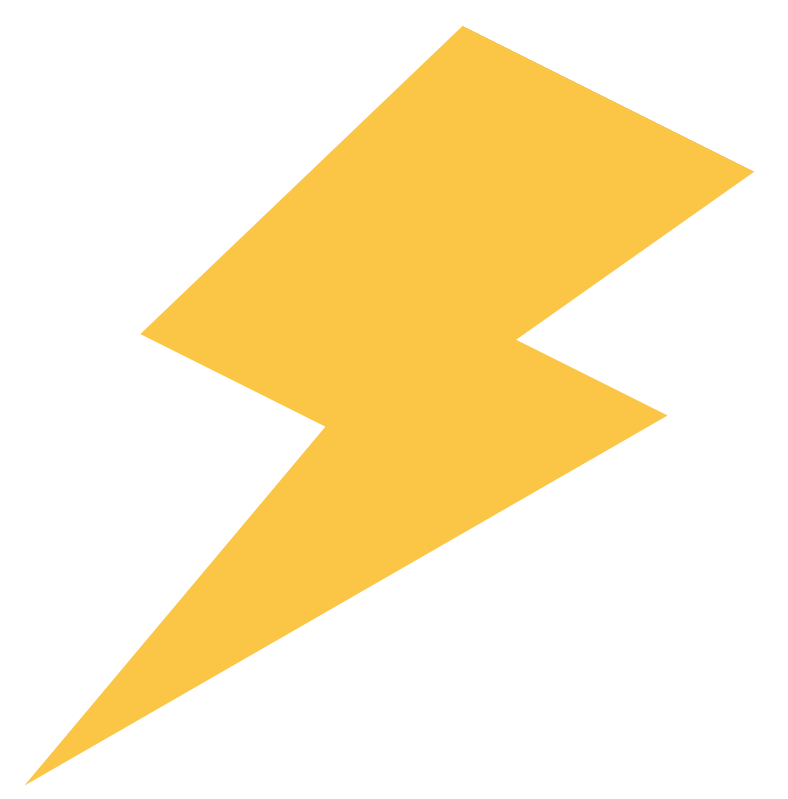


Hello!



Winter term is nearly over so let's have a look at what we've been up to...

We started the year with our **AGM** which saw some amazing new parents and carers join the PTA - we've got a great team this year!



We raised an incredible **£308.55** from our **Little Recyclers** fundraiser - all from clothes and shoes donated by you, the Elm Wood community. Thank you so much!

In October, we went straight into **Black History Month** celebrations with wonderful performances from Whippersnappers and Usifu Jalloh. The children really enjoyed learning about the Anansi story and the Cowfoot Prince.



Our **Halloween cake sale** was a complete sell out and raised **£413** - money we can use for free enrichment activities for children at the school!



In November we launched our first ever **Read-a-thon** - a chance to raise much needed funds for reading and phonics books at school. So far we've raised over **£3,000** - including an anonymous £500 donation! Thank you for donating to and sharing the fundraiser with family and friends - it will remain open until 31st December so there's still time to spread the word!

Read-a-thon link: <https://shorturl.at/a2QW7>

December has been such a busy month - Latte and Juno the **reindeer** popped by for a visit with the children, which was a really magical experience. Did you know reindeer antlers can grow up to 130cm in length and that reindeer shed their antlers every year, ready to grow new ones? Amazing!



Next up - our Winter Fair, which raised a staggering **£1,600!** We enjoyed live music from The Conquering Heroes and Friends, and a wonderful performance by the Year 5 choir, free arts and crafts, lots of games, and treats, and of course, the raffle.



And thanks to a generous donation, we were able to put on a free Santa's Grotto with gifts for everyone who visited. A huge thank you to all the 'elves' who helped set up, run stalls, and man the grotto. And of course, thank you to Father Christmas himself for squeezing us in during his busiest period...



We also spread some Christmas cheer in every classroom and bought new whiteboard pens for all teachers and children. Ho ho ho!

Finally, to the Winter Disco - a chance for children (and teachers...) to let loose and have a boogie. Turns out Freed From Desire is a cross-generational classic that has absolutely stood the test of time. Huge thanks to all the PTA parents and carers who helped set up and keep the kids hydrated.

We'll see you next term for more fun, including World Book Day, free yoga sessions, Valentine's Cake Sale and of course, the Spring Fair! The next pre-loved uniform sale will be at drop off on 10th January.

And remember, if you've enjoyed our events and activities this term, think about volunteering with the PTA. It's really fun! You can email thefriendsofelmwood@gmail.com.

