

ELEANOR PALMER PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN TERM 2016 NUMBER 1
www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk

Thursday 8th September 2016

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the Autumn term and a new school year! I hope everyone has had a happy and restful summer holiday - what a difference good weather makes! Term has started well with children settling into work, expectations and routines. There are meetings next Wednesday 14th with each classteacher to hear more about the year ahead, expectations and routines - see over.

As ever with Danny in charge, our summer works went really smoothly! Solar panels installed, a new fire alarm (with both evacuation and a distinct 'invacuation' alarm should the need ever arise to gather the children safely inside) and Year 3 has been painted. Many thanks to him and his team now including son Jacob who has been fantastic.

Thank you to those of you who entered into the fun of maths on holiday. We have some great photos of dice, Numicon, hand games and tricky calculations being done around the globe. I have really enjoyed reading the background to the photos, be it calculating missing stones at Stonehenge, weighing fish in Hong Kong or calculating outside Bosnian tombs! Thank you all.

I am delighted to let you know that Anna McGrory (much loved ex EP teacher) gave birth to Edie Rose (6lb 7oz) on 25th August.

Welcome to our fantastic new members of staff: teachers Maddie Heyes in Year 5 and Sophie Hartnell in Nursery, We also welcome student teachers Nancy Carr (Y1) and Sorrel Meechan (Y6). 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; 12th - 16th September (Clubs and 8am football start in the week of 19th)

Monday 12th

Year 3 are off to the Ragged School - in costume!

Tuesday 13th

8am Cross Country training! Join Coach Martin (and parent volunteers please!) this Tuesday and next, on an early morning jog to the Heath; training for the Camden Cross Country on the 30th.

3.30-4.30 Drama classes for children run by ex-parent Kate Renna. Contact Kate on 07989 747 338 for more details.

3.30-4.30 First team football team trials for all children in Years 4, 5 and 6. There will be a second trial the week after on the 20th. From this, Coach Martin will pick the girls' and boys' teams for the Camden League which starts on November 1st. However, all keen children will get a chance to represent EP in friendlies against other schools. We are lucky that Coach Martin is now so well networked with other schools and with Talacre.

Wednesday 14th

9am Camden School for Girls Open Morning

6.30pm and 7.15pm 'Meet the Teacher' Evening'. 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.

Thursday 15th

All our Muslim families are invited to join us for a shared lunch to celebrate Eid al Adha. Years 4 and 6 swim again.

Friday 16th

9am Camden School for Girls Open Morning.
Year 4 visit Lullingstone Roman Villa.

Update on the Science Lab

It is progressing! We hope works will begin later this term. Behind schedule due to the planning delay, but definitely happening with the intention of building starting later this term.

Solar Panels

£497 generated to date! Do follow the link on our website that gives you daily data. Addictive! We have had some programming issues but we hope it is now sorted. In the school entrance is a panel detailing live power production (in w/Kw) and energy created to date (Kwh). The range seems to be 0-15kw with higher numbers in the middle of the day and when it's sunny. We have had assemblies supporting all our understanding of solar production!

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 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. FOR YEAR 3 THAT IS MONDAY 12th!!!

School Journey payments - Years 5 and 6 only

Final instalments are due before the residential trip departs. Not long now! Year 6 leave on Friday 23rd September for Wick Court Farm in Gloucestershire and Year 5 to Sayers Croft in Surrey on Monday 17th 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 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!

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. Please let us know in advance. Such absence is coded as present and will not count in your child's overall attendance record!

Note the Camden Event at the Camden Centre, on Thursday 15th from 3.30 to 6.30pm 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.camden.gov.uk/MovingOn2016.

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 Tuesday 27th 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.

We are aware that some dates - Camden Girls and Acland Burghley - coincide with Wick Court and have arranged special dates for EP Year 6 children around this! We are lucky to have such good relationships with our secondary colleagues!

Adult creative writing classes

EP parent Alison Huntington is running an adult creative writing course. A fun introductory course for beginners with workshops to support on-going projects and 1:1 sessions. Cost is 10 weeks £175 / £20 a session. Contact Alison on alisonhuntington@me.com or 07973 822337 for more details.

CBC Night - Thursday 6th October 2016, 7-9pm

To kick off this term's social season, and to build on the success of our last CBC evening, parents have once again grouped together to organise a Celebration of Black Culture event to raise vital funds for our partner school in Sierra Leone.

The evening will include music, food, drink, henna, face paints, hair braiding and of course, dancing! As always, in order for the event to be a success, the parents need YOUR help! Please look out for the sign-up boards in the entrance area and add your name to help on the night.

CBC evening will form part of a week's focus on Black History (3rd to 7th October). Over the course of this week, we would love it if some parents could come into school and share stories, poems, music, food or history from their culture with the children. If you are interested in finding out more, or want to volunteer to help, please see staff members, Angela or Sally, or Parent Governor, Vicky Starmer.

International Summer Fair - 2017

Looking ahead to the end of the Summer Term - to celebrate the heritage of all families within our school community, the PTA are going to have an international theme for the 2017 Summer Fair. A long way off, but do start to think about how you can get involved to ensure all families are celebrated at the fair.

A few start of term reminders and nags:

- The gates open at 8.45am. Please do not arrive or drop off before then unless you are using Breakfast Club in which case we can take care of your children from 8am. Classrooms are open from 8.55am to allow for a 'soft start' and then straight to work at 9am. If your child prefers to play in the playground until the bell rings at 9am that is fine too;
- At the end of the day a member of staff will 'sweep' you out of the playground at 3.45. Teachers have several hours of work to do after school and we need to get on!
- We 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;
- Please 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.

Can you help?

For many years now we have offered 8am football - for Years 3-6 on Tuesdays and Years 1-2 on Mondays. It is a really popular institution. This has been possible through the generous volunteering of parents. As a huge core group of parents move into the juniors we are left with only one parent for Mondays and Years 1-2! Are there any parents who might join the rota?

Newsletter border designs

Thank you to NO ONE for this week's border design, designed last year! 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 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! Please note the confirmation of our 5th INSET day as Monday 12th June.

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 without fail.

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

Kate Frood and staff.

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

- Wednesday 14th September - Meet the Teacher Evening at 6pm and 7.15pm.
- Wednesday 21st September - Science Scinema. Everyone wants to continue Film Nights so we will now raise money for equipping our new Lab! We will start with a Roald Dahl classic.
- Wednesday 21st September - PTA Meeting. Cleverly arranged for the same night at Science Scinema so childcare on tap! Please come along to get involved in the many ways that parents get involved. It is a great way to meet new parents too!
- Friday 23rd - Friday 30th September - - Wick Court School Journey for Year 6
- Friday 30th September - the Camden Schools' Cross Country for Years 3-6. Sadly Y6 will miss it as they will be at Wick Court.
- Thursday 6th October - CBC Night. A repeat of our popular party, this time during Black History month
- Wednesday 12th October - One to One Parents' Evening from 4.30-7.30pm. Teachers will offer alternative daytime appointments too during the same week.
- Thursday 20th October 6.30-8pm - Welcome party for all Nursery and Reception families
- 17th - 21st October - Sayers Croft School Journey for Year 5
- **Half term - the week of 24th October**
- Thursday 10th November - the unmissable EP DISCO
- Tuesday 15th November - Primary Maths Challenge
- Wednesday 7th December - Year 5 Shakespeare production at 2pm
- Wednesday 14th December at 2pm - Whole school Carol Service
- Friday 16th December - Last day of term and the X Factor

Dates already fixed for later in the school year

- Tuesday 3rd January - Staff INSET
- Thursday 2nd February - BINGO
- Wednesday 22nd February - mid-year One to One Parents' Evening
- Thursday 20th April - Camden Schools' Swimming Gala for Years 3-6
- Thursday 27th April - UKMT Maths Challenge
- Tuesday 9th /Weds 10th May - Year 3 and 4 Football Tournament
- 8th - 12th May - SATs Week for Year 6
- Monday 5th June - Staff INSET
- Monday 12th June -Staff INSET
- Wednesday 21st June - Summer Concert
- Thursday 22nd - Friday 23rd June - Year 2 adventure at The Mill
- Tuesday 20th June - Camden Athletics (Y5 and 6)
- Friday 30th June - Camden Athletics (Y3 and 4)
- Tuesday 4th July - Sports Day.
- Tues 27th - Weds 28th June - Year 4 Camping survival trip
- Saturday 1st July - The Summer Festival
- Tuesday 4th July - Sports Day
- Tuesday 11th 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 16 th Sept	Year 3	Friday 21 st Oct	Year 4
Friday 23 rd Sept	Year 2	Friday 4 th Nov	Year 6
Friday 30 th Sept	All - Macmillan	Friday 11 th Nov	Reception
Friday 7 th Oct	Year 1	Friday 18 th Nov	Nursery
Friday 14 th Oct	Year 5		

* As it is Macmillan Cancer Support's 'Big Coffee Morning' on the 30th we thought we would raise money for this brilliant charity on that day. Cakes welcome from anyone!

8th September 2016

Dear Parents,

Class trips

A rich programme of educational visits and visitors is central to the curriculum at Eleanor Palmer. We believe that children learn by doing and experiencing and by learning being brought to life. As you know, we ask for a voluntary contribution from parents for each outing. The school also supports this commitment by putting over ten thousand pounds in a 'trips and artists' budget thus reducing the cost for every child for every trip.

With the intention of making life easier for both you (I know as a parent the frustration of the request for £2 at 8.55am and/or the lost permission slip letter!) and for school support staff (there is endless banking, list making, phone reminders etc before each trip taking time away from classroom support) we are repeating our very popular system once again. We are asking for a one off payment - and permission slip - now, in September, towards the cost of ALL trips and visitors for the year.

The system: We are asking for £30 per Key Stage 2 child (Years 3-6), £25 for Key Stage 1 child (Reception, Years 1 and 2) and £10 for Nursery children. This will cover your contributions to all travel, workshops, museum entries, speakers, artists etc etc that enrich our curriculum. It will not cover parental contributions to any of our residential trips (The Mill in Year 2, Epping Forest in Y4, Sayers Croft in Year 5, Wick Court in Year 6). As always, donating 'more than' is most welcome!

In addition, when you return the donation, please sign the attached permission slip giving your permission for **all class trips this year**. For each trip there will be several reminders and requests for parental support (as part of our bright yellow weekly class newsletter/homework on a Friday) and, on a trip by trip basis, parents will still be able to refuse to give permission simply by letting us know (this has never happened!).

The school's subsidy will remain: this one off parental contribution simply matches what we used to gather from the sum of all the parental contributions to trips over a year.

We will be gathering this donation over the next three weeks. You can also pay on-line in the same way you pay for dinner money - simply log in to www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk and follow the link (contact Tania in the office if you are a first time user and need a pupil link code). For those of you with 2 or more children we're happy to spread the donation and, in cases of hardship, to discuss a reduced contribution. We **MUST** have slips/contributions back before your child's first trip - and that's next Monday for Year 3!

With best wishes

Kate Frod

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PLEASE RETURN TO THE OFFICE IN A SEALED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON. CHEQUES MADE PAYABLE TO 'ELEANOR PALMER SCHOOL'. PLEASE RETURN BY YOUR CHILD'S FIRST TRIP OR FRIDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER, WHICHEVER IS SOONER. THANK YOU

Child's name Class

I give permission for my child to take part in all class trips during this academic year 16-17.

- I enclose a contribution of £30 per child (Years 3-6), £25 per child (Reception - Year 2), £10 Nursery
- I have paid online

Signed

Eleanor Palmer Primary School



Autumn Term 2016

Term starts for children:	Monday 5 September 2016 (Thursday 1 and Friday 2 September staff INSET days)
Half Term:	Monday 24 October 2016 – Friday 28 October 2016
Term ends:	Friday 16 December 2016
Christmas Holidays:	Monday 19 December 2016 to Monday 2 January 2017

Spring Term 2017

Term starts for children:	Wednesday 4 January (staff INSET day Tuesday 3 January) to Friday 10 February 2017
Half Term:	Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February 2017
Term ends:	Friday 31 March 2017
Easter/Spring Holidays	Monday 3 April to Monday 17 April 2017 (Easter Monday 17th April)

Summer Term 2017

Term starts for staff and children:	Tuesday 18 April 2017 to Friday 26 May 2017
Half Term:	Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June (plus Monday 5 June - staff INSET day)
Summer 2nd half term starts for children:	Tuesday 6 June 2017
	Monday 12th June – staff INSET day
Term ends:	Friday 21 July 2017
Additional Bank Holiday closure	May Day Monday 1 May 2017

