



We continue to use our school PTA Facebook page as the quickest way to relay information to parents. Should the school be closed for snow, this is the first place you would see the information. We try to answer questions on the same day and have found it useful for reminders, or clarifying timings for homework etc.

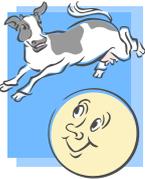
Newsletters will continue to be sent through PMX Parentmail. If anyone needs to speak to a teacher, or has any concerns, this can be dealt with quickly through Kathy.

We had a lovely World Book Day and the children enjoyed dressing up as book characters and talking about their favourite books.

There are pictures on our Facebook page and Twitter. We may also be part of the WBD pictures in Northumberland Gazette.

Thank you to the parents who are paying their bills through the new secure text link. This method is going well and we will continue to send the texts on a Tuesday. You can of course still pay by cheque or cash if you prefer.

Some parents are now using the Tax-Free childcare method of payment and benefitting from a 20% discount on their Nursery and After School Club fees. You may be surprised as to how easy this is to set up and how many of you may be eligible. Both parents have to be earning over £100,000 to not be eligible. I have attached more information to this email.



Milk this term, will be charged retrospectively at the end of the term. Any child who paid for milk last term will be charged again this term, unless you have spoken to Kathy.

We continue to run a well-attended After School Club each night until 4.15pm. There are still spaces available for all the clubs. It is also usually possible to arrange short notice, ad hoc sessions if you suddenly need additional child care. Sports clubs cost £2.50 an hour (subsidised with our government PE grant), Art, Forest Craft and Film club £5.00 an hour.

Please speak to Kathy if you would like more information. Unless you tell us otherwise your child will continue to be enrolled in their current clubs for the rest of the school year.

Next Thursday, we are holding Parents Evening. There are still a few appointments left. There will be a large amount of second hand uniform available. Please help yourself to anything you may need and make a small donation to school if you are able.

We are celebrating Red Nose Day on Friday 15th March. We will be holding a non-uniform day and collecting donations. Wear something red, if you have it, and take part in some of the fun that will be held in school. We have a JustGiving page if you would rather donate directly, the link is below.

[Red Nose Day](#)



Always bring a coat. Don't forget swimming on Friday for Earthworks. Please stay away from school for 48 hours if you have been sick or have diarrhoea.



On Thursday 28th March, PTA will be holding a Disco at the new Ellingham Village Hall. This fundraising event will take place between 4.30 - 6.30pm and will be open to anyone so please let your friends know. More details will be sent out closer to the time. Our very own DJ Miss Baines will be manning the music!

There is an App available for our website making it easier to view on a mobile phone.

Search for "eSchools Lite" in the [App Store \(Apple\)](#) or [Google Play \(Android\)](#) or use the handy QR code and download for FREE! **Make sure you are downloading the correct schools' website! There are quite a few similar named schools.**

Once you put Ellingham into the search, ours is the third one down and says Ellingham C of E Aided Primary School, Chathill, NE67 5ET



There is also an App for Parentmail to make it easier to view our Newsletters on a phone. Search for IRIS Parentmail in the [App Store \(Apple\)](#) or [Google Play \(Android\)](#)

Our Clothes Bank in school continues to be popular. You can donate clothes, shoes (pairs), hats, belts, jewellery etc. Everything needs to be put in a bag and dropped into the bin. This is a very easy way to fundraise for school and look after our planet at the same time. Since the introduction of the Clothes Bank we have raised well over £300.00

It seems likely that the weather will remain very cold. Please make sure your child has a warm waterproof coat, hat and gloves in school.

Don't forget to read the myth busting fact sheet about tax free childcare which is also attached to this email.