



Elm Wood
Primary School

FEBRUARY 2026

HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 1, 2026



TOP NEWS

Well-Being Day

School Trips

Parent Survey



Message from Mrs Leith

As we come to the end of another busy half term, I would to thank all of our pupils, staff, parents/carers and all members of our Elm Wood Family for your continued support.

Recently school has noticed that there has been an increase in children being collected early from school at the end of the school day. **Please can I remind all parents and carers that there is a legal obligation for parents to ensure their child receives a full-time education.** This means that all children of statutory school age (over 5 years old) need to attend school every day all day. If you need to collect your child before the end of the school day you must provide the school with evidence to support the early collection. This will then be considered by the headteacher as an authorised or unauthorised absence from school.

This term we have welcomed some new staff members to our Elm Wood Family. Ms Hammond has really enjoyed her first term as Magpie class teacher. Mr Richardson, our new premises officer, is doing a great job at making sure the school building and grounds are always well maintained. We also welcomed Ms Jackson to our Elm wood Family in January. Ms Jackson is the School's Business Manager and her role is to ensure that the school functions well financially. All staff members have settled into Elm wood well and are enjoying their new roles.

Mrs Leith

Well-Being Day

On Thursday 12 February we celebrated Well-Being Day.

On this day the children came into school Dressed to Express
The school collected donations which will be sent to Place2be.



Place2Be is a children's mental health charity with over 30 years' experience working with pupils, families and staff in UK schools. For more information on this charity please click on the Place2be logo.



The children also completed Active Assemblies, well-being and wellness time in class and our amazing Play Leaders and School Council members led friendship games at lunchtime.

Thank to you Ms Brooks for helping our amazing young leaders to plan such a great day for all of the school.

THANK YOU

Dates for the Diary...

16.02.26 to 20.02.26

School Closed for February Half Term

23.02.26

INSET DAY - School Closed for all pupils

05.03.26

World Book Day & Parents Evening

10.03.26

Speech and Language Coffee Morning (09.15 to 10.15)

20.03.26

Red Nose Day Celebrations

24.03.26

School Choir Singing at Royal Festival Hall

26.03.26

Democracy Day

27.03.26

School Closes at 14.00 for the Easter Holidays

30.03.26 to 10.04.26

School Closed for the Easter Holidays

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



Punctuality

School starts at 08.55

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

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

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

Please speak to the school if you are struggling to get your child/children to school time.



Please use this QR code or follow these links to access term dates 2025 - 2026 and 2026 - 2027



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 (27.03.26) 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.

School Trips

Educational trips are an essential part of learning as they offer our pupils the chance to engage with the world around them in a way that no textbook or whiteboard can replicate.

These trips take abstract concepts and make them real, sparking curiosity and igniting a passion for learning. They also provide a chance for children to experience things they may not have had the opportunity to do otherwise



This term some of the trips the children have been on have included

- Year 3 to the British Museum
- Year 1 to the Natural History Museum
- Year 4 to the London Aquarium
- Year 5 to the National Army Museum

Please can we **thank** all of the parents and carers who have accompanied the children on all of the school trips. Without your support we would not be able to make the trips happen!



Workshare Assemblies (10.00am)

- 04.03.26: Kittiwake Class**
- 05.03.26: Waxwing Class**
- 11.03.26: Merlin Class**
- 12.03.26: Wren Class**
- 18.03.26: Skylark Class**
- 19.03.26: Siskin Class**
- 24.03.26: Magpie Class**
- 25.03.26: Lapwing Class**
- 26.03.26: Swift Class**

We look forward to see you all at each of the assemblies!

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

Sports Competitions

We are the Moving Matters Dodgeball champions!!!

In January, we took a team of Year 4 children to the Moving Matters dodgeball competition.

Thirteen schools competed and after a tricky start, Elm Wood progressed from the group stages to the semi-final.

We faced Clapham Manor in the semis and all of our children competed brilliantly to win the match.

In the final, we met Van Gogh Primary. With all of the other schools watching, the pressure was on but the Elm Wood team used all of their throwing, catching and dodging skills to emerge as champions!



Massive congratulations to: Adelaide, Adinan, Ayeesha, Florence, Jake, Joseph, Kit, Ozias, Ralph and Wilf.

Parent Survey

Your views are very important to us. They provide us with valuable insights that will help us improve the quality of our education.

We very much welcome your feedback on this and other matters as this can shed light on areas of the school that are working well and those areas that need improvements.

Please use this QR code or follow this link to access the survey.

The survey will remain open until the end of the school day on **06.03.26**. Thank you in advance for sharing your views.



[Click here to access the survey](#)

Parent Events

The following parent events are still to take place this term

13.03.26 at 9.30am

Supporting your child's well-being

Delivered by Emily George (Educational Psychologist)

27.03.26 at 9.30am

Supporting children with English as an additional language

We look forward to see you at these events



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.



