

## Message from Mrs Ohene

Dear Families,

We have reached the end of our first half term together– what an achievement! Thank you all for your warm welcome and support so far. I look forward to a long and happy partnership for the future.

Our attendance for this week has significantly dropped, especially today. This is incredibly disappointing given that we have all worked so hard to raise it to 95%+ this half term. Please make your child's attendance a priority every day. Moments matter. Attendance counts.

You will see from our newsletter that hot school meals are returning to Elmtree! This is a huge success for us and I would like to thank the Elmtree staff team for their tireless efforts, hard work and dedication in making this happen. Maison Chef will be our new caterers and lunches begin on Monday 11th November. Please read the rest of the newsletter for more information and getting set up on their app.

Next half term, we have the privilege of a visiting Pantomime for our children. This comes with a £5 voluntary contribution– thank you to all those parents who have already contributed. Without your unwavering support, we would not be able to offer such wonderful opportunities.

Wonderful World Week has indeed been WONDERFUL! What an array of varied learning, experiences and enrichment the children have had, thanks to the incredible planning and preparation of our teachers and support staff. International Day was a beautiful display of our diversity here at Elmtree. How lucky are we that we have families from all over the world? Oak class had the very special privilege of tasting my very own Ghanaian Jollof rice, cooked in my kitchen and brought in for the occasion. I know how wonderful it is to come from mixed heritage and be able to eat such a wide variety of foods. For the children, this has opened up their minds to what they can eat. Perhaps you will have your own 'tacos' or themed food night to bring in the half term.

If your children are out and about for half term activities in the dark then please remember, 'Be Bright, Be Seen.' Enjoy all the different festivities that you may be involved in or simply enjoy time as a family. Whatever you do this break, have a wonderful week.

Kind regards,

Mrs Ohene



**Together we reach for the stars**



BRONZE: GOOD TRAVEL PLAN 2023



# 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.





# CELEBRATION

## Happy Birthday

Ali - Cherry

Maeve - Nursery

Ivy - Nursery

## Well Done Assembly Certificate

- Jasper - Oak
- Colby - Maple
- Izzah - Cherry
- Margot - Cherry
- Alishbah - Maple
- Raylee - Cherry
- Khadija - Oak



# Autumn 1

## Dates for the diary

### 28th October - 1<sup>st</sup> November Half Term

4th November Christmas artwork to be returned to school

5th November New Reception tours for 2025-2026 intake 9.30am

5th November Parent Consultations—Bookings available shortly

6th November Parent Consultations—Bookings available shortly

11th November ARP Stay and Learn 9-9.30am – Phonics

11th November Year 2 stay and learn Phonics 9am

12th November Reception stay and learn Phonics 9am

13th November Year 1 stay and learn Phonics 9am

14th November Nursery stay and learn 9am and 2.45pm

15th November Children in need

20th November Bedtime stories 4.30– 5.30 ( Children to come back to school in PJ's)

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

5th December EFF Christmas jumper and cake sale

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

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

11th December Christmas performance 9.30am

12th 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

# Attendance

School attendance over the last 7 days is 93% this is below our target of **96%**. We were doing well at achieving 95% these last few weeks. Please prioritise your child's attendance every day. Learning happens every day, including the last days of term!

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

## Champion Year Group: Year 1

### This weeks attendance

Reception - 89%



Year 1 - 94%



Year 2 - 93%



Remember that **#MomentsMatter**

We expect all children to attend school for at least 96% of



**ATTENDANCE**  
EVERY DAY COUNTS!

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
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.



BRONZE: GOOD TRAVEL PLAN 2023



## Nursery

In Nursery we have been learning all about the change in seasons. We have been creating autumn paintings in the garden, observing all the different colours of the trees and collecting leaves. We have also continued our learning journey topic magical me, using shapes to create 'our houses' and getting messy exploring different textures in handprint painting.



For wonderful world week we have been exploring Antarctica, the children have had a great time listening to 'one day on our blue planet', exploring with all their senses in the tuft tray moulding our fluffy cloud dough and rescuing the animals from ice blocks in the water tray. It has been great fun!



## Reception

We have enjoyed celebrating wonderful world week.

Birch class has been celebrating South America.

We have enjoyed learning about the amazon rainforest and making our own rain sticks. We have learnt about the country of Brazil and have made flags for the country. We made cheese bread and we really enjoyed eating it.



Beech class has been exploring Asia. We have learnt lots of exciting facts about China and Japan. We have tasted Chinese food and practised using chopsticks. We have learnt about the animals that are found in China and made our own panda craft. We have also learnt about Chinese New Year and have had great fun making our own pellet drums, flags and Chinese dragons.

In phonics we have been learning the sounds e u r h b f l. We have been learning how to segment and blend a word using our robot arms (such as sounding out c-a-t and blending 'cat').

In maths we have been focusing on the numbers 1-3. We have been learning to recognise the number by saying how many we see without counting the objects – we have been using our 'fast eyes'!



BRONZE: GOOD TRAVEL PLAN 2023



# Year 1

This week Oak class have been learning all about the continent Africa. We have really enjoyed learning about the different countries in Africa including Kenya, Egypt, South Africa, Malawi and Zambia. We were surprised to find out that there are 54 countries in Africa! The children worked hard on their sunset pictures of the savannah. They enjoyed making some African jewellery too!

The children really enjoyed tasting jollof rice a food from Ghana and they also had a chance to taste some popular African snacks which included plantain chips and cassava chips! The children have really enjoyed doing lots of different activities related to these countries. Please do ask the children about any new facts they have learnt.



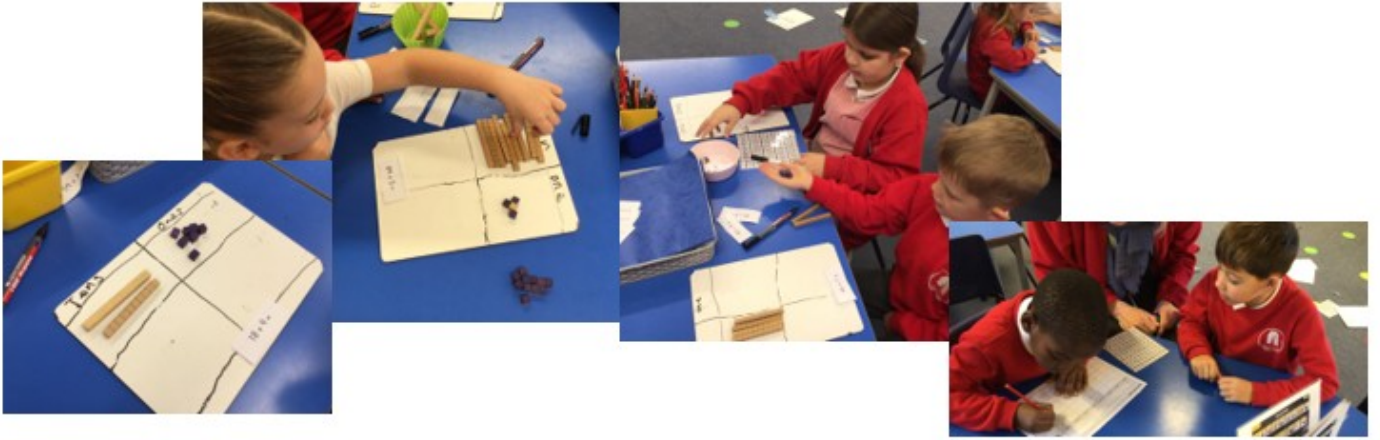
# Year 1

## Wonderful World Week



## Year 2

In Math's we have continued to explore adding and subtracting. We have been adding and subtracting 1-digit numbers and 2-digit numbers using manipulatives and 100 squares to help us. We have made sure we are doing careful counting and correctly jumping along our number squares.



In English we have been exploring explanation text. We started by reading 'How to be a Doctor' which allowed us to identify the features of an explanation text. We planned and wrote our own explanation text about how to be a good friend and thought about some adjectives to describe a good friend. We have continued to focus on our sentence structure and made sure that we have capital letters, full stops and finger spaces in every sentence!!

We have loved Wonderful World Week. We focused on a continent and learnt about the different countries within it. We have been able to try national foods, complete artwork native to the continent and even explore their music.



## Mental Health Support Team Bucks

Elmtree has joined up with Buckinghamshire's Mental Health Support Team (MHST) and we have our very own assigned worker, Rhiannon Brooker. After half term, we will begin a series of staff training, assemblies, workshops, lessons and parent opportunities to help support children's emotion regulation and behaviours that challenge. The MHST will have a pop-up stand at our parents' evenings on 5th and 6th November. This will offer you the chance to find out more about them and learn about some of the work we will be doing together.

At Elmtree, we have a positive and restorative approach to behaviour management. We use trauma-informed thinking to help children regulate their emotions and when supporting them through behaviours that challenge. Proactive strategies that maintain the dignity of the child are used to collaboratively problem-solve so that children develop social competence and emotion regulation, decreasing behaviours that challenge over time.

This is not about a child being bad/ naughty or a parent being wrong, it's about reflecting and reframing how we spend time with our children and how we respond to behaviour, that are helpful in making things a bit easier for everyone.

The evidence base tells us that it is about learning how to be responsive to each child's needs, supporting their development and self-esteem, modelling the behaviours you want to see, and being clear about the expectations for behaviour and relevant consequences for behaviours that challenge. It's not about being 'perfect parents', it's about having a toolbox of strategies for building positive behaviours and for reducing behaviours that challenge and helping social and emotional development.

The MHST's aim and vision is to work with the whole school to encourage resilience and educate staff, children and families to prevent poor emotion regulation in children. They offer staff and families the strategies needed to be emotionally resilient with behaviours that challenge and to address these positively.

We very much look forward to working with the MHST at Elmtree.





NHS  
Oxford Health  
MHS Foundation Trust

Mental Health  
Support Team  
Buckinghamshire



**FREE**

**FOR PARENTS  
AND CARERS**

# LIVE WEBINARS

**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH**



**DATES:  
VARIOUS**



**TIME:  
6PM – 7.30PM**

**To register, scan the QR codes on the next page!**











01865 901566



[bucksmhst@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:bucksmhst@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)

\* PLEASE NOTE: YOUR CHILD MUST ATTEND AN MHST SCHOOL FOR ACCESS TO THE WEBINARS. IF YOU ARE UNSURE, PLEASE CONTACT US.

# SCAN THE QR CODE TO SECURE YOUR PLACE:

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>School Age</b>	<b>QR</b>
<b>Introduction to Mental Health</b>	<b>14th October 2024 6pm – 7.30pm</b>	<b>Primary</b>	
<b>Introduction to Mental Health</b>	<b>23rd October 2024 6pm – 7.30pm</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	
<b>Childhood Anxiety</b>	<b>4th November 2024 6pm – 7.30pm</b>	<b>Primary</b>	
<b>Adolescent Anxiety</b>	<b>19th November 2024 6pm – 7.30pm</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	
<b>Understanding Child Behaviour and Development</b>	<b>23rd January 2024 6pm–7.30pm</b>	<b>Primary</b>	
<b>Supporting your child with Exam Stress</b>	<b>8th January 2025 6pm – 7.30pm</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	
<b>Low Mood and Depression</b>	<b>5th February 2025 6pm – 7.30pm</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	
<b>Understanding Adolescent Development and Behaviour (Teenage Brain)</b>	<b>11th March 2025 6pm – 7.30pm</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	
<b>Change and Transition</b>	<b>3rd April 2024 6pm – 7.30pm</b>	<b>Primary</b>	
<b>Supporting your child with Exam Stress</b>	<b>28th April 2025 6pm – 7.30pm</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	

## Understanding the impact of lateness and absence for your child



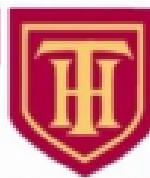
At Elmtree we have a soft start from 8.45-8.55am. Gates close at 8.55am. Registers close at 9.00am. If your child arrives after this, they will be marked as late.

<b>If in a school year a child is late by-</b>	<b>Your child will have lost approximately this much learning-</b>
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.

<b>If a child's attendance during the school year is-</b>	<b>Your child will have lost approximately this much learning-</b>
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)

Thomas Harding



Junior School

# OPENDAY 2024

Come and visit our wonderful school

Open Evening

7<sup>th</sup> November 4:00 - 6:00  
( Headteacher talk at 5:30 )

Welcome to Thomas Harding

'At our school, we thrive because of the outstanding curriculum put in place to make our learning exceptional. Our curriculum constantly challenges us to be the best we can be.'

Eve - Head Girl & Moksh - Head Boy

'Aspiration, this value is shown in everyday life as a student because whenever we learn, our teachers encourage us to keep on trying if we struggle. We are told to chase our dreams, which is why children here think big about their futures. The value of aspiration is one of the numerous reasons why us children feel more confident about what we hope for.'  
Maya - Chess House Captain

Open Morning

12<sup>th</sup> November  
9:30-11:30

( Headteacher talk at 9:30 )



'Pupils are at the heart of everything staff do. Leaders make sure that every child is valued. Consequently, pupils are proud of their school, and they thrive'. **Ofsted**

For more information, please contact the school office, [office@tha.odbst.org](mailto:office@tha.odbst.org) or 01494 782211.

## **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.**

## **Bags**

At Elmtree, we allow children to bring a traditional, school book bag and PE bag. We do not allow any other type of backpack or rucksack.

### **Why do we have this rule?**

We don't have the space to store larger bags. Bags are stored in trays, on hooks in classroom cupboards, or on hooks in the corridors. We are not able to store back packs (other than drawstring bags) in this way.

We don't ask children to bring lots of equipment into school.

We don't want parents to feel under pressure to buy the latest, fashionable bags from Smiggle, Nike or Adidas which can be very expensive.

