

ELEANOR PALMER PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN TERM 2015 NUMBER 1
www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk

Thursday 3rd September 2015

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the Autumn term and a new school year! I hope everyone has had a happy and restful summer holiday. We have had a great couple of whole staff INSET days, including training on bullying and other aspects of social and emotional development. There are meetings **next Thursday 10th** with each classteacher (except for Nursery: that will be on 1st October) to hear more about the year ahead, expectations and routines.

As ever with Danny in charge, our summer works went really smoothly! We have a wonderful new floor in the hall; our gates have been re-painted; the Resource Area and Year 5 have been painted; we have a new state of the art photocopier installed and more! Many thanks to him and his team.

Welcome to our fantastic new members of staff: Izzy Debnam as a teaching assistant in Year 6 and Sara Stokes as our new Reception teacher. You will also meet wonderful three student teachers with us this term, Lauren Campbell, Sophie Hartnett and Francesca Pegg. Please give them all a warm Eleanor Palmer welcome!

A special welcome to all our new families too, starting over the next two weeks. We will be having a party for our new families in Nursery and Reception soon once you're all in - see over!

Events in school next week, 7th - 11th September (Clubs and 8am football start in the week of 14th):

Wednesday 10th

8am Governors Curriculum Committee

Thursday 10th

8am Governors Resources Committee

Year 4 and Year 6 start swimming.

6.30pm and 7.15pm 'Meet the Teacher' Evenings for Years R to 6. *NB Year 6 is 6pm and 7.15pm as so much to cover!* Ahead of our one to one meetings with individual parents, each teacher will do a short introductory talk about the year ahead and explain what lies ahead, routines and expectations for the class and ways in which parents can support. There will of course be time for questions too. Because many of you have two or more children each teacher will talk at 6.30pm and then again at 7.15pm. I will ring a bell at changeover time! This is a good opportunity to meet up with other parents in your class too. Please note: these are adult only meetings.

Repeat of VERY EXCITING NEWS!!!

After a bidding process, and specifically because of the confidence Camden have in us to manage the project ourselves, we have been awarded a substantial sum by Camden to transform our dull and decrepit junior playground shelter into a state of the art science and food tech lab!! This has always been a plan and we have been slowly trying to amass funds through PTA fund-raising etc. The process of creating our lab will begin in September with architects' tenders and visits to exciting neighbours such as the Wellcome Trust and the Crick Institute.

Our trip system - very important

You should all have received a pink letter attached to this newsletter detailing our system for dealing with our many trips this year. Regular trips that enrich the curriculum are essential to our style of teaching and learning. To make life simpler for you and the office, as explained in the letter, we are asking for one slip and one contribution this month, *to cover your contribution for all trips, workshops, artists, storytellers and visitors this year. We will not ask for any more unless you have a residential.* We will continue to remind/notify you of every trip and on each occasion, you have the right to withdraw permission (although no one ever has!). Please return

More borders please!

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slips and contributions to the office, ideally in a named envelope. If you didn't get the all important pink letter please ask! We will be nagging so this is all sorted by the end of the month: it must be sorted before your child's first trip.

School Journey payments - Years 5 and 6 only

Final instalments are due before the trip departs. Not long now! Year 6 leave on 2nd October and Year 5 on 19th October. Please see Tania in the office if you'd like to make more payments or find out what you still owe.

Website

Everything is now 'rolled over' and will very soon be up to date with photos of new staff. We have set it up so that you can still access last year's photos...there are links from your new home class page. Scroll down on your home page and click on 'my previous years' to be reminded of all the things you did last year. In time we will have a whole archive for you!

Thank you for all the amazing 'extreme reading' photos - keep them coming in and we will add them to the page! Closing date for entries is tomorrow - winners in assembly!

Secondary transfer

It is the season for making decisions about secondary schools for Year 6. This all happens very quickly and can become overwhelming! A poster is up at the entrance and I will put all dates for our local schools' open mornings and evenings in this newsletter so that Year 5 parents and children can take an early opportunity to consider options too. We positively encourage this and are happy for children in both Years 5 and 6 to miss sessions of school to be part of visits. Note the Camden Event at the Camden Centre, on Tuesday 15th from 3.30 where all our secondary schools will be present to talk in detail about what they offer. This is open to all interested parents. Register at www.eventbrite.co.uk. Search for Camden.

The latest Camden secondary schools admissions guide is now available on the website: printed copies will be sent to us soon. Having done the process over 18 times as a head and as a parent, I am always happy to talk through options with parents. Do simply fix a meeting.

On **Thursday 17th September at 7pm**, we are hosting a 'Meet the Parents' Evening giving EP parents and children, the chance to hear from students/parents at our local secondary schools. We did this last year and it is an excellent way to hear yet another perspective.

A few start of term reminders and nags:

- We now have many ways to pay bills and a friendly and 'open all hours' office - please settle up on time!
- We don't allow any jewellery, other than simple stud earrings, so please leave it at home.
- Please also ensure that long hair (boys too) is tied up - it helps focus in class and helps prevent the spread of nits;
- We are a water only school: both in school (lunchtime) and out of school (on trips). We allow Smoothies but a firm no to sugary flavoured waters.

Key dates for this term (full details of each nearer the time)

- Friday 25th September - the Camden Schools' Cross Country for Years 3-6. **Note new much earlier date!!!**
- Thursday 1st October - Nursery 'Meet the Teacher' Meeting - 6.30pm and 7.15pm
- Thursday 15th October - One to One Parents' Evening from 4.30-7.30pm. Teachers will offer alternative daytime appointments too during the same week.
- Thursday 22nd October 6.30-8pm - Welcome party for all Nursery and Reception families
- Friday 2nd - Friday 9th October - Wick Court School Journey for Year 6
- 19th - 23rd October - Sayers Croft School Journey for Year 5
- **Half term - the week of 27th October**
- Monday 16th November - Primary Maths Challenge
- Thursday 10th December - Year 5 Shakespeare production at 2pm
- Wednesday 16th December at 2pm - Whole school Carol Service
- Friday 18th December - Last day of term and the X Factor

More borders please!

Dates already fixed for later this year

Wednesday 24th February - mid-year One to One Parents' Evening
Thursday 14th April - Camden Schools' Swimming Gala for Years 3-6
Thursday 28th April - UKMT Maths Challenge
Tuesday 10th /Weds 11th May - Year 3 and 4 Football Tournament
9th - 13th May - SATs Week for Year 6
Wednesday 15th June - Summer Concert
Thursday 23rd - Friday 24th June - Year 2 adventure at The Mill
Thursday 23rd June - Camden Athletics
Tuesday 28th June - Sports Day
Weds 29th - Thurs 30th June - Year 4 Camping survival trip
Saturday 2nd July - The Summer Festival
Thursday 7th July - End of year Parents' Evening

All trip details will be in your weekly yellow newsletter (first one tomorrow) from your class.

Cake Sale dates

A long standing and much enjoyed tradition here, is that almost every Friday, classes take turns to buy or makes cakes and biscuits which are then sold after school with all the takings going into School Fund. You can drop cakes off in the morning, or bring them at 3.30pm. Three or four parents need to volunteer to set up and man the stall from 3.15pm as it's hectic! Here are the dates; please make a note of your dates:

Friday 18 th Sept	Year 3	Friday 23 rd Oct	Year 4
Friday 25 th Sept	All - Macmillan*	Friday 6 th Nov	Year 6
Friday 2 nd Oct	Year 2	Friday 13 th Nov	Reception
Friday 9 th Oct	Year 1	Friday 20 th Nov	Nursery
Friday 16 th Oct	Year 5		

* As it is Macmillan Cancer Support's 'Big Coffee Morning' on the 25th we thought we would raise money for this brilliant charity on that day. Cakes welcome from anyone!

Newsletter border designs

Thank you to NO ONE for this week's border design! I need to build up stocks for this year please. Please come to my office and help yourself to a blank border if you would like to see yours in print!

This is a mammoth first mail-out! As well as that all important trip slip, also attached (OVERLEAF) are this year's term dates. With such good notice of dates, in paper and on the website, there shouldn't be any 'accidental' holiday bookings!

On that note, we are brilliant at giving notice, telling you what is happening and opening up opportunities...but it does rely on pupil post! Having found a stray book bag on day 1, full of newsletters etc. from last year I wonder sometimes if letters don't make it home! PLEASE check book-bags; in particular make sure you get the Thursday (orange, whole school) newsletter and Friday (yellow, class) newsletter. Alternatively check our always-up-to-date website and calendar: the orange newsletter is uploaded every Thursday.

With best wishes and high hopes for another great year ahead,

Kate Frod and staff.

Eleanor Palmer Primary School

School Term & Holiday Dates 2015/16

Autumn Term 2015	
Term starts for children:	Thursday 3 September 2015 (Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 September staff INSET days)
Half Term:	Monday 26 October 2015 – Friday 30 October 2015 Monday 2 November – Camden wide staff INSET Day (school closed for children)
Autumn 2nd half term starts for children:	Tuesday 3 November 2015
Term ends:	Friday 18 December 2015
Christmas Holidays:	Monday 21 December 2015 to Friday 1 January 2016
Spring Term 2016	
Term starts for children:	Tuesday 5 January (Staff INSET day Monday 4 January) to Friday 12 February 2016
Half Term:	Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February 2016
Term ends:	Thursday 24 March 2016
Easter/Spring Holidays	Friday 25 March to Friday 8 April 2016
Summer Term 2016	
Term starts for staff and children:	Monday 11 April 2016 to Friday 27 May 2016
Half Term:	Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June (plus Monday 6 June - staff INSET day)
Summer 2nd half term starts for children:	Tuesday 7 June 2016
Term ends:	Wednesday 20 July 2016
Additional Bank Holiday closure	May Day Monday 2 May 2016