



Ellingham CE Primary School **Friday Flyer**

2 October 2026

Executive Headteacher's Update

What another fantastic week we have had at Ellingham! The children have been busy learning, exploring and enjoying time together, and it is always wonderful to see their enthusiasm and excitement as they come through the doors each morning.

A particular thank you this week goes to our EYFS parents and carers for helping us to encourage the children to become even more independent at the start of the school day. Whether you are coming through the EYFS entrance with your child or simply dropping them at the door, these little steps towards independence really do make a difference. It has been fantastic to see how confidently the children are now coming into school, finding their way into class and getting themselves ready for the day ahead. We really appreciate your continued support with this.

There has also been lots of excitement as our Harvest Festival preparations are now well underway. The children have been busy getting ready and we are really looking forward to welcoming families into school on Thursday 15th October. Harvest is always such a lovely opportunity for us to come together as a school community, celebrate what we have and think about others and I am sure the children will make us very proud.

We were also delighted to welcome Rachel and Alison from Ignite into school this week for a fantastic RE visit. Our EYFS and KS1 children learned all about the Church in Nicaragua, while our KS2 children travelled around the world exploring different Christian churches and traditions. It was a really interesting and engaging experience for the children and a great opportunity to broaden their understanding of Christianity and the many different ways it is experienced and celebrated around the world.

Just a quick reminder for parents and carers regarding Medical Tracker. We are starting to use the system to communicate important medical information with families, so please do keep an eye out for any messages or notifications that come through. It is really important that we have the most up-to-date information about your child so that we can continue to support them safely and effectively while they are in school.

As always, thank you for your continued support and for the wonderful partnership we have with our families. There is such a lovely feeling around Ellingham and it is a real pleasure to see the children growing in confidence, becoming more independent and enjoying their learning. We hope you all have a lovely weekend and look forward to another fantastic week next week!

Mr Shaw

Next week I am planning to be in school on Wednesday.



Ellingham CE Primary School

Friday Flyer

Safeguarding

EllinghamPrimarySchool 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**.



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH NATURE

Spending time outdoors plays a vital role in children's health, happiness, and development. This guide explores why nature matters, the barriers families may face, and practical ways to help children reconnect with wildlife and the outdoors. Here are 10 top tips to encourage exploration, confidence, and a lasting love of nature in everyday life.

- 1 TIME OUTSIDE MATTERS**

Children who spend time outdoors benefit from a variety of physical, mental, and social benefits. Spending time outside can help children develop a sense of wonder, curiosity, and a love for the natural world. It can also help them develop a sense of responsibility and a connection to the environment.
- 2 UNDERSTAND THE BARRIERS**

Children may face barriers to spending time outdoors, such as lack of access to green spaces, lack of time, or lack of knowledge. Understanding these barriers can help parents and educators find ways to overcome them and encourage children to spend more time outdoors.
- 3 TAKE ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE**

Children can benefit from taking their favorite activities outdoors. This can help them develop a love for the outdoors and a sense of adventure. Activities can range from simple games to more complex projects.
- 4 USE TECHNOLOGY POSITIVELY**

Technology can be used to enhance children's outdoor experiences. For example, apps can be used to identify plants, animals, and birds. This can help children learn more about the natural world and develop a sense of curiosity.
- 5 CREATE MINI ADVENTURES**

Children can create their own mini-adventures outdoors. This can be as simple as creating a scavenger hunt or a nature walk. These activities can help children develop a sense of exploration and a love for the outdoors.
- 6 BUILD NATURE AT HOME**

Parents can create a nature-friendly environment at home. This can include having a garden, a balcony, or a window box. Children can be encouraged to observe and care for the plants and animals in their home environment.
- 7 EXPLORE FURTHER AFIELD**

Children can explore further afield by visiting parks, nature reserves, and other outdoor spaces. This can help them develop a sense of adventure and a love for the outdoors. Parents and educators can encourage children to explore safely and responsibly.
- 8 ENGAGE OLDER CHILDREN**

Older children can be encouraged to take on more responsibility for outdoor activities. This can include leading nature walks, creating art projects, or conducting simple experiments. This can help them develop a sense of leadership and a love for the outdoors.
- 9 NOTICE LOCAL NATURE**

Children can be encouraged to notice and appreciate the local nature around them. This can include observing birds, insects, and plants. This can help them develop a sense of curiosity and a love for the natural world.
- 10 MANAGE SENSIBLE RISKS**

Children should be encouraged to take sensible risks outdoors. This can include climbing trees, jumping, and running. This can help them develop a sense of confidence and a love for the outdoors. Parents and educators should ensure that children are safe and supervised during outdoor activities.



Ellingham CE Primary School

Friday Flyer

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 Ellingham we feel we provide one of the best experiences possible.

Current Whole School attendance is 97.1% Our target for Whole School Attendance is 97%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Splash	100	99.4
Space Base	97.8	95.7
Earth Works	86.7	95.7
Time Zone	100	98.2

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

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



Ellingham CE Primary School Friday Flyer

Wellies & Wonder

This week, we've enjoyed exploring the story of The Three Bears, with lots of opportunities to practise counting to three and learning about **big, medium, and small**. We read the story together and had lots of fun acting it out! We also got busy cooking porridge for the Three Bears and enjoyed apple printing. The children loved using the tuff tray to pretend to make breakfast for the bears, using their imaginations and developing communication and role-play skills along the way.





Ellingham CE Primary School

Friday Flyer

Splash and Space Base

On Monday, we had an RE afternoon with Rachel and Alison from Ignite, who came to tell us about a little boy called Axel from a Nicaraguan church. The children explored what it means to be a Christian in slum areas through the story of Axel and his friends. Afterwards, they listened to the story of Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish and created a collage of a fishing boat that opened up to reveal lots of fish. Everyone had a great time putting this together!

Later in the week, the children had the opportunity to bake bread. They loved the hands-on experience and made some amazing loaves! Our focus was on how we mix and measure ingredients accurately.

In PSHE, we have been exploring how everybody is unique. The children showed a fantastic understanding that it is okay to be different. We talked about physical differences between friends, such as eye and hair colour, and then drew self-portraits alongside a friend to highlight what makes each of us special.





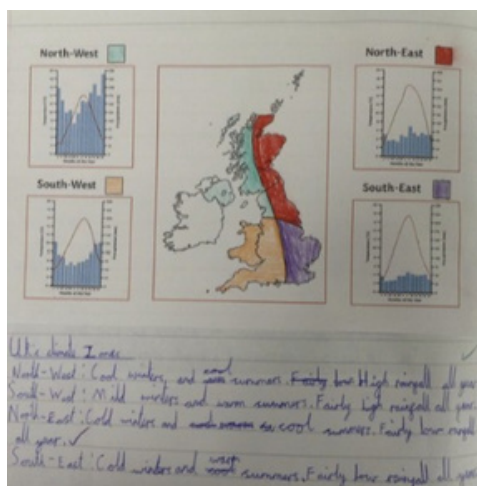
Ellingham CE Primary School Friday Flyer

Earth Zone

On Monday, Rachel and Alison from *Ignite: Inspiring Young People In and Around Alnwick* led an RE workshop for our pupils! The children took a whistle-stop tour around the globe, exploring how faith is practiced in rural Africa, Latin America, South Korea, and the Middle East. It was an interactive session complete with traditional songs, readings, and prayers from each region.



In our science unit on Sound, we learned how we hear, as sound vibrations are passed through the outer, middle and inner ear, then via the auditory nerve to the brain. We talked about how animals use sound to avoid predators and catch prey and learned about how bats and dolphins use echolocation. We thought about what it must be like to be unable to hear and practiced using British Sign Language to sign our names to the class.



In Geography, we learned about the climate of the UK and interpreted climate data represented in graphs to identify the different climate zones within the UK.



Ellingham CE Primary School

Friday Flyer

Dates for your Diary

Monday 5th October School photographs	Nursery and Wellies & Wonder children are welcome. Please bring younger siblings for 8.30am
Thursday 15th October	Harvest Festival 9.00am
Wednesday 21st October	Parents Evening - please make an appointment.
Wednesday 21st October	Touch Rugby Festival in Alnwick Y3 and 4
Thursday 22nd October	Parents Evening- please make an appointment.
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
Friday 13th November	Pudsey Bear Day! Wear your spots and bring a donation
Weds 9th December	Morning Nativity performance for Grandparents and younger siblings
Thursday 10th December	Evening Nativity performance for parents
Tuesday 15th December	Whole school N-Y6 to Alnwick Playhouse
Friday 18th December	School closes for Christmas at 1pm

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.



Ellingham CE Primary School

Friday Flyer



Stars of the Week



Splash: Lily, for being a great friend and ensuring all her friends are included.



Space Base: Etta, for great independent work, writing two full pages in her English book. Otis, for joining in and making lots of friends.



Earth Zone: Rupert, for excellent writing and maths work this week!