



Elmtree Echo

Issue 23



Ambitious - Curious - Resilient - Inclusive



A Message from Mrs Ohene

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading is a skill for life. How wonderful to be able to celebrate books on World Book Day whilst also teaching, promoting and enjoying reading daily with the children.

Thank you so much for all your efforts with costumes yesterday. We do love a dressing up day and what an array of characters we had. The children enjoyed our stay and read session, having you in school to fall into a book with them!

Sunday marks International Women's Day, a celebration of key figures in history, those who are current figures and those spear-heading change. This year's theme is, 'Give To Gain.' What will you 'give to gain?' The International Women's Day website has a series of pledges we can commit to:

[International Women's Day #GiveToGain pledge cards](#)

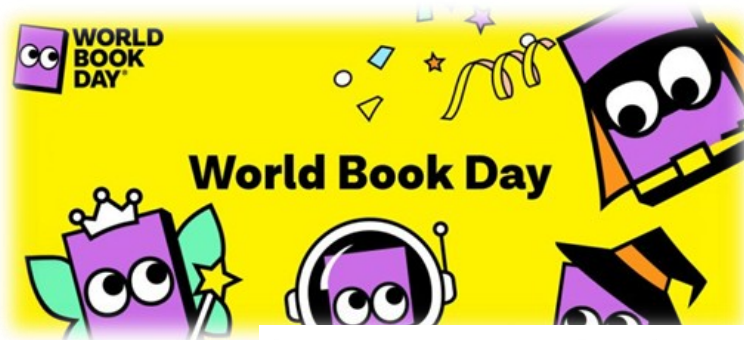
In a world where it can be challenging to navigate, with all protected characteristics, it falls on us all to stand with each other to create the change we want to see.

Happy Women's Day to our fantastic female community! Next week, we look forward to welcoming 'Ladies We Love' for our stay and play session on Friday morning (arts and crafts) as part of Mother's Day celebrations.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Ohene

Headteacher



Attendance

School attendance over the last 7 days is 97%

Let's aim to be in #SchoolEveryDay next week

The champion year group this week is Year 2

| Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 |
|-----------|--------|--------|
| 93% | 97% | 98% |



Remember that #MomentsMatter

We expect all children to attend school for at least 96% of sessions across the year.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



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.





CONGRATULATIONS



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Shalom -Oak

Ayaat - Oak

Leo - Willow

Arlo - Willow

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kylie - Beech

Eve - Willow

Miss Birch

Mrs Hussain

HEADTEACHER AWARD

Esmae - Maple

Marnie - Maple

Esme - Birch

Emilie - Birch



Important Dates & Events



Elmtree Infant School - Term Dates & key Events



→ Key Dates

Wednesday 11th March - Oak class assembly 9am

Wednesday 11th March - Science day—Come dressed as a scientist

Thursday 12th March - KS1 to Dr Challoner's Dance Festival 9.30-11.30am

Friday 13th March - Ladies we love event, all Mums/Aunts/Grandma's welcome 2.30pm

Monday 16th March - EID Celebrations

Thursday 19th March - Year 2 Roald Dahl Day, Year 2 to come dressed as their favourite Roald Dahl character

Friday 20th March - Odd socks day—World Down syndrome Day

Monday 23rd-27th March - Book fair in the school hall 3.10-3.30

Wednesday 25th March - Willow class assembly 9am

Wednesday 25th March from 3.10pm-4.30pm—Easter and Eid Extravaganza on

Thursday 26th March - Reception class assembly 9am

Friday 27th March - School closes 1.30pm

*****Monday 30th March Friday 10th April - EASTER HOLIDAY*****

*****Monday 13th April INSET DAY*****

Tuesday 14th April - Children to return

Friday 1st May - Class Photographs

Tuesday 5th May - Year 2 to Dr Challoner's High School - Year 2 Games

*****Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May Half Term*****

Friday 12th June - Year 2 to Legoland

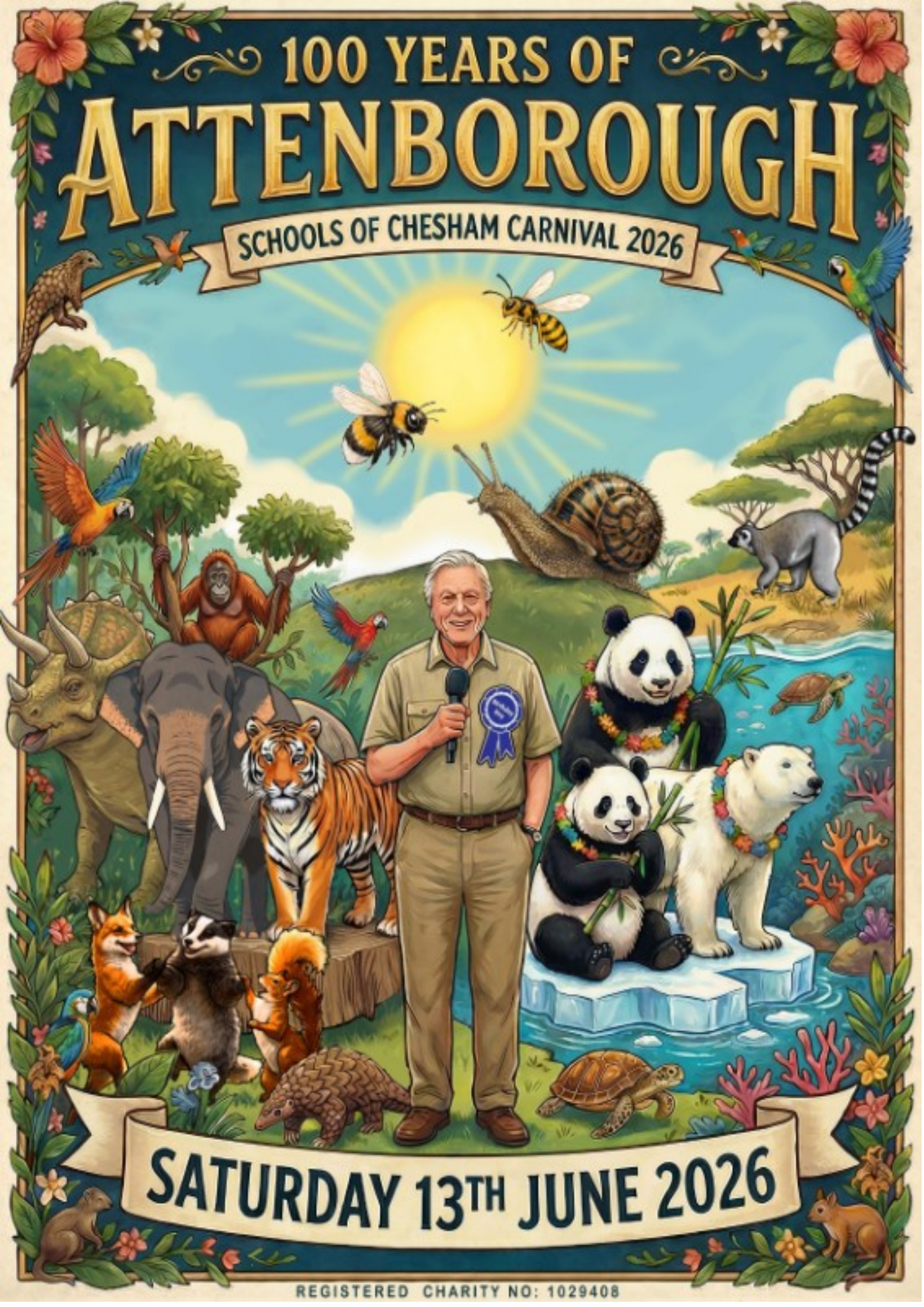
Saturday 13th June -Chesham Carnival

Saturday 4th July - Summer Fayre

Tuesday 21st July—Year 2 Leavers performance and assembly.

100 YEARS OF ATTENBOROUGH

SCHOOLS OF CHESHAM CARNIVAL 2026



SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 2026



Communication Week Challenge Card

#chatplayreadbucks



1

Play a boardgame.



2

Make a phonecall to a family member or friend.



3

Learn and perform a poem.



4

Take your family or friends on a listening walk.



Early Years Service

At the heart of everything we do is a belief in the best start for children



Communication Week Challenge Card

#chatplayreadbucks



1



2



3



4



Early Years Service

At the heart of everything we do is a belief in the best start for children

Elmtree in Bloom

Donations Wanted

To help our young budding gardeners at Elmtree, the EFF is requesting donations for unopened, unwanted and new packets of Wild flower seeds

If you're able to donate, please drop off at the School office



THE WELL READ



MOOSE



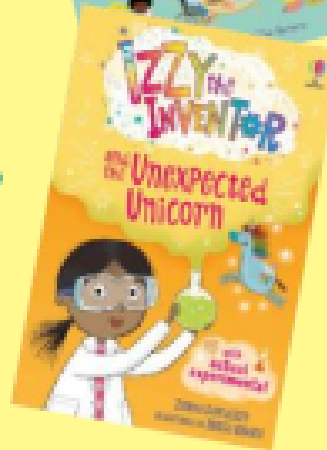
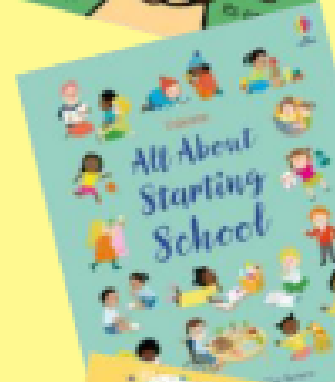
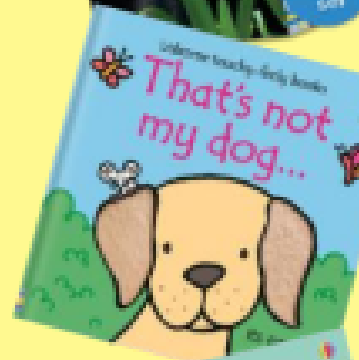
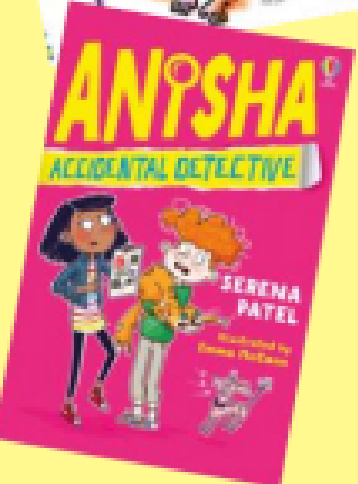
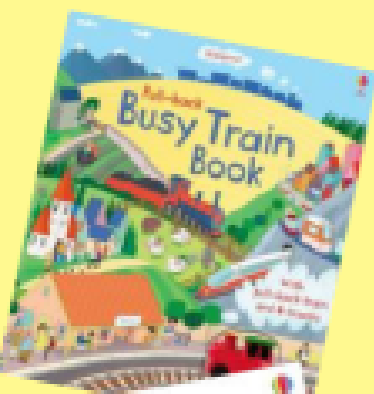
The Moose is on the loose at Elmtree Infant and Nursery School!

READY STEADY LISTEN AND READ

MONDAY 2ND MARCH -
MONDAY 9TH MARCH

THE ONLINE SHOP IS ALSO OPEN
FRI 27TH FEB 7AM
UNTIL
MON 9TH MARCH 9PM

EVERY PENNY RAISED WILL HELP
ELMTREE TO EARN FREE BOOKS
FOR THEIR NEW LIBRARY!



SCAN HERE



CLICK HERE

SELECT "DELIVERY TO PARTNER" FOR FREE DELIVERY!

THEWELLREADMOOSE@GMAIL.COM

SAFETY REMINDER

[Child car seats: the law: Using a child car seat or booster seat - GOV.UK](#)

Using a child car seat or booster seat

Children must [normally use a child car seat](#) until they're 12 years old or 135 centimetres tall, whichever comes first.

Children over 12 or more than 135cm tall [must wear a seat belt](#).

You can choose a child car seat based on your child's height or weight.

Height-based seats

Height-based seats must be rear facing until your child is over 15 months old. Your child can use a forward-facing child car seat when they're over 15 months old.

You must check the seat to make sure it's suitable for the height of your child.

Only approved height-based child car seats can be used in the UK. These have a label showing a capital 'E' in a circle and 'R129'.

Weight-based seats

The seat your child can use (and the way they must be restrained in it) depends on their weight.

Only approved weight-based child car seats can be used in the UK. These have a label showing a capital 'E' in a circle and 'ECE R44'.

You may be able to choose from more than one type of seat in the group for your child's weight.

| | Group | Seats |
|-------------|-------|--|
| 0kg to 10kg | 0 | Lie-flat or 'lateral' baby carrier, rear-facing baby carrier, or rear-facing baby seat using a harness |
| 0kg to 13kg | 0+ | Rear-facing baby carrier or rear-facing baby seat using a harness |

| | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| 9kg to 18kg | 1 | Rear- or forward-facing baby seat using a harness or safety shield |
| 15kg to 25kg | 2 | Rear- or forward-facing child car seat (high-backed booster seat or booster cushion) using a seat belt, harness or safety shield |
| 22kg to 36kg | 3 | Rear- or forward-facing child car seat (high-backed booster seat or booster cushion) using a seat belt, harness or safety shield |

Manufacturers can A doctor can issue an exemption certificate if a child is unable to use a restraint or seat belt because of their condition.

now only make booster cushions approved as group 3. This will not affect any existing booster cushions in group 2 and you'll still be able to use them.

Fitting a child car seat

You must only use a child car seat if your car's seat belt has a diagonal strap, unless the seat is either:

- specifically designed for use with a lap seat belt

fitted using ISOFIX anchor points

You must also:

- deactivate any front airbags before fitting a rear-facing baby seat in a front seat

not fit a child car seat in side-facing seats

The [Child Car Seats website](#) has information on how to choose a seat and travel safely with children in cars.

Children with disabilities or medical conditions

The same rules apply for children with disabilities or medical conditions, but they can use a disabled person's seat belt or a child restraint designed for their needs.

Uniform reminder: P.E. Kit

Elmtree jumper/ cardigan

White crew neck t-shirt

Plain black joggers/ plain red shorts

Plain black trainers (no symbols, no other colours)

Children should attend school in school shoes or plain black trainers. Boots/ slip-ons and other types of footwear are not allowed.

Healthy Lunches at Elmtree



YES PLEASE



NO THANK YOU

| | |
|---|--|
| Chapattis/ wraps/ sandwiches with healthy fillings such as chicken, cheese, tuna, cucumber, potato. | Chocolate, chocolate biscuits, chocolate spread/ jam, any other chocolate. |
| Fruits and vegetables (some may need to be chopped up, e.g. grapes chopped in half lengthways). | Cakes/ biscuits of any kind. |
| Yoghurts | Sweets |
| Breadsticks | Crisps |
| Chicken bites/ veggie bites | Smoothies/ Yoghurt drinks |
| Spaghetti/ pasta/ noodles/ rice (in a thermos); wholegrain would be even healthier! | Flavoured water/ juice (Fruitshoots of any kind). |
| Cucumber/ carrots sticks and Hummus. | Junk foods: pizza, nuggets, chips, fried chicken. |
| Mini cheddars/ crackers | NUTS |

WE ARE A NUT-FREE SCHOOL

At Elmtree, we want the very best start for our children. This includes ensuring they eat healthily. Providing healthy lunches is essential for several reasons. Here is our rationale for wanting our children to eat healthy lunches:

1. Nutritional Needs

- **Growth and Development:** Children are in critical stages of growth, requiring balanced nutrition to support physical and cognitive development.
- **Energy Levels:** Nutritious meals help maintain energy throughout the school day, improving focus and learning.

2. Academic Performance

- **Concentration and Focus:** Proper nutrition is linked to better concentration, memory, and overall academic performance.

- **Reduced Absenteeism:** Healthy eating can lead to better health, reducing absenteeism due to illness.

3. Healthy Habits

- **Lifelong Skills:** Schools can play a crucial role in teaching children about healthy eating and making nutritious choices, fostering lifelong healthy habits.
- **Social Norms:** When healthy options are promoted in schools, it normalizes these choices among peers.

4. Preventing Health Issues

- **Chronic Disease Prevention:** Healthy lunches can help combat childhood obesity and reduce the risk of chronic diseases like diabetes and heart disease. Did you know that 10% of Elmtree children were obese or overweight in 2022-2023?
- **Mental Health:** Nutrition affects mental well-being; balanced meals can support mood regulation and mental health.

5. Food Education

- **Culinary Skills:** Exposure to different foods encourages children to explore and develop their tastes, promoting culinary skills.
- **Cultural Awareness:** Offering diverse foods can enhance cultural appreciation and inclusivity among students.

6. Behavioural Benefits

- **Reduced Behavioural Issues:** A well-nourished child is less likely to experience mood swings and behavioural difficulties, leading to a better learning environment.
- **Better Relationships:** Healthy eating can contribute to improved social interactions and cooperation among peers.

7. Community and Environment

- **Waste Reduction:** Emphasizing healthy, whole foods can reduce food waste and encourage mindful consumption.

Healthy lunches at school create an environment that supports not just academic success but also the overall well-being of children, laying the foundation for a healthier future.

OPAL at Elmtree

What is OPAL?

OPAL is all about transforming playtimes and learning opportunities by making the most of our **amazing outdoor spaces**. Through creative, inclusive, and adventurous play, children develop key life skills such as problem-solving, collaboration, resilience, and imagination – all while having fun in the great outdoors!

We're building a team of passionate people to help make this vision a reality, and we'd love to have **a parent voice on board**. As a Parent Rep, you'll help us:

- ✿ Support and promote play-based learning
- ✿ Contribute ideas and feedback
- ✿ Be part of enhancing our school grounds for all children
- ✿ Help with small projects or events (as time allows)
- ✿ Attend working group meetings

If you're enthusiastic about outdoor learning and want to help bring more joy and creativity to our children's day, please **get in touch** – we'd love to hear from you!

Let us know if you're interested in being part of the OPAL journey. Together, we can build something truly special on our mission to save childhood!

This half term, we will be launching our first 'play' initiative for OPAL- large loose parts. Children will learn how to play with these items safely, what they can do with them and how to tidy them away. We need YOUR help. If you or anyone you know can donate any of the items below in good condition, we would be most grateful:

Large plastic barrels

Thick rope

Tarpaulin

Tyres

Stackable glass bottle crates

Wooden palettes



Elmtree Infant and Nursery School

WANTED: large loose parts for play!



Please deliver items to the school office
Elmtree Infant and Nursery School
Elm Tree Hill
Chesham
Buckinghamshire
HP5 2PA
t: 01494 771474
e: office@elm.odbst.org



As part of our OPAL approach to playtimes and lunchtimes, children will be required to have a pair of wellies in school every day by no later than Friday 30th January. If you are in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding and need a pair provided, please do let us know by contacting the school office.

Remember: the mud washes away but the memories stay!