

DECEMBER 2025

HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2, 2025



TOP NEWS

Elm Wood pupils go to the Polls

Christmas Celebrations

Mr Julien Retires

Message from Mrs Leith

Once again we come to the end of another busy term at Elm Wood. The children have enjoyed completing learning on many different topics and they have been on some fantastic school trips linked to these topics. Please can I thank all parents and carers who take time out of their very busy lives to accompany the children on the trips. without you we would not be able to send our children out to explore and learn even more!

I would also like to thank our amazing team of parents and carers who make up the Friends of Elm wood. This term the children have enjoyed many activities which have been paid for by the FOE. This includes some of our celebrations linked to Black History Month, the Winter Disco and the Winter Fair.

Please can I take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers that it is important to ensure that all children arrive at school on time, at **08.55**, every day. Children who arrive late can feel embarrassed, left out and they miss out on important learning. Punctuality is an essential life skill that needs to be taught from the very beginning.

I hope that you all enjoy spending time with your family over the holidays and I look forward to seeing you all again in January.

Mrs Leith

Dates for the Diary...

19.12.25

School closes for the Holidays at **2pm**

05.01.26

All children return to school

09.01.26

Year 6 visiting the Horniman Museum
Year 4 visiting the Polka Theatre

15.01.26

Year 5 visiting the National Army Museum

16.01.26

Year 2 visiting the Polka Theatre

16.02.26 to 20.02.26

School Closed for February Half Term

Please remember to visit the calendar on the **Weduc** for all key dates.



Please use this QR code to access
term dates.



Christmas Celebrations

It has been a busy few weeks at Elm Wood. The children have all enjoyed taking part in the different Christmas events that have taken place.

EYFS Christmas Crafts and Songs



The children all enjoyed completing the crafts with their family!



Key Stage 1 Nativity



A massive well done to the Year 1 and 2 teams for putting on yet another great show!

We all loved the very grumpy **Humph The Camel!**

Key Stage 2 Sing Alongs



Please can I thank all of our friends and family members for supporting each of the events so well. I have never seen so many parents and carers at a nativity performance!

We may need a bigger hall for next year!

Visiting Santa



This year the FOE and Ms James organised for some of our children to have a sensory friendly visit to Santa. Thank you to Ms James and the FOE for making sure that all members of our Elm Wood Family enjoyed their Santa visit this year.



Learning Updates

Each class teacher uploads weekly learning updates on **Weduc**. Please follow this link to access these updates for your child's class.



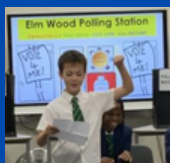
Please contact the school office if you need assistance to log into Weduc.

Important messages!

- Please ensure that all **bikes and scooters** are collected at the end of each Term. Any bikes or scooters that are left on school grounds at the end of this term (19.12.25) will be removed and disposed of.
- Please ensure that you collect any **Lost Property** at the end of each term as uncollected items will be donated to FOE, charity or removed from school and disposed of.
- **Parent Fines for Missing School:** Fines will be considered when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons. From August 2024, the fine for school absences will be £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days. In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160.

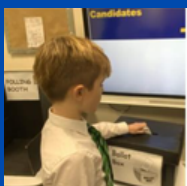
Elm Wood's Elections

Democracy was brought to life in November, as we organised our annual School Council election. Our 2024/2025 School Council Team, worked in partnership with staff to launch the election countdown in assembly. They also took on Polling Station Manager roles and supported children through the voting process, on election day.



Speech preparation and delivery workshops were planned for all candidates. The purpose of these sessions was to empower children, build their confidence and share some top tips and strategies to support their speech writing and presenting skills.

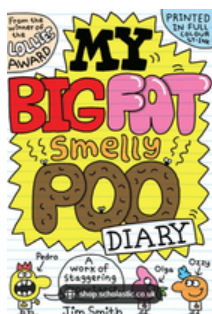
On the day of the election, candidates delivered their speeches in classrooms or in the mock Polling Station that we created. As each class arrived, they learnt facts about elections and democracy, before they cast their vote. Feedback was gathered from children on the day and comments from them included: 'I enjoyed listening to peoples' speeches.' 'This was amazing!' 'I liked that it was so real.' 'I like how you got to choose like a real election.' 'It was fun and super life like.' 'This might be the hardest decision; the speeches were all brilliant.' 'I liked that the children were the managers and in charge of the Polling Station.'



The result was revealed to candidates in small groups and then in a special assembly. Children were praised for their bravery, resilience and hard work during the election. Well, done everyone! We look forward to learning more about the goals the new team will generate & then implement, in the spring term.

Author Visit

This week the children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 were treated to a visit from **Jim Smith** the author of



Once again we thank the amazing **Friends of Elm Wood** for organising this event for the children.

<https://www.elmwoodprimary.co.uk/>

Sports Competitions

A team of year 5 and 6 boys competed at the Moving Matters football competition on Friday 5th December. The standard of play at the tournament was very high and all of the boys competed brilliantly. Although our team didn't make it through to the final, the boys did manage to draw with the eventual champions in the group stages. Well done team!!



The programme will run from 22 December to 2 January and is designed to give local families on benefits-related free school meals access to free, healthy food and fun activities over the winter holidays

Use this QR code to find out more information

Mr Julien Retires

On Thursday we had a special assembly at school to say thank you and goodbye to Mr Julien.

Mr Julien has been a big part of the Elm Wood Family since 2015, he loves spending time with the children and he works hard to ensure that our school building and playgrounds are safe, neat and tidy at all times.

I know that he is going to miss seeing the children and their families and I know that like us, you will all miss seeing him every day too!

As a way of remembering Mr Julien, the Friends of Elm Wood have donated a **Mr Julien High 5 Award**.

At the end of each school year this prize will be awarded to a child from Year 6 who has demonstrated that they have been able to meet each of our **Elm Wood Promises**:

To aim for excellence and success

To show kindness and respect

To develop resilience and perseverance

We hope that Mr Julien will be able to come to Elm Wood in July to present this award.



Free School Meals Explained!

All children from Reception to Year 6 currently receive a Free School Meal every day at school.

If you are in receipt of certain benefits you may be entitled to Free School Meals (FSM). Confusing hey!

The difference is that if you are entitled to FSM there are other means of support that you can tap into.

Once you are in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals your child's school will receive additional funding (Pupil Premium) to help and support you through your child's education. The school will also receive extra support to deliver a fully inclusive and accessible education for all of our pupils.

You can apply for Free School Meals at any time while your child is at Elm Wood School.

Please use the QR code to find out about the education awards and benefits that you may be entitled to.



Primary School Admissions

Please use the QR code to access more information on how to apply for a Primary School for your child in Lambeth.

All applications must be completed by 15.01.26

Please contact the school office if you would like further support with this application.

