



Elmtree Echo

Issue 19



Respect - Ambitious - Curious - Resilient - Inclusive



A Message from Mrs Ohene

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week began with our Big-Dig-Plant-A-Thon! Thank you to all our parent volunteers and the children who helped clear our pond area and plant, ready for the Spring/ Summer. A special thanks to Antonia and Chris from 'Chesham in Bloom' who have given their time voluntarily over the last few weeks and months to help with this project. There will be more to come so watch this space!

On Wednesday, the new Lunar year began. It is the year of the snake. This represents a time for shedding and letting go of the old to give way to the new- a deeper wisdom, longevity and growth. It is a time of change and transformation; a time to remember your magic. Wishing a happy and prosperous new year to all our families celebrating this weekend.

Tomorrow is the 1st of February and the pagan festival of Imbolc, the halfway point between the winter solstice and Spring equinox. Imbolc (pronounced IM-bolg or IM-bolk) is Old Irish for "in the belly." It's also known as Oimelec, Lady Day, and, in Christianity, Candlemas or St. Brigid's Day. Traditionally, Imbolc represents the beginning of Spring and the time when the first lambs are born. As the days lengthen bit by bit, Imbolc is around the time this change really starts to show. The end of the day will be noticeably lighter, even though the trees and grass will still be in winter's grip. It is a time to remember the intentions you set for the year, to clear the way for them to grow, symbolically, and maybe literally! And if nothing else, take a visit to your local farm or the outdoors to see the lambs at play! This is surely a joy to behold.

Today is Mrs Dowling's last day for now as she takes her maternity leave. We want to say a heartfelt thank you for her tireless work and dedication to children and staff. Her passion for inclusion and education is profound and Elmtree benefits hugely from her expertise. We wish her and her family all the best as we await news of baby's safe arrival.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Ohene



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Mason - Maple

Ayah - Maple

Malik - Maple

Miley - Oak

Diana - Oak

Roxy - Cherry

Isabelle - Cherry

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Olivia - Birch

Alfie-Jack - Maple

HEADTEACHER AWARD

Alfie – Jack - Maple

Rayaan - Oak

Luana - Maple

Attendance

School attendance over the last 7 days is **96%**

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

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

Reception

92%



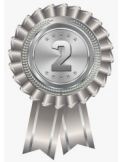
Year 1

98%



Year 2

95%



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

17th February - 21st February Half Term

24th February - Return to School

17th March - Parent Consultations 3.30 - 6.30pm

20th March - Parent Consultations 3.30 - 6.30pm

♥ Upcoming Highlights

5th February - Maple Class Assembly 9am

6th February - Maple to Chesham Library 1.30-2.30 **Parent volunteers needed**

10th February - Oak to Chesham Library 1.30-2.30 **Parent volunteers needed**

12th February - Cherry Class Assembly 9am

14th February - Wear Green Mufti - Raising funds for Lowndes Park

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

19th March - Oak Class Assembly 9am

📍 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 February's 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

Today in assembly, we took a moment to say our goodbyes (for now) to Mrs. Dowling, who is heading off on maternity leave as she prepares to welcome a baby girl into the world.



We will all miss her greatly, but we are so excited for her and look forward to her return after this special time with her little one



We wish her all the best for this exciting new chapter and can't wait to hear the wonderful news!

THE BIG DIG PLANTATHON



🌱 A Huge Thank You! 🌱

A big thank you to Chesham in Bloom and our wonderful parent helpers for making The Big Dig such a success! Your support and hard work made it possible for the children to enjoy planting seed bombs, and they absolutely loved getting their hands dirty while helping nature thrive. We appreciate you all! 🌸 🌱

THE BIG DIG PLANTATHON



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.

Nursery

In Nursery we have welcomed our new friends and new teacher Miss Phoebe. The children have been learning all about Traditional tales. We have been busy in the creative area, cutting and sticking different shapes to make the ugly duckling. They have also been busy developing their fine motor skills making gingerbread men out of playdough.



The children have also been working really hard to recognise and write their own names. Some children have been tracing their names using whiteboard pens and some have done so well they are writing without support on the whiteboards. We are so proud!



Reception

Our topic this half-term is 'People Who Help Us'. We have learnt about many different job roles and have really enjoyed learning about vets and doctors. The children have liked being doctors and nurses and taking it in turns to care for each other. We then learnt about how vets help animals and used the skills we had learnt to take care of the animals.



January Joy Day

We had great fun celebrating January Joy Day. We took part in lots of activities and had fun visiting the other classrooms in the school.

Take One Picture Week

Thank you to all the parents who came in for the stay and learn session. The children really enjoyed making their tigers. Throughout the week we also learnt about different types of animal prints and how the animals camouflage themselves. The children then had a go at making canvas and pictures.



Reception

Wild Woods!

The children have loved enjoying their time at Wild Woods. We have been learning more about fires and how to toast marshmallows safely! We have also enjoyed eating them.



Archery

We had lots of fun learning how to use a bow and arrow. It was quite tricky but we persevered and did really well!



Year 1 - Oak Class

The children have come back energised and ready to learn. They have taken part in lots of exciting things in school this month

We started off with January Joy Day, the children took part in various activities across the school and had a great time!



Year 1 - Oak Class

The children had some fun skateboarding and learning some new moves.

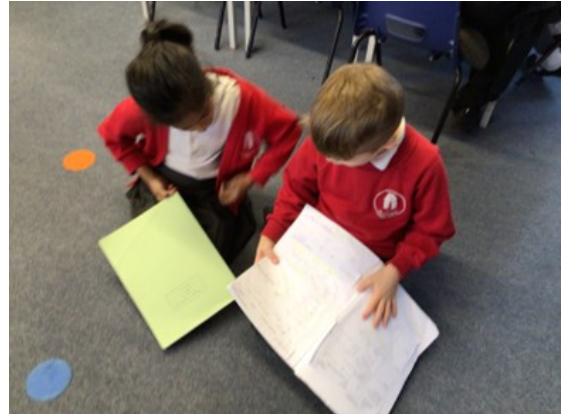


We had a lovely visit from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. We learnt about the importance of bees and their life cycles. We also got a chance to become bees!!



Year 2

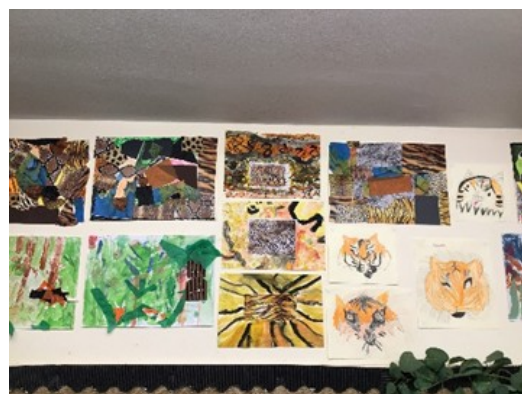
In English we have been looking at the story of Leaf. We explored the use of the authors exciting vocabulary and retold the story in our own words using expanded noun phrases. We focused on making sure we had capital letters and full stops in the right places, as well as taking our time with our handwriting! We enjoyed sharing our work with each other. We then thought about how the animals were feeling when Leaf arrived and wrote him a letter as one of the animals!



In PE we have been exploring gymnastics and creating different shapes with our body. We even got the climbing wall out!



We had a wonderful 'Take one Picture Week', where we created work inspired by Henri Rousseau 'Tiger in a Tropical Storm (Surprised)'. We had a great time at our stay and learn collaging with our adults. We also explored making our own animal prints by mark making and used different drawing techniques to create a tiger's face. We used what we had learnt throughout the week to create a masterpiece of our own Tiger in a Tropical storm!





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

