

Ellingham VC & Woodton Primary Schools Partnership

Headteacher: Charlotte Whyte



Inspire Challenge Nurture



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Each term I do a letter to let you know all the activities we have been doing, as well letting you know all the people who have come in to help or share experiences with us.

This has been another busy term and we know that the next few days are going to be very exciting time for your children.

Charities

We have been collecting money and items for a variety of charities.

- On the 23rd September we celebrated Jeans for Genes day at both schools.
- BBC Children In Need was held on the 18th November.
- Christmas Shoe Boxes have been collected from both schools.
- And finally this term the Save The Children Christmas Jumper Day on the 9th December.

Visitors

We are always delighted to welcome visitors to the school and this term we had

- Staff Sergeant Sayer came to Ellingham Primary on Friday 11th November, to talk to the children about the uniform worn by soldiers today and how it compared to that worn by soldiers 100 years ago during the First World War.
- Mr Tye came to Woodton Primary on Friday 11th November to talk about his time as a Desert Rat and linked it to the story of the Pied Piper.

School Events

Both schools celebrated Harvest Festival in the first half term and we will be going to the village churches to have our Carol Concerts. Woodton's is on Thursday 15th December at 2pm and Ellingham's is on Wednesday 14th December at 6pm.

Sporting Events

Our children have the opportunity to take part in after school Football and Karate at both schools and Multi-sports at Ellingham. However, it is important to have opportunities where our children can experience competitions. We take part in events against other schools in the Cluster, as well as take part in bigger events which involve the county.

So far this year we have partaken in:

- Rugby- A Cluster event and we did brilliantly to come third with a joint team from across the two schools.
- Cross country – Both schools entered the Cluster competition and we were delighted that a number of children progressed to represent the cluster at the South Norfolk event.
- Swimming Gala – This was a Cluster event and we have a number of pupils, from both schools, who have progressed to the next round.

Grounds

We are delighted that Andy from Tots Nursery is taking over the grounds work at Woodton Primary. He has been doing a wonderful job at Ellingham Primary for us and he will be replacing Norse at Woodton as from January 2017.

He has been in to Ellingham to give our new pond area, designed and built by Year 3 and 4, a final finish off to ensure it is all safe and secure. The children can now continue their work in the Spring.

He has already been over to give the pond and wildlife garden a spruce up at Woodton, so that the Nurture group can develop these areas further. We are also delighted that a group of parents have been in and are going to continue to work with us with the gardening.

PTA

We are so grateful to all the parents who give up their time to raise money for the schools. All the events the PTA do take time to organise and can only happen with the continued support from the whole school community.

Ellingham PTA

The PTA organised a Quiz and Chips evening on the 14th October, which was great fun. The Christmas Fair was on Saturday 3rd December 12.30-3pm, which was really enjoyed. They are finishing the term with a Christmas party for the children on the 16th December 6-8pm.

Woodton PTA

The PTA had a Halloween Party after school for the children on the 21st October which the children enjoyed. The Christmas Fair was on Friday 25th November straight after school, which was great fun. They finished this term with a Christmas party for the children on Friday 9th December.

Parent Training Sessions

We know that with all the changes to the school curriculum over the last few years that many parents no longer feel that they know what their child is learning or what the methods we use now are. Therefore, we have run a range of training sessions and we need to thank the staff who presented the courses and hope those who came to them found them of interest.

Course run this term across **both** schools were:

- Phonics for Reception parents and carers
- Tapestry for Reception parents carers
- Gramma sessions for KS2 parents and carers, run over two evenings.
- E-safety for parents and carers

We wish you all a wonderful and safe Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Whyte