

ELEANOR PALMER PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER  
SPRING TERM 2021  
[www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk](http://www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk)

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Events in school next week, 29<sup>th</sup> March - 1<sup>st</sup> April: (Thursday is the last day of term)

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Year 3 have a day's extravaganza raising money for the Red Cross who they have learnt about this term. They will run a combined marathon; will be selling ingenious Ducky Dip and are staying after school for a film night. Please donate/sponsor if you are asked.

Grand Tables Test for Years 4 and 5. I am confident we will have a lot of 100%!!

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

Our co-deputy, and co-headteacher-designate, Natalie Stevenson is back from maternity leave! Hurray.

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April. The last day of term.

The 19<sup>th</sup> EP Great Egg Race! We will end this term with our traditional celebration of the children's wit, creativity and inventiveness: the Great EP Egg Race. We are looking forward to all the Covid puns, (masks on eggs, 5pm briefings to the nation) - and April Fool twists that could take place. We know it will be an EP classic and a much-needed laugh about the last year. Humour is so important in building resilience!

The all-important rules are on the website/were sent via the Piota app. We stick to these to the letter and that is half the fun so if in any doubt, check with a teacher to avoid being disqualified. Please ASK if you need any help clarifying the rules.

We will open up the playground on Thursday to allow drop off of egg-mobiles and a chance to see them all. Gates will open at 8.45. Please be mindful of others, of distancing and don't linger too long. We very much hope we can move towards a playground drop off next term so it is a good trial!

Residentials

Being outdoors, discovering nature, learning resilience and teamwork are such big parts of EP. Sadly last summer the then Year 2 and Year 4 missed their adventures to the Mill and camping in Epping Forest. Then our October residentials for Years 5 and 6 were cancelled too.

As we gradually come out of lockdown we have been determined to find a way for our children to have their trips and to 'catch up' on these essential outdoor learning experiences. This takes huge organisation and a huge commitment for staff, not least sleepless nights! We are so pleased we have secured not one, not two but **FIVE** residentials for our short summer term!

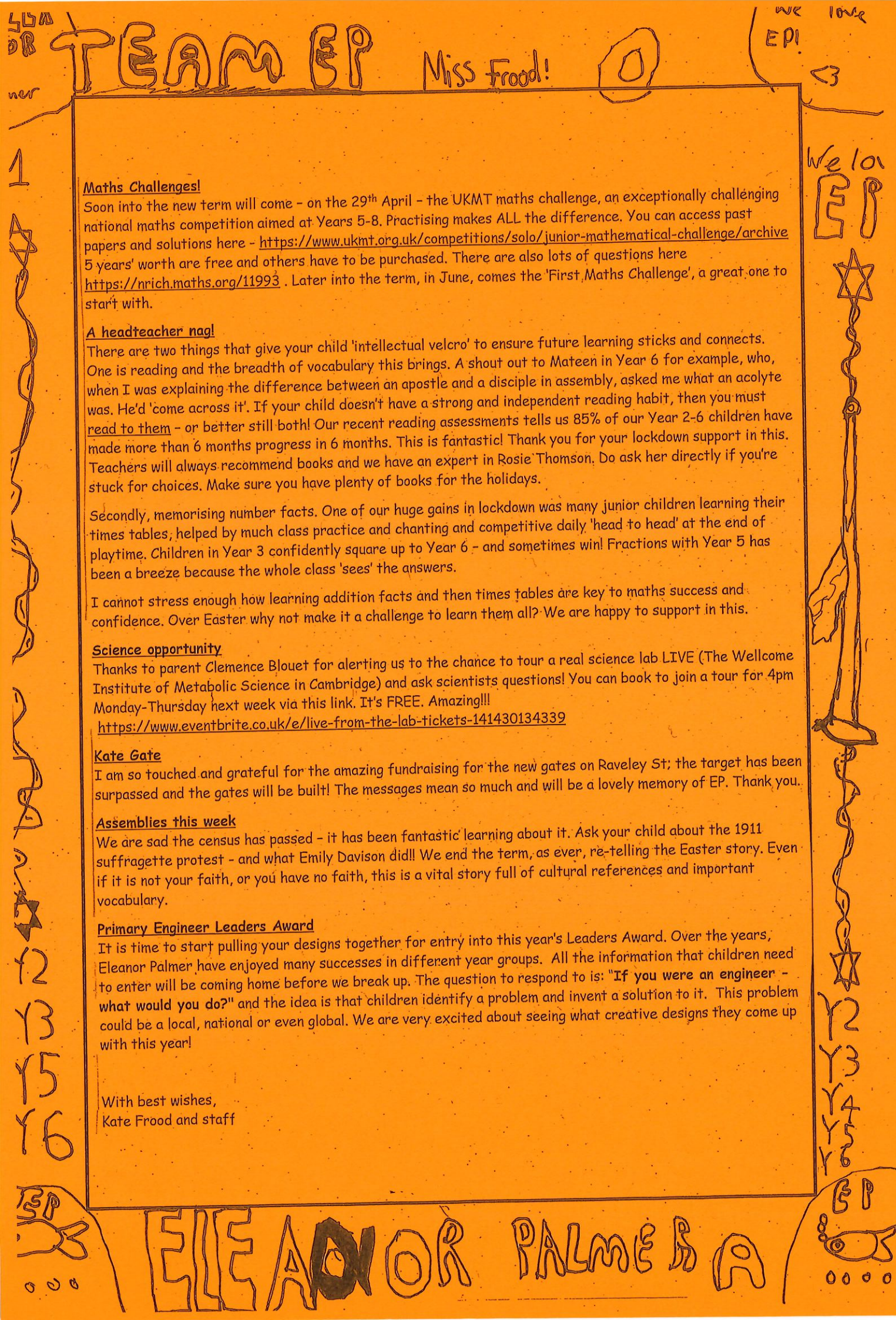
Monday 17 May - Friday 21 May - Year 5 to Sayers Croft  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May - Year 6 to East Soar in Devon  
Thursday 27 - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May - Year 3 to the Mill in Surrey  
Thursday 24 to Friday 25 June - Year 2 to the Mill in Surrey  
Tuesday 29 to Wednesday 30 June - Year 4 go camping in Epping Forest!

Apologies you have less notice for paying for this. I hope you will agree that this is a vital part of our 'recovery'. Look out for letters coming home this side of Easter.

Thank you

To Anna Mukulayenge in Year 5 for this week's border design.





### Maths Challenges!

Soon into the new term will come - on the 29<sup>th</sup> April - the UKMT maths challenge, an exceptionally challenging national maths competition aimed at Years 5-8. Practising makes ALL the difference. You can access past papers and solutions here - <https://www.ukmt.org.uk/competitions/solo/junior-mathematical-challenge/archive> 5 years' worth are free and others have to be purchased. There are also lots of questions here <https://nrich.maths.org/11993>. Later into the term, in June, comes the 'First Maths Challenge', a great one to start with.

### A headteacher nag!

There are two things that give your child 'intellectual velcro' to ensure future learning sticks and connects. One is reading and the breadth of vocabulary this brings. A shout out to Mateen in Year 6 for example, who, when I was explaining the difference between an apostle and a disciple in assembly, asked me what an acolyte was. He'd 'come across it'. If your child doesn't have a strong and independent reading habit, then you must read to them - or better still both! Our recent reading assessments tells us 85% of our Year 2-6 children have made more than 6 months progress in 6 months. This is fantastic! Thank you for your lockdown support in this. Teachers will always recommend books and we have an expert in Rosie Thomson. Do ask her directly if you're stuck for choices. Make sure you have plenty of books for the holidays.

Secondly, memorising number facts. One of our huge gains in lockdown was many junior children learning their times tables; helped by much class practice and chanting and competitive daily 'head to head' at the end of playtime. Children in Year 3 confidently square up to Year 6 - and sometimes win! Fractions with Year 5 has been a breeze because the whole class 'sees' the answers.

I cannot stress enough how learning addition facts and then times tables are key to maths success and confidence. Over Easter why not make it a challenge to learn them all? We are happy to support in this.

### Science opportunity

Thanks to parent Clemence Blouet for alerting us to the chance to tour a real science lab LIVE (The Wellcome Institute of Metabolic Science in Cambridge) and ask scientists questions! You can book to join a tour for 4pm Monday-Thursday next week via this link. It's FREE. Amazing!!!  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/live-from-the-lab-tickets-141430134339>

### Kate Gate

I am so touched and grateful for the amazing fundraising for the new gates on Raveley St; the target has been surpassed and the gates will be built! The messages mean so much and will be a lovely memory of EP. Thank you.

### Assemblies this week

We are sad the census has passed - it has been fantastic learning about it. Ask your child about the 1911 suffragette protest - and what Emily Davison did!! We end the term, as ever, re-telling the Easter story. Even if it is not your faith, or you have no faith, this is a vital story full of cultural references and important vocabulary.

### Primary Engineer Leaders Award

It is time to start pulling your designs together for entry into this year's Leaders Award. Over the years, Eleanor Palmer have enjoyed many successes in different year groups. All the information that children need to enter will be coming home before we break up. The question to respond to is: "If you were an engineer - what would you do?" and the idea is that children identify a problem and invent a solution to it. This problem could be a local, national or even global. We are very excited about seeing what creative designs they come up with this year!

With best wishes,  
Kate Frood and staff

# ELEANOR PALMER