



ELLEL ST JOHN'S CE Primary School

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Ellel Newsletter

FRIENDSHIP

'Loving, living and learning in the light of Christ'

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. ~ Matthew 5:16

Issue No 10 - Friday 3rd February 2023

Dear parents. No one in school can quite believe how quickly this half term has gone and that we've only got one more week before the half term break. The children have started the new year brilliantly and have worked very hard, learnt lots and have had lots of fun in school! As well as our usual learning we have been very busy with: Go Velo Cycle Training (Acorn Class); Tree Planting at Forest Hills (Sycamore Class); Young Voices (Oak Class); our fabulous Chinese New Year Day (all children) and the FOE film night this week (a big thank you to the FOE for organizing and running this event). We are enjoying spotting the early signs of spring around the school grounds and are all looking forward to longer days better weather and flowers in bloom when we return after the break. Have a lovely weekend and a great half term when it comes. Mrs FitzGerald

Young Voices 2023

On Monday, the pupils from Oak Class and a group of staff visited the Manchester Arena for the long-awaited Young Voices concert. The children have worked so hard learning the songs and dance moves and performed absolutely brilliantly as part of the largest children's choir in the world. There were over 8000 children performing! As always, they all conducted themselves perfectly and despite it being a very long and tiring day, all came back very happy. A big thank you to the staff who accompanied the children on this wonderful trip.

Attendance

As a school, we are working hard to improve overall attendance and punctuality to ensure that every child's attendance at school is as good as it possibly can be.

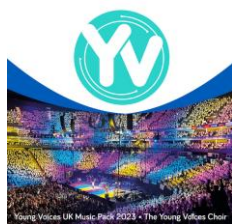
National Attendance Target = 96%

Ellel Attendance:

W/B 16th Jan – 96%; W/B 23rd Jan – 94%

Class Attendance:

W/B 16 th Jan	W/B 23 rd Jan
Acorns 95%	Acorns 93%
Beech 99%	Beech 93%
Holly 98%	Holly 97%
Hazel 99%	Hazel 95%
Willow 97%	Willow 91%
Sycamore 96%	Sycamore 97%
Oak 91%	Oak 90%



NEU Strike

As you know, many teachers from the NEU went on strike on Wednesday. Although school was open, we do believe that some changes are needed in the education system to help the profession and better support children and their learning. Please see the information below about why some teachers made the decision to strike:

PAY UP! SAVE OUR SCHOOLS

A message to parents, carers and grandparents from the National Education Union (NEU).

Our members – teachers, support staff and leaders – have voted to take strike action.

You might not know why we have taken this decision.

But what you do know is that we try to do our best for your children.

To give them a good education and make school a warm and welcoming community, where staff know and understand them and you.

Where we give them continuity and stability, with enough specialist teachers, who know their subjects. And the proper resources to help them learn and grow.

But we are struggling to do this right now.

In July, the Government offered most teachers a pay rise of just 5 per cent – with inflation soaring, that adds up to a 2 per cent pay cut.

The 5 per cent offered isn't fully funded – that means Government expects your school to pay for it out of its already dwindling budget.

Because our pay is not keeping up with the cost of living, teachers and support staff are leaving for jobs with comparable salaries but without the stress and workload generated by targets and paperwork that exist in schools right now.

One in three teachers leave education within five years. And last September, almost a third fewer teachers began teacher training than are needed.

Schools have too many vacancies. Heads tell us of vital subjects – maths, science, computing, languages – with unfilled posts.

And existing staff delivering lessons outside their subject every single day.

Managing with fewer staff also means we can't give enough personal support if your children need extra help.

And it means they have reduced access to sports, drama, music and other activities that make the week for a lot of pupils.

We don't want to be on strike.

We'd rather be in the classroom, getting on with what we do best – teaching and supporting your children.

But we can't stand by and see our colleagues experience hardship with yet another real-terms pay cut.

And we can't stand back and watch the erosion from teaching and the resulting decline in the quality of education for your children.

Our action for a fully funded, above-inflation pay rise isn't just about making sure that teachers and support staff make ends meet. It's about the future of education.

This Government is failing children and young people and those who teach and support them. And, like our NHS staff, we are being forced into taking action for our members, our pupils and their future. Please show your support by writing to your MP and take the time to tell your child's teacher and support staff that you are with them.

Thank you.

Scan this QR code to find out what you can do to support us.

REMINDER

School of the Week – Free Football Tickets!

Ellel St John's has been nominated to be Lancaster City FC's School of the Week. All parents, staff and children get free tickets for the game on 25th February. See the flyer below for further details or the leaflet that was sent home earlier this week:



Holly Class Celebration Assembly

This will take place on Friday 24th February at 2.15pm. Parents of Holly Class pupils are invited to watch. We will also present any awards and certificates that the children have achieved. Please send these into school from Monday 20th February.

FORTHCOMING DATES

February	
Mon 6 th	Storytelling Day and Fun Run
Tues 7 th	Governors Committee Meetings, 4-6pm
Fri 10 th	Sally Schofield – Deputy Director of Education for Blackburn Diocese to visit school Therapy Dog visiting school School closes for half term
Mon 20 th	School opens after half term
Tues 21 st	Mad Science Club starts
Fri 24 th	Holly Class Celebration Assembly – 2.15pm

Supporting the Olive Branch – Beech Class

This year, every class in school has chosen a charity that they wish to support. The Year 1 children in Beech Class chose the Olive Branch, a Lancaster food bank, and Rev. Craig came into school to talk to them about the great work that this charity does.

The children in Beech Class will be bringing in donations for the Olive Branch but wanted to let the rest of the school community know so that they can get involved if they would like to. Please note, this is not compulsory – only give if you are able to. If you would like to make a donation to the Olive Branch, please send this into school no later than Wednesday 8th February. Thanks so much!

For more information, please visit the Olive branch website: <https://the-olivebranch.org.uk/>