

ELEANOR PALMER PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
SPRING TERM 2017 NUMBER 11
www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk

Thursday 30th March 2017

Dear Families,

TOMORROW

Term ends with our traditional Great Egg Race!
Nursery, Years 1, 3 and 5 race at 9.15am and Reception, 2, 4 and 6 at approximately 10.45am. If it is wildly different from that time we will text during the morning.
Certificates and an Adults Race are at 2pm. Please enter!!!
Term finishes at 3.30pm.

Events in the first week of next term, 17th - 21st April:
No clubs in the first week back.

Monday 17th

No school - Easter Monday.

Tuesday 18th

Term starts at 9am sharp.

Wednesday 19th

Tasty Tuckshop after school!

Thursday 20th

Year 1 and Year 2 start their swimming lessons!
It's the Camden Swimming Gala too! See below. Full details for parents once we have them.

Friday 21st

After school practice for the forthcoming UKMT National Maths Challenge. In Year 5 classroom with Miss Flood. A one off and not at all compulsory. Just turn up if you'd like to talk through a paper or two before the main event on April 27th!

Thank you

To in Saffiya Esposito in Year 2 for this week's border design.

Well done!

Our team did us proud in the Camden Spring Slam in spite of fierce competition. Theo finished 2nd in the Year 6 final, Ben 2nd in Year 5, Zion 6th in Year 3 and Lily Grace was the borough champion in Year 4! End of term results in Years 4 and 5 show that everyone has improved. Times tables really are the phonics of maths and it is never too soon to crack on and learn them!

We have our Swimming Squad, all set for the Camden Gala on 20th April. Congratulations and good luck to: Evie, Rosalie, Macey, Raffy, Sandro and Eddy in Year 6; Finn, Ben, Sam, Beth, Hannah and Lilybet in Year 5; Jake, Django, Kobi, Jessica, Lily-Grace, Lyla in Year 4 and Jed and Jessica D in Year 3.

We have our Year 3 and 4 football squad too for the May tournament. They are: Toby, Kobi, Edward, Asia, Kaylen, Iyaad, (Year 4) Alex and Laurie (Year 3) and Molly-Rose, Lyla, Assia, (Year 4) Millie and Belle (Year 3). Matches after school on the Heath on Tuesday 9th May.

Karate Classes at Rainbow

Year 1 Parents Basia and Rika are trying to generate some interest in a Karate Club on Thursdays at Rainbow Nursery. The Club needs 8 children to start up, and costs £25 a month, with a term payable in advance. If you have a child aged 6-9 and are interested in joining, please contact Basia 07944 501813 or Rika 07939 255656 for more details.

Eleanor Palmer Can't Spell!!!!

We enjoy lots of positive feedback from our many visitors but we also always seek constructive criticism....and we have had some. A literacy specialist came recently. She loved the children's composition and imagination; she loved the varied and effective writing they do; she thought our handwriting was greatly improved but she had one big criticism. **Eleanor Palmer can't spell!** As teachers we think this is a fair cop and so next term we will be all over it! We need to apply all the tricks of our maths and sports success to spelling! We are so keen to inspire children to want to write, and to write well, but we must put more emphasis onto the nuts and bolts.

Spelling now makes up 20% of English GCSE and the government is putting a greater emphasis on it at age 7 and 11. Rightly or wrongly, the most creative and ingenious writer will not be assessed at expected levels for age 7 if they don't spell a huge array of words correctly.

As parents you have a part to play in helping to learn spellings, giving messages about how important it is (I know it is generation spell check) and modelling to children that checking spelling is all part of the editing process. Expect parent spelling lists, special events and more to get you involved!! A child has suggested a weekly deliberate mistake in this newsletter. Can you spot this week's? Please get on board with this school effort. Messages -both direct and indirect- from parents, as well as teachers, have such an impact on children!

Financial Year End and outstanding payments.

Thank you! For the first time ever all debts are paid. This makes such a difference to our end of year reconciliation.

Attendance and punctuality

Our current school average stands at 97.25%. Those children who have hit 100% for this term will come home sporting a badge today! No mean feat with winter bugs around. Parents of any child ending this term with an attendance below 95% will get a letter home from me. This is because parents are often not aware of how odd days mount up. We believe in sharing our data with parents. 5% of school missed equates to 10 days off. That's two weeks and a lot of learning, good habits and social life missed!

Update on the Lab

After a flurry of excitement you will have noticed that works have ground to a halt. This is because builders confirmed our suspicions that the wall on Fortress Rd would be unsafe if the existing structure was dismantled. Cue a painful wait for the cogs of council bureaucracy to accept costs and then agree to a pavement licence for scaffolding to prop the wall externally whilst building proceeds. Yesterday we heard that we finally have the go ahead. We very much hope we will see some progress after Easter! Any plans we had for a grand opening this May have been shelved; we think realistically we will be in and working in the Autumn.

And so it's the end of term!

Looking back on the term makes me realise what a rich and interesting time the children have at Eleanor Palmer. Amazing in depth topic work, choir performances, working with the Crick Institute, walking the Thames, putting on plays, protesting to Parliament, listening to fabulous storytellers, discovering dinosaur eggs, being engineers, creating Eggmobiles, trips up the Shard, varied sports events, the chance to learn some Mandarin, doing so well in maths competitions and meeting explorers and photographers to name but a few extras on top of doing well in the basics.

A huge thank you to our staff who work so hard to plan great lessons and to be so available to work with you too. Thank you for your lovely enthusiastic children and for your continued support for our ethos and our approach to teaching and learning.

No yellow newsletters tomorrow and no homework. School holidays are time to get out and about, explore, do different things and have adventures. Have a lovely Spring break!

With best wishes
Kate Frood and staff