



Halfway Through Autumn 1

Amazingly, we are already more than halfway through Autumn 1. I suppose time flies when you are having fun!

A huge well done to all of our Year 6 children who completed their Kent Tests over the last fortnight. We hope that you are all successful when your results are returned on October 16th.

New guided reading books are going home for the first time today for EYFS and KS1 children.

These are part of our Little Wandle Phonics program. Reading with your child each day is the single most important thing you can do to support their education. If you have any questions on how the Little Wandle books work, or anything else about Phonics in general, please ask.

As ever, please remember that Community is one of our key values. If you want to discuss anything school related please do ask me on the gate or schedule a meeting via the office.

Thank you and God bless.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All events can be found on the school

website in the Calendar tab under

Key Information.

2nd October—Census Day (change to lunch menu)

2nd October—Harvest Festival at 14:00 in St Mary's Church

10th October—School Open Day, 10:30 and 13:30

13th October –17th October—15:15 Scholastic Book Fair

14th October—KIC Theatre in school (PTA funded)

17th October—Last day of Term 1

20th October-24th October—Half Term (school closed)

27th October—First day of Term 2

29th October—Venture Sports PE lessons (Term 2 Hockey)

29th October and 30th October —Parent and Carer Teacher Meetings

1st November—Open Day at 10:00

5th November—Armistice Day Collective Worship

6th November—Yr6 Cathedral Day

ELHAM VALLEY OPEN DOOR PRAYER HUB

For information about our local churches and the services they are offering, please visit their website:

<https://elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk/>

On Behalf of the Governors

On behalf of the Governing Board, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you and your family. Whether you are returning to our school community or joining us for the first time, we are delighted to have you with us.

This year, we are particularly excited about the opportunities ahead, with our brilliant new Head, Mr Magliocco, bringing renewed vision and passion to the school community, and our incredible staff team working tirelessly for the children of the school.

I count it a great honour to move from the role of Co-Chair to Chair this year, and look forward to serving the school community in this way.

As a parent of four children at the school, I know that our involvement as parents and carers plays a vital role in our children's success, and encourage you to share your ideas, ask questions, and take part in school life wherever you can. Together, we can ensure that every child flourishes both academically and personally.

Thank you for your ongoing support and trust. We look forward to working with you over the coming year and to celebrating all that our children will achieve.

Ed Robbins, Chair of Governors

PTA Volunteers

Last week, the PTA and Mr Magliocco met to discuss proposals for events for the upcoming year. The **plans included a Christmas Celebration, cake sale, raffle, movie night and much more.**

These events are cherished parts of our school calendar and are loved by the children. To ensure that the PTA can continue to organise and execute these wonderful occasions, **the PTA need more volunteers.**

Whilst we understand that being on the board itself could be a big commitment, **volunteering your time to support with set-up, tidying away or helping to organise would be greatly appreciated.** Without larger numbers, the PTA will struggle to continue its excellent work that does so much to enrich the lives of the children at Elham CEP.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can help, please contact the PTA via **ElhamPrimaryPTA@hotmail.com**. The PTA AGM will be on September 30th, all parents and carers welcome.

BBC 500 Words

The BBC's 500 Words competition opened this week. There are two categories: 5-7 and 8-11 year olds. As in previous year's, the judges are looking for creativity and therefore punctuation and grammar will not be marked.

Lots of prizes to be won—each winner will take home a bundle of books and gold winners will also win 500 books for their school library!

50 finalists will be invited to a grand final in February 2026 and their stories will be read out by celebrities on a special 500 Words programme which will feature on The One Show on BBC1.

Entries must be submitted by 9pm on Friday, 7th November.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>



Arrears

Please may we remind parents to keep their children's School Money accounts topped up. We had over £180 of arrears this week.

School Facebook

Our Elham CEP School Open Days on October 10th and November 1st are fast approaching. We are hoping to spread the word far and wide to attract as many new families to our school as possible. If you are able to share our post (see right) then we would be grateful.



Acrise Electrical Services Limited

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Acrise Electrical Services

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to James and Acrise Electrical Services (Charlie's dad in Potter!) for generously replacing the keypads for our electric gates.

The School Fund

At Elham CEP School, we like to do all we can to offer your child(ren) an engaging, varied and rich curriculum of opportunities. In the past, this has included extra school trips, a summer circus camp and in-school workshops.

Historically, this was partly funded by 'The School Fund'. The School Fund is a charitable donation of £5 which can be made via SchoolMoney in the shop section. Whilst I am conscious that we are experiencing a cost of living crisis, and **we do not expect any parent to pay for school**, more contributions to the School Fund would enable us to offer a more broad and enriching curriculum.

If this is something which you would like to support and you are in a position to do so, it would be greatly valued.

Census Day—Change to the lunch menu

Thursday, 2nd October, is Census Day and Whole School Meals will serve fish fingers and chips. If your child is in Key Stage 1 (Farah or Potter classes), please encourage them to order a lunch as part of the school's funding is calculated on the number of children in these year groups who have a school lunch on this day.

On Friday, 3rd October, lunch will be battered chicken steak, or cheesy puff, with herby diced potatoes and baked beans. There is always an option to have a jacket potato with cheese and beans too.

Free School Meals

It is easy to check your eligibility for Free School Meals by clicking on this link <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent>. Applying for FSM entitles families to receive support during the holidays, including supermarket and energy vouchers, along with access to free holiday clubs. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Donations

If you have any old, unplayed with children's toys at your home then we would love to take them. We cannot accept anything damaged or broken, but well-loved is perfect.

In particular we are short of:

- Small world people e.g. Playmobil, Lego characters, minifigures, plastic figurines
 - Toy farm animals
 - Mobilo or Playmobil of any sort
 - Toy boats
 - Measuring jugs or beakers
 - Pots, pans, old kitchenalia
 - Toy food
- Sand toys—buckets, spades, moulds

We appreciate that times are hard for everyone at the moment. Please only donate what you no longer use or need.

Parent Forum

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who have shown interest in the Parent Forums. We now have representatives for every class. A Parent Forum policy will soon be appearing on our website. The date for the first Parent Forum will be Tuesday October 7th, 3:30 until 4:30. All attending will need to have read and agreed to the policy and an agenda will be brought by Mr Magliocco. We look forward to welcoming some of you there.