



Elm Wood
Primary School

APRIL 2025

HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2, 2025

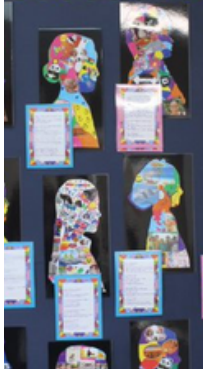


TOP NEWS

Gipsy Hill Federation Update

Celebrating Music at Elm Wood

Ofsted Published Report



Message from Mrs Leith

On Monday morning I attended the very last meeting of the Board of Governors for the Gipsy Hill Federation. Whilst this is very much an exciting new chapter for Elm Wood Primary School this meeting was the final chapter of what has been a very successful Federation of Primary Schools. Since forming, the Gipsy Hill Federation has had a positive impact on the lives of many children and their families in our local area and I personally am proud of many things that Elm Wood and the other schools in the Federation have achieved over the years.

I will be able to share more information about the financial impact of defederation when the final agreements with the Local Authority are in place. However, I would like to assure you that the financial impact of the Federation dissolving will not negatively impact the children, the education we provide for them or the resources we have in school.

You will all be aware, from many media reports, that due to the changes in Government Funding, all Government Funded Primary Schools are under additional financial pressure. At Elm Wood we will continue to ensure that the school budget is used appropriately to ensure the very best for the children in our Elm Wood Family.

I am delighted to be able to let you know that the first official meeting of the Elm Wood Governing body took place on 02.04.25. This was a very productive meeting and all members of the Governing Body are looking forward to working together to ensure that Elm Wood continues on its journey towards being an outstanding school for all of its pupils.

The members of our newly formed Governing Body are:

Chair and LA Governor: **George German**

Vice Chair : **Rodney Lenthall**

Co-opted Governor & Safeguarding Governor : **Judith Cavanagh:**

Co-opted Governor : **Emily Curtis**

Co-opted Governor: **Luke Carey**

Parent Governor: **Stuart Hofer**

Parent Governor: **Marc Williams**

Staff Governor: **Tasmin Palmer**

Headteacher: **Jo Leith**

Please can I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support during our transition to a stand alone Primary School. We have a very strong school community and I know that we will all work together to ensure the very best for all members of our Elm Wood Family.

I hope that you all enjoy the school holidays with your friends and family and I look forward to seeing you all when the children return to school on 22.04.25.

Mrs Leith

Elm Wood School Choir

On 25.03.25, some children from Year 5 represented the school choir at the **Lambeth Primary Schools' Singing Concert at the Royal Festival Hall.**

The concert featured over 700 children singing an exciting choice of songs based on the theme of 'Dreamy Pop', supported by a live band and team of vocal leaders from Living Song CIC, Pegasus Opera Company and Music Making



The children from the choir represented Elm Wood brilliantly, bringing their talent and passion to every song. It was a wonderful evening, celebrating music in the community!

Dates for the diary

04.04.25

School closes at 2pm for the Spring Holidays

07.04.25 to 21.04.25

School closed for the Spring Holidays

22.04.25

Children return to school

12.05.25 to 14.05.25

Year 6 SATs week

26.05.25 to 30.05.25

School closed for May Half Term

26.06.25

Key Stage 1 and 2 Sports Day at Dulwich College

04.06.25

School Closed for INSET DAY

12.07.25

Friends of Elm Wood Summer Fair

22.07.25

School closes at 2pm for the Summer Holidays

Please follow this link to view all of the [Parent Events](#) for Summer Term.

Term Dates: [2024 - 2025](#) and [2025 - 2026](#)

Foodbank Collection

Thank you for your very generous donations for the local foodbank.

Please click on the image below for information on the Lambeth & Croydon Foodbank.



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 (04.04.25) 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 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.

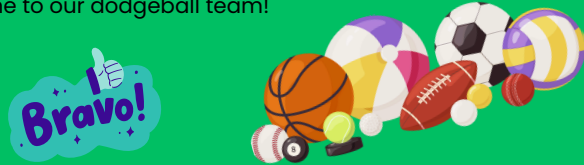
Sports Competitions

Our Year 6 team performed brilliantly at the annual Moving Matters dodgeball competition in early March.

Coached by Ms Carey and Ms Balaam, the team progressed from their group to the knockout phase where they triumphed in both their quarterfinal and semi-final.

The Elm Wood team were narrowly beaten in the final by Clapham Manor but the children were amazing throughout the whole tournament and competed with passion and enthusiasm.

Well done to our dodgeball team!



Smartphone Free Childhood is a grassroots movement bringing parents together to stand up for healthier, happier childhoods

Please click on the image above to find out more information. You can also contact the school and ask to speak to Ms Brown or Ms Jones who would be happy to share more information with you on how to keep your child safe online.

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

Spring Concert

On Tuesday we had our first Spring Concert.



Children who learn to play a musical instruments at school along with those children who are musically talented were invited to perform at the concert.

Our school choir also performed songs that they had learnt for their recent performance at the Royal Festival Hall.

The concert was a great success and was very well attended by lots of members of our extended Elm wood Family.

I would like to congratulate all children who performed individually or as part of a group as they all performed so confidently!



Thank you to the Elm wood Music Team who organised this event.

We are already looking forward to the next concert!



THANK YOU



Here's our first batch of new reading books ready to go! Huge thank you to all the Elm Wood children who took part in the read-a-thon, families for supporting and friends of Elm Wood.

World Book Day Celebrations

We love reading at Elm Wood and we are always trying to find new ways to make reading fun and engaging.

This term we celebrated World Book Day! We had some amazing workshops and author visits happening throughout the whole school which taught the children lots of new skills from illustration to plot development.

It was amazing seeing all the effort that went into everyone's World Book Day costumes and feeling the excitement for reading across the school.

Thank you so much to our Friends of Elm Wood team for organising such a fantastic experience for our school!



Punctuality

School starts at 08.55

Punctuality is an essential life skill that needs to be taught from the very beginning.

Having good **attendance** also means being on time and not being late to school.

Children who arrive late can feel embarrassed, left out and miss out on important introductions to lessons.

