

# SCHOOL



the

ELEANOR PALMER PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER  
SPRING TERM 2016 NUMBER 12  
[www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk](http://www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk)

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Dear Families,

Events in school in the first week of next term, 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> April:

**Tomorrow**  
No school - Good Friday, and the start of a very early Easter Weekend.

**PLEASE NOTE WE START ON MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> - NO TEACHERS' INSET DAY!  
NO CLUBS OR EARLY MORNING FOOTBALL THIS WEEK.  
BREAKFAST CLUB AND PLAYCENTRE OPEN AS USUAL.**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup>

School starts!

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>

Please join us at 7.30 for a PTA meeting. We now have plans and costs for the 3 projects which we would like PTA coffers to support and I will explain all at the meeting! It would also be good to start to plan roles and ideas for the Summer Festival.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>

It is the Camden Swimming Gala! Our squad has been chosen after trials and a letter should have come home today to squad members.  
Years 1 and 2 start swimming!

Thank you!

To Cosmo Perrett in Year 2 for this week's border.

Attendance for this term - best overall!

Class	Attendance %	Punctuality %
6	98.41	99.35
5	97.57	99.01
4	96.94	98.09
3	97.32	99.06
2	97.76	98.77
1	97.38	98.92
R	96.68	98.61

Defending London schools budget

Please find an important document attached regarding the future of school budgets and in particular London schools budgets. It is really important that there is a London voice in the consultation!

Change to school meal prices

Please note that after Easter the price of a school meal will rise to £2.34 (from £2.30). Since the introduction of the London Living Wage for our catering staff in September 2015, the council has been subsidising meal costs. Unfortunately now they must increase the meal prices to reflect the actual cost paid to the contractor. We've been informed that the council is hoping that there will be no increase in 2017/18 or that the increase will be minimal.

SPRING RETURN 2016!

the Egg Race!

!EP! B A 5 T 2 Egg! time

SCHOOL!



the

egg

Race



Requests for absence in term-time

I hope to see everyone on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April and not to have emails telling me about flight delays and accidental wrong bookings. We always give ample notice about term dates so this can be avoided and holidays taken within the 13 weeks. If there are exceptional reasons for missing school in term-time then please make the request direct to me [head@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk](mailto:head@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk) and not Tania or class teachers. Permission for occasional days is granted in line with our policy if overall patterns of attendance, levels of achievement and attitudes to learning are good.

Congratulations!

We all enjoyed a wonderful show from Year 4 yesterday re-telling three lovely Caribbean tales. The show was full of life, music and colour and the stories were delightfully accessible to all. Well done to all the fine actors and Team 4, especially Mr Gibson who adapted the stories for the stage. A special thank you too to the parent team who made the most incredible set of costumes ever and gave HOURS of their time in support. Thanks to Natasha, Tamara, Jacqueline, Ayesha, Clara, Sam, Julie, Tsega, Sarah and Jason.

Many of you were also lucky enough to be at the Royal Albert Hall on Monday too to share in Year 6's performance alongside 2000 others in the Camden Music Festival. It was inspiring. I am a trustee for the Camden Music Trust and we have to work hard to find £90,000 a year to support the work that Camden music does in schools, at weekends and in holidays. To show support, and to keep music alive in our schools, please text to donate £5. Every little helps.

**CAMD16£5 to 70070**

Solar News



Thanks to families who supported Earth Hour and to the five families who donated after last week's shout out, so we now have £11,473 with just £2,527 to meet our target!

Don't forget to drop green tokens into the EP Community Matters box in Waitrose Holloway. Still collecting until the end of March!

Save Parliament Hill Café

As the franchise comes up for renewal, it appears that an international chain will beat the D'Auria family who have run it for 33 years and so another small business will be lost to the corporate world. If you're there, sign the petition by hand, if not then go to [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) and search 'Parliament Hill Café'. Alternatively, on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April, there is a picnic protest from 1pm by the café.

Have a great holiday! This has been a wonderful end of term with The Albert Hall, the wonderful Year 4 show and then the Egg Race today, full of all the usual EP ingenuity, imagination and spirit.

With best wishes

Kate-Frood and staff.

2016! EP! RACE! EGG!

EP! RACE! EGG! time



**National Funding Formula Consultation - Potential Impact on Camden Schools including Eleanor Palmer**

**Background**

The government is proposing to introduce a new national system of funding schools because it believes that the current way it distributes funding for schools in England is unfair. Historically, education in urban areas have been better funded because decisions have been taken by local councils. In our case Camden Council has always prioritised education, taken account of relative levels of deprivation and funded schools to a high level. Because this has historically not been the case across the country, the government's response is to introduce a national funding formula.

Camden Council and the borough's schools are deeply concerned about the potential impact of the proposal on Camden schools. We are worried that to improve funding for less-well funded areas, relatively well-funded areas like London will have their funding reduced. This concern is shared across many other parts of the capital.

We are proud of the excellent standard of education offered by our schools and early years' services within the challenging inner London context of significant levels of deprivation and high costs of living. The quality of education in Camden's primary schools is amongst the highest in the country according to Ofsted inspection outcomes. In 2014-15, 94% of Camden primary pupils were being educated in Ofsted graded good or better schools putting us 4th best in the country and top in Central London. This compares with 73% good or better primary schools in Oxfordshire and 66% in Suffolk for example. 21 of Camden's schools are rated as outstanding (including us) which is exceptionally high!

**What is the Government consulting on?**

It is consulting on introducing national funding formulas for schools and provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The first phase of the consultation asks for views on general principles and proposed funding criteria. This consultation closes on 17 April 2016.

There will be a second consultation on full proposals later this year.

**ELEANOR PALMER WILL DEFINITELY BE AFFECTED IF THE FORMULA DOES NOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE ABOVE. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD TO EXPECT UP TO 10% REAL TERM CUTS IN OUR BUDGET WHICH MEANS £120,000...WHICH MEANS TEACHERS.**

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

**PLEASE PLEASE RESPOND TO THE CONSULTATION. THE NUMBER OF RESPONSES MATTERS – WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THEY ARE WEIGHED – AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PARENTS RESPOND.**

**THE SIMPLEST WAY WOULD BE TO CUT AND PASTE THE FOLLOWING 5 HEADLINE POINTS (FEEL FREE TO ADD/AMEND) INTO A DOCUMENT AND EMAIL THEM TO**

**[SchoolsNationalFundingFormula.CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SchoolsNationalFundingFormula.CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk)**

**YOU NEED NOT NAME OUR SCHOOL BUT IMPORTANT TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A LONDON PARENT .**

**ALTERNATIVELY FOLLOW THE ONLINE LINK (THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE POSTED ONTO OUR NEWSLETTER AREA TODAY SO YOU CAN FOLLOW THE HYPERLINK)**

### Model response to the consultation on the principles of a new national funding formula

- London schools are a national success story lauded internationally, both in terms of high attainment and in closing the attainment gap.
- There are many risks in de-stabilising the capital's education system not least in terms of leadership. Over 50% of London's heads are over 50 and recruitment is becoming increasingly challenging.
- Pupils in deprived urban areas face 'double disadvantage' (Sutton Trust November 2015): disadvantaged students have poorer outcomes and living in a poor neighbourhood compounds this. The Trust would like to see higher levels of resources maintained in these areas.
- The high cost of living, of employment and other costs in London should be a significant factor in the new formula.
- Local authorities and schools forums have local knowledge and understanding of schools and can apply a flexible local formula supported by schools forum. A national funding formula will not have the same responsiveness or precision.
- We certainly understand that schools in less well-funded areas should be funded fairly but we would want to see that introduced on the basis of a levelling up of resources not a levelling down. We therefore ask the government to ensure that Camden schools should not lose any cash from the introduction of the new arrangements.

### Responding to the consultation

Typically, the online response form is long and unwieldy.....presumably to put people off.

The consultation documents and the online link for responses are available here or

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula/consult> view

We will put a draft set of responses (written by Camden's schools forum) on our website alongside this week's newsletter. Do cut and paste as a starting point!

If your internet browser does not support the online form you can access a hard copy you can print off and send directly by contacting the Education Funding Agency at this email address:

[SchoolsNationalFundingFormula.CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SchoolsNationalFundingFormula.CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk)

On 22 March Schools Forum met and agreed to submit a joint Schools Forum and Council response. The Forum considered a paper which set out the implications of the changes for Camden and explained the two stage consultation process. The paper can be accessed here:

<http://democracy.camden.gov.uk/documents/s48556/Update%20on%20National%20schools%20Funding%20Consultation%20stage%201.pdf>

**Staff and governors will be at the school gate the first week back to further rally support with paper copies of suggested responses for you to sign and send. If we do not register that we want to preserve the quality of our education system – and that adequate funding is part of our success – then the cuts will just happen.**

**Please do your bit to support your child's future!**