



Ellingham CE Primary School

Friday Flyer

10.07.26

Executive Headteacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

This will be our final Friday Flyer of the year, and my final one.

Writing this down now is the only way I can guarantee the words will actually make it out, as I know I will be far too choked up to say them to you in person by the end of next week.

After 39 wonderful years in teaching (27 at Ellingham)—and 18 incredible years as a headteacher—the time has come for me to retire.

I can say with absolute certainty that I have loved my job. I have always been at my absolute happiest when teaching children, and it has been the privilege of a lifetime to do so here. Ellingham is such a special place to work, nestled within a deeply supportive, close-knit rural community of wonderful families. It is, quite truly, a very hard place to leave.

An exceptional school relies on an exceptional team, and I have been blessed with the very best. To our teachers, support staff, governors, vicars and volunteers, now and over the years: thank you. You are an amazing team who constantly look out for one another and consistently go far above and beyond what is written in any role or job description.

To our pupils: thank you for making every single day different, fun, and thoroughly rewarding. You are the heart of Ellingham!

Of course, over nearly four decades in education, there have been a very few, extremely challenging times. But if my career has taught me anything, it is that absolutely anything is surmountable when you have brilliant support around you. Thank you all for choosing to be on this incredible journey together.

While my heart is heavy to leave, I am also incredibly excited about the future. I am looking forward to dedicated time with my family, especially my tiny, new granddaughter. I am also eager to stretch my legs and travel—and I must admit, I am particularly thrilled about traveling *outside* of term time. I fully intend to save a fortune!

While I will miss seeing your faces every week, you will be in my thoughts as I set off on adventures in my little motorhome.



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Because Ellingham is so incredibly hard to walk away from, I've found a way to keep one foot in the door. I am delighted to share with you that I will actually be returning to school on a half-termly basis next year, in the role of link tutor for our student teacher, Miss Chataway.

So, you see, this isn't a final goodbye at all. It is simply a huge, heartfelt thank you, and a very fond *À bientôt.*

With my warmest wishes and deepest gratitude,

Diane Lakey



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Attendance

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Splash	100	94.8
Space Base	100	95.2
Earth Works	100	90.9
Time Zone	85.7	92.9

Did you know? Each pupil has 175 non-school days a year to spend however they like. The table below shows the significant impact of absence over time.

Days of school add up to lost learning						
Days in school	190	186	180	175	171	170
Percentage attendance	100%	98%	95%	92%	90%	<90%
	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Caution	Cause for concern	Serious concern

Absence Procedures If your child is ill, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. Please notify us by phone call or email before 9.15am if your child is to be absent, and continue to inform us on a daily basis if they continue to be ill.

We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.55am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities which take place immediately after registration, such as phonics.

What are the risks of missing a day of school?

'Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development. Pupils with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE results. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.' The Education Hub - Department for Education



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Splash Class

This week, we have stayed cool and calm in so many different ways. We practised some mindful breathing with our teddies, enjoyed more of our strawberry harvest, made cheerio necklaces and ate them, enjoyed all the beautiful nature around us and chilled out in our cool shady forest. We also had a lot of water play outdoors and had a lot of fun. On Tuesday, we held our sports day, where your children were absolutely wonderful. They all did their very best, and were wonderfully supportive of each other. We were so proud of their excellent attitudes to sport and life. What a super way to finish our school year!





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Space Base Class

This week, Space Base competed against each other for sports day! The children absolutely loved it and showed great sportsmanship, no matter where they were placed. We even had a special guest appearance from Jordan Pickford for the penalty shootout!

In Maths, Year 2 have been learning about time, whereas Year 1 have been looking at place value to 100. The children have thoroughly enjoyed these topics.

Later in the week, we had a special birthday. The children ate lots of cake to celebrate, alongside singing happy birthday!





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Key Stage Two: Time Zone and Earth Works

I have had a wonderful first week back after maternity leave, it has been excellent being back with the children - I have missed them a lot! The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in Sports Day, showing great teamwork, determination and enthusiasm throughout the events. Throughout the week, the children have also been putting their problem-solving skills to the test with a range of engaging maths challenges, demonstrating resilience and excellent mathematical thinking - even this close to the end of the school year! Preparations are well under way for our Leavers' Service with the children practising hard and looking forward to celebrating this special milestone together. The baking continues with Mrs Dodds, last week blueberry muffins, this week quiche - I wonder who will be 'star baker' this week!



Exploring osmosis and diffusion by investigating with sweets in Time Zone science.



Building Stonehenge in Earth Works.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 16th July	Leavers Service in school at 9.15.
Wednesday 2nd September	Return to school



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As we get closer to the end of term please could you check your Parentmail accounts and make sure you are fully paid up. Lunches will continue to roll over weekly.

The criteria for benefit related Free School Lunches is changing from September 26 to include anyone on Universal Credit. If this applies to you, please speak to Kathy. R, Y1 and Y2 children continue to receive Universal Free School meals from the government.

A letter has been sent to your Parentmail accounts regarding the flu immunisation next term. Please can you respond as per the instructions. Even if you don't want your child to have it please could you click on the link as it saves us chasing this up next term. **This will be your only opportunity to have your child immunised.**

In September we will be looking to DBS check a volunteer, to help with school based activities and trips. If you have a bit of time on your hands and would like to help us please get in touch with Kathy.



Stars of the Week

Splash: Ted for being super helpful and independent.

Space Base: Camilla for showing great resilience during sports day; she tried her best in every race and ran with a huge smile on her face!

Earth Works: India for her good use of stem sentences during the oracy lesson.

Time Zone: Ella for excellent computing skills when creating a presentation as part of her English lesson.