Elm Wood
Primary School

HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 1, 2026

OCTOBER 2026







TOP NEWS

Black History Month Celebrations

Our Young Leaders

Dates for the Diary

Message from Mrs Leith



We have been delighted to welcome so many new children and families to the Elm Wood family this term. Our Nursery and Reception children have settled in incredibly well, and staff have loved building positive relationships with them and their families.

It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they become part of our school community.

This half term, we have been amazed by the Independent Learning Projects completed by children across all year groups. The creativity, effort and enthusiasm shown in every project have been truly outstanding. It has been wonderful to see the children exploring their chosen topics in such depth and presenting their learning in a wide variety of imaginative ways. We would like to thank all of our pupils for their hard work and commitment, and also extend our thanks to parents and carers for their support at home. We are incredibly proud of all the fantastic projects that have been shared this half term.





We are a Smart Phone Free School

From September 2026, children will not be able to bring a smart phone to school (unless this is required for a specific medical condition). Instead, if you wish to provide your child in Year 5 or 6 with a mobile phone this must be a simple phone with no internet function, no apps, no camera and only enabled for calls and texts.

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

We are making this change as we believe that a smart phone-free childhood protects children's mental health, nurtures social skills and preserves the essence of childhood. As a school we are supporting the Smart Phone Free Childhood campaign.

There is also an Elm Wood Smart Phone Free Childhood What's App group that you can join by scanning the QR code.

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

Black History Month Celebrations

Elm Wood School recognises the importance of celebrating Black History Month. Through these celebrations, everyone has the opportunity to share, appreciate and deepen their understanding of the significant impact of Black heritage and culture.

Throughout the month, children took part in a range of special events, including a live whole-school assembly that shone a spotlight on this year's theme, 'Honouring Our Communities'. Global Arts Day was also linked to Black History Month, with children creating wonderful artwork inspired by Ghanaian Kente cloth.







In EYFS, children participated in a storytelling workshop delivered by Bigfoot Arts Education. They enjoyed singing, dancing and storytelling with 'My Friend Flo'. Pupils in Years 1 to 6 were immersed in an African drumming workshop that explored the rich traditions of the African diaspora.

A huge thank you goes to the FOE for supporting the organisation of these memorable experiences.

Poppy Apeal 2026

As we approach Remembrance Day, we are pleased to support the Poppy Appeal.

Poppies and other items such as wristbands, pencils and keyrings will be available to purchase in school during the week beginning 02.11.26.

Our amazing House Captains and Prefects will go to each class throughout the week selling the poppies and the other items. Please note that the suggested donation is £1 per item.

All donations will go towards helping to support members of the Armed Forces community, including serving personnel, veterans and their families.

We encourage children to wear their poppy with pride as we take time to remember and reflect on the sacrifices made by others.

Thank you for your support and generosity.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

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 (18.12.26) 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.
- Please remember that **school cannot accept responsibility for any personal belongings** that are brought onto the school site and left in school or on school grounds. This includes items such as coats, bags, toys, bicycles, scooters, helmets, and any other personal possessions.
- **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.

Winning house for the Half Term

At Elm Wood all our pupils are encouraged to work towards our Elm Wood Promises through the use of our school house system.

We have four houses:



Each week all the children in the school earn house points. The House with the most points at the end of each half term celebrates by coming into school in their own clothes with an element of their house colour.

This half term the winning house is Willow.

Well done Willow!

Year 6: Secondary School Applications

Use the QR code to access more informaion on how to apply for a secondary school for your child.

All applications must be made by 31.10.26

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

Dates for the Diary

23.10.26 to 30.10.26
School closed for Half Term

04.11.26
Sports Day for Years 2 to 6 at Dulwich College

05.11.26
Careers Day

06.11.26
Parent Event: Year One Phonics

13.11.26
Parent Event: Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Update

20.11.26
School CLosed for INSET DAY

December Dates for the Diary

04.12.26
FOE Winter (during the school day)

10.12.26
Key Stage 1 Nativity (10.00 & 14.00)

11.12.26
FOE Winter Fair

14.12.26
EYFS Craft and Sining Event (from 9.05)

15.12.26
Years 5 & 6 Christams Sing Along

16.12.26
Years 3 & 4 Christmas Sing Along

17.12.26
Christmas Dinner Day

18.12.26
School closes at 14.00 for the School Holidays

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

Elm Wood's Young Leaders

House Captains:
Naomi - Linden
Emma - Oak
Kobie - Palm
El-Shaddai - Willow

Prefects:
Emily M - Linden
Aria - Oak
Liliana - Palm
Molly - Willow

Librarians
Amielija
Maya
Sophie
Freya
Ivy
Tiarnna-Mae
Mirshika
Alexis
Kyro
Aliyinza
Aleyanah
Mulikat
Emily W
Thea

Sports Leaders:
Amia
Tian
Arlo
Caleb
Keraney
Leo
Oscar
Carwyn
Edvaldo
Esme

CONGRATS!

School Council: We will be holding elections in school after half term and we will update once all of the counts are in.

Sports Competitions

Throughout the year, children at Elm Wood have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of sporting competitions.

At Elm Wood, we are committed to ensuring that all children who would like to represent the school in a sporting competition are given the opportunity to do so.

Please see below a list of the sporting competitions that will take place this year. We look forward to encouraging as many children as possible to participate and enjoy representing Elm Wood.



Lambeth & Croydon Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Thank you to all of members of our Elm Wood Family who brought in donations this week for the Lambeth and Croydon Foodbank.

Over the last two years we have made regular donations to our local foodbank. These donations have been greatly appreciated and have helped the foodbank to support many families in our local area.

Please follow this link for more information on this charity
[Lambeth & Croydon Foodbank]

THANK YOU

Free Schools 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.

every day at school.