

Great Ellingham Primary News

April 2021



Dates for your diary

MAY	
Mon 3rd	BANK HOLIDAY
Fri 28th	School closes for half term
JUN	
Mon 7th	School reopens for half term
Sun 20th	Father's Day
Wed 23rd	Federation Sports Day / Teddy Bear's Picnic
Wed 30th	Hilltop Residential
JUL	
Thu 1st – Fri 2nd	Hilltop Residential
Wed 7th	Sports Day
Wed 21st	School closes for summer holidays



Please help us by periodically visiting the Ofsted website to leave your views on our school. There's a link on our website.

Head's Headlines

What a lovely, sunny start to the new term!

We are still living 'life within bubbles' in school and the children are coping very well. If the DfE release new guidance to schools then we may relax how strict we are with our bubbles, but until such guidance is sent out to schools we will continue with this arrangement. Thank you for supporting the school community by continuing to socially distance during drop off and pick up times and by wearing facemasks. Your support is very much appreciated!

To support the children with their return to school following the long period of educational and social disruption due to Coronavirus, all children have made an orange 'alert' card. This card has their name on one side and the message, 'I would like to talk to someone' written on the other. Teachers have spoken to the children and explained that these cards are to be placed in a special box within the classroom if the child wants to speak to an adult about a worry or a concern. The adults will regularly monitor the box in their classroom and find time, and a quiet space, for the child to talk to them. Any concerns that teachers feel need further action will be passed to Miss Caie (Pastoral Lead) and shared with parents, if necessary. By doing this, we aim to actively support the mental well-being of our children.

Now that the weather is warm and dry, the children are making the most of our outside space. The new climbing equipment for Class 5 and 6 is proving to be very popular and is supporting children's fitness.

It is wonderful to see plants starting to grow in the raised beds, the gardening group are working hard to ensure that they are productive this year. I am sure that they will welcome any offers of plants ☺.

Last Monday, Miss Flatt returned to work after her maternity leave. She is now working part-time in Class 2 and supports the class across lunchtime. The children were with Miss Flatt when they were in Class 1 so she was thrilled to be with them again. Apparently, they have all grown!

Let's hope that we have a Summer Term full of sunny, dry days and no bubble bursting.

Take care, stay safe.

Kind regards, Julie Dekker

Stop Press News

*Don't forget, we have a long weekend ahead of us.
Here's hoping the sun will be shining for the Bank
Holiday!*

Lots of things have been happening in school since the start of 2021, including the addition of the new climbing equipment for Class 5 and 6 and the raised beds being looked after by the gardening group:



Executive Headteacher: Mrs Julie Dekker B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

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VACANCIES

We currently have vacancies for two TA positions across the Federation, as well as an MSA position at Great Ellingham.

For further details, please go to the [Education Job Finder](#) website.

The past year has been difficult, as we know, and more time has been spent online than ever before, particularly on social media and online games. For many, this has been a lifeline for maintaining contact with others.

However, we would like to remind parents and carers that there are downsides to this time spent online and we all need to stay alert and involved when it comes to our children accessing these platforms. Age limits are in place for most, if not all, platforms, and for good reason. A few issues have been brought into school recently, so we need to work together to raise awareness and keep our children safe.

There is plenty of advice and guidance around e-safety on the [school website](#), as well as the [Government website](#). If you need anything further, then please do get in touch with the school and we can point you in the right direction.



Sports Day 2021

We are happy to report that we will be going ahead with Sports Day this year, weather permitting, which will be on Wednesday 7th July.

However, due to the current restrictions in place we will not be able to invite family and friends along to watch and cheer on the children as we usually do.

This is one of the highlights of the summer term and we will miss the support of you all, but we look forward to getting back to normal in 2022!



Can you offer any expertise?

During the weeks beginning Monday 10th and Monday 17th May, Class 3 will be learning about Great Ellingham School. In particular, they are going to investigate how old the school is. Therefore, if you are or if you know an old pupil who would be prepared to share their experiences then please do contact Mrs Watts to help (geclass3@gtellingham.org.uk).

This could be by sending an email telling us about some memories, sending in some photographs, old certificates or even part of an old school uniform. Additionally, it would be great if we could have a couple of people to come in to school to tell us about their experiences in person. (To comply with COVID restrictions and advice we would do this in one of the outdoor areas).

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

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