



Ellingham Primary School

Monday 1st October 2018



Growing 'Team Ellingham'



Last week was a busy week for the school's wider community. Volunteers started supporting in classes, the governors had their first meeting, Mrs Fairweather held the first Parent/Carer Forum of the year and Chessington School hosted the grand opening of the wonderful shared sensory garden which is located underneath the large oak tree on the edge of our playground. All of these events symbolise the coming together of different stakeholders interested in making a contribution to our community; wanting the best for the children at Ellingham. These collaborations are extremely important as they increase our capacity to strengthen the school and provide us with role models for the children who embody our vision that each Ellingham child will become a responsible citizen who makes a positive contribution to society. We are extremely grateful for all the support as the school goes from strength to strength. If you are interested in volunteering for one of these roles, please see below.

Dates for the Autumn Term:



Mon 1st Oct	Y6 Cake Sale
Thur 4th Oct	Friends of Ellingham AGM – 7.30pm
Mon 8th Oct	Y5 Fundraising Week (cake sale)
Wed 10th Oct	Y1 Build-a-bear trip
Wed 17th Oct	Parent Book Look/Meet the teacher
Thur 18th Oct	Y5 Class Assembly
Fri 19th Oct	Friends of Ellingham (FoE) Spooky Disco
Mon 22nd Oct	Autumn Half Term Week
Mon 29th Oct	INSET DAY
Fri 2nd Nov	Mufti Day - Toiletries
Thur 8th Nov	New to Reception Open Evening –7.30pm
Wed 14th Nov	Parent/Carer Teacher Consultations
Thur 15th Nov	Parent/Carer Teacher Consultations
Tues 20th Nov	New to Reception Tours (am)
Thur 22nd Nov	New to Reception Tours (am)

Co-opted Governors Needed



We are looking for 3 community/co-opted governors. Do you have skills which might strengthen our team? Read on if you, or someone you know, might be interested in becoming a governor.

What is the role of a School Governor?

Governors work as a corporate team to promote high standards and they are responsible for ensuring the school provides a good quality education. The Ellingham governing body has a strong focus on:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

As a co-opted governor you would offer the school skills that will assist them in achieving these functions. We are looking for commitment, enthusiasm and a contribution of your time to this rewarding role. Training will be provided.

If you are interested in becoming a co-opted governor at Ellingham, please visit www.governorsforschools.org.uk and complete an application form **before October 19th 2018**.

For any other enquiries, contact Zoe Gallimore (Chair of Governors) zgallimore.314@elp.rbksch.org or the School Governor Support Team at Guildhall lyn.barnes@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Are you organised and a good communicator? Friends of Ellingham Need You!



Friends of Ellingham do an amazing job supporting the school running fundraising events across the year. The bigger the team, the less each individual person has to do! FoE is still looking for Class Reps for years 1, 2, 4 & 6. This role involves organising the annual cake sale for your class, supporting the FoE chairs with communication and rallying a team to run an allocated stall at both the Christmas and Summer Fairs. Find a friend and share the job! Interested? Come along to the AGM and speak to one of our chairs.



IMPORTANT
Reading Workshop Re-scheduled



We are delighted to have been able to invite a visitor from Hook library to contribute to our Reading Workshop this term. To accommodate her availability we have rescheduled the date **to Thursday 22nd November at 3.30pm**. In the meantime, take a look at our **Family Reading Booklet** and the **Colour Coded Scheme Guide** on the school website. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Handy Tips for getting your Child to Talk about their Reading

Keep it simple - introduce 'Tell me' questions:



'Tell me, what you **liked** about the character/story/picture'

'Tell me, was there anything you **disliked** about the story?'

'Tell me, was there anything that **puzzled** you about the story?'

'Tell me, what **connections** you can make to anything else (your life/other stories/people you know)'

'Tell me, what **patterns** you notice'

Quick Notices and Polite Reminders



Warm Coats – Please make sure that your children bring a warm coat to school. Morning breaks are getting chilly as the autumn weather cools the air.

Lost Property – Please make sure all your child's belongings are clearly named. The lost property box beside the school office is beginning to fill up! We now have Lost Property Monitors who will be working with the office to return named items quickly.

Parent/Carer Forum – Thank you to all the parents and carers who came to the meeting on Friday. It was our biggest turnout yet! We really value your views and enjoy hearing how we can improve further.

Stamina and Strength – Research has been done by Loughborough University that makes the link between exercise, sleep and children's progress. This term your children will be challenged to build their stamina and strength during their PE lessons. The coaches will be getting them to run for extended periods, set themselves targets and beat their personal best. Please support us with this. Children will be expected to complete the challenge and may well have a few aching muscles as they push themselves to grow stronger and fitter. Healthy bodies support healthy minds.



Let's Capture Autumn!



It has come to our attention that we have some budding photographers in our midst. This week we would like all the children to look around their environment and take photographs that capture 'evidence of autumn'. This might be a tree dropping its leaves or leaves changing colour. It might be the late afternoon sun or the heavy mist of an early morning. We want to celebrate the change of season from a child's perspective and put together a series of photographs that can be shared in assembly next week.

Please encourage your children to look around them and notice how the season is changing. Get them to take a photograph and then send it to the school office, entitled 'Mrs Fairweather's Assembly'. Please make sure the email clearly states your child's name, class and any comments they made at the time.

Homework

Thank you for all the positive feedback on the new homework system. Please be aware that children will **not** be receiving paper copies of the work unless you make a request for a hard copy from the school office. Homework will be emailed out on a Wednesday; a text will be sent to remind you to look at your emails. We are also making arrangements to have the homework on the website in the future. Watch this space for updates.



House Point Update



Emerald – 280 points

Ruby – 190 points

Sapphire – 125 points

Topaz – 110 points