

## Message from Mrs Ohene

Dear Parents and Carers,

With just two weeks to go until the end of term, I hope you will commit to your child being in school every day. Learning takes place right up until the end of term and there is so much to look forward to including: the pantomime of Aladdin at Elgiva Theatre on Tuesday, the Christmas performance of, 'We Three Kings' on Thursday and Friday as well as our annual entertainer Colonel Custard's performance on Friday. It will be a week of festive fun!

### Attendance

Attendance these last few weeks has fallen well below our expected 96%. Winter illnesses have played some part, but children can attend school with regular coughs/ colds. They should stay home with a temperature above 38 degrees or if they have vomiting/ diarrhoea. Supporting young children with personal hygiene such as blowing/ wiping their nose with a tissue and washing their hands is key to hindering the spread of unwanted illness. Coughing into the elbow or covering the mouth with a hand and washing hands afterwards is another way to stop the spread. Children can easily be taught the motto of, 'catch it, bin it, kill it' to support health hygiene. Persistent/ regular headaches and tummy aches can indicate an emotional need or may be symptoms of other illnesses. If your child has persistent headaches/ tummy aches, then please see your GP. Elmtree's dedicated team of staff will support all children in regularly attending school. Please see information later in the newsletter about Scarlet Fever- we have one confirmed case in the Nursery.

**Our 12 days of Christmas attendance competition has begun- all children attending school every day from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December through to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December will be entered into a draw to win a prize. Prizes range from board games to book tokens, but YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!**

This week, the Advent season enters a week's focus on peace. With so much unrest across the world, now is the time to focus in on the little things- spread a little more love, a little more kindness, a lot more hope and a lot more understanding between people of different faiths and beliefs. Traditions are important for bringing people together in a world that can sometimes seem bleak and yet there is so much to be thankful for.

This week I am thankful for the incredible volunteers (and Elmtree parents and children) who helped support the Chesham Rotary group in bringing Santa to the surrounding roads on Wednesday evening. The weather held out for a successful Santa trip until I had to drive home and then the Heavens opened! What a wonderful way to spend an evening with people dedicated to spreading Christmas cheer and all whilst raising money for a whole host of charities. Thank you to our governors Tony Hann and Cathy Hunt who also attended.

There have been many compliments from parents over the last few weeks about Elmtree and our efforts for the children. It is wonderful to work in partnership with you to ensure the success of our little people. I was pleased to see that early education will be a focus in the government's plan for change. We will wait to see how this transpires in time.

Have a lovely weekend one and all.



**Together we reach for the stars**



BRONZE: GOOD TRAVEL PLAN 2023



## Message from Mrs Ohene

### Pond life begins!

This week, Antonia from 'Chesham in Bloom' has started work on our pond area- see photograph below. Over the coming months, the ground will be prepared, the pond dug and laid, and a host of flowers and greenery will be planted to support pond life and the wider eco-system in the surrounding area. By Spring/ Summer, we hope to have tadpoles, dragonflies and other pond life take up habitat in our Elmtree pond. Eventually our children will be able to go pond dipping as part of the science curriculum and enjoy other opportunities to use the pond as part of their learning and enrichment. We have already had requests from keen children to help dig the pond! This is all part of our commitment to increasing the biodiversity and sustainability of Elmtree to preserve and protect it for wildlife and future generations of children.

We will also be developing our wildflower meadow and sensory gardens. If you or any local businesses you know can **donate** any of the following then we would be most grateful:

- Gravel
- Bulbs
- Compost/ soil
- Wildflower seeds
- Paint (get in touch and we can let you know which colours we need) for our fences
- Children's gardening gloves
- Knee pads for gardening
- Trowels



*Together we reach for the stars*





## Days of Christmas



### ATTENDANCE COMPETITION



All Pupils with  
**100% ATTENDANCE**



From 5<sup>th</sup> December-20<sup>th</sup> December

Will go into a draw to win prizes from  
book tokens to board games



## Dates for the diary

10th December Dress rehearsal with Y3 Thomas Harding, siblings and local guests

10th December Elgiva Pantomime 1pm-3pm (**Collection from Elgiva**)

12th December Christmas performance 9.30am

13th December Christmas performance 9.30am

13th December Christmas Jumper Day / Colonel Custard performance

16th December Nursery Christmas Show 2.45pm

17th December Nursery festive stay and play 9-9.30 and 2.45-3.15

18th December Nursery Christmas Show 9am

19th December Lehané school of rock concert

20th December Class parties

20th December Last day of term collection 1.30pm

6th January INSET Day

7th January Back to School and Nursery



## CELEBRATION

### Happy Birthday

- Alastair - Cherry
- Umaiza - Nursery
- Colby - Maple
- Sakeena - Nursery

### Well Done Assembly Certificate

- Ismah - Oak
- Jackson - Oak
- Ayah - Maple
- JoJo - Maple
- Alfie - Cherry
- Misbah - Cherry

### Headteacher Award

Alfie-Jack - Lyla - Maggie



# Attendance

School attendance over the last 7 days is **92%** this is below our target of **96%**. Please prioritise your child's attendance every day. Learning happens every day.

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

**Champion Year Group: Year 2**

**This weeks attendance**

*Reception - 81%*



*Year 1 - 92%*



*Year 2 - 96%*



Remember that **#MomentsMatter**

We expect all children to attend school for at least 96% of sessions across the year.



**ATTENDANCE**  
EVERY DAY COUNTS!

Expected attendance means having no more than seven days off in the school year!

**Attendance matters!**



**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**



## Rotary Christmas Sleigh 2024

Thankyou so much to all of our wonderful volunteers for coming out on such a chilly night! Amazing effort!



# December Kindness 2024

## SUNDAY

1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others

8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member

15 Say hello to your neighbour and brighten up their day

22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed

29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people

## MONDAY

2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are

9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead

16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to

23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness

30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why

## TUESDAY

3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment

10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them

17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you

24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh

31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2025

## WEDNESDAY

4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about

11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank

18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving

25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!

## THURSDAY

5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely

12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today

19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated

26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature

## FRIDAY

6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find

13 See how many different people you can smile at today

20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need

27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat

## SATURDAY

7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today

14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one

21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you

28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy



**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS**

**Happier · Kinder · Together**



# OUT WITH STRANGER DANGER IN WITH CLEVER NEVER GOES



## TEACH THE CLEVER OPTION AT HOME

**CLEVER NEVER GOES** is the new, child-friendly lesson that teaches children how to stay safe from abduction when they are outside (e.g. walking to or from school), or online.

It's been created to help parents/guardians talk to their children about staying safe in a simple way.

Instead of creating a fear of people it teaches them to recognise the danger in a situation, regardless of who's involved.

### THE RULE:

**If anyone asks you to go - even someone that you know - if it hasn't been agreed, remember: CLEVER NEVER GOES**



The **CLEVER NEVER GOES** rule means children shouldn't go anywhere with anyone - even if they know them - if it hasn't been agreed in advance by a parent or guardian.

And please remember, children learn through repetition so make sure you remind them regularly of **CLEVER NEVER GOES** when they're going outside or online.

For more information, ideas and resources to have that clever conversation go to: [clevernevergoes.org](http://clevernevergoes.org)

## WHY CHANGE?

Since it was introduced in the 1970's, the 'stranger danger' message has been fundamentally flawed.

Most strangers will help rather than harm a child, and many people that do pose a risk to children are not strangers.

Furthermore, it demands that all strangers should be treated with suspicion, which breeds fear in our communities. This has led to children spending less time outdoors, fuelling a rise in obesity and mental health problems.

Add to this, children are spending more time online, increasing their risk of being groomed. Now is the time for a new approach that creates safer, happier and healthier children.

Backed by more than 1,000 schools across the UK, **CLEVER NEVER GOES** is more practical than stranger danger and gives children the skills and confidence to safely explore their outdoor and online worlds without fear. And gives parents the reassurance to let them.

# clever never goes

## 'Clever Never Goes'

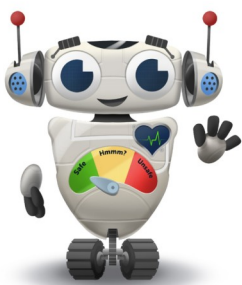
We have launched our new child safety initiative called 'Clever Never Goes' during this week in our, 'I am safe, I feel safe assembly.'

The 'Clever Never Goes' programme has been developed to replace the out-dated 'stranger danger' approach. Research shows that teaching children simply to avoid strangers fails to keep them safe. Strangers are often more likely to help a child than to harm them. Conversely, it can often be people known to children that pose the greatest threat.

'Clever Never Goes' moves the focus away from strangers and instead teaches children to recognise when someone (whether they are known to the child or not) is trying to persuade them to go with them. The programme is designed to be fun and positive, whilst at the same time delivering a serious message and giving children practical safety skills and confidence to engage with the outside world.

In addition to the schools lesson **you too can help your child to understand the Clever Never Goes message.** You can download (free of charge) a Clever Never Goes home pack at the website [www.clevernevergoes.org/parents](http://www.clevernevergoes.org/parents). The home pack contains some great ideas for how to approach this topic with your children as well as games and activities. On the website, you can also see a series of cartoon sketches which are a good way of reinforcing the Clever Never Goes message and checking that your child has understand the key Clever Never Goes message. Please do make use of these resources.

If you have any further questions about the programme please feel free to come and chat to me further.



### Meet CLEVER.

CLEVER is just like you. He loves to have fun, be friendly and play outside. And as you probably guessed from his name, he's very clever!

What makes him so clever is that he can recognise when someone is trying to get him to go with them. This means he can have fun without worrying.

He also has very clever features on his body that help him stay safe.

But first let's learn the rule for staying safe...



Elmtree Infant and Nursery School



I am safe  
I feel safe



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IF YOU  
BOOK IN  
NOVEMBER



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# YOUR NEAREST HOLIDAY CAMP...

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

Dates: Thursday 2nd - Friday 3rd January

Ages: 5 - 12 year olds

Cost:	<b>FULL DAY</b>	<b>EXTENDED DAY</b>
	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!

## PLEASE BRING

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

Over the winter break, there will be lots of festive fun to enjoy too.

Our Holiday Camps keep children entertained, safe & on the move during the school holidays.

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