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ELEANOR PALMER PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN TERM 2013 NUMBER 7
www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk

Thursday 10th October 2013

Dear Families,

Events in school next week, 14th - 18th October:

Tomorrow

At 8am Netball Club - don't be late! Or indeed for any early morning clubs!
Year 6 leave for Wick Court, their fantastic week in Gloucestershire.
Harvest Festival donations - please bring them straight into the hall at 9am. We always have a huge collection: please take the time to think of those less fortunate.
Cake Sale hosted by Year 1

Teaching staff strike action by NUT / NASUWT on Thursday, 17 October

All members of the NUT will be striking on Thursday 17 October as part of a series of regional strikes in England over pay, pensions and workload.

I regret to inform you that, in spite of governors wishing the school to be kept open, after carrying out a risk assessment, I have decided we cannot have children in school on 17 October and therefore **WE WILL BE CLOSED TO CHILDREN NEXT THURSDAY.**

The school will be open as normal on Friday 18 October. I am really sorry for the disruption caused but feel we have no option but to close the school for the day. Attached is a letter from members of the school's NUT explaining their position.

Tuesday 15th October

9-10am - In the Shed: this session will be in Year 6 as the Shed is double booked. We are lucky to have great teaching assistants who have a combined experience of over 100 years of helping children learn to read!! Today's session is an open 'surgery' if you'd like to pick their brains about reading with your child. Stay as long or as little as you'd like. Open to ALL parents. Come and share the wisdom of Jackie, Linda and Angela!!!

Year 5 to CLC.

Wednesday 16th

Reception are visiting a local Waitrose to look at all the fruit and vegetables and take part in a fruit tasting session.

Thursday 17th

SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN - SEE ABOVE.

Friday 18th

Special lunch in the Shed for all our Muslim children, to celebrate Eid-UI-Adha (see over).

Cake Sale hosted by Year 5.

Year 6 return from Wick Court around lunchtime. We will keep in touch with parents by text all week.

Polite Request!

Please can parents not enter the Resource Area until 3.30pm. Although the central area may seem like a waiting area, it is essentially a 5th classroom and is almost always in use with individuals and small groups and it can be really distracting if parents and carers enter early. Thank you!

Harvest Festival donations

They would like *non-perishable basic goods*. They have particularly asked for toiletries (toothbrushes, toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo). "Cheap and cheerful and easy to store" was their message. Do check that the sell by date is reasonably far away for any tins.

Suggestions:

- Toothpaste, Shower gel, Soap, Shampoo,
- Tinned vegetables esp tomatoes and beans ;
- Tinned meat, Pasta, Rice, Couscous, Cereal ;
- Socks and Underwear

Eid-al-Adha

Eid will fall on Tuesday next week and we expect our Muslim children to take only one day's holiday on the 15th October. On Friday 18th October, new staff member Lisha Siddiki will be hosting a special Eid lunch for our Muslim children in the Shed. Parents welcome! Look out for a special letter.

Thank you!

To Mia Adebawale in Year 4 for this week's border design. WE NEED LOTS MORE BORDER DESIGNS - please come and grab a blank one!

Our After School Play Centre

P3 provides an after school play centre here in school which employs professional, qualified, and caring staff. Staff provide an array of fun, creative, musical, and sporting activities to support and enhance children's development. The service is flexible and reliable and supports the needs of parents including, one off bookings, emergency bookings, and regular days.

Prices include a light tea-time snack:-

Working parents:	£7.65 per day,
Family rate:	£11.00 per day (for 2 children)
Income support	£3.00 per day
Subsidised rate:	£4.60 per day

You can pay cash, cheque, direct debit, childcare vouchers, and on-line visa payments. Children need to be collected by 6pm. We are so lucky to have this service on site! Priority goes to working parents but if there is space, it is a great way to build your child's independence. For further information speak to your play manager Ross Kenworthy on 07875 724105 or email ross.kenworthy@p3charity.org

With best wishes,
Kate Froud and staff.

Thursday 10th October 2013

Dear Parents,

As you may be aware, the London, Bristol and Durham NUT groups are going on strike on Thursday 17th October. As members of the NUT, we would like to explain why we have decided to take this action.

As of September 2013 teachers' pay and conditions have changed. The system of national pay and conditions no longer exists and local authorities, schools and governors have needed to negotiate new pay policies. Fortunately, here in Camden, we have managed to negotiate a satisfactory policy. However, that is not the case in many other authorities across the country where teachers face uncertainty over pay and conditions. One major concern is whether pay levels will be retained when moving school.

Many of these issues could be solved with proper negotiations between the government and unions. However, the government is refusing to meet to discuss the issues. What we hope to achieve with this strike is to bring the government to the table and begin a dialogue. At the moment we have reached stalemate which is detrimental to many in the teaching profession. We are acting together to support our colleagues across the country.

Taking the decision to strike is never easy. We are aware that it causes disruption to your child's education and your arrangements and we regret this. However, we hope you can understand the reasons why we have decided to strike.

Yours sincerely,

Members of the NUT at Eleanor Palmer