

### This month, ask your child about...

... **Big School Meeting** when we talked about **science at EP** and **voted on school colours for our hoodies**. We're ready to order these now - look out for them on sale in the New Year!

... our assemblies in which we thought about **encouragement** and **enthusiasm**, **anti-bullying** and **co-operation**.

... our **Big Write** about 'The Midnight Fair', where the children told the story of some extra special nighttime visitors.



### Message from the Heads

Dear Parents and Carers,

EP is entering the festive period, with the temperature dropping and singing voices raising all our spirits. We are very excited about our **Winter Concert** and welcome you all to the Acland Burghley hall on **Wednesday 13th December at 2:30pm**. We appreciate all you do to encourage and support your children in learning songs and poems, and how much you, like us, value the arts. There is something extremely special about singing and performing together, and we saw this in Year 5's excellent production of Macbeth last week. Being part of something larger, supporting each other, and experiencing group creativity is something that every child - every person! - should enjoy.



We are fortunate to have extremely skillful teaching teams, who manage to weave all of this together alongside deep learning in STEM subjects, English, PE and the humanities. A visit last week from Andy George, Director of Camden Learning, left him blown away by the children's confidence in talking about their learning, and with their eagerness to stop talking to him and get on with their lessons! In his short walk through the school from Nursery to Year 6 he saw singing, Shakespeare, French, maths and art - a normal day in the life of EP! It was particularly valuable to have an outside view of the school because it is very much our culture to continually reflect and improve.

During anti-bullying week, it was interesting to see the children so fully engaging in learning about what bullying behaviour is (and isn't!). It struck us just how important it is to teach this clearly and regularly, never leaving this important learning to chance. Similarly, now that we are a year into our work with Camden's Anti-Racism Hub, our staff team along with our governing body are working to create an Anti-Racism Strategy - something that will support us in being proactive in ensuring all our children can be confident in their own identities and respectful allies to one another. This is a process not an outcome, and we invite every parent and carer in our community to actively support us in promoting anti-racism and allyship - expect to hear more about this over the coming term.



### Payments

Please clear all debts for Club EP and Breakfast Club before we break up. The office hate chasing for payments and we would much rather payments are made without the need for reminder texts and phone calls.

In September we ask families for a voluntary donation to the cost of **class trips and visitors** across the school year. This enrichment brings our topic work to life and is so valuable in embedding learning. The provision costs the school £11K pa, with some help from the Keep it EP fund. We ask families for a contribution of £35 in Juniors, £30 in infants and £20 for Nursery. This is to support all trips across the whole academic year! Whilst we don't want families to struggle to make this payment, less than 50% of families have, as yet, made any contribution. Please do donate if you can, even if only a part-payment. Thank you.

### Parent reading volunteers

Some of our children have some additional support with reading from volunteers. This involves weekly 1:1 reading with a child for 15-20 minutes, supporting with reading and talking together about the story. If you are able to commit to a regular weekly visit to EP to help with this please contact

[Lacey@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk](mailto:Lacey@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk) to find out more. As with everyone working directly with children, we will complete a DBS check before starting as a volunteer.

### Attendance

We are very pleased to see improved attendance and punctuality across the school, with children taking full advantage of the 8:45am soft start and early work in classrooms. Well done in particular to Reception and Year 5 who have an average attendance of almost 99%! January is always a good time to start afresh and make a new year's resolution... but December is as good as any too!

**Term ends 3:30pm on Thursday 21st December and Spring Term begins Tuesday 9th January.**

### PE News

We're off to a flying start in the CSSA Football League! Our teams from Year 4-6 are unbeaten and we hope to stay top of the league all the way! Well done to the players and a big thank you to all the families who come along to cheer and support the team. Next match will be on December 12th. C'mon Team EP!

Finally, we say congratulations to the basketball team from Year 5 and 6 and to Coach Kadie!



Happy Hanukkah to all those who celebrate the Festival of Light, and best wishes to our whole community.

With warm wishes for the holiday season ahead!

Natalie Stevenson and Sally Hill



## Whole School Newsletter

### Key Information and dates for your diary

**Our Winter Concert** will be held at Acland Burghley on Wednesday **13th December at 2:30pm** (doors open for parents and guests at 2:20pm). This year we would like children to wear either a **red, green, black or white top** for the concert - please don't go out and buy something new!

**EP Variety Show** - This EP tradition takes place on the last day of term - **Thursday 21st December**. Each class has now entered two acts and the theme is variety and entertainment! Think singing, dance, juggling, comedy, gymnastics, card tricks and of course music. The show will be compered by three of our Year 6 children and we have some judges too! Parents are welcome to join the audience for the show - doors will open at 9:10. This year we are bringing back the voting system so that children can cast a vote for their favourite acts and raise money for charity. Each vote is 50p, so **children can bring small change into school on the day of the EP Variety Show** if they want to take part in the voting. **Our chosen charity for 2023 is War Child.**

**Our Christmas Lunch** is on **Tuesday December 19th** the whole school enjoys a Christmas dinner together, with traditional or veggie options. If your child usually eats a packed lunch and would like to join by having a school meal on this day please complete the form linked. <https://forms.gle/psvUCUqoZqz9kep29> If your child currently eats school dinners, there's no need to complete the form, but the link also contains the menu. There is no associated cost. Please sign up this weekend.

### Important dates

#### Autumn Term

- Friday 1st December - 3-5pm **Winter Fair**
- Wednesday 13th December - 2:30-3:30 pm **Winter Concert** at Acland Burghley School
- Thursday 21st December - after registration **Winter Variety Show** and **last day of term**
- **Christmas Holiday** - Friday 22nd December - Monday 8th January inclusive - the last day of term is Thursday 21st December with school finishing as usual at 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 and 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 ending 1:30pm