



Elmtree Echo

Issue 9



Ambitious - Curious - Resilient - Inclusive



A Message from Mrs Ohene

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been such a joy welcoming the children back this term! They have returned refreshed, full of enthusiasm, and ready to learn. It's been wonderful to see them diving into their reading, writing, and all areas of the curriculum with such energy and curiosity.

We're also delighted to share that *Chesham in Bloom* have been continuing their fantastic work maintaining our pond area. We're now in our second year of planting, and we're really looking forward to seeing everything bloom beautifully in the spring and summer. In addition, we've planted three new trees on our field—a crab apple, a rowan, and a hazel—bringing our total to seven new trees at Elmtree over the past year! This is a lovely step forward in our ongoing commitment to biodiversity and our work as an Eco-School. We're thrilled to report that we've now reached 73 out of 100 points towards our *Green Flag* award—what an achievement!

In our assemblies this week, the children have been learning about *Bonfire Night*—why we celebrate it, how it all began, and, most importantly, how to stay safe when enjoying fireworks and sparklers.

Yesterday, our senior leaders attended the annual ODBST Leadership Conference, where we explored the exciting ways *artificial intelligence (AI)* can support us as educators. The possibilities really are endless! Over time, these innovations will help reduce workload, make teaching and learning even more engaging, and allow us to personalise lessons and resources for every child. It's an inspiring time to be in education, and we're excited to see how these ideas develop.

Today, we also welcomed visitors from the Whiteknights English Hub, an initiative from the Department for Education, for an audit of our phonics provision. Their visit included phonics learning walks, a 'health check' on our new synthetic phonics programme *Little Wandle*, and discussions with staff. We were delighted to receive such positive feedback—they praised the high quality of our teaching and learning, the organisation of our phonics programme, and the strength of our interventions. Most importantly, they noticed how engaged and enthusiastic our children were during their phonics lessons—exactly what we love to see at Elmtree! We know that early reading is the key to lifelong learning and opportunity, and it's wonderful to see our children building such a strong foundation.

Finally, in our celebration assembly, we were immensely proud to honour Emily Rutley for her remarkable bravery. Emily showed incredible courage and independence when she called for help after her mum became unwell at home. She truly deserves the special personalised trophy presented to her—well done, Emily!

What a wonderful start to the term and there is so much more to come!

Warm regards, Mrs Ohene

Attendance

School attendance over the last 7 days is **94%**

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

The champion year group this week is Year 2

Reception	Year 1	Year 2
93%	91%	95%



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

Emily R - Willow

Scarlett - Maple

Thomasina - Willow

Rohaam - Oak

Usman - Willow

Evie - Maple

Haris - Oak

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Emilie - Birch

Leo - Beech

Robyn - Maple

HEADTEACHER AWARD

Ibrahim - Beech



Important Dates & Events



Elmtree Infant School - Term Dates & key Events



→ Key Dates

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Tuesday 11th Nov – Year 2 stay and learn 9am—*Parents can attend*

Wednesday 12th Nov – Reception stay and learn 9am - *Parents can attend*

Thursday 13th Nov – Year 1 stay and learn 9am—*Parents can attend*

Friday 14th Nov – Nursery stay and learn 9am and 2.45pm - *Parents can attend*

Friday 14th Nov - Children in need MUFTI day

Wednesday 19th Nov - Bedtime stories event– 3.10-4.10 £3 payment on MCAS (Children can come to school wearing pyjamas)

Tuesday 25th Nov – New to Reception tours 9.30 (26-27 intake)

Wednesday 26th Nov – New to Nursery tours 10-10.30 (January intake)

Tuesday 9th December – Christmas production Dress Rehearsal 9.30am *Babes in arms/siblings.*

Wednesday 10th December – Nursery Xmas songs 9.15-10am Parents welcome.

Thursday 11th December – Christmas production 9.15 **No siblings**

Friday 12th December – Christmas production 9.15 **No siblings**

Tuesday 16th December – New to reception tours 9.30 (26-27 intake)

Thursday 18th December – Nursery last day (Xmas party)

Friday 19th December – New nursery (January) visit and play.

Friday 19th December – School closes 1.30pm

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Collecting Stamps for Hedgehogs!

After half term, we'll be collecting **used postage stamps** to support the **British Hedgehog Preservation Society**. It's a simple way to help a great cause!
Both UK and overseas stamps are welcome—just try to leave about 1cm of paper around each one.

There's a **red collection box** near the front entrance where you can drop them off any time throughout the year.



Important Reminders

- Please book school lunches via ParentPay.
- If you would like to volunteer for Wild Woods or Reading please do let the office know.



Stay Updated!

Keep an eye on our **school website** and **social media pages** for any last-minute changes or additional events.

Website: www.elmtreeschoolandnursery.co.uk

Contact: Office@elm.odbst.org / 01494 771474



SPREADING LOVE THROUGH COMFORT

CHARITY NUMBER 1185739*

PYJAMA

APPEAL!

• WE ARE A COLLECTION POINT •

Donate a brand new pair of pyjamas for a poorly child

Children's Hospital Pyjamas are a UK based charity that collects donations of brand new pyjamas for children aged from newborn to eighteen. These donations are then shared between local hospitals, hospices and women's refuges.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Please donate a brand new pair of pyjamas. Drop them into us. We cannot take used pyjamas.



Scan here to make a donation

HOW?

Bring in a pair of PJ's and we will forward them on your behalf.

WHEN?

From 5th November 2025

To 20th November 2025

WHY?

Because no child wants to be in hospital and if they have to be, they want to be wearing brand new cosy PJ's!



Follow us on our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages to see us delivering your PJ's x

Children's Hospital Pyjamas

@childrenshospitalpyjamas

@CHPyjamaCharity

Thomas Harding



Junior School

OPENDAY 2025

Come and visit our wonderful school

Open Evening

13th 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

18th 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.

Kick start the festive season early this year and bring your family to watch The Muppets Christmas Carol at The Little Theatre, Chesham on 23 November at 2pm???

All profits will go towards Phase 2 of Love Lowndes - we're now raising funds to upgrade the early years playground in Lowndes Park

Here's all you need to know:

WHEN - Sunday 23 November

TIME - 2pm

WHERE - The Little Theatre, Chesham

PRICE - £6

AGE RATING - U

Hot & cold soft drinks, sweets & popcorn

Christmas outfits welcome, & encouraged!



Book your tickets online TODAY as seating is limited.

<https://elgiva.com/muppet-christmas-carol>

*to be purchased on the day



Elmtree's Bedtime Story Event

Wednesday 19th November

3.10-4.10 Collection from classroom doors.

£3 Payment via MCAS

Children can come to school wearing pyjamas

Join our Elmtree Family and Friends (EFF)

We are looking for volunteers to lead our EFF

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 the 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 previous Year 2 children move on. If YOU would like to join our remarkable EFF then please do email the school office or come and see us.

The following roles are open:

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary

We look forward to welcoming you.

PARK AND DRIVE RESPONSIBLY



We kindly ask for your continued support in keeping our school community safe by driving and parking respectfully and responsibly during drop-off and pick-up times.

Please remember to follow all road rules, avoid blocking driveways, and be mindful of local residents who live near the school. Most importantly, always prioritise the safety of our children by parking only in designated areas and avoiding stopping on or near pedestrian crossings or zigzag lines. We want to keep our children and families safe.

Some reminders:

- Do not mount the pavement (our school signs are placed there to avoid this)
- Do not perform U-turns
- Do not double park/ block resident's exits or pathways (we have residents, staff and children with disabilities who need access at all times)
- Do not leave engines running (we want our children to breathe in fresh air outside our school)
- Walk with your child on the pavements

Even better if you can walk, scoot or cycle to school!

Your cooperation helps ensure a safe and considerate environment for everyone. Thank you for doing your part to support our school and local community.





Chartwells

So much more than fantastic food

Dear Parent / Guardian,

****Meal Ordering & Cancellations****

Please see ordering timetable below.

All orders will need to be completed by midnight Sunday one week prior to the actual consumption week. Please see below

Sickness - The parent needs to call the Chartwells Customer Care Line on 07818 944478 before 9am every day of the child's sickness. A credit is given from the second day onwards.

School trips and other cancellations – 48 hours' notice before 9am prior to the event, the parent needs to call the Chartwells Customer Care Line for the meal to be cancelled and a credit given.

For all other enquires please email creativekitchenadmin2@compass-group.co.uk

DEADLINE TO PLACE ORDER	FOR WEEK COMMENCING
SUNDAY 26 th October 2025	MONDAY 3 rd November 2025
SUNDAY 2 nd November 2025	MONDAY 10 th November 2025
SUNDAY 9 th November 2025	MONDAY 17 th November 2025
SUNDAY 16 th November 2025	MONDAY 24 th November 2025
SUNDAY 23 rd November 2025	MONDAY 1 st December 2025
SUNDAY 30 th November 2025	MONDAY 8 th December 2025
SUNDAY 7 th December 2025	MONDAY 15 th December 2025
SUNDAY 28 th December 2025	MONDAY 5 th January 2026
SUNDAY 4 th January 2026	MONDAY 12 th January 2026
SUNDAY 11 th January 2026	MONDAY 19 th January 2026
SUNDAY 18 th January 2026	MONDAY 26 th January 2026
Sunday 25 th January 2026	MONDAY 2 nd February 2026