

Message from Mrs Ohene

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a busy week as ever of learning and enrichment opportunities. Cherry class visited the library this week to learn about our library service and how to access books- do take your child along this weekend! Maple class will visit the library on Monday. The children have learnt about safety on trips and visits in their, 'I am safe, I feel safe' assembly this week.

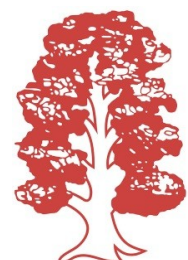
We had 'Dan' the skipping man and his fellow coaches in to teach the children tips and tricks for successful skipping. The hall was the place to be to jump rope, in and out, over and through, and all whilst smiling or shouting, 'CHARGE!' The children had great fun joining in and some were even able to perform in our showcase assembly this afternoon. The children demonstrated exemplary behaviour during these sessions and this

We read the story, 'This is Me!' by George Webster in assembly and talked about how to be our best selves by shining our light. Children sang, 'This Little Light of Mine' and learnt the Makaton signs for our behaviour values of: Ready, Respectful, Safe and Kind. Ask your child to teach you!

At Elmtree, we are proud of our diverse and inclusive community. By combining our school values of Curious, Respectful, Ambitious, Resilient, Inclusive and British Values we know that embracing diversity and inclusion benefits everyone. Open, respectful conversations are key to breaking down misunderstandings and building a more inclusive community. At Elmtree School there is no place for racism or prejudice and I know that we all want the very best for all of our children and, of course, our staff too.



Together we reach for the stars



During our International Day last half term where our children were really enthused to learn about cultures, countries, customs and traditions different to their own. The day was a hive of activity as our own children celebrated their culture/ countries by wearing national dress or the colours of a flag they relate to. There was a sense of deep pride in countries of origin from all over the globe.

We want to plant a seed of change in our children and give them greater knowledge and understanding of the world around them and their wonderful local community.

Spending time with the children has been a joy this week- eating lunch with them, assemblies, being out on the playground and just talking with them about their own excitements or worries. Several children earned a Headteacher's Award this week. We are incredibly proud of our children and their efforts in their learning and their personal development.

As the biting cold sets in, stay warm and cosy. Have a wonderful weekend- perhaps there might be the chance to build a snow figure of your choice! Whatever you do, enjoy being together.

Kind regards,

Mrs Ohene

Headteacher



Elmtree Family and Friends (PTA)

A **Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)** plays a vital role in fostering a strong partnership between parents and teachers, which directly benefits children's education and well-being. A PTA is important for several reasons:

- 1. Enhancing communication between home and school.** The PTA acts as a bridge between parents and teachers. It provides a platform for you to communicate with us, share concerns, and stay informed about what's happening in the classroom and school-wide. This ongoing dialogue helps you understand your child's educational experience better and ensures that we are aware of any issues or needs at home.
- 2. Promotes parental involvement and engagement.** Active participation in the PTA encourages you to take an active role in your child's education. When you are engaged with us, your children tend to perform better academically and socially. Being involved also gives you an opportunity to learn more about educational strategies, resources, and events that may benefit your child.
- 3. Supports school improvement.** Through the PTA, you can voice your opinions, provide feedback, and collaborate with us to improve educational practices and school policies. You can advocate for changes or support initiatives that will help enhance the quality of education and create a positive environment for your children.
- 4. Strengthens the school community.** A PTA brings together parents, teachers, and school staff to work towards common goals. This sense of community fosters a cooperative and supportive atmosphere in which everyone is invested in the success of our children. It also creates opportunities for social interactions, making our school environment feel more welcoming and connected.



5. Organises events and fundraisers. PTAs often organise school events, fundraisers, and other extracurricular activities that enrich our children's learning experiences. These events can range from educational workshops to family nights and disco's. Fundraising efforts are particularly important as they help provide resources for school programs, classroom supplies, technology, and extracurricular activities that may not be covered by our regular budget.

If we do not have a PTA then things like Bedtime Stories, the school disco, summer fair, Christmas festive fun and some of our curriculum resources would not be funded and we could not run these events, meaning the children would miss out on a whole host of enriching opportunities.

6. Advocates for education and resources. PTAs often engage in advocacy efforts on behalf of students, advocating for better funding, educational policies, and community resources. They help ensure that we have the necessary resources to meet the diverse needs of children, from academic support to social-emotional learning resources.

This year the EFF has funded our sensory toys and resources for each classroom and other areas around our school.

7. Creates a sense of belonging. When you are involved in the PTA you feel more connected to us and our mission. It creates a shared sense of purpose and a community where you can feel proud of your involvement and the difference, they you making. This can help increase your satisfaction with your child's education and your relationship with us.

8. Fosters success. Research shows that when parents are engaged in their child's school life, pupils are more likely to do well academically, have higher self-esteem, and exhibit positive behaviour. PTAs provide a way for you to stay connected to us and support your child's academic and personal growth.

The EFF (PTA) is not just a place for you to volunteer your time; it's an essential organisation that strengthens the relationship between home and school, provides support for the school's needs, and ensures that all children have the resources and opportunities to succeed. By joining and participating in the EFF, YOU can have a direct, positive impact on your child's education and the school community as a whole.

We are entering a new phase of leadership for our EFF as parents of our Year 2 children move on in July. If YOU would like to join our remarkable EFF then please do email the school office, come and see us or speak to Aimee (Jojo's Mum in Yr2) or Emma (Maggie's Mum in Yr2).

WE NEED YOU.

Dates for the diary

25th November Maple class to Chesham Library 1.30-2.30

26th November New nursery tours for October intake 9.15am/2.15pm

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

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

20th December EFF Lunch and 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

- Taylor - Maple
- Marnie - Oak
- Amira - Oak
- Sofiyah - Cherry
- Anshika - Oak
- Jayden - Birch
- Sabeeha - Cherry

Well Done Assembly Certificate



Attendance

School attendance over the last 7 days is **91%** 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 1

This weeks attendance

Reception - 91.3%



Year 1 - 91.4%



Year 2 - 90.9%



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.**



EFF'S FESTIVE FRIDAY

6TH DECEMBER 3.10-4PM

TOY, TEDDY & BOOK TOMBOLA
CHRISTMAS JUMPER SALE
FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS

in Willow Classroom

**WEDNESDAY
4TH DECEMBER 24**



DEANSWAY AND BEEHCROFT ROUTE



(Starting at 5.30 pm)

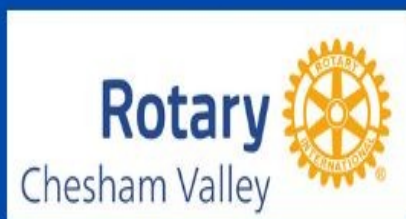
SANTA TRACKER

(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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REGISTERED CHARITY NOs: 1032366/1209083

New School Catering

Maison Chef

Following our hugely successful food tasting experience last Friday, we are thrilled to announce that from **Monday, 11th November**, our school will have new caterers, **Maison Chef** will provide delicious hot meals for our students. Maison Chef is well known for offering hot, fresh, nutritious, and varied meals that we are confident the children will love. They are already well established at Woodside Junior School.

To make things even easier, parents can set up an online account to order and manage their child's meals through the **Maison Chef** website. Below are some simple instructions to help you set up your child's account and begin selecting meals:

How to Set Up a Child Account: ***For FREE SCHOOL MEALS use the code ELMTREE***

1. **Visit the Website:** Go to the following link: <https://www.maison-chef.co.uk/school-meals/>
2. **Create an Account:** Click on the 'Create an Account' option and follow the steps to register as a parent.
3. **Add Your Child:** Once logged in, click on "Add Child." You'll be prompted to input your child's details, such as their full name, year group, and class.
4. **Select Meals:** After adding your child, you can view the available menu for each week. Simply select the meals you'd like to order for each day and confirm your choices.
5. **Check Your Orders:** You can log back into the system anytime to review or amend your child's meal choices, and you'll also receive a confirmation email after placing an order.

Note meals must be ordered by 4pm each Friday for the following week, meals can also be booked termly

Download the Schoolbitez App:

Once you have registered online, you can also manage your child's meals using the Schoolbitez app available for download on both iOS and Android devices.

1. **Download the App:** Search for Schoolbitez in your device's app store and download the app.
2. **Install and Launch:** Once downloaded and installed, open the app.
3. **Enter School Code:** You will be prompted to enter your child's school code. Please enter the school's registration code: **MC-WJS.**
4. **Log In:** Use the same login details you created when registering online to access your account.

The app allows you to easily manage meal orders, track menus, and make changes on the go!

We are confident this new catering service will provide a more enriching and enjoyable dining experience for the children, not least because meals will be hot and healthy. If you have any questions or run into any issues setting up the account, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school office for support.



Understanding the impact of lateness and absence for your child



At Elmtree we have a soft start from 8.45-8.55am. Gates close at 8.55am. Registers close at 9.00am. If your child arrives after this, they will be marked as late.

If in a school year a child is late by-	Your child will have lost approximately this much learning-
5 minutes	3.2 days (16 lessons)
10 minutes	6.3 days (32 lessons)
15 minutes	9.5 days (48 lessons)
20 minutes	12.7 days (64 lessons)
25 minutes	15.8 days (79 lessons)

In order to achieve our expected 96% attendance success, children must be in school for at least 184 out of 190 days. This means that no more than 6 school days can be missed to ensure your child achieves their full potential and maximises their learning.

If a child's attendance during the school year is-	Your child will have lost approximately this much learning-
96%	6 days (30 lessons)
95%	9 days (45 lessons)
90%	19 days (95 lessons)
85%	29 days (145 lessons)
80%	38 days (190 lessons)
75%	48 days (240 lessons)

Please park safely and legally

The area around school gets very busy at the beginning and end of the school day.

Please leave plenty of time to get to school in the morning and afternoon.

We encourage all families to walk, cycle or scoot to school. This reduces the traffic around school. Alternatively, you can 'Park and Stride' (park a little further away and walk, scoot or cycle the rest of the journey).

If you have no option but to bring a car, please park safely and lawfully - not on any zig-zag markings/ yellow lines and not over any dropped kerbs or outside residential properties. Please do not park in the staff car park.

This week we have spotted cars parked outside residential homes, blocking residents in. Parking in these areas causes considerable congestion, and is a danger to our children and families.

Please do not leave engines running as this creates increased pollution around school, which our children and families are breathing in.

Thank you for helping to improve parking, congestion and traffic flow on Elm Tree Hill to help support the safety, health and well-being of our children.

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD WEARS A SEATBELT AT ALL TIMES WHILST TRAVELLING IN A CAR/ VAN.

