

ELEANOR PALMER PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER  
SUMMER TERM 2017 NUMBER 11  
[www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk](http://www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk)

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Dear Families,

Events next week, 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> July

**TOMORROW**

No Stay and Play as we have an extended assembly first thing for sports day medals - it's on 14<sup>th</sup>. Last one of the year

Last chance to vote in the Parent Governor Election. The ballot closes at 4pm on the dot. Candidates are welcome to then be **present** for the count.

Next week will be the last week of clubs. A HUGE thank you to all the parents - Graham, Che, Winston, Matthew, Wanda, Sam, Evros, Tim and Gerd who have run early morning Football Clubs this year. It is much appreciated!

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July**

Early morning football for Years 1-2.

2:30pm Tea party for our Reading Volunteers to say a big thank you!

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>**

Early morning football for Years 3-6.

Additional appointment times during the afternoon for Year 2.

After school, at 3.30pm, Kate Bowes Renna will do a trial 'LAMDA' class. This is a private class we offer on site, for children interested in pursuing a performing arts qualification and/or simply having some small group drama coaching.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>**

Parents' Evening from 4.30pm. Please make sure you have signed up for an appointment at some point, either tonight or at the alternative time listed. This is a vital meeting to hear from your child's teacher about how the year has gone and what needs to be your child's next steps. It is also the opportunity to collect their final end of year written report.

See times outside the classroom door. We will be chasing parents who have yet to sign up!

Additional appointment times during the afternoon for Nursery, Year 1 and Year 5.

Tasty Tuckshop after school!

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>**

Charlie MacCormick, our new Year 3 teacher for September, will be in school spending time with Year 2.

Early morning football for Year 2.

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup>**

Stay and Play - we missed it on 7<sup>th</sup>! This is the last one of the year so let's have a huge turnout.

Additional appointment times during the afternoon for Year 6

At 7pm our Year 6 Leavers' Barbecue. All Year 6 families welcome - bring a dish and something to drink. It winds up by 10pm and then Year 6 get to stay *overnight in school* with teachers. Please collect early on Saturday morning - no later than 7.30am please (they're awake well before that!)

**A chance to meet the head at Acland Burghley**

Acland Burghley school is hosting a 'Meet the Headteacher' event from 4 to 6pm on Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup> at the home of Eleanor Palmer parent, Annabelle Williams, at 1 Ascham Street. These events have proved really popular in the past. Anyone can come and enjoy a cup of tea, cake and a chat with Nicholas John, who will also give a talk about the school. If you have children to bring, Annabelle will kindly lay on a film. We are also inviting parents from Holy Trinity and St Silas school in Kentish Town. It would be helpful if you could email Annabelle if you plan to come at [willesrd2@talk21.com](mailto:willesrd2@talk21.com) or text her on 07712 835932.

### Congratulations!

The Summer Fair was amazing! It is confirmed that, including the £2000 sponsorship from the ever generous London Residential, we have made **just under £9000 profit**. This is an amazing total and credit must go to our brilliant out-going chair Bandini who has worked so hard to bring everything and everyone together, all with such grace and kindness. Thank you too to her close team of Emma, Lily, Rachel, Dave and Nora who sorted, painted and sewed for days. Many others of you, parents and staff, did a huge amount of work before and on the day, too many to mention. Thank you. The International Food area was amazing and I think now a permanent feature going forward, joining the amazing Silent Auction which Sam puts together so brilliantly. It was a fantastic community occasion and I felt very proud and happy to be headteacher @ EP!

Congratulations too, to Coach Martin on another great Sports Day from his arrangement of the perfect weather to the efficient organisation of the races. Everyone had a great day!

### Thank you

To Arielle Morris in Year 1 for this week's border design.

### Staff changes in September

As you know, teacher Lucy Foster is re-locating to Bristol with her family. We also say farewell to teaching assistant Ruby Holmes who has a job at Acland Burghley! We are delighted about this new link and that Ruby will be so close and able to keep in touch with us and with our children moving there. Ruby has been a fantastic member of the team and we will all miss her very much!

By rights Terry, our Year 2 teaching assistant should be putting her feet up by now and enjoying retirement. But after 30 years we just can't let her go, so she is reducing her working week to 3 days from September.

From September, teams supporting classteachers will be as follows:

Nursery - Angela and Sam  
Reception - Natalie and Caroline  
Year 1 - Jackie and Taynee  
Year 2 - Dee and Terry (3 days)  
Year 3 - Hayley and Janet (1/2 the week)  
Year 4 - Linda and Amy  
Year 5 - Zoe and Janet (1/2 the week)  
Year 6 - Pauline

### Homework changes

Attached to this week's newsletter is an explanation of why we are changing homework in September. This decision has been considered by staff and governors and, as explained, we will hear the views of parents next Wednesday.

### If you were an engineer, what would you do?

You will recall that lots of children entered the Primary Engineer Award back in March. We are delighted that 4 children, whilst not ultimate winners, made the final judge's panel to choose the winner (remember the winning design is actually MADE!) and have been 'highly commended' with their work on display in the final exhibition, at University College London. It was visited by the proud children, their families and Mr Cairns, yesterday! How amazing!!!!

So huge congratulations go to Isaac (Y3) Hope and Eben (Y4) and Sean (Y6). Lily Grace (Y4) also had her drawing chosen to display. In addition, Evan (Y6) Mia and Hannah (Y5) were given distinctions: Clio Albert, Ella, Josephine, Beth (Y5) Sandra (Y6) Molly Rose (Y4) were given merits. We will enter again next year so get thinking!

With best wishes  
Kate Froud and staff

## New slim-line homework!

For the Autumn term, we are going to change our homework! In the first instance this will be a one term trial and we will take feedback from children and parents in December.

### Why?

- There is no evidence that, at primary level, homework, beyond core tasks, works to raise attainment nor to 'close the gap' for those children who need to catch up (see hyperlinks at foot of page) ;
- Teachers spend valuable time preparing and marking homework , time which could be spent on planning and assessing lessons;
- There is no time to differentiate homework (setting different work for different children's levels as we do in class) and thus for many children homework is always too hard or too easy;
- Many parents and children report that homework can be an un-rewarding experience at home. This risks putting children off learning and making parents' relationships with children around school-work negative.

### What are we proposing?

Children will still get weekly core skills practice tasks set; essentially, spelling, number facts, handwriting (at age appropriate levels) and the all-important expectation of daily reading and chat.

### FAQs

#### ***But homework is how I find out what is happening – how will I know?***

We are a very open school. Alongside events such as open classrooms and Stay and Play, parents are always welcome in class and/or to see the teacher. In addition, teachers may add occasional suggestions to their Friday newsletter; for example, "we turn next week to look at the digestive system. See what you can find out before Monday" or "we discovered this week that Arctic foxes change their coat as the seasons change. What other amazing camouflage facts can you discover?" or " This week we have cracked long multiplication. Feel free to practise 2 digit by 1 digit calculations such as  $35 \times 7$  at home! Here's an example of how we do it" This is simply a stimulus and there is no expectation that work must be done/handed in; we won't have homework books. Some of the most successful homework has involved blog posts on our website and this may happen occasionally.

#### ***But it's such a good habit for secondary school?***

Core practice of essential skills is what will secure firm foundations. The greatest gift you can give your child is time spent talking and reading and sharing experiences. They then have things to say and to write about; they have opinions to express and arguments to hold. In Year 6, the last year before secondary school and as end of year SAT tests approach, children have guided support with revision at home and we use a brilliant on-line homework called 'Hegarty Maths'.

#### ***How do I know what they should be able to do?***

We always give out 'end of year expectations' at the start of the year and for maths, an EP core facts sheet. These can guide expectations. In additions parents are always welcome to ask the teacher for guidance and ideas.

***Members of the School Leadership Team will be at the school entrance on Parents' Evening next Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss further with parents.***

### Articles of interest

<http://www.alfiekohn.org/homework-improve-learning/>

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/resources/teaching-learning-toolkit/homework-primary/>

