



Elmtree Echo

Issue 20



Respect - Ambitious - Curious - Resilient - Inclusive



A Message from Mrs Ohene

Dear Parents and Carers,

Elmtree is as busy as ever with learning!

This week we enjoyed our first class assembly of the year from Maple class. They shared their learning about Bog Babies, Dreams and Goals, Art, Dance and much more! It was a wonderful showcase topped off with the Macarena dance. Thank you, Maple class! Next week we await Cherry class's assembly on Wednesday morning at 9.00am. Please do join us if you can. The children love seeing their grown ups in school!

On Thursday, Little City will be in school for our Reception children. This is to give them an enriching experience of role play for people who help us. Please ensure you have paid your contributions.

Pednor won the House Points this half term with 172 points.

Children in Pednor House can wear something purple on Thursday 13th February.

On Friday we are wearing green in support of 'Love Lowndes Park.' Children are encouraged to come to school in something green to show their love for our amazing park and help raise money for play equipment- do please donate if you can (see newsletter for link).

Wishing you a wonderful weekend. Hopefully those signs of Spring will start to sprout soon enough!

Mrs Ohene

Elmtree School, Chesham

This is part of a series where we get to know more about our schools through the eyes of their Headteacher, focusing on the part they play in our community. This time it is Elmtree Infant and Nursery School, Chesham, and their Headteacher Diana Ohene.

As I arrive at Elmtree School I can see no less than twelve red kites circling and soaring free, enjoying the breeze high above. This wonderful scene bodes well for my visit – it's been kindly arranged by the Headteacher Diana Ohene for me to see her pupils on International Dress Day where they exchange their red uniforms for national dress.



We hold a photocall. It's delightful: a joyful burst of bright colour with the children wearing beautifully made costumes. Each child tells us the country they come represent and we know someone has worked extra hard to make them look so good. The Head explains the dressing up is part of celebrating 'Wonderful World Week' where the children learn about different continents, their peoples and cultures. They've also tested their tastebuds on dishes from around the world such as tacos and halloumi and the Head herself has cooked a delicious dish of Ghanaian jollof rice.

Elmtree has a wide range of teaching facilities, indoor and outdoor play areas, cleverly built into the hillside above Chesham. The Head says Elmtree is dedicated to nurturing children: the school wants each and every one of them to thrive, wherever they have come from. Some pupils have disadvantaged backgrounds and face barriers that could hold them back, but she insists Elmtree will help each of them find ways to overcome, for children 'to learn and then learn really well'. They use play-based learning for early years – where pupils have fun learning at the time when their critical thinking is developing and 'the children can bring out the spirit of their childhood in their learning.'

She describes how 'school values are the foundation stones that underpin everything: everything we do has our values threading through them. I see them displayed on a poster - shaped of course around an elm tree – inclusive, curious, resilient, respect, ambitious – and the Head refers to examples of them as she describes the education she and her staff provide. In a diverse community where children may not have English as a first language, Elmtree aims to leverage this to enrich teaching of the curriculum, to create an inclusive environment where children see themselves represented in the curriculum and 'feel what it is like in another person's skin.'

Diana Ohene took up the Headship on 1 September 2024. From Harrow originally, she studied for a psychology degree at the University of Surrey in Guildford before going on to become a teacher. Her standout experience during her years in teaching, that still influences her today, was a teacher exchange between her school in Harrow with Masindi School in Uganda as part of an international school partnership supported by the British Council. She calls it 'a collision of the universe moment.' With her deep passion for education, she could make a real difference to Ugandan pupils, championing the rights of the child and building their confidence to learn and succeed. She brings this energy to Elmtree.

As a new Head she has ambitious plans with a clear vision for Elmtree to be the school of choice and a respected leader in education; to be 'the talk of the town' where others seek out how Elmtree achieves strong outcomes for every child. She wants to involve parents and the local community even more in school life to give pupils a richer education. She underlines her deep commitment to sustainability and biodiversity and to make more of the school grounds. Indeed, the Head is looking for volunteers who'd like to come in and help develop wildlife areas to make them great for flowers and pollinators. Please get in touch if this interests you.

Open days are being held now, why not contact the school office and see Elmtree for yourself.





CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Alishbah - Maple

Thierry - Maple

Violet - Cherry

Florence - Cherry

Haris - Oak

Musa - Oak

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Iqra - Maple

Gracie-May - Nursery

HEADTEACHER AWARD

Evie - Oak

Attendance

School attendance over the last 7 days is 93%

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

The champion year group this week is **Year 1**

Reception

90%



Year 1

93%



Year 2

91%



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.





Important Dates & Events



Elmtree Infant School - Term Dates & key Events



➔ Key Dates

13th February - Pednor house team to wear purple mufti

14th February - Wear green mufti for Love Lowndes Park

17th February - 21st February - Half Term

24th February - Return to School

11th/12th March - Birch Class Parent Consultations 2.30 - 5.30pm

17th March - Parent Consultations 3.30 - 6.30pm

20th March - Parent Consultations 3.30 - 6.30pm

♥ Upcoming Highlights

12th February - Cherry Class Assembly 9am

6th March - Reception Dance Festival at DCHS **Parent Volunteers needed**

19th March - Oak Class Assembly 9am

21st March - Class Photographs (Vancols)

📌 Important Reminders

- Reception - Little City is visiting on the 13th of February, a £5.50 donation via the My Child @ School app is very welcome.
- Please book school lunches on the Schoolbitez website.
- 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

Love Lowndes Mufti Day – 14th February 2025

Show us how much you **LOVE** Lowndes Park this Valentine's Day by taking part in the **Love Lowndes Mufti day!**

Children are encouraged to come to school in bright colours to show their love for our amazing park and help us raise money for play equipment.

Cash donations given to your school will be collected by the Love Lowndes team the following week. Or, people can donate directly to our Crowdfunder: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/love-lowndes>

You may have seen that our new 5-11s playground is currently being built.

Thanks to your amazing support the Love Lowndes team has raised over £220k for the new playground already. But, our work isn't done!

We're still fundraising for all the landscaping and planting around the new playground which will be integral to making the new space blend into the existing park and create a relaxing and sensory experience too. And we're also working hard on Phase 2 of our playground regeneration – finding the £100k+ necessary to build the 0-4s playground.

Every donation makes a massive difference.

Thank you.

Love Lowndes Art Competition

As part of the Valentine's Day LOVE LOWNDES mufti day, we're excited to announce an amazing competition.

This is your chance to have your artwork displayed in Lowndes Park for more than 10 YEARS!

At the entrance to our new playground (due to be built by the end of March 2025), we will have an interpretation board celebrating all the key sponsors, businesses and groups that have donated to make the new park a reality. On that board we have set aside space for some beautiful artwork created by Chesham children.

It could be YOU!

The theme is **"Lowndes Park – the green heart of Chesham"**.

Perhaps you could draw a treasured memory you have of time spent in the park? Or you could try and capture how the park and playing makes you feel? Whatever gets your creative juices flowing...just remember the theme – 'Lowndes Park – the green heart of Chesham'.

Plus, we have a runners up prize!

A few runners up will be chosen, and those children will be offered the chance to help build the new Bug Hotel in the playground. The build will happen on Sunday 23rd March led by local children's environmental group Nature Club.

Love Lowndes Art Competition

The rules:

- Each entry must be by one child only.
- It must be drawn on the A4 paper template supplied as the winning images will be square.
- The child's name, age and school must be included on the template.
- Drawings and paintings only – no collage or photographs.
- The Love Lowndes team will collect all pictures to be submitted at the end of the school day on 14/02/25.
- The Love Lowndes team will choose two winners:
 - Age 4-7 category
 - Age 8-11s category
 - We will contact the winners to gain approval of the parents for inclusion on the board on Monday 17th February.

We will publicly announce the winners by 1st March 2025.

The artwork and interpretation board will be unveiled at the new playground grand opening on the 29th March 2025. Winners will be invited to attend.





ART COMPETITION

Lowndes Park: The green heart of Chesham

Name:

Age:

School:

The art work must fit inside this box.

Friendly February 2025

MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY



FRIDAY



SATURDAY

SUNDAY

3 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone

4 Invite a friend over for a 'tea break' (in person or virtual)

5 Make time to have a friendly chat with a neighbour

6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while

7 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others

1 Send a message to let someone know you're thinking of them

2 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently

8 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust

9 Thank someone and tell them how they made a difference for you

10 Look for good in others, particularly when you feel frustrated with them

11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost

12 Focus on being kind rather than being right

13 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day

14 Tell a loved one or friend why they are special to you

15 Support a local business with a positive online review or friendly message

16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help

17 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life

18 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself

19 Share something you find inspiring, helpful or amusing

20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun

21 Really listen to what people say, without judging them

22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today

23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise

24 Tell a loved one about the strengths that you see in them

25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why

26 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones

27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them

28 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

Walk for Autism

🚶 Walk for Autism – Support an Elmtree Mum! ❤️

One of our Elmtree mums is taking part in the **Walk for Autism** to raise awareness and vital funds for this important cause. She is walking for her son, Lochlan, who previously attended Elmtree, and every step she takes is in support of those living with autism.

Any donation, big or small, would be **gratefully received** to help make a difference. Let's come together as a community and show our support! ❤️

#WalkForAutism #SupportLochlan #EveryStepMatters



<https://fundraise.autisminitiatives.org/fundraisers/sophie Kempster/walk-for-autism>

Walk for Autism is a fundraising challenge to walk 10,000 steps everyday from Wednesday 26th March to Wednesday 2nd April. That's 8 walking days in total





FEB
HALF-TERM

PREMIER HOLIDAY CAMPS

ADVENTURE

FENCING

ORIENTEERING

ARCHERY

DEN BUILDING

NERF

SPORTS

HOCKEY

FOOTBALL

BASKETBALL

TENNIS

GYMNASTICS

ENRICHMENT

CRAFTS

PAINTING

EDIBLE ART

YOGA

DANCE

AND MUCH MUCH MORE..



Premier
Education

INSPIRING
ACTIVITY

YOUR NEAREST HOLIDAY CAMPS

Venue: **THOMAS HARDING JUNIOR,
HP5 1LR**

Dates: Monday 17th - Thursday 20th February

Ages: 5 - 12 year olds

Cost:	FULL DAY	EXTENDED DAY
	9:00am - 3:30pm	8:30am - 5:30pm
	£26.00 a day	£34.61 a day

Additional info: Please note that we can only accept children in current year 1 - 6 classes as per our Ofsted guidelines. As an Ofsted registered site, you can also book online using childcare vouchers!

Our 5* Holiday Camps are the perfect place to keep your kids entertained over the February half-term.

Children can meet new friends, have lots of fun, and create wonderful memories! Every day is different, with a mix of fun activities that children may not have tried before - from dodgeball to cricket, basketball to archery.

Book now for a half-term full of fun!

CAMPS ARE BETTER WITH FRIENDS!



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

*Ts&Cs apply. Refer a Friend discount on new bookings only.

Contact: office-11@premier-education.com

PLEASE BRING

- A packed lunch
- Plenty of water
- Suitable clothing
- Loads of energy!



Based on over 20,000 reviews

Have
your
say

Spring Roadshow 25



CHESHAM

**Come and talk to us about your
experience of local health and
social care services**

Thursday 6 March 2025



Chesham Library
1 - 3pm



Whether it is GPs, hospitals, pharmacies, care homes, dentists, 111, or any other health and social care service, we want to hear from you to help make improvements



Contact us :

Web: www.healthwatchbucks.co.uk Email: info@healthwatchbucks.co.uk Call: 01494 324832



HealthwatchBucks



HW_Bucks



healthwatch_bucks

Buckinghamshire Family Learning

Every Day First Aid Workshop


Increase your confidence in applying basic first aid



What can I do if my child chokes, gets burnt or has a minor injury?

What do I do in an emergency situation?

 **Newtown Family Centre**

 **Friday 7 February**

 **9:30am to 12pm**

To book your place call our enrolment team on 01296 383582 or scan the QR code.
For more information text Wendy on 07768 044813 with your name + FMFA042

SCAN ME



Meet & Eat



Meet & Eat, Chesham Free Family Lunch Club *Sponsored by MakeLunch*

February half term holidays from 11.30am
to 1.15pm. Lunch served at 12.30.

On the following dates:

Tuesday 18th & Thursday 20th February

United Reformed Church, The Broadway, Chesham, HP5 1BX



Take the pressure off this holiday and come along to Meet and Eat in Chesham. We are **free** and open to families in and around Chesham who would like a healthy hot meal and a place to relax during the holidays, with activities for children. Perhaps you're feeling a little isolated, trying to manage on a tight budget and the kids are bored and you have another day to fill, then come along and join in.

URC, The Broadway, Chesham, HP5 1BX
Www.cheshamurc.org.uk rosemary@cheshamurc.org.uk
07939 668271