

December 8th 2011

Dear Parents and Carers,

Eleanor Palmer School Governing Body Newsletter December 2011

It has been an amazing term! Recent highlights must be author Ian Beck's visit and watching the new island be created. I hope, like me, you've enjoyed reading the children's highlights of the week in the new yellow class newsletters, a great addition to home school communication.

I sent out to every family a copy of our outstanding OFSTED report earlier this term – this is also available on our website for any that have not had a chance to read it. Only 6% of schools in the country achieve an outstanding grade and even fewer receive it for teaching and learning – Eleanor Palmer was considered outstanding in every aspect of the inspection! I would like to take this chance to again congratulate and thank Kate and every member of staff at this school who contribute daily to making Eleanor Palmer a wonderful school.

You will also be aware that we have received Green Flag status for our environmental efforts. We are the only school in Camden with this award! This will be further celebrated with the raising of a Green Flag in our playground early next term.

Before half-term the governors held an open evening for parents and carers which was very well attended. Thank you to those of you that took time to come. Kate and I did short presentations that set out some of the upcoming financial challenges that the school will face and the decisions that need to be made on nursery funding and the after school play-centre. Parents then had an opportunity to ask questions and contribute to an exercise around future school priorities and discussion about how we best allocate our resources.

It was the first time in a number of years that the governors have held an event for parents and it was valuable for the governors to hear what is on parents' minds and, feedback indicates, that parents valued the opportunity to hear about the activity of the Governing Body. As a result, governors will host another such evening with parents on **14 March 2012** where we will communicate our decisions on the future of after school provision and our Nursery and to update you on the other priority areas that the governors are focussing on.

In the meantime, the Governing Body notice board by the fishpond is up to date and the minutes of our full meetings are available on it. Any comments or questions you have are always welcome to me at shodgetts@googlemail.com or via Sarah in the office.

I hope to see all of you supporting tomorrow's Christmas Fair from 3pm

With best wishes for the Christmas break,

Sarah Hodgetts
Chair of Governors