

## Message from Mrs Ohene

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have seen such wonderfully wintery scenes this week– the frost-covered fields and trees; the glistening leaves; the beautiful sunrises and sunsets with such vibrant hues. What a wonderful world we have all around us.

The children have been busy in their learning and with practising their performance. Angelic voices ring out every Tuesday in our singing assemblies as well as ad hoc moments throughout the day! The children have learnt about St Andrew in assembly this week– ask them about him! We also focused on our new safeguarding message of, 'Clever Never Goes.' Please read the information attached in this newsletter.

Library visits continue as part of our ongoing commitment to instilling a love for reading. Sharing stories and reading is such an important way to spend time together. I wonder what favourite stories you remember from your childhood.

Today children have come in mufti to support our EFF for the tombola next Friday. Thank you for all your lovely donations of books and toys. A reminder that we are still looking for volunteers to help support and/ or run our EFF so that it can continue its important work for Elmtree. Aimee and Emma have done an incredible job in their time with us and we would very much like to continue our tradition of having a strong PTA presence.

As we enter the season of Advent for our Christian friends, we have the opportunity to pause and reflect on the year– the successes and joy, the challenges and times we have had to be brave or resilient. We are reminded that in all darkness there is light and always, always there is hope.

If you are celebrating Advent, beginning the Christmas season, we wish you a happy and holy season.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Ohene



*Together we reach for the stars*



## Message from Mrs Ohene

### **Reminders**

If your child is toilet training/ still in nappies or pull ups then please do provide us with nappies/ pull-ups/ wipes. We do not provide these as a school. We also need to be mindful of particular sensitivities to children's skin.

### **Christmas Jumper Day– Friday 13th December**

Children can come to school in festive colours, Christmas jumpers or even something sparkly. We do not require you to buy anything new for this. There will be an entertainment performance from Colonel Custard that day.

### **Parent conduct**

On occasion, we have to remind parents about the way in which they approach members of staff. We want every member of our community to feel safe and valued. Our behaviour code for all is: Ready, Respectful, Safe and Kind. If you have a concern about your child then please raise this with your child's class teacher in the first instance. At the end of the day is easier. The teacher may ask you to wait while they dismiss the class.



*Together we reach for the stars*



## Dates for the diary

2nd December Oak class to Chesham Library 1.30-2.30

4th December The Rotary Santa Sleigh 5.30-7.30 (Volunteers needed please)

6th December EFF Festive Friday - Tombola, Christmas Jumper Sale and Festive Treats 3.10-4pm

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 Lehane 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

Zainab - Beech

Faye - Birch

Ali - Beech

Evie - Oak

Khadijah A - Oak

### Well Done Assembly Certificate

- Deontay - Cherry
- Maleeha - Maple
- Alistair - Cherry
  - Ava - Cherry
  - Cleo - Oak
  - Amelia - Oak
- Saleema - Maple

### Headteacher Award

Avnoor - Maple / Esmee - Oak / Jackson - Oak



# Attendance

School attendance over the last 7 days is **94%** 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 - 91%



Year 1 - 93%



Year 2 - 94%



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.**



## Admissions to Elmtree Infant & Nursery School's Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP, for information only)

In feedback at our coffee events, you said you would like greater clarity on our ARP and its admissions.

Elmtree has an 'Additionally Resourced Provision' (ARP) for children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs that supports the needs of up to 8 students. In order not to affect the efficiency of education within the ARP, there are eight places available For Year 1 and Year 2 children. Parents need to approach their Local Authority SEN team to express a preference for this provision. The local authority will assess the child's suitability for a place against their admissions guidance for Special Provisions documents and then provide documentation to the ODBST for consideration.

The admissions criteria are published on our website. To be accepted into Elmtree's ARP in Year 1– Year 2, students' area of need should be Speech and Language.

In ARPs specifically for Speech, Language and Communication needs (SLCN), Children and Young People (CYP) will present with a combination of the following needs:

- An Education, Health and Care Plan relating to a specific speech and / or language disorder.

- CYP must have Developmental Language Delay (DLD) as a diagnosis of their primary need.

- Will have significant difficulties over time in accessing the curriculum despite having followed intensive support programmes, designed in partnership with support services and parents/carers.

In addition, when applying for a place in the ARP for SLCN, students should display the ability to:  
Access and make academic progress within a mainstream classroom setting (with support).

Communicate as a minimum, their basic needs, verbally and in a timely manner.

Respond to adult intervention and requests.

Interact with other students with or without support and encouragement.

Be able to deal with some unplanned changes to schedules within the school day, with support.

Cope with the sensory stimuli within a mainstream environment, including where reasonable adjustments can be made to support students to manage this.

Respond to strategies employed to help students cope with their difficulties.

Be aware of their own safety and the safety of others in a large building, with hazards such as stairs, communal areas, or the road outside the school.

Follow the school behaviour expectations & policy (with support).

If you have any further questions about our ARP then please email the office.



Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we navigate through this academic year, we want to update you on an important decision regarding Key Stage 1 (KS1) Standard Attainment Tests (SATs) that are traditionally undertaken nationally by Year 2 pupils during the Summer Term.

As part of the educational reforms and guidelines surrounding statutory assessments in 2024, the Department for Education announced significant changes to the statutory requirements for KS1 SATs. Historically, these assessments have been used as a measure of academic performance at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2). However, as of the last academic year, schools are no longer required to administer KS1 SATs, marking a shift in the approach to assessing young learners at this stage.

In light of these changes, we have made the decision not to administer KS1 SATs moving forward. This aligns with the move toward a more flexible and supportive approach to assessing children's progress and well-being in their early educational journey.

We understand that formal, standardised testing at this age can sometimes induce stress and anxiety in young learners. By foregoing the KS1 SATs, we aim to prioritise a nurturing and stimulating learning environment where our students can focus on holistic growth, exploration, and development, as well as academic achievement, in line with Elmtree's core mission and values.

Please rest assured that while KS1 SATs will not take place, we remain committed to closely monitoring and assessing your child's progress through teacher-led evaluations, formative assessments, and regular observations. This approach will ensure that every child receives the tailored support they need to thrive academically and personally.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this decision or your child's educational journey, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our team remains dedicated to supporting every child in reaching their full potential.

Thank you for your understanding and partnership as we continue to provide the best possible educational experience for your child.

Kind regards,

Mrs Ohene                  Miss Gettings  
Headteacher              KS1 Leader



## Nursery

In Nursery we have been learning all about our topic celebrations. We have been busy crafting, printing poppies for Remembrance Day, making rangoli patterns with colourful pasta for Diwali and creating sparkling fireworks pictures for Guy Fawkes.



We went on an Autumn Walk to the field to see what signs of autumn we could see.

The children were very excited to find lots of different colour leaves and enjoyed throwing them up to watch them fall again. In literacy we read 'A Wet Windy Day,' and talked about how different it was to our dry sunny experience, some of the children noted we didn't have any puddles, and our leaves were crunchy not Slippy. We used the leaves in our maths sessions to match the right number of leaves to the numbers and crafted with them to make hedgehog creatures.



# Reception

Our topic this half-term is 'Celebrating our World'. We have learnt about several different celebrations, including Bonfire Night, weddings and Diwali. We enjoyed listening to the story of Rama and Sita and making our own Diwa lamps.



Last week we were learning about worms. We went out and collected some worms then made our own wormeries. We learnt about the conditions that worms like and the food that they can and cannot eat. We then had fun making our own worms using pipe cleaners and cheerios!



We are really enjoying Drawing Club! Each week we focus on a different book or cartoon. In our first session, we draw a character from the story. In the second session we draw the setting for the story and in the next 3 sessions we ask an 'I wonder...?' question and draw a picture related to that (e.g. I wonder how the old woman could trap the monster?) We have such amazing ideas and love bringing them to life through drawings.

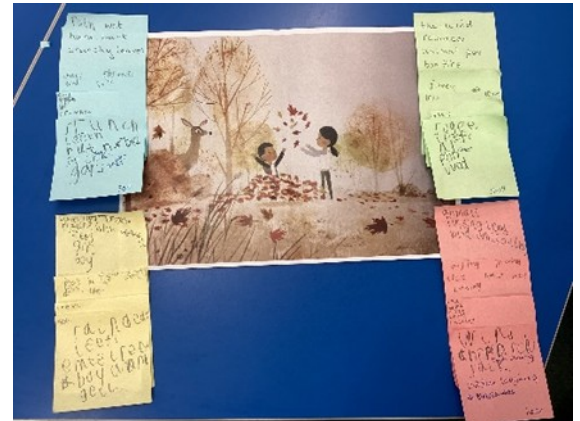


# Year 1

In maths we have been busy focusing on fact families and adding and subtracting within 10. The children have really enjoyed using cubes, counters and number lines to demonstrate their growing understanding of these concepts. Rolling a dice to find out what to add or take away and writing their number sentences using the correct symbols.



We have read some wonderful weather themed texts in English and have been thinking carefully about using all our senses to come up with adjectives to describe the scenes in the illustrations. We have also begun to identify the differences between fiction and nonfiction and used our knowledge to write our own information text about the weather in Autumn and Winter.



We have been working scientifically to explore the properties of magnets and thinking about why ice melts and how we can speed up and slow down the process and we even had a go at giving our own weather forecast in Geography



Now as the end of term is fast approaching, we are working really hard to learn songs, actions and lines ready to impress our families and friends in the Christmas play!

## Year 2

In maths we have been focusing on addition and subtraction with two two-digit numbers. To help us we have been using the column method. We started by using 10s and 1s to support us in adding and subtracting two numbers. We become more confident in using the 10s and 1s to help us and some of us were able to complete column addition and subtractions without the resources. We then moved to adding and subtracting two two-digit numbers across a 10. This meant that we had to exchange and borrow from other numbers. We found this tricky to start with but are becoming much more confident!



In English we have been looking at the story of Traction man. We explored the use of the author's exciting vocabulary and used some of his ideas to create our own expanded noun phrases. We then started to plan our own sequence of Traction man with Traction man having an adventure in our classroom! We enjoyed using our own ideas and came up with some brilliant adventures using brilliant, expanded noun phrases.

In DT we have been using our knowledge of joining materials from year 1 and explored different ways to connect materials together. We have started to build our own houses, in the style of the Great Fire of London and considered what the strongest joining methods were to make our houses stable.



We had a visit from Dan the Skipping man. We really enjoyed our sessions and learnt some new tricks to do with a skipping rope. We are keen to try them at home! We then enjoyed an excellent showcase where some of us had the opportunity to perform what we had learnt.



# EFF'S FESTIVE FRIDAY

6TH DECEMBER 3.10-4PM

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TOY, TEDDY & BOOK TOMBOLA  
CHRISTMAS JUMPER SALE  
FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS

in Willow Classroom

# ***DONATE YOUR OLD CHRISTMAS JUMPERS!***



***Please bring any unused Christmas jumpers to the office before the festive sale next Friday 6th Dec.***



# 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'

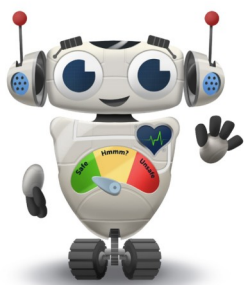
We have launched our new child safety initiative called 'Clever Never Goes' during this week in our, 'I am safe, I feel safe assembly.'

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



**WEDNESDAY  
4TH DECEMBER 24**



# DEANSWAY AND BEEHCROFT ROUTE



(Starting at 5.30 pm)

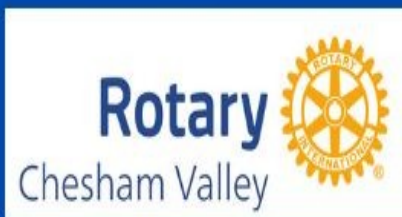
## SANTA TRACKER

(Updated every 30 seconds)

Follow Santa's Sleigh journey

Visit our homepage  
and select the Santa Tracker  
featured page

Full instructions are given on  
how to access the tracker.



- ELM TREE HILL**
- WALLINGTON ROAD**
- DEANSWAY, BENHAM CLOSE**
- DELLFIELD**
- CHAPMANS CRESCENT**
- BELLINGDON ROAD**
- BEEHCROFT ROAD**
- CEDAR DRIVE**
- JUNIPER CLOSE**
- IVY CLOSE**
- ACACIA CLOSE**
- JASMINE WALK, OAK FIELD**
- ROWAN WALK**
- ASHWOOD DRIVE, WILLOW CHASE,**
- LOWNDES AVENUE**
- CHAPMANS CRESCENT, PULLFIELDS**
- PENN AVENUE**



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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.

Book now for a school holiday full of fun!

Contact us: [office-11@premier-education.com](mailto:office-11@premier-education.com)

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