

## Message from Mrs Ohene

Dear Parents and Carers,

How wonderful were the Harvest performances? Thank you so much to all of you who attended– the children very much appreciated your support and encouragement.

This week has been a busy week of learning with more Wild Woods sessions and Premier in yesterday for street dance. The children engaged enthusiastically, dancing to their hearts' content! We are so lucky with the opportunities here at Elmtree.

As part of our commitment to securing the very best outcomes for your children, we are focusing on and being strict about attendance and punctuality. With just about a month back at school, Elmtree families have accrued 90 lates, amounting to 4 hours and 54 minutes of learning time. Last term saw a record 85 days worth of unauthorised absence for holidays taken during term time and there were 316 lates. This is unacceptable. We need to do better for our children– every moment matters for now and for their future. We know you will support us in this endeavour. Thank you to all our families who have 100% for punctuality and attendance so far this term. Keep an eye out for your child's attendance and punctuality emails coming to you soon.

Lastly, we welcome October. We are very much in Autumn now and what better way to reflect than during the season of Harvest? It is a time for looking inwards but also forwards in how we can do better and be better. It is also a time go give thanks for our own gifts, taking quiet moments for gratitude.

Kind regards

Mrs. Ohene.



***Together we reach for the stars***



BRONZE: GOOD TRAVEL PLAN 2023




# Attendance


School attendance over the last 7 days is **92.8%** this is below our target of **96%**


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

**Champion Year Group: Year 1 (2 weeks in a row)**

**This weeks attendance :**

*Reception* - 89% 

*Year 1* - 95% 

*Year 2* - 93% 

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)



# CELEBRATION

## Happy Birthday

Mason - Maple

### Well Done Assembly Certificate

- Inaaya - Maple
- Adam - Cherry
- Aiza - Cherry
- Ethan - Maple
- Alishbah - Maple
- Anshika - Oak
- Lenny - Oak
- Musa - Oak

### Headteacher Award

Alfie Jack - Maple

Nursery



Dear Parents and Carers,

On **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.



# Autumn 1

## Dates for the diary

9<sup>th</sup> October New Reception tours for 2025-2026 intake 9.30am

10th October 5-5.30 EFF AGM

15th October School Photos (individual /sibling)

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

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



# Harvest Donations



**OurChesham**

Jenny Wren · 2h · 🌐



Just to say a big thank you to Elmtree School for the Harvest festival food parcels which the elderly in Wallington Road received yesterday, with the lovely little ones and staff who braved the rain, and also the parents who donated xx



## Nursery - Magical Me

This term in nursery we have been learning all about ourselves and what makes us special and unique. The children have been creating self- portraits in different forms, using paint and pencils as well as practising cutting skills and gluing features to make their faces. We have also been exploring our families in our maths sessions and counting how many people live in our homes.

We have also been exploring healthy foods and lots of activities using different textures and materials to celebrate harvest festival in preparation for our harvest assembly.



# Reception

This half-term we have been learning about ourselves and our families. We have painted self-portraits and have been learning to label body parts.

We loved our first Tiny Bikers session! We learnt how to move our bikes using huge dinosaur steps, one leg at a time, and how to move like a frog using both legs. We also enjoyed playing some team games.



We have started our Wild Woods sessions, where we have been learning the rules to keep us safe and exploring the mud kitchen area. We have enjoyed looking for the signs of Autumn noticing the colours of the leaves changing.



## Reception

In phonics we have been learning the sounds s a t p i n m d g o c k. The children have enjoyed bringing in their sound of the day objects. We have also been practising how to form the letters.



# Year 1

The children have started Year 1 with lots of energy and are ready to learn! We started off by reading the story 'The Secret Sky Garden' by Linda Sarah. The children had lots of fun following instructions by planting their own seeds and making their own flowers.



# Year 1

As part of our topic about Space the children followed instructions in English to make moon rock cakes. They were delicious! They have also been very busy making their very own space buggies .



# Year 1

Year 1 were very fortunate to attend a multi skills festival at Dr Challoner's High school. The children thoroughly enjoyed the morning, and we were so proud of their behaviour. Well done!

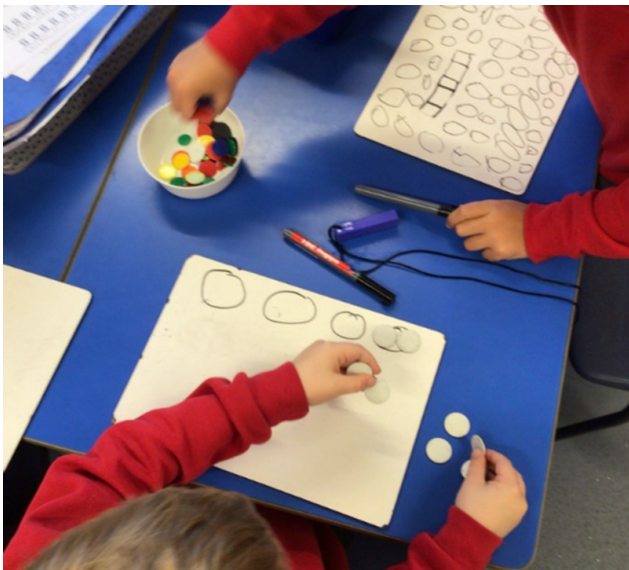


## Year 2

We have had a great start to Year 2 and have enjoyed our topic, 'Long long ago. Far far away'.

In Maths we have been focusing on consolidating our knowledge of tens and ones, using manipulatives to help us. We recapped using part whole models and place value charts. We even created our own human part whole model, using hula hoops! We have become more confident in counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s and have enjoyed our 'circle game' and the challenge it gives us!

In last the week we have moved on to look at our number bonds and consolidating our knowledge of fact families. We have used our knowledge of number bonds to 10 to help us solve problems with fact families to 100!



In Science, we have been focusing on the environment. We thought about how humans are impacting our environment and what we can do to help. We have had a go at Recycling different objects and stating which bin they are best put in. We have also talked about deforestation and how this is affecting our wildlife in the rainforests. We have carried out our own experiments. We created our own ocean and added different pollutions in to see how it affected the water and thought about the impact on the animals.



## Year 2



In Geography we have loved exploring our wonderful mapping topic. We have used atlases and globes to support us in our learning. We have explored the UK and established the four countries in the UK. We then went further around the earth and explore countries and continents. We loved the continent song and can sing it off by heart! We have been introduced to lots of new vocabulary like Equator, Hemisphere and continent.



# ELMTREE FRIENDS & FAMILY

## AGM

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 16th October @ 5pm

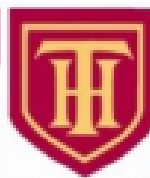
Everyone is welcome

Have your say and get involved!



**Parentkind**  
Member Association

Thomas Harding



Junior School

# OPENDAY 2024

Come and visit our wonderful school

Open Evening

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.

## **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.***

