



Ellingham CE Primary School

Friday Flyer

Executive Headteacher Update 11th September 2026

Welcome back, everyone!

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and are feeling refreshed and ready for the academic year ahead. There are some changes at Ellingham this year, with myself taking over from Mrs Lakey as Executive Headteacher and Mrs Senior joining us as our Head of School. However, it feels like it has always been like this as our children have returned absolutely brilliantly! They have settled straight back into routines, shown fantastic attitudes to learning and made us incredibly proud. A huge well done to every one of them, particularly our new starters!

This year we will be introducing Friday Celebration Assemblies, giving us the opportunity to recognise our Outstanding Achievement Award winners each week and celebrate positive attendance. At the end of each half term, we will also select a group of children to enjoy Hot Chocolate with the Head! We want to make sure that the wonderful things our children do every day are recognised and celebrated.

It has also been lovely to bring Arthur into school this week and he certainly seems to have been a huge hit! Thank you for making him feel so welcome. Whenever I am in school, Arthur will be joining me, so the children will soon get to know him very well. It was fantastic to see them running around the field with him and having fun at lunchtime today – although he certainly slept well on Thursday evening!

Finally, we need your help as we are looking for a Parent Governor to join our Academy Committee. If you would be interested in helping our school continue to improve moving forward, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the school office and they can pass your details on to me. I would be very happy to have an informal chat and explain a little more about the role.

Overall, it has been a fantastic start to the new academic year and we are really looking forward to everything that lies ahead. I am really looking forward to working with the school and wider community further over the coming months so please do introduce yourself when you see me.

Have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing you all again on Monday, raring to go. Have a fantastic weekend!

Mr Shaw

Next week I am planning to be in school on Monday and Wednesday



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Safeguarding

EllinghamCofEPrimary School is committed to keeping all children safe. Our staff regularly participate in safeguarding training and are fully aware of how to keep our pupils safe and what signs to look out for. Our pupils know they can share any concerns and we have robust policies and procedures in place which underpin safeguarding. It is our paramount priority to keep all children healthy and safe.

Remember our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) in school are **Mrs Senior and Mr Shaw**

Top Tips for SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S RETURN TO ROUTINE

Returning to school after the holidays can be challenging for some children and young people, and both families and education settings can play an important role in helping them readjust. Consistent routines, clear expectations, and supportive communication can support children and young people's wellbeing, self-regulation, and academic success. These practical tips can help make the transition back to school feel more manageable.

- 1 START EARLY**
Gradually reintroduce school-day sleep, meal, and wake-up routines around a week before term begins. In education settings, familiar routines and expectations can also be introduced from the start of term to help pupils settle back in. A gradual and predictable approach can make the transition feel less abrupt and give children and young people the time they need to readjust to the structure of school life.
- 2 REBUILD ROUTINES TOGETHER**
Involve the children and young people in your care in the rebuilding of familiar routines at home and in education settings. Having a say in their daily schedule can increase predictability for them and give them a greater sense of control. This might include discussing morning routines at home or reviewing classroom materials, expectations, and activities together at the beginning of the school day.
- 3 ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBILITY**
Giving children and young people age-appropriate responsibilities can help foster their autonomy and engagement. For younger children at home, this might include getting dressed independently or choosing their school bag. In education settings, children and young people could organise their learning materials, complete simple classroom tasks, or follow a familiar morning routine. These manageable responsibilities can help children feel more involved in the school day while developing useful skills.
- 4 RECONNECT WITH PEERS**
Re-establishing friendships can help children and young people feel more confident and connected when they return to school. Families might arrange opportunities for their children to speak or spend time with school friends, while educators can use group activities, buddy systems, or collaborative tasks to help rebuild classroom connections.
- 5 SUPPORT HEALTHY NUTRITION**
Regular, balanced meals, particularly at breakfast, are linked to improved concentration, behaviour, and academic outcomes. Families can gradually return to familiar school-day meal times, while education settings can reinforce healthy eating routines at the start of term and signpost breakfast provision where available. Consistent access to food can help support children and young people's energy levels and concentration throughout the day.
- 6 COMMUNICATE OPENLY**
Talk to the children and young people in your care about how they feel about the return to school and give them the opportunity to share any worries or questions. A safety net of going back to school, particularly when starting a new year group, can be daunting, and children and young people may benefit from your reassurance and support. Parents and educators can also help with this by listening calmly to concerns and questions, and sharing relevant information with one another where appropriate.
- 7 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING AND PEERS**
Light educational activities before term begins can help children become familiar with learning routines again without creating any unnecessary pressure on them. In school, low-pressure recap activities and familiar tasks from the previous year group can serve a similar purpose during the first few days back. Keeping learning positive and achievable can help rebuild children's concentration, confidence, and academic motivation as they settle back into their usual routine.
- 8 PRIORITISE SLEEP**
Ensure the children and young people in your care get age-appropriate sleep and begin returning to their usual bedtime habits before term starts. Reducing screen use before bedtime may also support better sleep quality. Educators can also be mindful that tiredness may temporarily affect children's concentration, behaviour, and emotional regulation as they readjust to school routines.
- 9 PREPARE AHEAD**
Organising uniforms, bags, lunches, and other school essentials in advance can reduce unnecessary stress when school mornings begin again. Educators can also help by preparing pupils for any changes to classrooms, timetables, staff, or behaviour expectations. Giving children clear information about what to expect ahead of time can make the return feel more familiar and help build up their confidence and independence.
- 10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE**
Children adjust to changes in their routines at different rates, so your patience and flexibility can be important during the first days and weeks back. Some may settle quickly, while others need longer to adjust to new mornings, classroom expectations, or busy schedules. Parents and educators can support children and young people's readjustment by maintaining consistent routines, all the while recognising that concentration, behaviour, or confidence may temporarily look different for them.



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Attendance

As parents and carers we want to share our attendance figures because it is you who can make the big difference. Our children are entitled to a full and balanced education and at Shilbottle we feel we provide one of the best experiences possible.

Current Whole School attendance is 96.3%. Our Whole School Target is 97%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Splash	100	92.9
Space Base	91.1	94.9
Earth Works	100	87.5
Time Zone	100	90.6

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 8.45am 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.



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Wellies & Wonder

We have been picking blackberries to make pies this week and they were delicious. We had a visit to the big forest where we made exciting creations from sticks and listened to a lovely stick story. What a fantastic week we've had!





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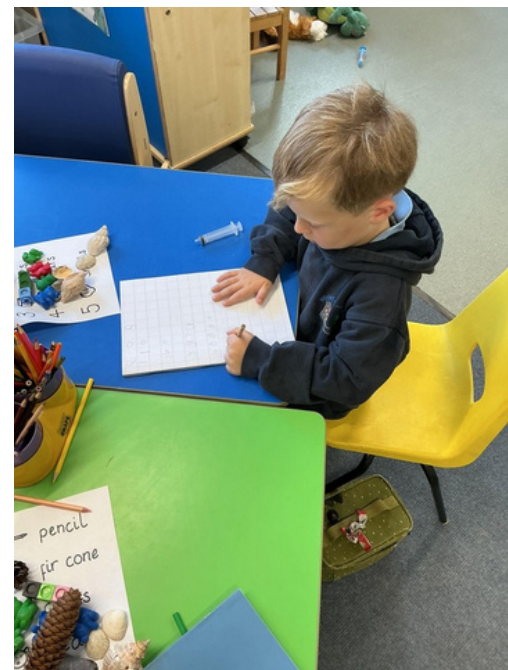
Splash and Space Base

Splash and Space Base have been working hard this week! In Space Base, the children have been recapping number bonds to 10 and 20 and exploring how these can be represented in different ways. In art we have been looking at landscapes. The children have been creating their own landscapes inspired by David Hockney.

In Splash, the children have been focusing on numbers up to 5, practising both writing the numerals and drawing their own representations.

On Thursday, both classes headed back to the forest with Mrs Swinbank. The children love their forest sessions and are so excited that this will be happening every week!

Everyone has put in fantastic effort this week and fully deserve a well-earned rest over the weekend.





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Earth Zone

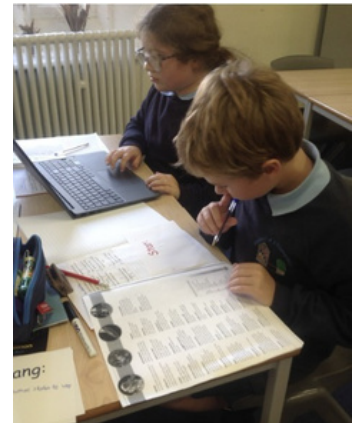
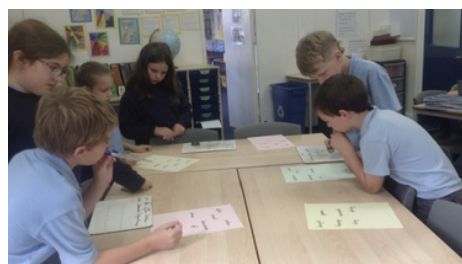
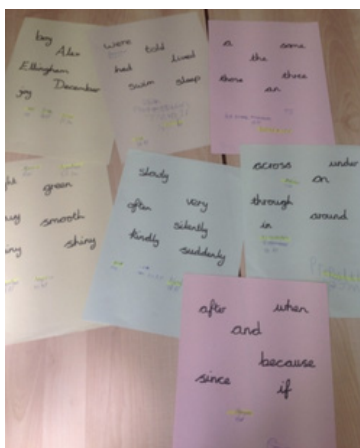
Investigating Space Vocabulary: Years 5 and 6

We started our work on Space by exploring our understanding of words and concepts. We used the NASA website and non-fiction texts to research the meaning of the key vocabulary we will be using during our Space unit.

We wrote definitions for our class Science Working Wall and shared our new knowledge with classmates.

Investigating Word Classes

We worked as a group to match definitions with the word class they describe, and then worked with a partner to identify the word class of given words on posters around the room. We then discussed our understanding and identified the word classes we are unsure of to work on further.



Outstanding Achievement

Before the Summer holidays, Oakley completed his 'Epic Walk to School' over a period of three days. During this time he raised an amazing £3000 for The Great North Children's Hospital - this is a fantastic amount of money. Thank you to everyone who supported him or donated.





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Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 23rd - Friday 25th September	Robinwood Residential trip for Earth Works and Time Zone
Monday 5th October School photographs	Nursery and Wellies&Wonder children are welcome. Details closer to the time.
Thursday 15th October	Harvest Festival
Thursday 22nd October	Whole school flu immunisation. If you haven't already registered your child please speak to Kathy.
Friday 23rd October	TEACHER TRAINING DAY
Monday 26th October - 30th October	HALF TERM
Monday 2nd November	TEACHER TRAINING DAY

Please remember, Breakfast club is available from 8.15am if anyone needs to drop off a child earlier.

Please book in advance if possible. £2.50 includes cereal or toast.

We are currently running After School Club on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday until 4.15pm.

There are spaces in the Construction club on a Tuesday and Art Club on a Wednesday. If your child attends Forest Club on a Thursday please make sure they have wellies and outdoor clothing.

Your school lunches, After School club and Nursery fees will continue to show on your ParentPay accounts.

Anyone in receipt of Universal credit is now eligible for Free School Lunches, regardless of family income.

Please get in touch with Kathy if this applies to you.

From this term we will be having Toasty Tuesday on the last day of the month and the money will continue to be donated to Daft as a Brush cancer care.

We continue to use our Facebook page for instant communication and the Friday Flyer will continue to be published every week.



Stars of the Week



Splash: Kitty - for neat presentation in her workbook.



Space Base: Daisy M, Freddie and Ted - for transitioning well into Year 1.



Earth Zone: Jessica and Rupert for getting 100% on their first Accelerated Reader quizzes!