Ellingham CE Primary School

Friday Flyer

16.10.2026

Executive Headteacher's Update

As we reach the end of our seventh week this half term, we are heading into week eight, making this the longest half term in our school calendar this year! A huge well done to all our children and staff for their continued hard work throughout what has been a positive and busy start to the year. I am sure everyone is looking forward to a well-deserved break!



Our Harvest Festival was a real highlight this week. Thank you to all the parents, carers and families who joined us on Thursday and for the incredibly generous donations. We may be a small school but the response was outstanding and these donations will make a real difference to local food banks and the families they support. The children were fantastic, particularly with their beautiful singing, confident performances and brilliant efforts in remembering their lines. A special thank you to Brenda for leading the service and for being such a wonderful ambassador for Ellingham.

We also welcomed Open the Book into our worship this week, with the children thoroughly enjoying acting out Bible stories and getting involved in the storytelling.

Staff have been busy training alongside our colleagues at Embleton, exploring exciting curriculum developments for after the October break and new online systems to strengthen pupil progress tracking and safeguarding procedures. All important steps in continuing to improve the support and learning experiences we provide for our children.

We finished the week with our usual celebration assembly, recognising the fantastic efforts and achievements of our pupils. Next week, Mrs Senior will also be holding her special hot chocolate celebration, so I look forward to seeing which children enjoy this well-deserved treat!

Have a wonderful weekend, and we look forward to seeing everyone for our final week before the October break.

Mr Shaw

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

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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 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.**for. Our pupils know they can share any concerns and we have robust policies and procedures in place



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Attendance

As parents andcarers 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 98%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Splash	**100**	**99.6**
Space Base	**97.2**	**96.2**
Earth Works	**100**	**96.9**
Time Zone	**100**	**98.7**

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

AbsenceProcedures If your child is ill, please keep them at home until they are well enough to returntoschool. 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 havea 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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Wellies & Wonder

This week was allabout Autumn as we collected beautiful leaves and made leaf fairies. We used our good cutting skills to make leaf confetti and found different coloured leaves all around the school. On the fire this week, we made breadsticks, they were delicious with jam!















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Splash and Space Base

This week we have had another two birthdays in Splash and Space Base! It was Daisy and Lily's special day, and we celebrated by singing Happy Birthday and enjoying some delicious chocolate cake. Our Harvest Festival was on Thursday, and the children were a real credit to Splash and Space Base. Their hard work during practising truly paid off. We are so grateful to our farmers for all their dedication during the harvest season. In Art, we have been making our very own trees. The children collected leaves from outside to use for print painting—they loved the activity and thought carefully about using warm autumn colours. Back in Splash, we now have our very own pumpkin patch! The children have had a fantastic time digging in the soil to discover pumpkins and comparing their different sizes.







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Earth Zone

This week, someofthe children joined our Open the Book team in retelling the story of Josiah, a little boywho became king at just 8 years old. The children really enjoyed acting this story out, especially because Brenda was also part of the team this week.







In UKS2 Science, to complete our exploration of the planets and their orbit around the Sun, we used an NRich challenge to make a scale model of the distance of the planets from each other and the Sun, using an unrolled toilet roll to represent this distance, We devised a scale of 1 sheet = 50 million km, and using a table of planetary distance from the Sun, we worked out the number of sheets of toilet paper to be used to measure the scaled distance of each planet from the Sun. We then placed the planets in position to complete our models.





In Art, we completed our wax resist paintings and started on our batik work, creating patterns based on leaves and seeds using washable PVA glue. In our next lesson, we will apply paint and - once the fabric is washed - we will hopefully see our patterns revealed!







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Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 20th October	Individual school photos - all parents have received a text
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
Thursday 19th November	Skipping Festival for KS2
Thursday 3rd December	PTA Canapes and Candles Evening at Carnabys More information closer to the time
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~~
Thursday 17th December	~~Christmas Lunch / Christmas Jumper day~~
Thursday 17th December	~~PTA Christmas Disco at Ellingham Village Hall~~
Friday 18th December	~~**School closes for Christmas at 1pm**~~
Monday 4th January 2027	**Return to school**

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.

After School Club Fees and Nursery payments are now in your Parentmail accounts.
If you are paying these through your HMRC Tax Free Childcare account please let us have the code so that we can trace the payment.

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Stars of the Week

Splash: George, for having a great attitude to his writing in phonics.

Space Base: Otto, for great work in maths where he could identify double of anumber.

Earth Zone: Jessica, for becoming more independent.

The PTA are selling these to raise money for the school.

