



ELTHAM
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL
SINCE 1814



Autumn term Newsletter

December 2024

MESSAGE FROM MR WILLS

Dear Eltham Family,

I can hardly believe we are at the end of 2024! It has been a packed Autumn Term with so many wonderful successes to celebrate. Thank you for your continued support with all we do to ensure your children get the very best during their time with us. It has also been a particularly difficult term as we remember Chisimdi, who we lost back in August. We continue to pray for his family especially at this time of year and remain grateful to God for the blessing Chisimdi was to us.

Thank you for all for your attendance at the Carol Service on Tuesday and the nativities – they really were fantastic times together. From the amazing singing from the choir (Many thanks again to Madame Edwards and Miss Fryer for all they do!), to the narrating, reading, praying, acting and yet more singing – the children were just brilliant! To Mrs Griffiths and her team for the EYFS creative Christmas crafts and beautiful singing too! All events with such special memories!

Many, MANY thanks to all the staff team – whether they work in the classrooms, office, kitchen, and of course, not forgetting Mr Curtis. The team's commitment and dedication to the children's learning is clear to see and makes us the school we are proud of. The adults all got an extended applause and three cheers in our candle-lit collective worship this morning – it was a special moment!

During the holiday, the school office will also be closed. If you need to contact the school, please email office@elthamce.greenwich.sch.uk. If you have concerns regarding the safety of a child, please contact the Greenwich MASH team on 020 8921 3172 or email: mash-referrals@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Please remember that there is no Inset day in January.
Children start back on Monday 6th January.

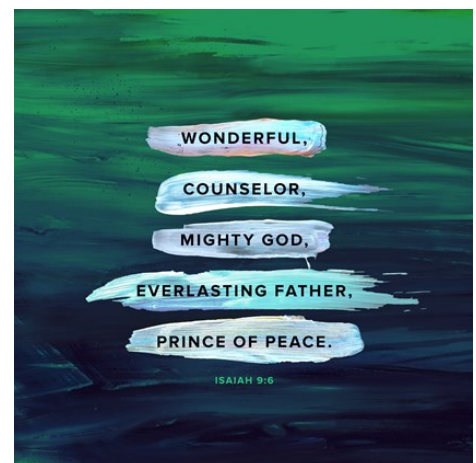
Phonics workshops – we will be running phonics workshops on Tuesday 7th January and Thursday 9th January. These are essential for enabling you to support your child with phonics at home. Please book a slot using the link sent within Parentmail.

Finally, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and God's richest blessings for 2025.

Matthew Wills
Headteacher

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MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

ABSENCE

Please report any absence either by phone or email to: absence@elthamce.greenwich.sch.uk. You must give a reason for the absence and let the school know daily if your child is off.

CONTACT DETAILS

A reminder to update us with any changes to your contact details i.e. address, phone number, emergency contact details. It is imperative that we have the correct information.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

After school clubs can only be booked via ParentMail. Places are limited and are sold on a first come, first served basis. Parents are allowed to book a maximum of 2 clubs per child. If parents book more than 2 clubs per child, we reserve the right to withdraw your child from all clubs and refund your payment. If a club is under-subscribed it may be cancelled and your payments will be returned. Booking opens on 28th December at 6pm and it will close on 7th January at 6pm. Clubs will run for ten weeks from 3.30-4.30pm, beginning W/C Monday 13th January 2025. *Please see the after school clubs timetable on page 3.*

PIANO LESSONS

Please contact the school office if you are interested in your child having piano lessons.

THANK YOU

A huge thank you for all of the gifts received by staff across the school, it is really appreciated. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We would also like to say a big thank you to the PTA for everything you have done this year. Thank you for organising the Christmas Fair and for all of the fundraising that you have done — every penny has made a difference!

POPPY APPEAL

This year's grand total was £774.91. Thank you for your donations.

XMAS4SCHOOLS

You have raised £329 through Christmas cards—thank you!

WELL-BEING NEWSLETTER

Please find attached the Autumn Well-being Newsletter.

SAFEGUARDING

If you are concerned about a child's safety or wellbeing or you want help to look after your own child, you should contact Children's Services at Royal Borough of Greenwich. If a child is in immediate danger, you should always call the police on 999. Anyone who is concerned about a child's safety or wellbeing can contact us using the details below: Contact MASH Referral team: Telephone: 020 8921 3172 Email: mash-referrals@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

UPCOMING DATES

- Children return to school - Monday 6th January 2025
- Staff Inset Day - Friday 14th February 2025 [no children in school]
- Half-term Holiday - Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2025
- Term Time - Monday 24 February to Friday 4 April 2025
- Easter Holiday - Monday 7 April to Monday 21 April 2025

Please see page 9 for further details of school term dates and Inset Days.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS TIMETABLE

DAY	CLUB	TUTORS	YEAR GROUPS	COST
Monday	Musical theatre	Coach Kerri	1,2,3,	£32
Monday	Football	Mr Mustafa	5&6	£40
Monday	Textiles	Mrs Malia	5&6	£45
Monday	Basketball	Coach Angela	3	£40
Tuesday	Football	Mr Mustafa	3&4	£40
Tuesday	Lego build-	Mrs Malia	1&2	£40
Tuesday	Dance and fitness	Coach Kerri 9WKS	4,5&6	£36
Tuesday	Basketball	Coach Angela	4,5&6	£40
Tuesday	Girls football	Miss Feeney	3,4,5,6	£40
Wednesday	Football	Coach Vilman	1&2	£40
Wednesday	Cricket	Coach Graeme	3,4,5&6	£40
Thursday	Netball 8.15-8.55 AM	Coach Gill	5&6	£30
Thursday	Multisports	Miss Million	2,3,4,5,6	£40
Thursday	Judo	Coach Laurence	4,5,6	Yearly fee
Thursday	Book club	Miss Page	4,5,6	£40



SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM THE PTA

Wow! What a busy half term it's been.

It started off with pyjama day, something a little bit different for the kids AND the teachers! In exchange for wearing pyjamas, children brought in donations and wow! There were a lot of donations! It is fair to say, we were absolutely blown away by your generosity. Thank you!

All the donations given helped the PTA put together over 3,000 gifts for the annual Christmas Shop. This wonderful event, a favourite of most PTA members, really highlights what kind and thoughtful children we have at the school, excitedly choosing presents for their families and maybe one, or two items for themselves! We hope you enjoy opening the gifts on Christmas Day!

The Christmas Fair was a great way to kick start the countdown to Christmas. With a return of the giant bouncy castle snow globe, an incredible Wonka themed grotto and more beautiful singing from the school choir, we're sure that everyone went home feeling very festive (and possibly full of sweets!)

We want to say thank you to every parent and staff member who volunteered - without you, it would not have been possible.

Thank you to Father Christmas who managed to meet lots of our children while he was looking after Willy Wonka's chocolate factory! After a magical performance, we are excited to see what fun adventures he'll get up at the next Christmas fair! He's been to Narnia, he has visited a chocolate factory....

Finally, as always, thank you to CKB (our fair sponsor) who not only gave money per board outside parents houses, but also provided the main cash prize £100 for the raffle which was drawn this week.

We try to organise events that bring happiness to our children and use the money raised to help enrich our children's school experience, so we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support. The PTA volunteers work so hard behind the scenes and we really do appreciate the support from all of you to make our efforts worthwhile.

If you would like to get in touch, please email us on ElthamCofEPTA@gmail.com and one of the team will get back to you.

Happy Christmas and have a great 2025!



ATTENDANCE FOR AUTUMN 2 TERM

At Eltham Church of England Primary School we continue to promote and celebrate good attendance and punctuality. Not only is good attendance beneficial to pupils' achievements it is also an excellent 'life skill'.

We use the Royal Borough of Greenwich's Attendance Advisory Service to monitor and support our management of pupil attendance.

Under Fast Track, families will be informed when their child's attendance has crossed the threshold, even when all absences have been correctly documented and understood. If a child's attendance continues to decline and gives the Attendance Advisory Officer a cause for concern, then a meeting between the school, the parents and the advisory service is convened.

The school's target is to ensure that whole school attendance is consistently above 97% and better still above 97.5%

Can we remind parents that all absences and appointments need to be supported with a written letter, or appointment card, outlining the reason for the absence as soon as your child returns to school.

Also, that **all** holiday will be recorded as unauthorised, however a child's overall attendance will be taken into account when consideration is given to the Fast Track procedures.

Class Attendance since September 2024

Corbett	96.3
North	96.9
Bek	94.6
Mills	97.4
Archery	96.6
Tarn	97.2
Sherard	96.1
Shaw-Brooke	97.0
Nesbit	97.4
Gregory	97.7
Chaucer	97.5
WG Grace	96.2
Roper	96.8
Avery	96.6
TOTAL	96.7

WHAT'S NEW FROM FRENCH



FRENCH

I have been so impressed with the enthusiasm shown by children in their language learning this term. We have tackled some pretty challenging concepts in many classes, but the children have tackled each one with determination and resilience. Year 6 children, for example, grappled with how to form negative phrases (you need to place "ne" before the verb and "pas" after the verb).

Such challenges enabled the Year 6 children to have the confidence to travel to Arras, Northern France, on 5th December. We left school extremely early, travelling by coach and Eurotunnel, to arrive at our first destination by mid-morning. The Wellington Quarry is an underground museum of tunnels used to gain an advantage for the Allied troops in the First World War. The children learnt about life for the soldiers in the tunnels and were able to share their own learning with the French guides. Our second stop was the Canadian National Vimy Memorial where children learnt about other countries' actions in the War and how the country remembers their citizens who lost their lives. Our third and final stop was the Christmas Market in Arras. The crêpe stall was the most popular, although there were many other crafts, gifts and food stalls available too. The children impressed the stallholders with their manners and their ability to ask for things in French - well done Year 6. We arrived home in the evening tired, but with many wonderful memories to cherish for years to come.

Please encourage your children to log on to www.linguascope.com during the holidays. (Username: elthamps Password: Has been shared with children.)

Joyeux Noël!
Madame Edwards



WHAT'S NEW FROM HOPE CLASS



THIS IS ME and FESTIVALS

What a great start the children in Hope class have made on their school journey. I can't believe it is only 3 and a half months ago they tentatively walked through Nursery's door, now they are so confident and settled.

In our first half term, our topic was 'This is Me'. As part of our studies, we brought in pictures of our families and shared them with our friends, we painted self-portraits, and learnt all about our senses. We read 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell, and learnt that families come in different shapes and sizes. In our second half term, our topic was 'Festivals'. We started November by learning about Bonfire night and how to stay safe around fireworks. We also learnt about the festival of Diwali, the Hindu festival of light, and made divas out of clay. On the 11th November, our thoughts turned to Remembrance Day and we prayed for all those affected by war. We made a beautiful window collage out of tissue paper and sticky-back plastic. Please make sure you have a look at it when you pick up your children. Since the start of December, we have been busy preparing for Christmas. We have transformed our role play area into Santa's Workshop, complete with a sleigh. We have enjoyed filling Santa's sack with presents and then placing them under the tree. Last week, we thoroughly enjoyed performing our Nativity story to you all. We have also been busy in different areas of the curriculum. In maths, we learnt about patterns and painted stripy bunting. We also practised counting to 5 and beyond, and learnt how to use a number line. In our outdoor area we have had fun developing different types of movements using the scooters, tricycles and climbing equipment. We have traversed different obstacle courses and developed our sense of balance.

I hope you and your children have a truly blessed Christmas and take some time to relax and recover after a wonderful term. See you in January!

The Nursery Team



WHAT'S NEW FROM RECEPTION



AUTUMN TERM

Wow! What a busy first term for our pupils in North and Corbett Class. We are so proud of the way the children have settled into the daily routines of a reception class. They are independent in the daily routines such as storing their water bottles, hanging their coats and putting their book bags in the correct box. We are very pleased with the development of the children's social skills. As you can see from the Tapestry pictures, they play collaboratively, share the resources and are good at taking turns. We have some very creative children, with some lovely art work on display such as the leopards, their portraits and some lovely sparkly fish.

Alongside our daily learning, we have had two very exciting theme days. In October, the children dressed as doctors and nurses for Eltham Hospital. We witnessed some imaginative role play and it was lovely to watch the children take turns as doctors and patients. In November, it was Pirate Day! All the activities centred around pirates such as treasure hunting, making maps and scrubbing the decks of the make-believe pirate ship. Also, in November, both classes had the opportunity to visit the local fire station. They dressed as firefighters, learned to hold the hose and climbed aboard the fire trucks. On all occasions, the children really embraced the experience and great fun was had by all.

To finish our term, the children performed a nativity story for their parents. The children loved dressing up for the special Christmas story and they sang with great enthusiasm, despite it being quite a daunting experience, being on stage in front of lots of adults along with Mr Wills and Reverend Caroline.

The EYFS Team would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and to thank you for your support this term.

The Reception Team



WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 1



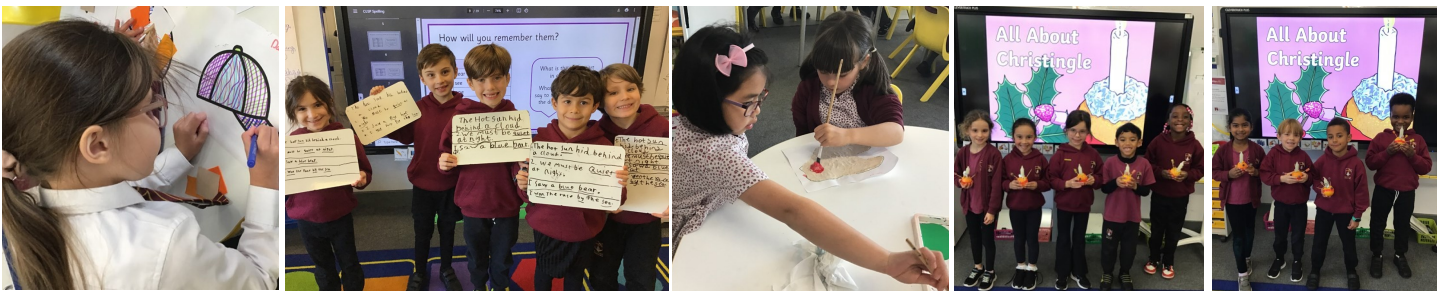
YEAR 1

We have been really proud of how Year 1 have settled this term. The transition from Reception to Year 1 can be quite challenging, but Year 1 have taken it in their stride. We have enjoyed learning lots of different subjects over the term and have worked really hard. In DT, we enjoyed making sliders and created a slider for Humpty Dumpty to sit on the wall. In Literacy, we enjoyed reading Farmer Duck and looking at different traditional tales including The Princess and the Pea by Rachel Isadora and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We liked making and eating porridge to help us write instructions. We designed our own prince or princess and used adjectives to describe them. Over the past few weeks, we have been working really hard to learn our songs and the actions for the Nativity performance. What a fantastic choir Year 1 made!

We are looking forward to continuing our learning in the Spring term. We hope you have a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year.

The Year 1 Team

WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 2



YEAR 2

Year 2 have been working incredibly hard this term! Most recently, they have been practicing for their Nativity performance, which they performed to their parents and carers on the 11th and 12th of December. We were so impressed with their amazing singing and acting! We have also been working hard in our Literacy lessons, focusing on 'The Emperor's Egg' where the children wrote a diary entry as Daddy Penguin. They have also explored lots of different 2D and 3D shapes and have had lots of practice of addition and subtraction. Though there have been some challenging lessons, Year 2 showed great perseverance. The children have also enjoyed some wonderful History, Geography and Science lessons, learning all about The Great Fire of London, our local environment and all about exercise and food! As part of our History topic, we visited Creekside Discovery Centre where Archery and Tarn class had a chance to bake bread, light fires and complete a treasure hunt! They all really enjoyed this trip that was very kindly funded by the PTA.

We hope you all have restful Christmas Break and thank you for your continued support!

The Year 2 Team



WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 3



YEAR 3

As we wrap up this term, we are thrilled to share the incredible progress and achievements of our Year 3 students. They have worked incredibly hard, and we are all very proud of their dedication and enthusiasm. The children have shown remarkable growth in their literacy skills, especially with their character descriptions of Willy Wonka, showcasing their creativity and detail. They have taken on the challenges of Mathematics with determination, tackling various topics with enthusiasm and resilience. In History, their extensive vocabulary and ability to describe the Stone Age have been impressive, making learning about this period an exciting journey. In DT, they have learned about levers and linkages, creating their own catapults, which they enthusiastically tested in the corridor. As we approach the festive season, we extend our warmest wishes to all our families for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with joy and happiness.

From the entire Year 3 team: Miss Linge, Miss Page, Miss Freeman, Mrs Smith, Mrs Leung & Mr Mustafa.

WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 4



YEAR 4

We wanted to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful learning and growth the children have experienced. It has been a pleasure to watch them settle into their new roles as members of the upstairs classrooms, and they have impressed us with their maturity and enthusiasm.

This term, we've been exploring the Anglo-Saxons, and the children have shown great interest in learning about the Heptarchy, the seven kingdoms that made up Anglo-Saxon England. They were particularly fascinated by the Sutton Hoo burial site and the incredible artefacts discovered there, including jewels and pottery from as far as India. This has provided them with a deeper understanding of the wealth and culture of the time.

In Science, we have been studying States of Matter. The children have enjoyed conducting experiments, such as exploring the relationship between mass and volume using a block of cheese and a metal nut. We also tested the melting point of butter using thermometers, which was a hands-on way for the children to apply their scientific knowledge.

In PE, we have been developing our tennis skills. We have focused on mastering the four key shots: fore-hand, backhand, serve, and volley. The children have worked hard on their accuracy and control, and it has been wonderful to see their improvement as they continue to practice their technique.

Next term, we will be focusing on multiplication and division in Maths, studying animals including humans in Science, and exploring textiles and printmaking in Art. In Geography, we will be learning about the water cycle, and we look forward to diving into these exciting topics.

The Year 4 Team



WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 5



YEAR 5

Year 5 have had a busy Autumn Term and did amazingly well in their assessments and we are extremely proud of the progress they are making. In Art, have focussed on drawing and painting in the style of Friedensreich Hundertwasser and printmaking, specifically reduction printing. We have been developing our skills in annotating our art work and studying artists including Andy Warhol. We are fascinated with the Ancient Greeks and have thoroughly enjoyed our research in this area. It is clear to see the enthusiasm across the year group for this subject. The children also enjoyed the Ancient Greek Workshop and dressing up for our Greek Day! During our DT Cooking unit, we made a delicious vegetable pasta. All the children enjoyed taking part in the sessions and there are definitely some budding young chefs in Year 5! In Music we have been looking at the genre of gospel and learning how to harmonise. We also sang sea shanties which helped develop our rhythm skills using cups for percussion. In Maths, we have focussed on place value, multiplication and division and fractions. The children have showed great resilience in the concept of fractions and have been challenged by equivalence and fraction calculations. In our writing lessons, we enjoyed learning about Aesop and wrote our own fables based on 'The Hare and The Tortoise'. We also wrote a persuasive leaflet about visiting Greece. The children tried hard to use a range of persuasive linguistic features such as: alliteration, rhetorical questions, groups of three, direct address of the reader and exaggerated language. Next half term, we will be learning about the Maya Civilisation in History and grid references in Geography as part our new CUSP curriculum. We will also be learning about forces in Science and textiles/collage in Art, among many other things. We would also like to say thank you for your very generous Christmas gifts and we hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Mrs Bailey, Mr Tibbert, Miss Fryer, Mrs Cunningham, Miss Wilkins, Mrs Debenham

WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 6



YEAR 6

What a wonderful term in Year 6, with children not only working hard and achieving in the traditional academic subjects but also throwing themselves into wonderful new experiences. This includes skateboarding with a professional skateboarding coach, and the fantastic trip to Arras in France during which children learnt so much about the locality, the war and even got to use their French skills in real life - ordering and paying for food, gifts and rides. Their manners were impeccable and they did the school and themselves proud.

Some academic highlights:

In writing, children have wowed us with their creativity and expression, including bringing their knowledge of History (we have been studying the Second World War) into their works to write lovely complex sentences. In Reading, children have dived into *The Boy in the Tower*, a gripping book about a young boy who tries to survive in a city plagued by strange creatures. Will he escape the tower? We are so proud of our Year 6 children and the example they set to the rest of the school. This includes acts of service, such as when some of our children planted flowers in the gardens of St John the Baptist Church, which we will continue to look after for the benefit the Church community and the whole of Eltham.

We are very excited about our return in January, where we will move on to new and exciting challenges.

Wishing you have a very merry Christmas,
Mr Williams, Ms Feeney and the whole Y6 team.



SCHOOL TERM DATES 2024 / 2025

Spring Term

Term time:

Monday 6 January to Friday 14 February 2025

Staff Inset Days:

Friday 14 February 2025
[no children in school on this day]

Half-term holiday:

Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2025

Term time:

Monday 24 February to Friday 4 April 2025

Easter holiday:

Monday 7 April to Monday 21 April 2025

Summer Term

Term time:

Tuesday 22 April to Friday 23 May 2025
(except May Day bank holiday on 5 May 2025)

Half-term holiday:

Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2025 (Spring bank holiday on 26 May)

Term time:

Monday 2 June to Tuesday 22 July 2025

Staff Inset Days:

Friday 13 June 2025
[no children in school on this day]

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2025/2026

(INSET dates TBC)

Autumn Term

Term time:

Monday 1 September to Friday 24 October 2025

Half-term holiday:

Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October 2025

Term time:

Monday 3 November to Friday 19 December 2025

Christmas and New Year holiday:

Monday 22 December 2025 to Friday 2 January 2026

Spring Term

Term time:

Monday 5 January to Friday 13 February 2026

Half-term holiday:

Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February 2026

Term time:

Monday 23 February to Friday 27 March 2026

Easter holiday:

Monday 30 March to Friday 10 April 2026

Summer Term

Term time:

Monday 13 April to Friday 22 May 2026
(except May Day bank holiday on 4 May 2026)

Half-term holiday:

Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May 2026
(spring bank holiday on 25 May)

Term time:

Monday 1 June to Monday 20 July 2026

