



Elmtree Echo

Issue 34



Ambitious - Curious - Resilient - Inclusive



A Message from Mrs Ohene

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and rewarding week in school, filled with energy, enthusiasm and a strong sense of community.

Our *Get Active Week* has been a tremendous success. The children have thoroughly enjoyed a wide range of sports, P.E. sessions and wider activities designed to promote fitness, wellbeing and healthy lifestyles. From team games to skills-based challenges, it has been wonderful to see such high levels of participation, resilience and enjoyment across the school. We hope that this week has inspired all our pupils to continue making positive choices about keeping active and healthy.

We are also very much looking forward to the Chesham Schools' Carnival tomorrow. This is always a highlight of the year and a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our wider community. This year, our theme is '*This Life is on Thin Ice*,' and we are incredibly proud of the creativity and effort that has gone into preparing for the event. If you are attending, please do look out for us and give us a wave—we would love your support!

Next week, we will be marking Refugee Week, taking time to reflect on and learn about the experiences of people who have been forced to flee their homes due to war and conflict. We will encourage our children to develop empathy, understanding and a greater awareness of the world around them.

Remember you can take part in '30 Days Wild'- information was sent out in last week's newsletter. Next week, as part of our partnership with Chesham in Bloom, our pond and garden areas will be judged for a community competition and we look forward to the results!

Finally, I would like to say a very well done to all of our children who completed their phonics assessments this week. We are immensely proud of their hard work, perseverance and progress. Thank you also to you, our families, for your continued support in reading and practising at home—it truly makes a difference.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. Wishing you all a wonderful weekend, and we hope to see many of you at the carnival.

Kind regards,

Mrs Ohene

Headteacher

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all families about our expectations regarding appropriate footwear for school.

We have recently noticed an increase in children wearing Crocs and similar styles. Unfortunately, these are not considered safe footwear for school.

While we understand they are comfortable and popular, they do not provide the level of safety and support required for a busy school day.

Crocs are not suitable because:

- They are often loose-fitting and can easily slip off, increasing the risk of trips and falls
- They do not provide adequate support or protection for feet during active play
- The open design leaves feet exposed to injury, especially in the playground or during physical activity

They are unsuitable for running, climbing, and general movement, which are essential parts of the school day

All children should wear secure, closed footwear, ideally with a strap or fastening that holds the shoe firmly to the foot.

Mufti / Non-Uniform Days Please note that these expectations also apply on non-uniform (mufti) days. Children must still wear safe, practical footwear. This means:

- Shoes must be securely fastened (e.g. trainers with laces or Velcro, or shoes with a strap)
- No Crocs, slip-on shoes, heels, boots, or fashion/fancy footwear


• Footwear must allow children to run, play, and take part safely in all school activities

Our primary concern is the safety and wellbeing of all pupils, and we appreciate your support in ensuring your child comes to school dressed appropriately each day.

Thank you for your cooperation.



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 Elmtree School

Taking your child out of school during term time for holidays or for travel abroad is **not permitted**. There are 38 weeks in the year when schools are open and 14 weeks when families can take holidays. If your child takes unauthorised holidays or travels abroad this absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

The majority of our children at Elmtree have members of extended family who live abroad and cultural ties to other countries. We know that it can be difficult when a family member falls unwell, where family events take place abroad, and the difficulty of trying to fit religious or cultural traditions into the holiday periods. We fully understand as school staff that holidays, flights and other travel is far more expensive in school holidays. Nonetheless, we do not authorise trips abroad during term time because we want to prioritise the children's learning and progress.

Some reminders:

- We expect children to be in school at least 96% of the time.
- If your child needs time off from school for any reason, we expect you to apply for this well in advance of the absence using the appropriate form available from the school office. We will authorise an absence for a medical appointment but only where this appointment is not available outside of school hours or during school holidays. In these circumstances we need to see evidence of the appointment. This can be a letter, appointment card or text message. The evidence can be photographed or downloaded as a screenshot and sent to office@elm.odbst.org alongside the completed absence form.

If your child has unauthorised absence, sanctions could be imposed including:

- Your child could lose their school place
- You could face a penalty fine (per parent per child) of £80

You could be subject to legal action by the authority that could result in a fine of up to £2,500.

If your child has an unauthorised absence, such as taking holidays during term time, re-occurring lateness, or persistent absence for any other reason other than certified illness, the school will refer the matter to the Council for consideration of a Penalty Notice and/or Prosecution in the Magistrates' Court which may lead to a criminal record with a maximum fine of £2,500 and/or 3 months imprisonment.

Please remember that we expect all children to arrive at school between 8.45-8.55am. Learning begins promptly at 9.00am after the register has been taken.

Children who are late are greatly disadvantaged because they miss starting the day with their peers and the beginning of lessons. This means that they are often unsettled and confused about tasks. Their teacher will not always be able to re-explain work. It is also very important that children establish good routines and habits in preparation for the rest of their lives. Punctuality is a life skill that they need to develop whilst they are young.

It is essential you ensure your child arrives at school on time to prevent disruption to your child's own learning and that of others.

Attendance

School attendance over the last 7 days is 94%

Let's aim to be in #SchoolEveryDay next week

The champion year group this week is Reception

Reception	Year 1	Year 2
95%	93%	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.



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

Yahya - Willow

Faras - Oak

Eesa - Willow

Masha - Oak

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Musa - Oak

Evelyn - Maple

Harleigh - Willow

HEADTEACHER AWARD

Rayaan - Maple

Boaz - Maple

Ismah - Maple

Robyn - Maple

Manahil - Maple

Lola– Hope - Oak

Masha - Oak

Year 1 for Phonics assessment



Important Dates & Events



Elmtree Infant School - Term Dates & key Events



➔ Key Dates

Saturday 13th June -Chesham Carnival

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

Wednesday 17th June - Willow class assembly 9am

Friday 19th June - DADS BEHAVING DADLY 2.30PM (Dads, Uncles, Grandads etc welcome).

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 5pm in the school hall

Tuesday 7th July - NATIONAL TRANSITION DAY

Wednesday 15th July – Reception Vision Screen 9am

Thursday 16th July - Rock band Performance 2.30pm

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



Fun first



Inclusive



Safety



Quality



Creativity has been shining this week with the children designing and creating their own royal crowns. Puzzle activities have also been enjoyed this week, with the children working on their concentration, patience and creating some wonderful pictures!



Elmtree Carnival Brief

This year, our float is dedicated to our planet's precious polar regions, which are wonderfully depicted in David Attenborough's Frozen Planet and Frozen Planet II documentaries. 'This Life is On Thin Ice' is a tribute to the Arctic and Antarctic regions, which are significantly affected by global warming.

Our float is led by the polar bear, decorated by the children. It is a key animal that links our carnival theme to Elmtree's current school text, 'The Journey Home' by Frann Preston Gannon. The polar bear is made from upcycled cardboard packaging, painted by the children and then decorated to look fluffy with tissue paper.



Children from nursery age through to key stage 1 have been involved with preparing props and costumes for our float, either at carnival club or at home!

The children have learned about the auroras, the renowned light feature of the poles, and painted it onto our banner. We used a donated navy bedsheet to depict the night sky and used pieces of cardboard to draw the paint out into the form of the aurora in green, pink and purple (see below for our technique!). We have reused thin cardboard from packaging to create letter templates to print our quote 'This Life is on Thin Ice' onto our banner.



At carnival club, the children have enjoyed getting crafty to make their own hats for their animal costumes. They used donated paper plates to make the face of their animal, which was then decorated by pasting coloured tissue paper - the polar bears and arctic foxes were made to look fluffy by scrunching up tissue paper and sticking it on. The children independently chose which animal they wanted to dress up as and it was amazing to see their unique creative adaptations of each - no two masks were the same! Children who have not been able to attend carnival club were able to get involved by using pre-prepped craft packs to do-it-themselves at home. We have a variety of Arctic and Antarctic wildlife, including polar bears, penguins, walrus, arctic foxes and even an orca!



As a home activity, the children have used folding and cutting techniques to create unique snowflakes out of paper to decorate our float.



We hope you have enjoyed seeing our float as much as we have enjoyed creating it!