



This month, ask your child about...

... what they feel grateful for and what makes them smile at school.
... what they can remember from our Black History Month assemblies, lessons and visitors, beginning next week.
... what they have enjoyed about sporting clubs and opportunities already this term, and what they have learnt.



Message from the Heads

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first month of the academic year has already flown by and we are suddenly collecting conkers (there's a conker championship at the Heath on 8th!) and watching the leaves begin to change. While our youngest children are settling brilliantly in our Nursery and Reception, our two eldest classes - Year 5 and Year 6 - are taking part in residential school journeys, with Year 6 just about to return from Wick Court Farm and Year 5 preparing for a trip to the Sayers Croft Field Centre. It is testament to parents, carers and teaching teams how ready the children have been for these experiences and how enthusiastically they join in with everything. Our carefully structured programme of overnight trips, starting in Year 3, also helps to build confidence and independence in the children. Long may these experiences continue so that we can Keep it EP!



Black History Month

Black History Month is a time for learning and reflecting upon the outstanding contributions that Black people have made - and make today - spanning centuries and shaping our society. At Eleanor Palmer, we focus on Black British history, looking at the lives of significant Black British changemakers. Examples of the fascinating people we will learn about include courageous nurse Mary Seacole, writer and politician Baroness Floella Benjamin, England footballer Laurie Cunningham, and children's author Malorie Blackman. Black history is embedded within our curriculum - it is in our book corners, our lessons, our toys, our assemblies throughout the year. But Black History Month provides us with a time to go beyond this, stepping outside our term-long topics. We have a feast of children's books by Black authors and featuring Black characters which will be enjoyed in classes. This month we have also invited police officers, musicians, and poets to speak to individual classes about their lives and professions - this is so important for bringing the month to life for our children. If you, a friend or relative would be able to come and talk with the children or read a story - even just to an individual class or group, we would be thrilled to have you. Please get in touch with us, the school office or your child's teacher!

Love Camden has a whole programme of events throughout October, including the Black Victorians Dance Performance, <https://www.lovecamden.org/whats-on>, and Haringey has another [amazing programme](#), including a book reading of Josephine Baker, by Ma Isabel Sanchez Vegara, part of the Little People Big Dreams series.



Safeguarding and Child Protection

Safeguarding is at the heart of our job and we work in partnership with the whole school community to keep our children safe. It is important that we regularly remind you about our key safeguarding practices and policies put in place so that we create a safe learning environment in which children can develop academically, socially and emotionally:

- We set the highest standard of recruitment procedures; every member of staff has full safeguarding checks and up to date references, as do visiting artists, regular volunteers, supply teachers and governors.
- All staff receive appropriate training as part of induction and then routinely every 2 years.
- Each term, we proactively teach the children about how we keep them safe and how they can keep themselves and others safe.
- We have school systems that ensure the health and wellbeing of the children, for example: risk assessments and teacher pre-visits before every class trip, an annual safety check of our playground, a medicines in school policy and staff presence at the school entrance every day.
- We have well-established ways of monitoring and responding to incidents of concern, for example: unexplained absences, negative behaviour and significant changes in physical or emotional appearance.
- The ethos of the school is open and reflective so that staff, parents and children feel able to share concerns and improve practice where needed. We welcome parents and carers contacting us if there are events in school or at home that may cause your child concern.

Each of you can make a difference to safeguarding the children by signing in and out when you enter the school during the school day, and communicating clearly about changes to your routines e.g. if someone different is collecting your child, or if they are going to be absent from Club EP. As ever, please inform the school office by 9am if your child will not be attending school. A phone call is best where possible.

Local Authority guidance suggests that every parent who accompanies class trips should also undergo full criminal record (DBS) checks. Our Governing Body has taken the decision not to do this, in line with guidance from the National College of Teaching and Learning who run safer recruitment training. This is because of the particular ethos and values of our small community school. Close relationships are central to our school ethos and parental participation in our many trips is a much-valued part of school life for children, parents and staff. We strongly encourage all parents to take part in trips. Parents who volunteer on a regular basis however, will be asked to undertake full DBS checks.

Our full Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is on our website. This policy framework is from Camden Local Authority and is reviewed annually by the school leaders and the Governing Body to make sure our practice reflects the policy, and to add additional measures unique to the school.

If at any point in the year you have questions concerning information on child protection and safeguarding please contact the school office. If you have any specific concerns or suggestions regarding safeguarding please contact Sally Hill or Natalie Stevenson, who are the school designated safeguarding leads.

Sally is required for jury service for the next two weeks, in her absence Lacey will be your point of contact on Thursday and Fridays.

Best wishes,

Natalie Stevenson and Sally Hill

natalie@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk and sally@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk



Key Information and dates for your diary

One to one parent and carer progress meetings and Welcome to EP for new joiners

At EP we call parents' meetings 'progress meetings' because that's what our school is all about. From whatever their starting points, across the curriculum as well as socially and emotionally, everything we do is to help each child make progress. To achieve this aim effectively, we need to work in partnership with you, so the **one to one parents and carer progress meetings next week on October 3rd and 5th**, from 4pm, are an opportunity to discuss our shared aims for the year.

We also have a new meeting, called **Welcome to EP, on Wednesday 4th October 3-3:30pm**, for all of the parents and carers of children in Nursery and Reception. In addition, if you are new to our school but have a child in an older year group, please do come too! In this session we'll be outlining the most important things about being part of team EP, so please put this crucial meeting in your diaries now!

Important dates

Autumn Term

- Friday 29th September - **Stay and Play** - Y1 to Y5 - please note if your child is at Cross Country so won't be in this session!
- Tuesday 3rd October and Thursday 5th October - **Parent and carer progress meetings**
- Wednesday 4th October - 3-3:30pm - **Welcome to EP... Keep it EP!** Headteacher talk for parents
- Thursday 19th October - 5:30-7:30pm - **Foundation Stage Party**
- Friday 20th October - **Harvest Festival Collection**
- 23rd - 27th October - **Half Term**
- Friday 3rd November - **Disco!**
- Friday 24th November - **Stay and Play**
- Friday 1st December - **Winter Fair**
- Wednesday 13th or 14th December - **Winter Concert (date still tbc)**
- Thursday 21st December - **Winter Variety Show and last day of term**
- **Christmas Holiday** - Friday 22nd December - Monday 8th January inclusive - note last day of term is Thursday 21st December with school finishing usual 3:30pm

Spring Term

- Tuesday 9th January - **Back to school** for all children
- Friday 26th January - **Stay and Play**
- 12th-16th February - **Half Term**
- Monday 19th February - **Staff INSET day**
- Friday 23rd February - **Stay and Play**
- Thursday 29th February - **World Book Day** - children can dress up as their favourite book character
- Thursday March 7th - **Bingo Night**
- Monday 25th & Tuesday 26th March - **Parent Progress Meetings**
- Thursday March 28th - **Egg Race** and last day of term

Summer Term

- Friday May 17th - **CBC Night**
- Tuesday July 9th and Thursday 11th - **Parent Progress Meetings**
- Wednesday July 24th - Last day of term



Whole School Newsletter

Friday Bake Sales in Autumn Term

- 5th October - Year 5
- 13th October - Year 6
- 3rd November - Year 4
- 10th November - Year 3
- 17th November - Year 2
- 24th November - Year 1
- 8th December - Reception
- 15th December - Nursery