

14 July 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a great year for Eleanor Palmer! As Tim Peake took to the skies and the nation was swept up in the space craze, we were particularly fortunate to have a truly special opportunity to connect directly with the International Space Station and astronaut Kjell Lindgren. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen, including and especially all pupils for their insightful and creative questions. This year also saw exciting scientific activities in the form of the Solar Schools programme and the new science lab beginning to take shape. The solar panel fundraising effort was a huge success – thank you in particular to Sarah Ewins for all her hard work in this. There will be environmental benefits for many years to come. We are also looking forward to work starting on the science block imminently – watch this space!

In developments outside of the school, we are seeing changes in the way that schools are structured and funded across the country; we can't ignore the impact this might have on our own school. We want to take this opportunity to reassure everyone that the governors and senior leadership team at Eleanor Palmer are already ahead of the curve and doing a huge amount of forward planning to ensure that we retain all the things that make Eleanor Palmer so amazing. If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to talk to Miss Flood or to ask one of the governors (grab a parent governor in the playground, if you can!).

We say goodbye to staff members Lizzie Lumb and Beth Elliott who are re-locating out of London. A thank you from governors for all they have given to our school. Issie Denham leaves her role as teaching assistant and returns on our teacher training programme in September.

Your thoughts and feedback on life at Eleanor Palmer are incredibly important to us. Thank you to everyone who completed this year's parent survey – please see the results attached. As many of you will know, we use the same questions each year so we can assess how we are doing over time – please do take the time to read through the summary provided. The governors will be looking carefully at the results of the survey to ensure we can build on all those aspects you feel are running successfully and to ensure we address all those areas you feel could be better.

We have also carried out a staff survey for the third year running and the results were very positive, with some marked improvements on last year. For example, 100% of staff believe that Eleanor Palmer is managed well and, importantly, 100% of staff feel valued for the work they do.

Finally, I am stepping down as both a governor and from my role as Chair at the end of term. It has been a huge pleasure and an immense privilege to be involved with such a brilliant school – thank you to everyone for being so welcoming, friendly, supportive and, most importantly, enthusiastic about the continued success of this amazing school.

With all best wishes for a fantastic summer,

Alice Barling Gasson  
Chair of Governors