

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

5TH MARCH 2024



Here are a few notices and snippets of information to keep you up to date:

CONTENTS INCLUDE ...

Holiday Activities & Food Programme - Sessions are available to book for this Easter. Find a local session to you using the link in the newsletter.

Your School Lottery - Sign up today for lottery tickets. A contribution of ticket sales comes straight back to Ellen Tinkham, so not only will you be in with a chance of winning a CASH prize, you'll be helping the school to raise funds.

Tempest Photography - Tempest is visiting Ellen Tinkham School tomorrow (Wednesday) and Ellen Tinkham College on Thursday. Smile please!!

World Book Day - Being celebrated at Hollow Lane this Thursday (7th) and at Wayside Crescent this Friday (8th). Everyone can dress up as their favourite character (no PJ's please), or wear non-school uniform.

Comic Relief / Red Nose Day - Friday 15th March - The Student Council has voted to have a non-school uniform day on the 15th!

Devon Wallet - Sessions are available to help families learn more about this new initiative from Devon County Council.

Free Government Childcare - Updated information in the newsletter including a link to apply.

Youth Parliament - Our students have been "making their mark" and voting on issues important to them.

Safeguarding - DSL and DDSL information is listed.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Wednesday 6th / Thursday 7th March - Tempest visiting at ETS / ETC

Thursday 7th and Friday 8th March - World Book Day at ETS and ETC

Tuesday 12th March - E-Safety training for ETC families (sign up details to follow)

Wednesday 13th March - RSE Session for Year 6, KS3 and KS4 families at ETC and online (invites already sent)

Friday 15th March - Red Nose Day

Wednesday 20th March - Next ET PTFA Meeting, 10 am

Wednesday 20th March - ETS Families invited into classes (arrive from 1 pm)

Friday 22nd March - Easter Raffle Draw - please send in hamper donations / return your £5 + ticket stubs back for a chance to win!!

Thursday 28th March - Term Ends

Holiday Activity & Food (HAF) Programme - The HAF programme for Easter is now available. The programme is for children who are eligible for benefit related Free School Meals and families can book up to 4 sessions. To see what programmes are available near you, please [click here](#). If you are struggling to remember your HAF Code, please call Laura Mann in the School Office.



Your School Lottery - Ellen Tinkham has just joined "Your School Lottery". How does it work?

SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY TODAY

£1 per week

Weekly cash prizes

£25,000 jackpot

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

£1 TICKET

Splitting the £1.00

How it works...

It's simple—choose 6 numbers between 0-9 and if they match the weekly lottery draw, you win great prizes. One of our players will win a cash prize every week, maybe even the £25k jackpot! Tickets cost just £1 per week and the proceeds are donated to Ellen Tinkham School

Every Saturday at 8pm the numbers are drawn and posted online. Winners are notified by email and winnings paid into the account of your choice.

The easiest way to join our lottery is online at [YourSchoolLottery.co.uk](https://yourschoollottery.co.uk) by direct debit or debit card.

It's so easy to join and will make a real difference to Ellen Tinkham School

The Maths... 100 tickets sold a week means

- = £30 weekly cash prize
- = £2,080 a year for our school

Splitting the £1.00

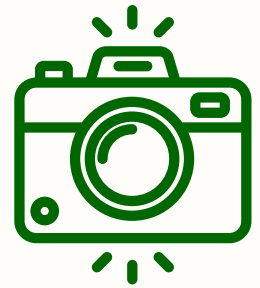
- 40p goes to our school
- 36p goes to cash prizes
- 20p goes to admin costs
- 4p goes to VAT

To start supporting, visit:
yourschoollottery.co.uk
and search for: Ellen Tinkham

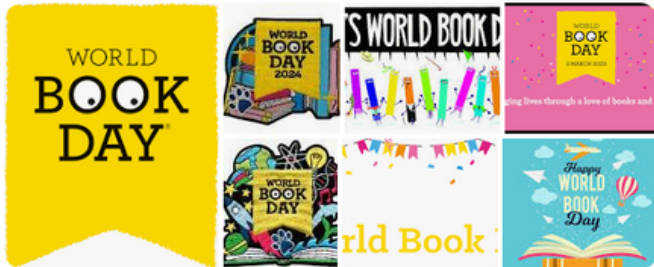
GambleAware 18+

To buy tickets, click here: [Your School Lottery](#) and search for "Ellen Tinkham". **Thank you**

Tempest Photography - Tempest Photographers are at Ellen Tinkham School, Hollow Lane tomorrow (Wednesday 6th March) and on Thursday, at Ellen Tinkham College.



We'll send home photo packs and request that orders are placed as soon as you can. Thank you!



World Book Day - We are celebrating World Book Day at Ellen Tinkham School, Hollow Lane on Thursday 7th March. Please could your child come into school dressed as their favourite character or wearing non-school uniform. (No PJ's please).

Rather than sending home a Book Token, this year at school, our younger pupils will have the opportunity to swop their token for a book donated by WH Smith. They will be visiting our Library during the morning to collect a book of their choice!

At Ellen Tinkham College, Wayside Crescent, our older students will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 8th March. If they wish, they can also come into College on Friday dressed as their favourite character. (No PJ's please). As part of World Book Day, it would be great if your child or young person could bring in their favourite book or comic to share with class. As well as books, we'll also be looking at other written work such as poems.

Comic Relief / Red Nose Day - Friday 15th March - The student council has met and decided they would like Red Nose Day to be a non-school uniform day!



And the Teaching Staff have a few surprises up their sleeves which we are sure the younger and older students will enjoy!



The Devon Wallet - is the [new virtual wallet platform](#) that will support the delivery of direct payments and personal budgets. Enablers, services and activities can sign up to become an official provider. There are also virtual drop-in sessions planned this month, and fortnightly availability to meet with an Advisor. Details of all support available is on DCC's website (click [here](#)).

Childcare - The Government is extending their childcare offer to make it more affordable and accessible for parents to reduce the barriers that may be preventing some parents from working.



At present, all parents in Devon are entitled to up to 15 hours a week funded childcare for children aged 3-4 years old. This increases to up to 30 hours a week for parents who work and earn more than the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the National Minimum or Living Wage, but less than £100,000 per year. Some 2 year olds are also eligible for up to 15 hours a week funded childcare if their family receive some additional forms of government support.

From April, the scheme will be gradually expanded so that by September 2025, working parents of all children over the age of 9 months will be entitled to up to 30 hours a week funded childcare.



Key dates:

- from April 2024, eligible working parents of 2 year olds will be able to access up to 15 hours a week funded childcare
- from September 2024, up to 15 hours a week funded childcare will be extended to eligible working parents of children aged from 9 months to 3 years
- from September 2025, eligible working parents of children under the age of 5 will be entitled to up to 30 hours a week funded childcare

Will your child be two years old by Sunday 31 March 2024? - Applications are now open for eligible working parents of 2 year olds to receive up to 15 hours a week funded childcare, starting from April 2024. You'll need to be working, and earning under £100,000 a year, but at least £167 a week (the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the National Minimum or Living Wage).

If you, or your partner, are on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, or you're unable to work because you are disabled or have caring responsibilities, you could still be eligible.

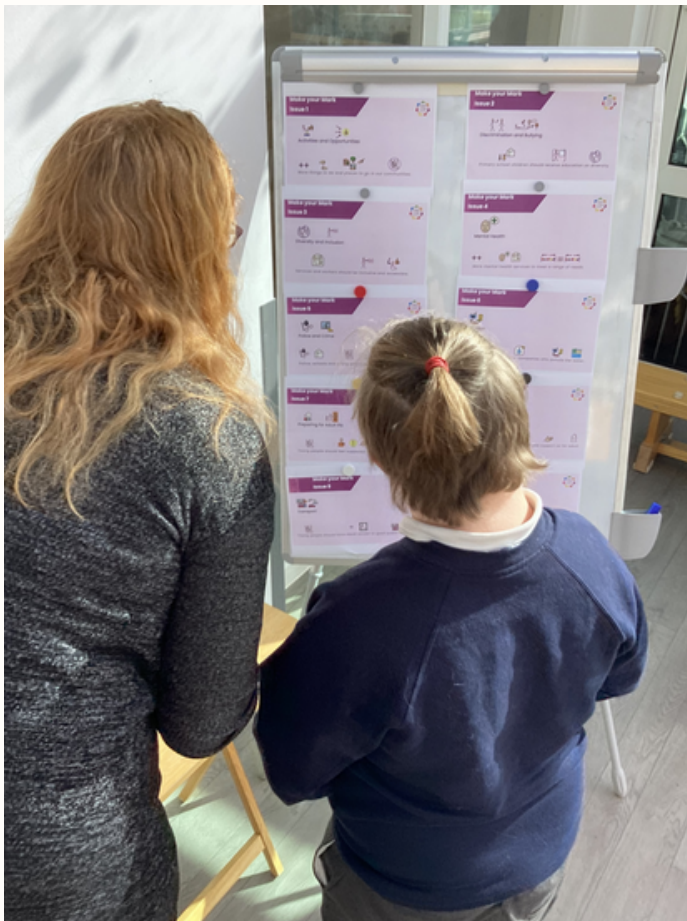
How do I apply for funded childcare? - You can apply for a code to get funded childcare on the [Government website](#). The deadline for applications is Sunday 31 March 2024 to be able to access the funding from Monday 1 April 2024. If you miss the deadline, you won't be able to start using the new entitlements until the next funding period, which starts on Sunday 1 September 2024.

DEADLINE

Student Council - Across our Federation, our Upper School and/or Sixth Form students have had a chance to take part in this year's "Make Your Mark" vote to determine what young people in Devon think are the most important issues in our county right now. Schools and Youth Centre across Devon also took part in this national Youth Parliament initiative.

Students had 10 issues to vote on, which had been narrowed down from issues submitted by various youth groups including Champions for Change. The 10 issues are summarised in this [YouTube video](#).

Students voted on which matters they felt were more important to them, and ET votes are currently being counted. At a school level, these votes give us another channel to listen to our important Student Voices and working alongside the Student Council, consider actions we can take. The voting information will also be shared with the Devon Youth Parliament team and the results for the County will be shared with Senior Managers / Leaders and County Councillors and will also inform their planning and decision making.



Safeguarding - Across our Federation, we take safeguarding very seriously and have robust policies and procedures in place. If you ever have a safeguarding or wellbeing concern, please contact your **Designated Safeguarding Lead - Katy Bradley at the school and Monika Davis at the College incl Sixth Form.**

@ Ellen Tinkham School



@ Ellen Tinkham College



If Katy or Monika are unavailable to speak to or meet with, please contact one of our **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.**

@ Ellen Tinkham
School



@ Ellen Tinkham
College



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DATA BACKUPS AND STORAGE

Making backup copies of files and other content is very useful for avoiding issues (such as hardware failure, software problems or accidental deletion) that could cause the loss of important information or treasured images and videos. While backing up files is considered good practice, it's also essential for adults and children alike to stay aware of the risks which can potentially result from saving these extra copies of your info – particularly if your additional backup versions use cloud storage services.

BACKUP BASICS

Consider how valuable different types of files are – and what the impact would be if they were lost. Family photos and videos might be irreplaceable, for example, whereas emails to friends tend to be less important. This thought process can help you decide what to back up.

For your most indispensable files, follow 'the 3-2-1 rule': keep 3 backups of your data (your original plus two copies) using 2 different media (such as a USB flash, cloud storage or a hard disk drive) with 1 copy held in a physically separate location. This reduces the chance of a single event meaning that your files aren't recoverable from any of these backups.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

DISAGREEABLE DUPLICATES

Because we tend to back files up in groups rather than individually, it's very easy for some content to get inadvertently swept up in the saving process – creating a duplicate that we aren't aware exists. If this were to include the unintentional backup of malware files, it would mean when we recover our data from the backup, we're also restoring the harmful malware to our computer, phone or tablet.

HIDDEN IN THE CLOUD

It's not unknown for children and young people to make use of cloud backup services to effectively 'hide' content that they know their parents and carers wouldn't approve of (such as something age inappropriate, for example). They can then delete the content from their device, safe in the knowledge that they can easily retrieve it from the cloud at a more convenient moment.

THE WEAKEST LINK

If any of our backups are insecure, then – in the event of a breach – the entirety of our data might become accessible to cyber criminals or other malicious individuals. Cyber criminals are aware that, by default, backups tend to contain important or valuable files that people want to keep safe – which makes them a popular (and potentially lucrative) target for cyber-attacks.

RANDOM RECOVERIES

When restoring data from one of our backups, we may find that some data is recovered which we hadn't even realised had been backed up. This doesn't necessarily sound like a huge drawback – but it could potentially cause a problem if the files were sensitive or personal in nature and then (without us realising) suddenly become available on our devices, where others might see them.

Advice for Parents & Carers

BE ORGANISED

Try to keep on top of what backups you and your children have in place – including where your files are saved (to the cloud or an external storage device, for instance) and how they can be accessed. It can also be helpful to stay aware of what data *isn't* being backed up, which could save you the time and the stress of looking for something in your backup that was never actually there.



KEEP THINGS TIDY

Where possible, curate your backups by learning how to add or remove content selectively. The former will save you from having to carry out a complete backup on every occasion (which can be time consuming), while being able to prune individual files can be extremely useful if a small number of unwanted – or possibly sensitive – items have been copied over and saved accidentally.



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Find out how to recover files and information from backups until you're fully confident with the process. You could help your child practice with their own (or less essential) files, so they're able to restore items to their device if they need to. It's intensely frustrating knowing that your (or your child's) important files or cherished photo albums are there somewhere, but you can't get to them.



SCRUTINISE YOUR SECURITY

It sounds like obvious advice, but it's absolutely vital: ensure that your backups are secure. This includes appropriate technical measures – like encryption, strong passwords and multifactor authentication – and, where possible, physical security to prevent the media being stolen. If you're backing up to a hard drive or an external storage device, you should ideally use password protection.



Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday