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ELEANOR PALMER PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
SPRING TERM 2013 NUMBER 1
www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk

Thursday 10th January 2013

Dear Families,

Happy New Year to you all! We have had an excellent start with almost no absence or lateness. Keep it up! It feels as if the nation is a bit flat after the euphoria of 2012 but rest assured, you're at Eleanor Palmer and 2013 will be every bit as exciting!

We welcome two new teaching assistants. Robbie Eyles joins us in Year 3 and Kate Barker will be supporting special needs across Key Stage 2. Please give them a warm Eleanor Palmer welcome!

Events in school next week: 14th-18th January:

Monday 14th

8am Football Club for Key Stage 2 re-starts

Chinese Club starts!

A group of children from Year 5 will be going to nearby Brookfield School to take part in Royal Institution Maths masterclasses.

Tuesday 15th

8am Football Club for Key Stage 1 re-starts

Year 1 are visiting the Museum of Childhood.

We have set up an inter-school maths competition! 10 other primary schools in Camden will be sending a team and will then spend all day in hot competition doing a variety of team problem solving tasks. This is a first for us (and Camden) and if the model works we intend to repeat it.

The football season re-starts for our teams. There are matches at Talacre on 15th January, 29th January and 5th February.

Wednesday 16th

8am Girls' Football Club re-starts

9am - a taster session for parents interested in Parent Gym. Everyone welcome, it will take place in the school hall. See over.

Thursday 17th

8am Football Club for Year 3

8am Governors' Staffing Committee meeting

Friday 18th

The first Cake Sale of the year hosted by Year 3 (see over for all dates)

Thank you

To Maddy Elliot Major in Year 3 for this week's border design

Cake Sales

This is a short term! Cake Sales will start next week. Thank you!

Friday 18 th January	Year 3	Friday 15 th February	Year 5
Friday 25 th January	Year 2	Friday 1 st March	Year 6
Friday 1 st February	Year 1	Friday 8 th March	Reception
Friday 8 th February	Year 4	Friday 15 th March	Nursery



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Parent Gym

Following next week's taster session on Wednesday 16th, there will be 5 subsequent sessions after drop off on Wednesdays from 9-11am. Sessions are lively and interactive and focus on enhancing your parenting skills around several core issues such as rules; health; chat; resolving arguments and learning, with plenty of time for parents to raise concerns. The course is FREE and we plan to fill it with treats such as book tokens and the chance to enter a draw with cash prizes! There will be crèche facilities. Please see Sally Hill if you're interested or email her on sally@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk We're lucky to be able to access this sort of service for free in Camden - please use it!

Nursery 2013-14

This time last year we were dealing with the news of a 50% cut in Nursery funding. After long discussions we decided to retain a full-time Nursery class and introduce a means tested charge. Having put this in place - most smoothly thanks to parents, Sarah and Tania - we began, with other schools, to lobby Camden Council to re-consider this cut. Social inclusion and full-time Nursery for all is a core part of Camden's successful state schools building community from the early years.

We are delighted that from September 2013, free full-time Nursery for all for at least the next 2 years is being re-instated for all schools! We are lucky to be in a borough that listens and that has clear educational priorities. What a support too as other tax and benefit cuts roll in.

Applications for Reception 2013

January 15th - next Tuesday is the deadline for Reception 2013 applications. If your child is born between 01.09.08 and 31.08.09 you MUST complete an on-line application even if you have other children in the school. Please come to the office if you have any concerns or queries. *A place in our Nursery does not guarantee you a place in Reception.*

What's coming up this term?

It may be a relatively short one but as ever, there's lots of innovation and activity in store!

- The 30 ipads for use by children have arrived. Thank you PTA!
- We are thrilled that we have managed to secure a day long visit from the legendary Michael Rosen! His style of poetry, playing with language, focussing on the ordinariness and detail of family life and his brilliant performances have delighted children, parents and teachers for decades. Expect a big build up and a poetry writing competition!
- We have visits from other authors too. Jessica Souhani and HL Dennis already booked.
- Brilliant storyteller Ben Haggarty is back
- Chinese Club starts next Monday. Lots of potential for further links!
- We have many new books and will continue to promote good reads as the key to reading development and enjoyment. Look out for book recommendations in newsletters or just ask a teacher! We pride ourselves in knowing about children's books.
- The photocopy room is done. Sarah Tania and I are in organisational heaven. Next on the hit list is the Nursery ramp and playground
- Zedekiah the drummer will be back
- We have engineering workshops in Years 1, 2 and 5.
- It's time for the annual Camden Schools Cross Country!

Key dates - diaries out

We are choosing to have a school 'review' (a more benign inspection) on 21st and 22nd January

Mid year Parents' Evening has been moved forward to Wednesday 13th February

Half term week is 18th - 22nd February

A Curriculum Evening to share our ipad work is on Thursday 14th March

A Year 5 Strings Concert is on Thursday 14th March

Camden Cross Country is on Friday 15th March

The Year 4 play is on Wednesday 27th March

The 11th Eleanor Palmer Great Egg Race is on Thursday 28th March.

Term ends on Thursday 28th March.

Here's to a great term!

With best wishes, Kate Frood and staff.

