



Elm Wood
Primary School

FEBRUARY 2025

HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 1, 2025

TOP NEWS

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Message from Mrs Leith

As we come to the end of a very busy and productive half term, I would like to take this opportunity to again thank our pupils, staff, parents/carers and all members of the Elm Wood Family, for your continued support.

This half term has once again been filled with lots of activities both inside and outside the classroom. The children have enjoyed many school trips and we have completed activities to celebrate World Mental Health Week. This included each of the classes completing Yoga sessions. Once again I would like to thank the Friends of Elm Wood for their support in organising this activity for the school.



As of 01.04.25 Elm Wood Primary School will be a stand-alone Lambeth Primary School. In order to progress with this process our Local Advisory Board have now become our Temporary Governing Body. A meeting of our Governing Body will take place during the week of 01.04.25 where the team will officially become the Governing Body for our school. I am currently working alongside our Chair of the Temporary Governing Body, George German, to ensure that we have everything in place as needed. Please look out for pen portraits of our Governing Body which I will share with you all very soon!

I would like to take this opportunity to say that I am extremely proud of our amazing children and our wonderful staff team for all of the hard work and dedication they displayed during our Ofsted Inspection this half term. I am still waiting to receive the written report and I will share this with you all as soon as I am able to.

As always I thank you all for your continued support and I hope that you enjoy family time over the half term holidays.

Mrs Leith

Dates for the diary...

14.02.25
FOE Valentines Cake Sale

17.02.25 to 21.02.25
School closed for Half Term Holidays

24.02.25
INSET Day: School closed to all pupils

25.02.25
Children return to school

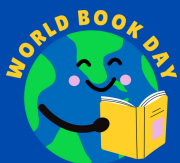
27.02.25
Reception Vision Screening

06.03.25
Parents Evening & World Book Day

28.03.25
Friends Of Elm Wood Spring Fair (15.30 - 17.00)

04.04.25
School finishes at 2pm

07.04.25 to 21.04.25
School Closed for the Spring Holidays



Term Dates: [2024 - 2025](#) and [2025 - 2026](#)

School Trips

Each half term the children from Years 1 to 6 go on a school trip which is linked to the learning that is taking place in the classroom.

School trips are important as they help the children to learn and grow in many ways. In order to stimulate creativity and work towards fostering a lifelong appreciation for art the children at Elm wood also visit galleries each year.

This half term some of the trips have included:

Year 1 have been learning all about Dinosaurs in school and they visited the Natural History Museum to see the dinosaurs and complete a workshop.

Year 4 have been learning about the Amazon Rainforest and have visited the London Aquarium where they took special interest in the Rainforest section.



As always I would like to thank each and every parent and carer who has accompanied a class on a school trip. We would not be able to take the children out of school so much without your support!

THANK YOU

Bikes and Scooters



Please ensure that all bikes and scooters are collected at the end of each Term. Any bikes or scooters that are left on school grounds at the end of this term (04.04.25) will be removed and disposed of.

Workshare Assemblies (10.00am)

- 05.03.25: Magpie Class
- 06.03.25: Swift Class
- 12.03.25: Kittiwake Class
- 13.03.25: Waxwing Class
- 19.03.25: Skylark Class
- 20.03.25: Siskin Class
- 26.03.25: Wren Class
- 27.03.25: Merlin Class



Learning Updates

Each class teacher uploads weekly learning updates on **Weduc**. Please follow this link to access these updates for your child's class.



Please contact the school office if you need assistance to log into Weduc.

Important messages!

- When it is your Child's birthday **please do not** ask school adults to hand out **party bags, cakes or sweets** as we will not be able to do this.
- Parent Fines for Missing School** Fines will be considered when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons. From August 2024, the fine for school absences will be **£80 if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 if paid within 28 days**. In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160.

School Streets

In 2020, a School Street initiative was introduced outside Elm Wood Primary School, successfully reducing motor vehicle traffic during pick-up and drop-off times. This has significantly improved safety for children.

However, some vehicles continue to drive dangerously outside school during School Street times, putting children at risk. To address these concerns, Lambeth Council is exploring additional measures to enhance safety on Carnac Street. The aim is to create an environment where children, parents/carers and residents can feel safe and enjoy their surroundings.



Lambeth Council have come to school to meet with our two young leader teams (School Council & Eco Team). This was a productive session and Lambeth seemed really impressed by the quality of the feedback they received. Children were asked what they wanted to see on the local streets around Elm Wood School & they were encouraged to be as creative as possible. The children represented the school beautifully! **Well done to all our Young Leaders!**

Lambeth visited school on 13.02.25 to attend a whole school assembly where key information was shared with all children.

We are all looking forward to seeing how this project continues to develop!

<https://www.elmwoodprimary.co.uk/>

Parent Survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete the recent parent survey.

Parent surveys are a great way for us as a school to have feedback. Feedback from surveys can be used to make necessary changes that can improve the school overall for both students and parents.

There were some common themes highlighted in the feedback.

- Targets:** Some parents stated that their children are not aware of their targets for Reading, Writing and Maths. Targets will be shared with parents at parents evening and school is putting actions in place to ensure that the children are all aware of their targets and how to meet them.
- Assemblies:** Some parents stated that they would like to hear more from the Class Teachers during Workshare Assemblies. We have already actioned this and Class Teachers are now introducing their class assemblies so that they can showcase the learning that has taken place in their classes.
- Curriculum:** Some parents stated that they were unsure of how some of the curriculum areas are being delivered across the school. Parents spoke about Art in particular. In response to this there is a Parent Event taking place on 14.02.25 which provides parents with a curriculum update and the opportunity to see how all subjects are covered across the school.

The school also received lots of positive comments linked to the strengths of the school. I have captured some of these below:

This school is extremely caring. This is reflected in the way teachers speak to pupils and parents, and in turn is reflected in their learning.

All teachers and staff members are very supportive and caring towards the children and listen to the children. Feels more like a family than just a school.

The opportunities to apply what they have learnt in the classroom on school trips, really relevant and applies to the real world. My child is coming home and talking about what they have learnt and are able to recall what they have covered.

Safer Internet Day

This week Elm Wood children have been learning about how to be safe when online, participating in activities to acknowledge Safer Internet Day 2025.

You can see details regarding our computing curriculum on our website: <https://www.elmwoodprimary.co.uk/computing>

We teach the children about staying safe online through our PSCE curriculum, further information on our website: <https://www.elmwoodprimary.co.uk/psce>

In addition, please find extra information and resources on the NSPCC website.

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)



Punctuality

School starts at 08.55

Punctuality is an essential life skill that needs to be taught from the very beginning.

Having good **attendance** also means being on time and not being late to school.

Children who arrive late can feel embarrassed, left out and miss out on important introductions to lessons.

