



Dates for the diary:

Thursday 1st April: Last day of term – one hour earlier pick up

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| Nursery pm: | 2.15 |
| Reception: | 2.05 |
| Year 1: | 2.05 |
| Year 2: | 2.00 |
| Year 3: | 2.05 |
| Year 4: | 2.10 |
| Year 5: | 2.05 |
| Year 6: | 2.10 |

Summer term starts:

Monday 19th April: Term starts

Half-term:

Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June

INSET day: Monday 7th June

Summer term ends:

Friday 23rd July: Term ends

PLEASE PARK CONSIDERATELY

Please walk your child to and from school when possible. There have been a couple of complaints about cars being parked in front of our neighbours' drives and dangerously on yellow lines on the junction of roads.

A successful return to school

Two weeks completed and the children have settled well into classroom life. They are so happy to be in school, learning with their classmates and having direct access to their teachers. It has done wonders for their well-being and mental health just being back to some sort of normality. School staff are loving having them back even though it did require an adjustment to the noise level!

Thank you so much for the help and support you have given your children during lockdown. Your commitment to get them to engage and complete work means that they have retained the skills and knowledge they need to access learning and they are ready to progress through the curriculum at a steady pace.

We were ambitious for Ellingham children with a two-pronged approach that focused on sustaining education, particularly in English, maths and science, balanced with ensuring that everyone's well-being was monitored and addressed. We are delighted that it appears to have paid off in almost all cases.



Breaktime – first day back



PLEASE be on Time for Learning

Gates open at 8.30 to reduce crowding and everyone should be in by 8.40. Year 2, 3 and 5 go into class at 8.35 and Reception, Year 1, 4 and 5 go to class at 8.40.

Gates Open

08.30

While these are exceptional times and there are always exceptional occurrences, regularly arriving beyond these times is incredibly disruptive for the children, who often feel embarrassed about being late and miss the first part of learning, and also for the running of the school.

If you need support with getting your children ready on time, we are always willing to help.

Lunches and Snacks

The 'Feeding Hungry minds' lunch booking system is ready to take your orders. In order for us to plan effectively, could you please sign up for lunches using the online booking system

<https://parents.feedinghungryminds.co.uk/login>.

If you are providing a lunch box, please ensure that there are no sweets included. Up until year 2, school provides a piece of fruit for breaktime. From Year 3 to 6, you can supply a piece of fruit to ensure that children have enough energy for the morning.

During this time of coronavirus and keeping children safe it is really important that they have access to their own water bottle. Please ensure that it is labelled.



Drop off and Pick up

We have reinstated the barriers at Harrow Close entrance after our battle with the high winds last week. Thank you for your patience and sensible approach to our temporary solution.

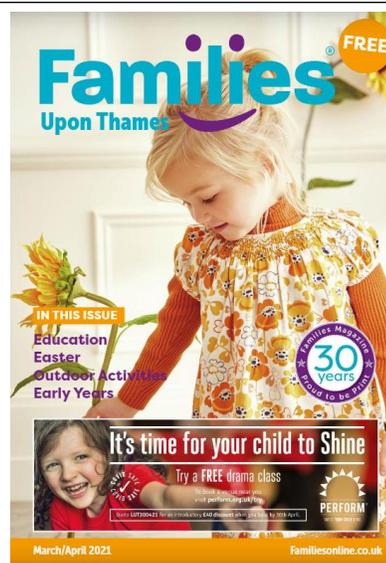
Please continue to wear a mask and maintain distancing when waiting for the gates to open.

Arrive as close to your allocated time as possible to avoid crowding.

Please walk where possible and avoid dropping off in the road.

No Poppits in School

Children should not bring Poppits toys into school. They are noisy and distracting in class. If your child needs a fidget toy, the school will provide an appropriate one that allows all children to learn without disruption.



Click on the [link](#) to the latest digital issue of [Families Upon Thames Magazine Mar/Apr 2021](#).

ELLINGHAM CELEBRATES COMIC RELIEF



St Patrick's Day

Wednesday was St Patrick's day and celebrated by a number of our children. We discussed it in assembly and were delighted to hear about the many traditions that are part of the celebration. Thanks to Alexis in 6W for informing us that the shamrock is lucky, green is the colour to wear for celebration and she explained that the festival to celebrate the patron saint of Ireland includes parties, yummy cakes and balloons.

Alexis is pictured with a drawing of the lucky shamrock and some Irish Euros.





LEARNING TOGETHER

FLYING HIGH IN YEAR 5

Year 5 spent a recent afternoon revising everything they had learnt during the lockdown, by creating and participating in a forces investigation. Both classes worked really well as a team to test which material and what size of material would make the best parachute for a toy figure - not a human!

ENTER ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS COMPETITION

The school has been registered to take part in an art competition facilitated by the Royal Academy. The children who wish to take part can submit their works from home following the instructions below.

The Young Artists' Summer Show Royal Academy of Arts, London



How does it work?

Our school has been registered!
It is **FREE** and an open submission exhibition.

Each child can submit **up to three** artworks of any type and there is **no theme**. When you enter, they will ask for images of your artwork plus some information about the piece such as title, size, and a little text about the artwork and why you made it.

Who can take part?

Children aged 5 to 19 can take part.

What type of artwork can I submit?

Artworks can be made of any materials; anything from a **painting, sculpture, photograph, installation or video piece**. There is no theme so artworks can be of any subject.

How do I submit my artworks?

Submitting artwork is completely **free** and done **online**. The school registers and then you can create an account and submit your artworks.



Key dates

Artworks must be submitted online to the Academy by Monday 26th April

Judging will take place in May
Online and onsite exhibitions open 11 July

CALLING ALL ARTISTS



How is it judged?

Artworks are judged by a panel of artists & arts professionals. When the judges make their selections, they choose which artworks will be shown online and which will be shown at the Royal Academy. Prizes are awarded each year for two inspiring artists from each key stage, as chosen by the President of the Royal Academy.

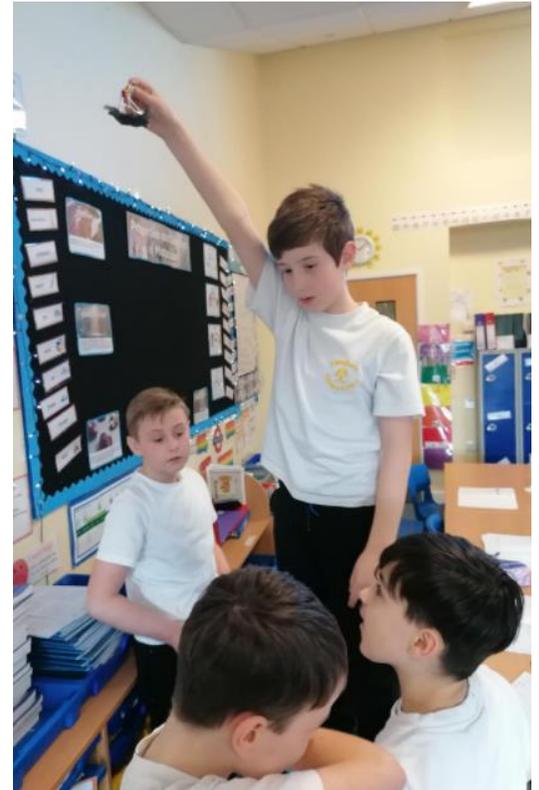


Please keep your artworks safe. If your artwork is selected for the on-site exhibition, the Royal Academy of Arts will be in touch.

Take a look at the artworks of last year's prize winners for some inspiration:

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibitions/2020/galleries/7>

The judges are looking for artworks that are original and illustrate the young artists' imagination, creativity and skill.





LEARNING TOGETHER



TASTY RE

Year 3 experienced the flavours of Jewish celebration foods - dipping apple into honey and nibbling pomegranate.



A TRIP TO THE MUSEUM

A virtual trip to the British Museum allowed Year 3 to explore the treasures of Ancient Greece.



MARSHMALLOW MATHS

Year 2 got to grips with 3D shapes in maths by creating them with spaghetti and marshmallows. How tempting!



Making Blood

Year 6 spent their science lesson learning about and creating their pots of blood using Cheerios and food colouring.



Communication from No 10

Year 6 wrote to Boris Johnson at the end of last half term as part of our Geography topic on biomes. We wanted to let the Prime Minister know about the threat to habitats in the UK and what we need to do to prevent climate change.

This week, we had a reply from one of Boris Johnson's team, thanking us for the letters and explaining what the government are doing to help the environment and the biomes we live in.

