



ELLEL ST JOHN'S CE Primary School

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Ellel Newsletter

JUSTICE

'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 14 - Friday 21st April 2023

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. I hope you all had a wonderful Easter and managed to enjoy some rest and relaxation, family time and plenty of chocolate! As we begin the final term of this academic year, there are lots of things to look forward to: trips and residential, FOE events and special school events, assemblies and services to name but a few. Please keep a close eye on the forthcoming dates section of the newsletters and the key dates letter which will be sent via Parent App. We have already made an exciting start to this term and have been very busy this week, particularly with our Easter Prayer Day and Egg Roll on Monday (thank you Craig and Ian) and some really interesting assemblies. Next week will be very exciting for Willow Class as they head off on their first residential trip. Have a wonderful time Willow Class! It has been wonderful to see our children so happy and engaged in their learning this week; I am sure this will continue for the remainder of the term. I hope you all have a lovely weekend! Mrs FitzGerald

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 20th Mar – 94%; W/B 27th Mar – 94%

Class Attendance:

W/B 20 th Mar	W/B 27 th Mar
Acorns 90%	Acorns 91%
Beech 96%	Beech 98%
Holly 92%	Holly 97%
Hazel 97%	Hazel 94%
Willow 98%	Willow 98%
Sycamore 98%	Sycamore 94%
Oak 92%	Oak 95%

The overall winners for last half term were **Sycamore Class**. Well done to them!

Beech Class Celebration Assembly

This Celebration Assembly will take place on Friday 28th April at **2.15pm**. Parents of Beech Class pupils are invited to watch. We will also present any awards and certificates that children from across school have achieved. Please send these into school from Monday 24th April.

Road Work Disruption

Apologies for the ongoing disruption caused by the various road works on Chapel Street. We have been as much in the dark as you about what is happening when. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

A Message from Di Otto... WoW!

Our warm space initiative at Galgate Community Rooms is developing into a **War On Waste** group. We are looking to recruit soldiers from the village who hate to see good food going to waste! A team of about 10 of us have already been using donated food to provide hot lunches and great company every Friday from 11am – 3pm, but we now have the opportunity to partner with Carnforth Tesco and rescue the foods they cannot legally sell in their store (mis-labelled, over-ordered or short-dated usually). We will be collecting surplus foods on Thursday evenings and making them available for collection on Fridays at the Community Rooms 3 - 5 pm and Sundays after the 10.30 service at Ellel St John's Church in the car park. All we need now is a lot of wonderful people who can use the food and prevent it going to waste! So, if you don't mind using short-dated foods, know how to turn them into tasty meals for freezing or know someone else who can – please send them in our direction. Contact Di Otto (07710516847), Jue Jones (07796811060) or Lisa Corkerry (07969495670) if you have questions or just turn up at one of the venues. Please! Your planet needs you!

FOE FILM AFTERNOON

The Friends of Ellel will be holding a film event straight after school on Tuesday 9th May. Tickets will be priced at the usual £5 for the film and refreshments including a hotdog at the interval. Tickets are now on sale in the office.



Residential Payments

Please can we ask that any outstanding payments for residential taking place this school year (Willow, Holly, Oak) are made by the dates communicated with you earlier this week. Many thanks to all those who have already paid for these trips.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION RE PLANNED STRIKE ACTION: You are no doubt aware of the disputes between various public sector bodies and the government in relation to pay and working conditions. It was very much hoped that, following strike action last term, the voice of the unions would be heard and a resolution reached. Sadly, this is currently not the case and as such, further strike action has been planned by the NEU.

Over the past decade, the pay increase given to school staff has been well below inflation; impacting individuals and the school budget. The media stated that the pay offer made would be totally funded, which is incorrect. In fact, only 0.5 of the 4.5% increase offered would be funded by the government with the rest having to be made up from our already deficit budget. In light of this, a number of NEU members have decided to join the industrial action on **Thurs 27th April** and **Tues 2nd May** meaning some disruption to our normal opening. On both days, school will be closed to all children in Hazel and Sycamore Class. I am sorry for the disruption that this will cause and appreciate that this will put additional pressure on you as families; this decision has not been taken lightly. School is obliged to provide a paper-bag packed lunch to all pupils in receipt of free school meals. If you are eligible and would like this provided, please contact the office before home time on Fri 21st April. This packed lunch will need to be collected from school on the strike days.

For your information – taken from the dFE document 'Handling Strike Action In Schools', April 2023: *Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their school-registered child of compulsory school age attends school regularly. Therefore, all school-registered children of compulsory school age in classes open on days when strike action is being taken are still required to attend school, regardless of parental choice or the closure of other classes in the school.* Thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support and understanding.

Help with our school garden: We are looking to develop our garden area. We would like to prepare the garden area for the children to use, look after and enjoy and are looking for volunteers who could help us to do this or donate any cuttings or plants. If you are able to help us with this project, please email deputyhead@ellel-st-johns.lancs.sch.uk or a.graham@ellel-st-johns.lancs.sch.uk. Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Summer Term Key Dates

Below are the dates of events taking place in the next couple of weeks. In addition to this, we will be sending out (following this newsletter) a more detailed list of summer term dates. As the term progresses, more events will be planned but we are sharing the dates that we know at the moment. Please look out for this.

FORTHCOMING DATES

April	
Mon 24 th	Willow Class Residential
Tues 25 th	
Wed 26 th	Y1&3 den building
Thurs 27 th	NEU Strike Day – school closed to Hazel and Sycamore Class
Fri 28 th	Beech Class Celebration Assembly – 2.15pm
May	
Mon 1 st	Bank Holiday – school closed
Tues 2 nd	NEU Strike Day – school closed to Hazel and Sycamore Class
Fri 5 th	Class Photos King's Coronation Day lunch and activities
Mon 8 th	Coronation Day Bank Holiday – school closed
Tues 9 th	FOE Film Afternoon
Tues 9 th – Fri 11 th	Oak Class SATs Week