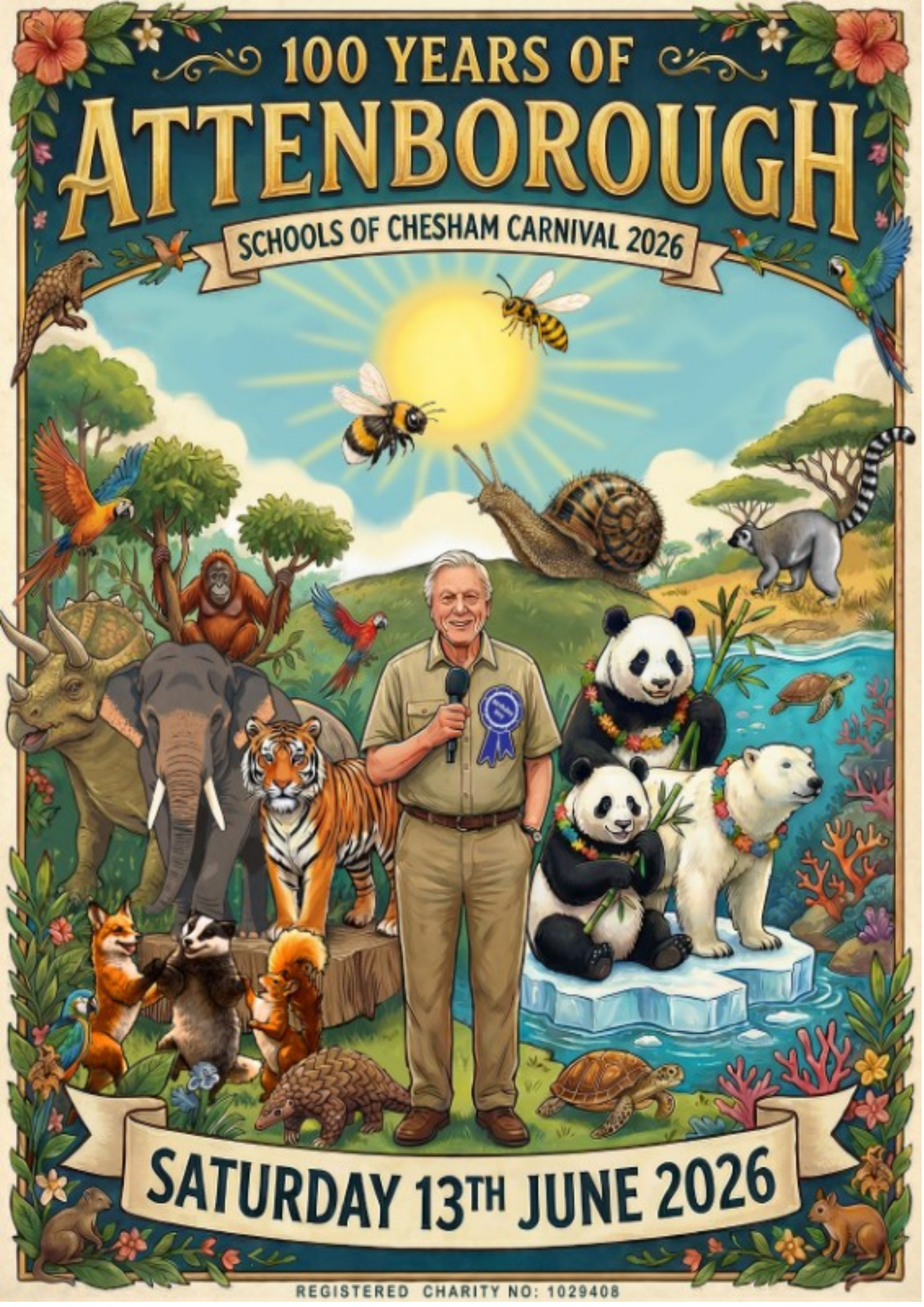


We also created a JR survey to make sure that the children enjoy their time with us and ask for any feedback. We love it when we see them voting like this!



100 YEARS OF ATTENBOROUGH

SCHOOLS OF CHESHAM CARNIVAL 2026



SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 2026

SAFETY REMINDER

[Child car seats: the law: Using a child car seat or booster seat - GOV.UK](#)

Using a child car seat or booster seat

Children must [normally use a child car seat](#) until they're 12 years old or 135 centimetres tall, whichever comes first.

Children over 12 or more than 135cm tall [must wear a seat belt](#).

You can choose a child car seat based on your child's height or weight.

Height-based seats

Height-based seats must be rear facing until your child is over 15 months old. Your child can use a forward-facing child car seat when they're over 15 months old.

You must check the seat to make sure it's suitable for the height of your child.

Only approved height-based child car seats can be used in the UK. These have a label showing a capital 'E' in a circle and 'R129'.

Weight-based seats

The seat your child can use (and the way they must be restrained in it) depends on their weight.

Only approved weight-based child car seats can be used in the UK. These have a label showing a capital 'E' in a circle and 'ECE R44'.

You may be able to choose from more than one type of seat in the group for your child's weight.

	Group	Seats
0kg to 10kg	0	Lie-flat or 'lateral' baby carrier, rear-facing baby carrier, or rear-facing baby seat using a harness
0kg to 13kg	0+	Rear-facing baby carrier or rear-facing baby seat using a harness

9kg to 18kg	1	Rear- or forward-facing baby seat using a harness or safety shield
15kg to 25kg	2	Rear- or forward-facing child car seat (high-backed booster seat or booster cushion) using a seat belt, harness or safety shield
22kg to 36kg	3	Rear- or forward-facing child car seat (high-backed booster seat or booster cushion) using a seat belt, harness or safety shield

Manufacturers can A doctor can issue an exemption certificate if a child is unable to use a restraint or seat belt because of their condition.

now only make booster cushions approved as group 3. This will not affect any existing booster cushions in group 2 and you'll still be able to use them.

Fitting a child car seat

You must only use a child car seat if your car's seat belt has a diagonal strap, unless the seat is either:

- specifically designed for use with a lap seat belt

fitted using ISOFIX anchor points

You must also:

- deactivate any front airbags before fitting a rear-facing baby seat in a front seat

not fit a child car seat in side-facing seats

The [Child Car Seats website](#) has information on how to choose a seat and travel safely with children in cars.

Children with disabilities or medical conditions

The same rules apply for children with disabilities or medical conditions, but they can use a disabled person's seat belt or a child restraint designed for their needs.

Uniform reminder: P.E. Kit

Elmtree jumper/ cardigan

White crew neck t-shirt

Plain black joggers/ plain red shorts

Plain black trainers (no symbols, no other colours)

Children should attend school in school shoes or plain black trainers. Boots/ slip-ons and other types of footwear are not allowed.