

Ellington Primary News

Believe and Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the academic year 2026/2027. It has been lovely to see the children all settling so well into their new classes and taking everything in their stride.

If you attended the welcome meetings, I hope you found them useful. If you couldn't attend or would like more information, please visit your child's class page on the [school website](#).

I would like to say a huge thank you to Year 5 and 6 pupils and parents/carers for their cooperation with our smart watch/phone ban. We have had issues with this and we believe this has led to a really smooth start to the year for both classes.

Walking Bus

We are continuing our Walking Bus this year on a Tuesday and Thursday morning meeting outside The Plough car park at 8:15am. The walking bus has been established for over four years now but recently we have seen a fall in numbers. We would love more children to join us!



Pearl of Africa

Unfortunately, for some illogical reason, the Pearl of Africa choir have again been refused visas and are unable to travel to the UK for their tour. The choir rely on this tour as their main source of income for their school. Despite visiting many times before without any issues, all children and adults have been refused entry just as they were in 2024. This is incredibly sad, especially for the Ugandan children who have been working so hard preparing for this tour.

The School Council have suggested that we do a cake sale, as we did last year, to support the choir. School will purchase the cakes but children are welcome to bring in money to buy one or two cakes on Friday 2nd October.



CAKE SALE



School Council



Following class votes, we have a fantastic new school council. I am sure they will be brilliant class representatives and make a real difference.

Eco-Council

We also have a new Eco-Council in school! Six children were elected by their classmates (Years 4 to 6) and I'm sure they will continue the successes of previous eco-councils.



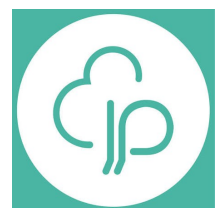
Sports Leaders

We have ten new sports leaders from Years 5 and 6. They attended Ashington Leisure Centre for a full day's training from world champion Thai boxer Rachel Mackenzie! The sports leaders will lead games and activities every break time.



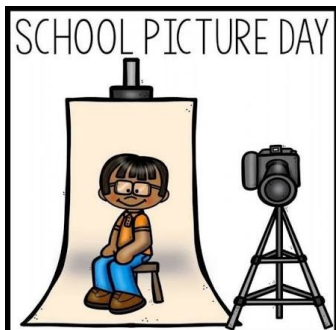
Junior Parkrun—Ashington

A weekly junior parkrun is starting on Sunday 4th October at Hirst Welfare in Ashington. It is a 2KM run and starts at 9am. The event is free and is for children aged 4 to 14.



Parent Consultations

We will be holding our Autumn term parent consultations on Wednesday 21st October. Bookings can be made via the MCAS app from Monday 5th October at 8am until Monday 19th October.



School Photos

We have our school photograph day on Monday 5th October. If you would like sibling photographs for pupils with siblings who don't attend Ellington, please arrive at the studio door from 8am. If your child has PE on a Monday, can they please wear uniform into school and bring their PE kit with them to change into after.

School Trips

Enrichment is a huge part of our curriculum at Ellington and we aim for all classes to have at least two trips per year. We believe that educational visits are an vital part of the curriculum and create memories that the children remember forever.

The problem facing Ellington with regards to trips is our location and the rising cost of coach hire. We have adjusted our enrichment plan for some classes to try and combine coach hire for more than one class at a time.



Harvest Festivals

We would like to invite you into school for our Harvest Festivals on Friday 16th October. Rather than have two whole school festivals over two days, we will instead have separate EYFS/KS1 and KS2 festivals.

The Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Two Harvest Festival will take place at 9am on Friday 16th October.

The Year Three, Four, Five and Six Harvest Festival will take place at 10:30am on Friday 16th October.

As like in previous years, we will be collecting donations for the Wansbeck Valley Food Bank. Donations will happily be accepted from October



Charities

At Ellington, we believe it is important to use our position as a school to support a variety of charities.

We believe highlighting charities and educating the children about the crucial role charities play is a vital part of a child's personal development.

We support different charities in a range of ways and every year we aim to support nine different charities.

Red Sky Foundation

Red Sky Foundation raises vital funds to support lifesaving work for babies, children and adults who are born with or who develop heart conditions across the North East of England.

Pearl of Africa Choir

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir, are a group of young performers from Uganda, who bring joyful song, dance, and drumming to audiences while raising funds for the Molly and Paul Childcare Foundation.

Wansbeck Valley Foodbank

For harvest this year, we will collect donations for the Wansbeck Valley Foodbank.

Salvation Army

At Ellington, we always pay our respects and wear our Poppies with pride. We will support the Salvation Army through donations made by pupils, parents and staff.

Children in Need

For Children in Need, we will support the charity by wearing something spotty, Pudsey related or non-uniform.

Save the Children

In December, the children and staff can wear something Christmassy to help raise money for Save the Children.

Dress to Express

We will celebrate Children's Mental Health week with a range of activities in school and encourage children to celebrate themselves through a dress to express day.

Comic Relief

In March, children and staff can wear something red to show support for Comic Relief. We will look at who the charity helps, how it has grown over the decades and what impact our donations can make.

Cystic Fibrosis Trust

In June, we will take part in 'Wear Something Yellow Day' to show our support for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. A charity close to our heart in school.



Dates for the Diary

Event	Date
Year 1 & Year 2 Trip to Beamish	30 th September
Pearl of Africa Choir cake sale	2 nd October
School Photographs	5 th October
Year 6 Trip to Cragside	13 th October
Harvest Festival EYFS/KS1	16 th October 9:00am
Harvest Festival KS2	16 th October 10:30am
Parent Consultations	21 st October
Break up for half term	23 rd October
TT Rockstars/Numbots Day	6 th November
Children in Need	13 th November
School/Eco Council Trip to London	24 th November
Aladdin Panto in School	18 th December
Break up for Christmas	18 th December



More details about events will be shared closer to the specified dates. Further events are being planned and more information will be shared in future news bulletins.

Just a reminder that our absence policy is to **call the school office** to report an absence. If you report the absence by another means this may not be seen and your child may be marked as unauthorised. The office is manned from 8am. **The school number is 01670860769.** If there is no one available, please leave a message on the answering machine as we will be able to pick this up.



Attendance 02/09–24/09

Reception — 95.9%

Year 1 — 97.7%

Year 2 — 96.2%

Year 3 — 93.2%

Year 4 — 97.2%

Year 5 — 95.7%

Year 6 — 97.5%

Whole School — 96.4%

Best wishes,
Mr Hodgson—Headteacher



★ **ELLINGTON EAGLES** ★
★ **U11 FOOTBALL TEAM** ★

RACE NIGHT

FUNDRAISING EVENT



DATE:
16TH OCTOBER 2026



VENUE:
ASHINGTON RUGBY CLUB



TIME:
7PM



TICKETS:
£5 PER TICKET
CHILDREN FREE

★ **A GREAT NIGHT OUT
FOR A GREAT CAUSE!** ★



BAR OPEN
Come along and
enjoy a drink!



CASH REQUIRED
for betting,
domino cards and
raffle tickets



**LOTS OF
PRIZES
TO BE WON!**



**FOOD TO
PURCHASE**
Tasty options
available!

★ **COME ALONG, HAVE FUN & SUPPORT OUR TEAM!**



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SOLUTIONS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ACCURACY

AI language models such as ChatGPT, generate their responses based on the data they have been trained on. This is often drawn from the internet and therefore may include incorrect facts, leading to responses which contain errors and inaccuracies.

BIAS

AI language models, including ChatGPT, can perpetuate existing biases present in the data they were trained on. This could lead to biased responses and the reinforcement of stereotypes.

SENSE

AI solutions do not have the ability to understand the context or meaning behind a question or prompt. This could result in inaccurate or irrelevant or even non-sensical responses, whether that be in text, image or other responses.

AI solutions are trained on a large dataset of text to learn patterns and relationships in the data and generate text, images, sound or even video based on the data they are trained on. As such, users can ask a question, provide a prompt or provide other source material, and the AI solution will then provide a response.

ACCOUNTABILITY

AI solutions do not have the ability to take responsibility for the responses they generate. This could cause confusion or misunderstandings in language models if the AI's responses are taken as fact and the truth. With generative AIs that create images, it can lead to output derived from other people's content but without any attribution of the source artist's work.

LACK OF CREATIVITY

AI solutions are not capable of independent thought and rely on the data they were trained on. This may potentially produce a lack of creative thinking and problem-solving abilities if students come to be heavily reliant on AI solutions.

Advice for Parents & Carers

A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Empower children and young people to use the various AI models in a safe environment and with appropriate content filtering/supervision, and to raise any concerns or questions as they arise.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Encourage children to use AI solutions as tools to help them research and learn, but remind them to not take the model's responses as the truth. Emphasise that they should question, verify and think critically about the information they receive.

DISCUSS BIAS

Discuss with children the potential biases that may be present in the responses generated by AI language models and encourage them not to simply accept the responses that it gives them at face value.

MONITOR USAGE

It is important for parents to monitor their children's usage of AI solutions (as with technology use in general) to ensure that they are utilising it responsibly and to provide opportunities to discuss its use, if needed.

ENCOURAGE HUMAN INTERACTION

Help children learn how to use AIs in conjunction with other resources, such as books and the internet, but also humans such as teachers, relatives and friends. Emphasise the importance of human interaction as part of life and as part of learning.

SCHOOL GUIDANCE

Be aware of school rules or other guidance in relation to the use of AI solutions in relation to a child's education and discuss appropriate and inappropriate with young people accordingly.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT in a large UK boarding school having previously taught in schools and colleges both in the UK and in the Middle East. He has a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security believing that it is important that we are all more aware of not just the benefits of technology, but also the risks.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://openai.com/index/chatgpt/>



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Year 1 News

We've had a wonderfully busy first month settling into Year 1. The children are adapting well to their new class routines and whole-class teaching lessons. I'd like to take this opportunity to recognise what a big step the move from EYFS to Year 1 can be as it's one of the biggest transitions your child will experience in their school journey. They are all doing so well and I am proud with how they have all taken it in their stride.

In Maths, we've been completing baseline activities to identify and address any gaps in learning. The children have also enjoyed our new CLIC sessions and our whole class teaching, practising counting forwards and backwards, finding one more and one less, and making groups.

In English, we are really focusing on correct letter formation. This is a vital skill that underpins fluent writing. The formation taught in Year 1 will support your child's ability to join their handwriting in the summer term and beyond. Please continue to reinforce correct letter formation at home to help make this skill second nature. We have also started in our new phonics groups. Your child will have received two reading books today to practise at home.

The smaller, coloured book is the book your child has been reading in school over the past week. The larger "Book Bag" book reinforces the sounds and words your child has learned during the week but presents them in a new story. Please prioritise the larger "Book Bag" book when reading at home, as it is designed to consolidate and extend their weekly learning.

As well as all this we have also started our science topic: The Human Body, DT; Slider games, PSHE: Emotions, Geography: What is it like in Ellington as well as having 8 sessions of PE.



Year 2 News

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the new school year, it has been wonderful to see them looking so smart in their uniforms. They have settled really well into the new routines of Year 2 and are taking it all in their stride.

In English, we have started our first unit of writing based on the story 'Meerkat Mail' by Emily Gravett. We have been creating character description full of adjectives and expanded noun phrases to describe Sunny the meerkat. We have also been focusing heavily on punctuation and handwriting as we get back into the swing of writing after six weeks off!

In Maths, we have been recapping our place value knowledge and skills, working hard on understanding number up to 100. We have also been writing numbers in words and looking at the tens and ones in any 2-digit number.

We have started lots of new units across other subjects. In Science, we have begun our unit 'Animals and their needs for survival'. So far, we have looked at the needs of different animal groups and how they are similar and different.

In History, we have learned about schools in the past and how they have changed. So far we have compared schools within living memory to our school now. We are very much looking forward to our trip to Beamish to consolidate all of this learning! Please talk about what school was like when you went with your child and if grandparents could join the conversation that would be even better!

In DT, we have had been learning all about levers and pivots including making our own human mechanism. We then explored which classroom items would make the best pivot and lever. Lots of super investigation and teamwork skills on display in year 2!

What a brilliant start to year 2!



Year 3 News

Welcome to the new school year! I am delighted to be teaching Year 3 and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your children over the past few weeks. They are a truly fantastic group—full of energy, curiosity and enthusiasm—and I am already thoroughly enjoying working alongside them as they settle into Key Stage 2.

A big thank you to everyone who was able to attend our welcome meeting. It was lovely to meet so many of you, share our plans for the term ahead, and answer your questions. Strong home-school partnerships are so important, and your support is greatly appreciated. We have had a wonderfully busy start to the term, diving into our new learning across the curriculum:

- **Our Class Hero - Sir David Attenborough:** The children have been inspired learning about our class hero! We have been exploring his extraordinary life, his career as a natural historian, and his vital work in environmental conservation. The children are already reflecting on how we can be stewards of our own planet.
- **Science - Animals Including Humans (Skeletons & Muscles):** In Science, we have turned into young biologists, examining the human skeleton. The children have been identifying and naming major bones, investigating why we need skeletons for support, protection, and movement, and comparing human bones to those of different animal groups.
- **Geography - Dynamic Earth: Volcanoes:** Our Geography journey has taken us deep underground as we explore the explosive world of volcanoes. We've been locating active and dormant volcanoes across global tectonic plates, understanding the structure of a volcano, and learning how volcanic eruptions impact local communities and environments.
- **Maths - Place Value:** In Maths, we have laid strong foundations by exploring place value with numbers up to 1,000. Using concrete manipulatives like Base 10 and place value counters alongside pictorial representations, the children have been partitioning, comparing, ordering, and positioning numbers on number lines to deepen their mathematical fluency.
- **French with Mrs Richardson:** French lessons are off to a brilliant start with Mrs Richardson! The children have been enjoying learning basic greetings, how to introduce themselves, and counting, building their confidence in spoken language through fun games and songs.
- **School Swimming:** The children have made a fantastic start to their weekly swimming sessions. They have represented the school brilliantly, showing great independence in getting organized and demonstrating fantastic perseverance and confidence in the water.

It has been a brilliant start to Year 3, and I am so excited for all the progress, discovery and achievements to come over the rest of the year!



Year 4 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a brand-new school year! The children have settled fantastically into Year 4 and have already demonstrated fantastic curiosity, enthusiasm, and focus across all areas of the curriculum. Here is a look at what we have been learning during our first month together.

The children particularly enjoyed the work we completed on our Class Hero Rosa Parks during the first week of school. We explored her inspiring role in the Montgomery bus boycott and learnt how her brave actions helped champion equality and civil rights in America.

In Reading, we have kicked off the term with our first-class text, *The Witches* by Roald Dahl. The children so far have been absolutely captivated by the story! To dive deeper into the characters and plot, we have used hot seating and freeze-frame activities to explore key scenes, build empathy, and understand character motivations.

In Writing, we started our learning with a performance poetry week, the children explored a range of vibrant poems by Joseph Coelho. They worked on expression, volume, and intonation before taking to the stage to perform. You can see some of our performances by scanning the QR Codes.



In Maths, we have been building a rock-solid foundation in place value. Our focus has been on partitioning, number relationships (1, 10, 100 and 1,000 more or less) and representing 4-digit numbers using pictorial representations and concrete apparatus.



Our young scientists have been exploring how to classify and group living things. The children have learnt to name and identify the different types of vertebrates and invertebrates as well as learning how to use classification keys. The children had to complete branching databases by designing appropriate yes/no questions.

Finally, in PE, the children have thoroughly enjoyed their football lesson with Coach Charlie. They have been developing their footwork, passing accuracy, and teamwork skills during their outdoor sessions. Finally, we have also been working on an orienteering map-reading unit. The children created their own face maps using various resources before taking on full school-ground navigation. They have learnt how to orientate a physical map and turn their bodies correctly to follow routes accurately.

Year 5 News

Year 5 have had a wonderful start to the year! They have settled well into new routines and shown great enthusiasm towards the Year 5 curriculum.

Maths

In Maths, the children started off the term by completing their BIG MATHS baseline—all of the children demonstrated great resilience and fantastic effort when tackling tricky questions. Since then, they have been working hard on their place value skills, learning how to use the columns after the decimal point. We are looking forward to moving onto our calculation unit next!

I am especially proud of the fantastic progress on Times Table Rock Stars; Year 5 have achieved some outstanding scores already! Please continue to encourage your child to practise their times tables regularly, as these skills are essential for success in Maths.

English

As a class, the children have produced some wonderful writing based on the short film Rock, Paper, Scissors. They completely immersed themselves in the mythical forest setting and produced very interesting first-person narratives. We have also loved the beginning of our class reader, Kensuke's Kingdom, and are looking forward to seeing who Michael will meet next on his adventure!

Art

The children have been planning and preparing their installation art models, which are designed to make the viewer feel like part of the artwork itself. We will be painting and assembling our models next, and we are loving the Christmas theme!

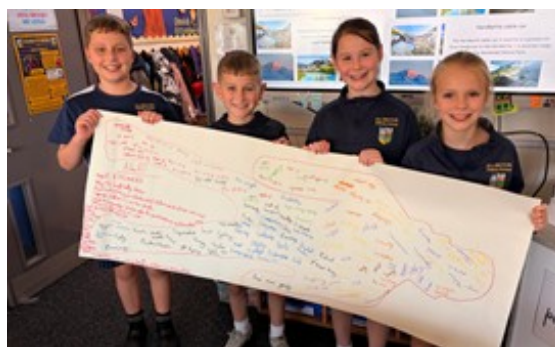
Science

Our first experiment of the year was testing whether surface area impacts air resistance on a parachute. We created parachutes of different sizes and tested them by dropping them from a height. The children worked brilliantly as a team throughout the experiment.

We are super excited for our upcoming workshop on the Vikings! This will give the children a fantastic opportunity to explore Viking history in great detail through fun, hands-on learning.

★ Sports Leaders Shout-Out! ★

A big well done to our Sports Leaders who completed their training day this week. They came back to school and delivered an incredibly inspiring speech to the rest of the children. We can't wait to see them in action on the playground!



Year 6 News

Year 6 have blown me away with what a fantastic start they have had to their final year at primary school. Each child has come back ready to learn and try their best!

We started off the year by exploring the life of Winston Churchill and his role in helping Britain through - and be victorious in - WW2. We explored his interesting life and looked at extracts from his many speeches, writing our own short versions to link in with Year 6 and the school values. We also saw many photos of Churchill from his time as Prime Minister in WW2 and tried to copy his "power poses".

In English, we have been looking at the idea of "Twisted Tales" in the form of the Brothers Grimm fairy tales. We explored their version of Cinderella in comparison to Disney's version and then used this as inspiration to write our own "twisted" version of Snow White - the more gruesome the better! This idea of alternate versions of stories also links in with our reading text, *Another Twist in the Tale* by Catherine Bruton. It tells the tale of Oliver Twist's long-lost sister, Twill. Although the language is tricky, we're enjoying the variety of characters in the novel.



During our science lessons, we have been exploring Living Things and Their Habitats. We have looked at the conditions for life to develop our understanding about what exactly classifies as a living thing as well as breaking this down further in preparation to create classification keys. We have used such vocabulary as vertebrate, invertebrate and flowering and non-flowering plants.

In history - continuing with the Churchill theme - we have started looking at WW2 and have created a timeline to show the events leading up to this important moment in history. We have seen how the Treaty of Versailles and the Great Depression allowed Hitler to promote himself to the German people in order to rise to power as well as exploring the impact of the Battle of Britain on RAF pilots.

Great start and keep up the good work Year 6!

