

Message from Mrs Ohene

Dear Families,

As we settle into October and the golden leaves begin to fall, it's a perfect time to reflect on our school community's commitment to well-being, health, and safety. A few important reminders as we head into next week:

Photos on Tuesday 15th

School photos will be taking place on Tuesday, so don't forget to have your child looking their best!

Flu Immunisations on Wednesday 16th

With seasonal illnesses doing the rounds, it is also time for our flu immunisations. Please keep an eye on your inbox for the reminder that was sent out this week. If you would like your child to have the flu immunisation, you will have to complete the online form.

Health & Safety Reminder

We continue to prioritise safety at all times. Please remember, no hot drinks are allowed if you are attending a school event. Additionally, we encourage you to join us in our family pledge for healthy eating—not just during school hours but after school too! Let's make those after-school snacks just as nutritious as what's in the lunchbox!

Inclusion & Support

We remain committed to our value of inclusion, ensuring that all children are supported and thrive in our learning environment. Together, we are fostering a school culture where every child feels valued. With this in mind, we continue to support all our children in the ways that they need to develop, learn and grow.

As the season changes, let's embrace this time of transition by nurturing both our bodies and minds.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Wishing you a wonderful autumnal week ahead.

Kind regards

Mrs. Ohene.



Together we reach for the stars



BRONZE: GOOD TRAVEL PLAN 2023



Attendance

School attendance over the last 7 days is 94.5% this is below our target of **96%**

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

Champion Year Group: Year 2

This weeks attendance

Reception - 93%



Year 1 - 93.8%



Year 2 - 96.3%



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!

Below 90%
Serious Concern.
Persistent absence.

90 - 95.9%
Concern. Low
Attendance.

At least 96%
Expected
attendance.



**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



BRONZE: GOOD TRAVEL PLAN 2023



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)

Autumn 1

Dates for the diary

15th October School Photos (individual /sibling)

16th October Flu immunisations

17th October New Reception tours for 2025-2026 intake 1.30pm / EFF fancy dress costume sale 3.00-3.30pm

18th October Parent Forum - 2.45pm Willow Class

21st – 25th October **Wonderful World week** (Me, My community, My world, Marvellous Me)

24th October Wonderful World Week International Dress Mufti Day -
3pm EFF Cake sale

25th October Winning house team colour mufti day

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 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)



28th October - 1st November Half Term





CELEBRATION

Happy Birthday

Manahil-Fatima - Oak

Lyla-Anne - Beech

Well Done Assembly Certificate

- Maggie - Maple
- Finley - Maple
- Diana - Oak
- Haris - Oak
- Ashleigh - Cherry
- Otilie - Cherry
- Sofiyah - Cherry



Dear Parents and Carers,

On **Friday 18th October**, we will be holding our first parents' forum from **2.45pm - 3.25pm**. You are welcome to attend.

This will be an open forum for all parents/ carers to give us your views on the following aspects of school life:

1. *Communication*
 2. *Home learning (homework)*
 3. *Parental engagement opportunities*
- Other (curriculum, wider enrichment opportunities, trips/ visits)*

We will meet in the Willow classroom. Doors will open at 2.45pm. There will be large sheets of paper/ pens out for you to contribute your thoughts on the above aspects of school life. Please do come in and share/ write down your views. We will use your contributions to help inform our next steps as a school.





**NEW
VENUE!**

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,
HPS 1LR**

Dates: Monday 28th - Thursday 31st October

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 October 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.

PLEASE BRING

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



Based on over 20,000 reviews

ELMTREE FRIENDS & FAMILY

AGM

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 16th October @ 5pm

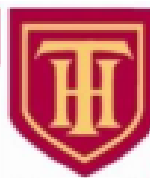
Everyone is welcome

Have your say and get involved!



Parentkind
Member Association

Thomas Harding



Junior School

OPENDAY 2024

Come and visit our wonderful school

Open Evening

7th 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

12th 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 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.

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.



School Attendance

What parents and carers need to know

Why attend every day?

Attending school at Elmtree is crucial for your child's early education for several reasons:

1. **Early Development:** Infant and Nursery children are in a critical stage of brain development. High quality early education at Elmtree provides a stimulating environment that promotes cognitive, social, and emotional development.
2. **Social Skills:** School offers children the chance to interact with peers, helping them develop essential social skills such as sharing, cooperation, and empathy.
3. **Routine and Structure:** School provides a consistent routine that helps children feel secure and understand the flow of daily activities. This structure can be beneficial for their overall development.
4. **Language Development:** Engaging with teachers, support staff and other children in school exposes children to rich language experiences, which are vital for communication skills and literacy development.
5. **Physical Development:** Early education includes activities that promote fine and gross motor skills, such as climbing, drawing, and playing with various materials. Children in the EYFS are supposed to be out of breath several times a day- they are at Elmtree!
6. **Emotional Resilience:** Being in school helps children learn to navigate emotions and build resilience by self-regulating, as they experience new situations and develop coping strategies.
7. **Parental Support:** Early schooling can also be an invaluable resource for parents, providing you with support and information about your child's learning and progress.

Foundation for Future Learning: The experiences and skills gained in early education lay the groundwork for later academic success, making the transition to formal schooling smoother from the early years to key stage one, and then to key stage two (and beyond).

Attending school for at least 96% of the time supports children to thrive in a nurturing environment, setting the stage for lifelong learning and development.

When a child can be absent from school

A child must attend school every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill. Medical appointments such as for the dentist/ GP should be made outside of school timings.

Children should never miss school for reasons such as, but not limited to:

- *Holidays during term time (these will not be authorised)
- *Shopping
- *Birthdays
- *To wait in for a repair person
- *To take a family member to an appointment



School Attendance

You have a legal duty to ensure that your child attends school every day and is on time.

Taking your child out of school during term time for holidays is also likely to impact on their achievement. There are 38 weeks in the year when schools are open, and 14 weeks when families can take holidays. Head teachers can only authorise a leave of absence in exceptional circumstances.

The effects of irregular attendance

A pupil who misses 10% or more of school (equivalent of 1 day or more per fortnight) is less likely to attain their potential academically.

Missing school can also:

- cause anxiety about returning
 - cause difficulties in maintaining friendships
- mean missing out on socialising and decline in general wellbeing

Support

We know children may struggle to attend school for a wide range of reasons. We will always work with you to help overcome any issues. Elmtree has strong pastoral support and there are several different ways we can support your child to attend school. If you would like any further information then please speak to our Family Liaison Officer, Miss Snowden.

Consequences

If your child takes unauthorised holidays or takes longer than the time agreed by the Headteacher, this absence will be recorded as unauthorised. Sanctions could be imposed including:

Your child could lose their school place

You could face a penalty fine (per parent per child)

You could be subject to legal action by the authority that could result in a fine of up to £2,500. If your child has an unauthorised absence, such as taking holidays during term time, re-occurring lateness, or persistent absence for any other reason other than certified illness, the school will refer the matter to the Council for consideration of a Penalty Notice and/or Prosecution in the Magistrates' Court which may lead to a criminal record with a maximum fine of £2,500 and/or 3 months imprisonment.

Regular and punctual attendance is both a legal requirement and essential for your child to maximise the opportunities available to them.

