Ellison Primary Academy 16.1.26

Friday 16th January 2026

Newsletter

Vision Statement: 'Developing a caring family of creative, critical and collaborative learners'.



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break filled with rest, joy, and time with loved ones. As we return to school, we are excited to welcome the children back and begin a new term full of energy and enthusiasm.

The coming months promise to be an exciting period of learning and growth. We have a range of engaging lessons, hands-on activities, and enriching opportunities planned that we know the children will enjoy. From exploring new topics to developing key skills, there is so much to look forward to, and we can't wait to see the progress the children will make.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to working together to make this term a successful and enjoyable one for every child.

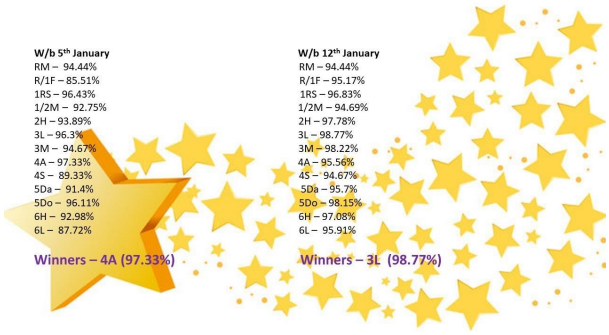
Warmest wishes,

Mrs Pateman

Attendance

We would like to share the children's super attendance! Well done children! Please see below the attendance figures.

Well done to class 4A and 3L for winning the attendance awards!



Happy New Year

Happy New Year to all our families!

We hope you had a lovely, restful break and enjoyed spending time with family and friends over the holidays.

We have enjoyed welcoming the children back to school for a new term full of learning, friendships and exciting opportunities.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We wish you all a happy, healthy and successful year ahead.



Mr Newton

Mr Newton has won Treacle Coffee Shop's community award!!

It is very much deserved! Thank you to everyone who nominated him; he has really enjoyed his cuppa. ☕



New Vic Theatre - The Little Mermaid

Next week, we will be taking Years 1 -6 to see a performance of The Little Mermaid at the New Vic Theatre. This is a chance to see a live performance which is excellently presented and thoroughly enjoyed by the children.

The children will be attending the theatre on the following dates during school time:

Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6	Friday 23rd January 2026
Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3	Thursday 22nd January 2026

A Midsummer Night's Dream sharing event - Wednesday 4th February 2026

As part of the school's on-going work with the Royal Shakespeare Company, the children will be exploring the play A Midsummer Night's Dream. Throughout the unit, they will investigate different aspects of the play using drama, music and speaking and listening skills. To showcase their performance skills, children are invited to take part in a whole school sharing event after school on **Wednesday 4th February**. Each year group will bring a different concept or theme to life, depending on what they have been learning in class. The performances will start at 3:30pm and end at roughly 4:30pm. If your child would like to attend, please give permission below. We would be delighted if you could also attend and ask that you indicate how many tickets you would like on the form. Due to restrictions on numbers, these are strictly limited to two per child. During the event, you will be escorted around the school to watch a short scene from each year group before collecting your children from the school playground. All children taking part will need to stay for the full event in order for it to run safely and smoothly.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to sharing an afternoon of theatre with you all.

Well Schools Trust

The Societas Trust is launching a new initiative across all of our schools - including Ellison - to become a "Well Schools Trust", reflecting our commitment to supporting the physical health, mental wellbeing and overall happiness of each member of our school community.

As a part of this, we are inviting parents and carers to complete a short survey to gain your insights and help us identify the areas we nee to work on.

There is still time to complete this survey using the QR code below or the link - The Societas Trust Parent Physical Activity and Wellbeing Survey 2025



Newcastle Food Bank

Please see below message from Newcastle Food Bank. Thank you for all of your kind harvest donations.

What a remarkable thing you have done.

Your kindness shows families in need that they matter. Your generosity provides friendship to people struggling with loneliness and isolation. Your compassion provides nutritious food parcels to people struggling to feed themselves.

That’s the difference your support makes. And I’m writing today to share my heartfelt gratitude to you for your very generous donation of 96.69 kg, which we received recently. The equivalent number of meals is an incredible 230 Meals. Please find attached a certificate to express our gratitude to your school community.

Thank you for joining us in the movement to create a community free of hunger. We couldn't do this without you being part of our team, working together to change lives and futures. We are so thankful for your support.



Geography Learning

We are very excited to be starting our new Geography units in the coming days, with lots of curiosity, discussion and exploration ahead for our children. Each year group will be diving into a different big question about our world:

KS1 - Why is our world wonderful?

Year 3 - Who lives in Antarctica?

Year 4 - Where does our food come from?

Year 5 - Would you like to live in the desert?

Year 6 - Where does our energy come from?

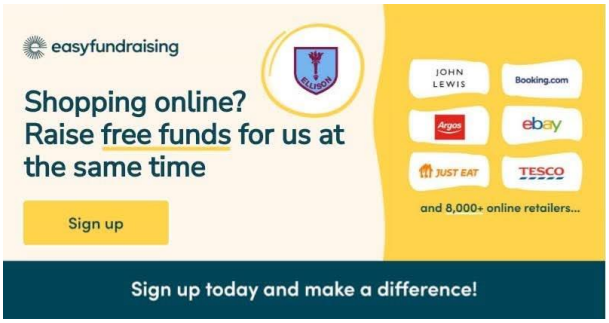
We're looking forward to seeing children make links, ask thoughtful questions and develop their understanding of the world around them.

Easy Fundraising

You can help Ellison Primary WIN a £500 donation this month!

Ellison Primary will receive a FREE entry into the prize draw every time a new supporter signs up before 29th January. It only takes a moment, it's completely free, and it could make a huge difference to our school. Winning would give our 2026 fundraising a fantastic boost and help us continue to support our children and community.

Please get involved if you haven't already - every sign-up really counts!

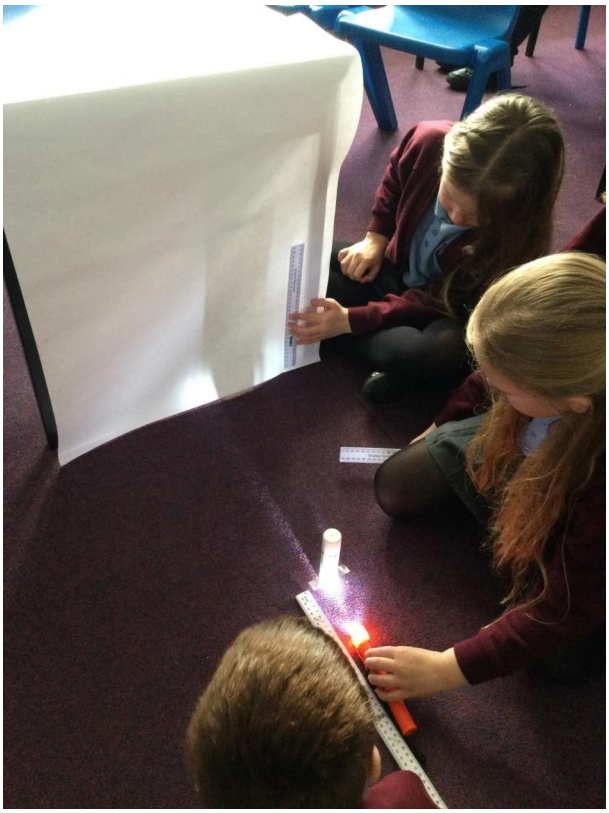


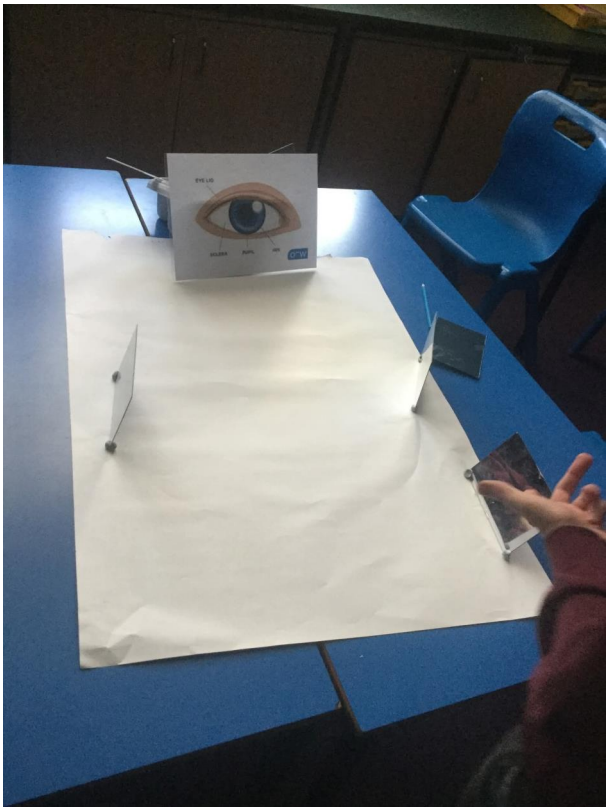
Year 6 Science - Investigating light!

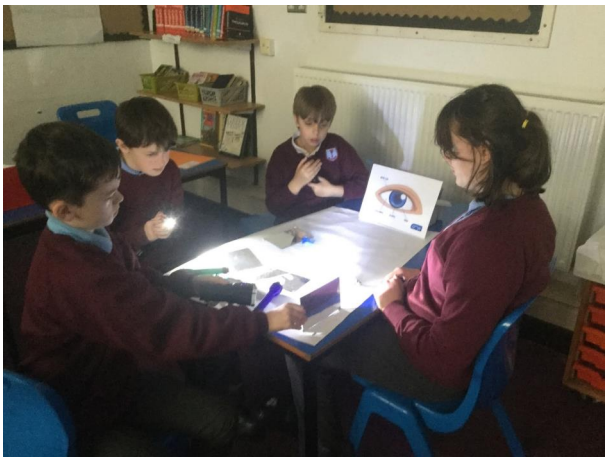
Our Year 6 pupils have been exploring the fascinating topic of light in their latest science unit. They carried out hands-on investigations to understand how we see and how shadows are formed.

Using torches to represent light rays, the children experimented with different objects and positions to see how shadows change in size and shape. They also explored angles of incidence and created their own light mazes.

It's been a brilliant opportunity for them to work scientifically and apply scientific thinking!











Year 6 Geography - Exploring Population and Our Local Area!

Our Year 6 pupils have been diving into an exciting Geography unit all about population. As part of their learning, they carried out real-world fieldwork in two different locations within our local area.

The children compared:

Noise levels

Volume of traffic

Amount of litter

They even spoke to members of the public to gather opinions on issues such as litter and noise pollution.

Back in the classroom, the pupils to gather their findings into detailed reports, complete with line graphs and bar charts to present the data they collected.

We are so proud of their hard work and the fantastic skills they've developed in research, analysis, and communication!









Potty training

Need help with potty training? ERIC offers practical tips and support for families:

Please also see the link below to a potty training guide.

[The Potty Training Guide - Starting Reception]



Toys and football cards

We have noticed that more toys and football cards are being brought into school recently. While we know children are very proud of their collections, we ask that these items are kept at home. They can easily be lost or damaged and can cause distractions in class and on the playground. Thank you for your support in helping children to focus on their learning in school.

Healthy lunchboxes

Please remember to send your child in with a healthy lunch. We are seeing an increasing number of unhealthy lunchboxes.

Please do not send your child into school with any nut products.

Playground Equipment

Whilst we enjoy seeing the children make use of the playground equipment at the end of the day, please ensure that your child is fully supervised when using the apparatus. There should be no more than six children on the equipment at one time. Please also ensure that

you leave the premises by 3.25pm so that the gates can be closed on time. Thank you for your support.

Virtual Worry Box

You will find the new 'Worry Box' on our school website. If you go to the 'Children' tab, you will see 'Worry Box' as the third option down. When you click on the 'Worry Box' it will take you to a Microsoft forms page. Your child can complete the simple form (this can be done with your support if needed) and this will be sent to our SLT and Safeguarding team. Your child will not receive a direct message back in writing, but please be assured that a member of the team will act swiftly and ensure the appropriate support will be given.

Please be aware however, that the messages will not be checked outside of school hours and the worry box is not to be used to contact school staff in emergencies. Although we will check the worries regularly, we still encourage children to speak to an adult in school. Any concerns that parents and carers have should still be raised through the usual communication channels.

We hope this will be a great support for our children's mental health and well-being across the school and give them an extra way to communicate with our dedicated staff.



Oaklands Nursery

Please follow the link below to Oaklands newsletter.

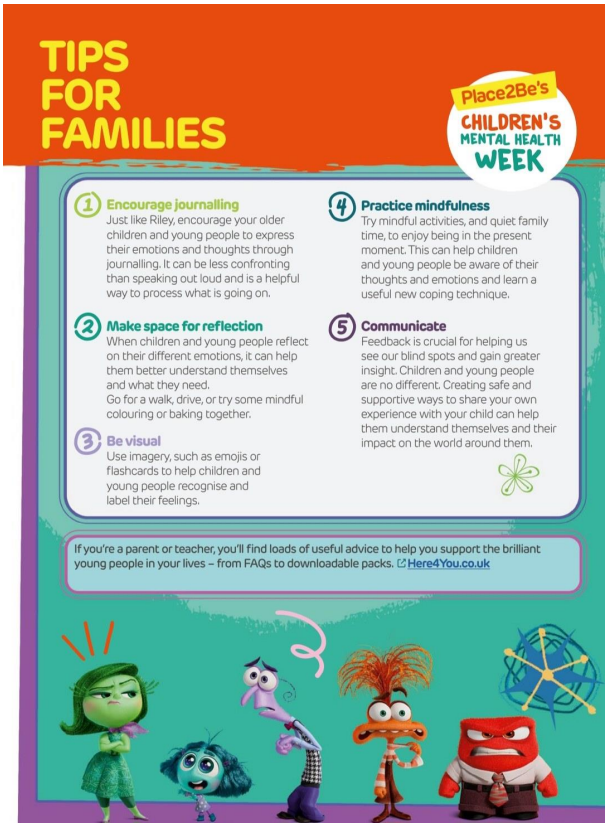
https://sway.cloud.microsoft/VILiv4BAtylBs3W5?ref=Link

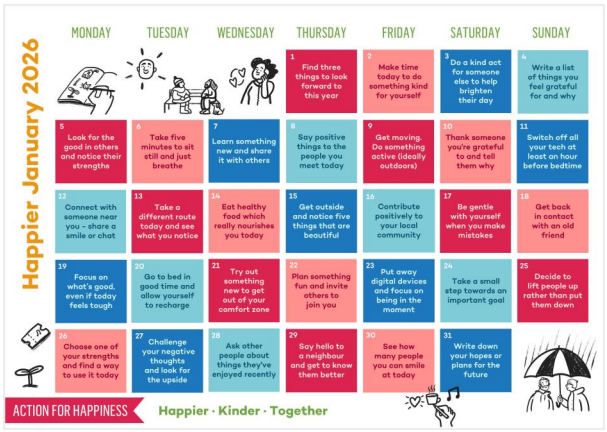

Working in close partnership with Ellison Primary
Ofsted
Outstanding Provider
Oaklands
OAKLANDS NURSERY SCHOOL
OPEN DAYS
Are you looking for a Nursery place for your 2, 3 or 4 year old child?
Come and visit us to find out more about our 'outstanding' Nursery provision!
DATES TO REMEMBER:
WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER-
TUESDAY 17TH MARCH-
(10-11AM/ 1.30-2.30PM OR 4.30-6PM)
SATURDAY 13TH JUNE-
(10-12PM)
WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER
Friendly and Nurturing Environment
Large outdoor woodland space/Forest schools
High quality education and childcare for children aged 2 to 4 "Staff are exceptionally skilled"- Ofsted report May 2023
01782 987075
www.oaklands.staffs.sch.uk
office@oaklands.staffs.sch.uk
Oaklands Avenue,
Porthill,
Newcastle
ST5 0EX


Oaklands
Music Makers @
ELLISON
Every Tuesday afternoon
1:30-2:45pm @ Ellison Primary Academy
Come along for lively weekly music and movement sessions!
Each week brings a new chance to sing, dance, and play through songs, rhymes, and hands-on activities. Children can shake, stomp, stretch, and sway as they explore rhythm and sound in a warm, welcoming environment. It's a playful space to build confidence, spark creativity, and share smiles—perfect for curious minds and busy feet!
£2 per session- includes activity,drink and snack
Music Makers is suitable for children aged 12mths to 4 yrs. All children must be accompanied by an adult.
Advance booking essential
01782 987075 or email
office@oaklands.staffs.sch.uk

Action for Happiness calendar

Each month we shall include the Action for Happiness calendar on our newsletter. It is packed with daily ideas for helping with mental health and wellbeing. Don't forget to visit our school website to see the wealth of information available. Just go to 'Community' and then 'Mental Health and Wellbeing'. If you need any further support, our Mental Health First Aiders are Mrs Prince and Mrs Dawson so please contact the school if you would like to speak to either of the team or make an appointment.



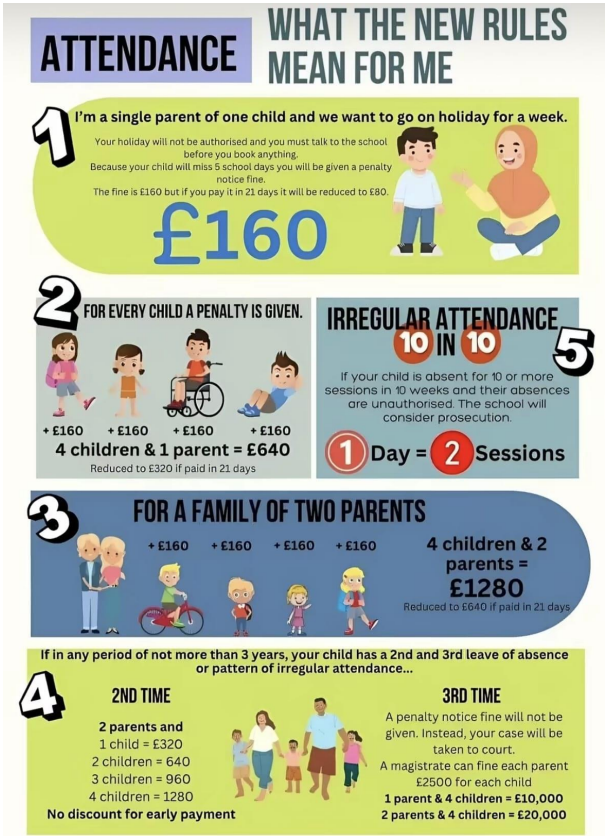


Food bank - please help yourself

We are very lucky that our Ellison family donate food throughout the year. We have more food items and sanitary products available in school. Either discretely help yourself to items from the reception area or ask the office for a bag to be made up for you.



Changes to attendance from September 2024 - you can find the policy on our school website.



No smoking or vaping

Please can we remind everyone that there should be no smoking or vaping on the school premises. We would appreciate this to be respected around the school entrance and gates too. Thank you for your support.



Parking

We need your support to ensure the roads around Ellison are safe and that neighbour's properties are not blocked by vehicles.

Please be aware of your surroundings when parking around the school.

A polite reminder - please park considerately in the surrounding area as a number of driveways are being blocked and cars are also parking on the yellow zig - zag lines causing concern for the safety of our children.

Reminder - ASDA is our Park and Stride, by parking there you will help to support safety of the surrounding roads.





Extra-curricular clubs

Monday - Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 Young Voices singing club (3.15p.m. - 4p.m.)

Monday - KS2 Homework club (3.15p.m. - 4p.m.)

Monday - Year 1 Lego club (3.15p.m. - 4p.m.)

Monday - Reception well-being club (3.15p.m.-4p.m.)

Tuesday - Year 4 Alternative sports club (3.15p.m. - 4.15p.m.)

Tuesday - Reception Storytime club (3.15p.m. - 4p.m.)

Tuesday - Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 Creation station club (3.15p.m. - 4.15p.m.)

Wednesday - Class 1/2M and 2H Multi-sports club (3.15p.m. - 4.15p.m.)

School Term Dates

Inset day: Monday 5th January 2026

School re-opens: Tuesday 6th January 2026 until Friday 13th February 2026

School closes: Monday 16th February 2026 until Friday 20th February 2026

School re-opens: Monday 23rd February 2026 until Thursday 26th March 2026

Inset day: Friday 27th March 2026

School closes: Monday 30th March 2026 until Friday 10th April 2026

School re-opens: Monday 13th April 2026 until Friday 22nd May 2026

May Day: Monday 4th May

School closes: Monday 25th May 2026 until Friday 29th May 2026

School re-opens: Monday 1st June 2026 until Friday 17th July 2026

Inset Day: Friday 5th June 2026

Inset Day: Monday 20th July 2026

School closes: Monday 20th July 2026 until Friday 28th August 2026

Academic Year and Holiday Dates 2025 – 2026

Autumn term 2025:

INSET DAY: Monday 1st September

INSET DAY: Tuesday 2nd September

Pupils: Wednesday 3rd September – Friday 24th October

Holiday: Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October

Pupils: Monday 3rd November – Friday 19th December

Holiday: Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January

Spring Term 2026:

INSET DAY: Monday 5th January

Pupils: Tuesday 6th January – Friday 13th February

Holiday: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February

Pupils: Monday 23rd February – Thursday 26th March

TRUST INSET DAY: Friday 27th March

Holiday: Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April

Summer Term 2026:

Pupils: Monday 13th April – Friday 22nd May

MAY DAY: Monday 4th May

Holiday: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Pupils: Monday 1st June – Friday 17th July

INSET DAY: Friday 5th June

INSET DAY: Monday 20th July

Holiday: Monday 20th July – Friday 28th August

Absence from school

If your child is unwell and won't be attending school, please call the school office on 01782 613674 before 9.30am. If it is before 8.30am please leave a message on the answer phone; including the reason for the absence. Please advise us of the illness and not just that your child is unwell. This will help us understand the types of illnesses in school and if any further action is required from Public Health. If your child has sickness and diarrhoea, they MUST remain absent from school for 48 hours, even if they are well in themselves. Thank you.

Privacy statement

Please follow the link below to see the privacy statement for parents and carers.

https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/ellison-primary-academy/UploadedDocument/793d7a25-1820-4fea-ba73-4d4f4b6af36b/privacy-statement-for-parents-and-pupils-may-2024.pdf

Code of conduct for parents and carers

Please follow the link below to see the annual update for the code of conduct for parents and carers.

https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/ellison-primary-academy/UploadedDocument/86d95e91-bbe8-4050-ac94-84bac2fddb23/code-of-conduct-for-parents-and-carers-2024.pdf