



January 2024

This month, ask your child about...

... their **new spring topic**. Is it science, history or geography-led? What do they already know and what do they want to find out about it?

... our assemblies about **Janas, the New Year**, and any **resolutions** they might make - small changes that can have a big impact.

... the **Life Skills** we're learning about this month: self-belief, honesty, courage and resilience.

... **what to spot in nature this January**: deciduous trees, fallen leaves that shelter animals, and the first signs of spring including snowdrops, blossom and crocuses.

... the **Big Garden Bird Watch**. Why not take part for 1 hour between 26 and 28th January, spotting birds in your local area. You don't even need a garden!

... what **Brilliant Behaviour** looks like at EP and what it helps us to achieve!



Message from the Heads

Dear Parents and Carers,

The children have made such a positive start this cold but sunny week! Every class has plunged into their **new topics** with enthusiasm and the school feels busy and happy. Please take the time to read the Curriculum Letters written by your children's teachers as they give such a lot of detail about what each class will be learning, along with advance notice of trips and visitors. We love having your support on trips, as well as parent visitors with skills to share, so please let class teachers know if you're available.

This term, in contrast to the autumn, is much shorter, with only four more weeks until the half term holiday. However, it is always a term in which children really progress, building on everything they have learnt so far and feeling confident in their year group. Teachers will be writing each child's **Progress Report this term**, ready for Parent Meetings on 25th and 26th March and we hope all of you will be able to recognise and celebrate with us how far your children have come over the last year.



Ensuring your children are ready for school each day on time, taking advantage of the soft start at 8:45am for extra learning, are simple but essential ways you can support them to go from strength to strength. You will notice that **attendance** is now very much on the national agenda and the life changing impact of absence from school is being highlighted. In school, given that there are bugs about, we are emphasising **hand hygiene** - something you can reinforce at home to ensure your children stay as healthy as possible. Attendance at EP is very good for the vast majority, but we are always looking for ways to support families in making it even better, valuing every moment of education. We've attached information about attendance, punctuality and the wonderful impact that both have on your children's lives. Remember to notice and praise your child if they receive one of our weekly 100% stickers too!



Although we have three months to go, this is a great time for your children to start thinking about the annual **Egg Race on 28th March**. An EP tradition, this is when children can work together or individually to create and innovate, building an Egg-mobile which transports a boiled egg from one end of the hall to the other. Details and rules to follow!



Thinking even further ahead to our **Celebrating Black Culture (CBC) Party on 17th May**, we would love parents and carers to get involved. The first planning meeting, to share ideas and get things started, will be after drop-off on Friday 19th January in the Lab. Open to the whole school community to come along and help plan this fantastic event!

Best wishes,

Natalie Stevenson and Sally Hill

Key information and important dates

Reminder to apply for Nursery 2024

We are welcoming applications to our Nursery for September 2024. The deadline for application is the end of February. Please don't forget to apply - we need you to fill in the form, even as a sibling! Please also spread the word locally to apply to our Ofsted Outstanding Nursery - the intake is for children born between 1/9/20-31/8/21. Ask any interested friends and family to contact Tania@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk for more information.

Free meals extension and funding

The Mayor of London has confirmed that children in Reception to Year 6 will continue to receive a free school lunch until the middle of 2025, ensuring that children can have a free nutritious meal in school every day.

Even though your child is receiving free meals automatically, if you receive certain benefits it is still vitally important that you register with Camden for free school meals, as the Government provides additional funding to schools for all eligible children. More detail on eligibility is attached. Amongst other things, this funding helps support costs for your child for extracurricular activities and to subsidise trips - including 50% off your cost for residential trips. It will also ensure that you have access to other benefits such as food vouchers and free childcare and activities in the holidays through HAF schemes. <https://youngcamdenfoundation.org.uk/haf>

Please apply through this link for Free School Meal funding – the application is to Camden regardless of home borough.

<https://accountforms.camden.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals/>

Spring Term Friday Snack Sales

- 19th January - **Year 6**
- 26th January - **Year 4**
- 2nd February - **Year 5**
- 9th February - **Year 4**
- 23rd February - **Year 3**
- 1st March - **Year 2**
- 8th March - **Year 1**
- 15th March - **Reception**
- 22nd March - **Nursery**



Spring Term

- **Monday 15th January - Reception application deadline**
- Monday 15th- Friday 26th January - **Year 5 swimming block**
- Friday 19th January 9am - **CBC planning meeting** in the Lab
- Friday 26th January - **Stay and Play**
- 12th-16th February - **Half Term**
- Monday 19th February - **Staff INSET day**
- Friday 23rd February - **Stay and Play**
- Monday 4th - Friday 15th March - **Year 3 swimming block**
- Thursday 7th March - **World Book Day** - children can dress up as their favourite book character
- Thursday March 14th - **Bingo Night**
- Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th March - **Parent Progress Meetings**
- Thursday March 28th - **Egg Race** and last day of term, school ending 3:30pm

Summer Term

- Friday May 17th - **CBC Party**
- Thursday 20th- Friday 21st June - **Year 3 trip to The Mill**
- Thursday 27th- Friday 28th June - **Year 4 go camping**
- Saturday 6th July - **Summer Fair**
- Tuesday July 9th and Thursday 11th - **Parent Progress Meetings**
- Wednesday July 24th - Last day of term ending 1:30pm

