

**ELEANOR PALMER PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**  
**AUTUMN TERM 2017 NUMBER 1**  
[www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk](http://www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk)

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the Autumn term and a new school year! I hope everyone has had a happy and restful summer holiday! Term has started well with children settling into their new classes. There are meetings **next Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>** with each classteacher to hear more about the year ahead, expectations and routines - see over.

Thank you to so many of you for sending fantastic 'STEAMy' Summer pictures of your summer holidays. We plan to put some up in the new Lab. A warm welcome to Charlotte MacCormick (known as Charlie and Miss Mac), our new Year 3 teacher. Caroline Fay has re-appeared in Reception after Year 6 left and Terry Little will only be here Monday to Wednesday as she dips her toe into retirement. I'm grateful to staff members Amy and Hayley for taking on her end of the week lunch-time role.

Events in school next week, 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> September (Clubs and 8am football start in the week of 19<sup>th</sup>)

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>**

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 29<sup>th</sup>.

3.30-4.30 Homework Club starts up again in the Junior resource area. Come along for support with spelling, maths and handwriting and access to great online sites such as Spelling City and Interactive Resources. All children welcome with an accompanying adult.

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 19<sup>th</sup>. From this, Coach Martin will pick the girls' and boys' teams for the Camden League which starts on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October. 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 13<sup>th</sup>**

8am Governors Curriculum Committee.

9am Camden School for Girls first 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 14<sup>th</sup>**

Years 4 and 6 start swimming at Kentish Town Baths.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup>**

9am Camden School for Girls second Open Morning. See over.

**EP Allotment**

We had a great harvest (and continue to do so) from our own allotment thanks to our brilliant gardener Bernadette. The Year 3 children weighed and recorded all the produce they grew and harvested and then Bernadette logged it on the Capital Growth Harvest-ometer. At the end of term, our target of 100 meals was exceeded! We have grown **111 meals** so far, saved **£85.79** and produced **8.89 kg** of food since the end of April this year!

### 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 for the entire 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 have more than one child, you can write all their names on one slip. Alternatively pay using our online payment system, but don't forget that we also need the pink permission slip returned to the office. If you didn't get the all important pink letter please ask! We will be nagging so that this is all sorted by the end of the month: it must be sorted before your child's first trip. FOR YEARS 4 and 3 THAT IS MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup>!!!

### School Journey payments - Years 5 and 6 only

Final instalments are due before the residential trips departs. Not long now! Year 6 leave on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September for Wick Court Farm in Gloucestershire and Year 5 to Sayers Croft in Surrey on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Please see Tania or Lindsay 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. 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 to the bottom of your new year group page and click on 'my previous years' to be reminded of all the things you have ever done at EP. 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, Years 6 and 5 will get a list of all Camden school events attached to this newsletter, and I will put all dates for our local schools' open mornings and evenings in the newsletter. We positively encourage day-time visits 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, Bidborough St WC1 9AU on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 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.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) (search Camden Moving On 2017).

The latest Camden secondary schools admissions guide is now available on the Camden website too: printed copies will be given to parents at next Wednesday's meeting. Having done the process over 20 times both as a head and as a parent, I am always happy to talk through options with parents. Do simply catch me/email to fix a meeting.

**IMPORTANT.** We are aware that some dates - Camden Girls banding tests and Acland Burghley Open mornings - coincide with Wick Court and have therefore already sorted special 'exclusive' dates for EP Year 6 children around this! Year 6 children and parents will be told all dates and details on the 13<sup>th</sup>. We are lucky to have such good relationships with our secondary colleagues!

### 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 another core group of parents move into the Juniors we are in need of more volunteers for Mondays and Years 1-2! Are there any parents who might join the rota? Thanks to Alan and Luis who have already offered before we even asked!

### 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!

### 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 PTA 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 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Year 3	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 4
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	Year 2	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Year 6
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	All - MacMillan	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Reception
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 1	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Nursery
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 5		

\* As it is MacMillan Cancer Support's 'Big Coffee Morning' on the 29<sup>th</sup> we thought we would raise money for this brilliant charity on that day. Cakes welcome from anyone

### 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 paying for Breakfast Club in which case we can take care of your children from 8am in the hall. 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; an easy online payment system 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;
- Scooters and bikes must be parked tidily behind Years 5 and 6. Whenever we have a fire drill, there are always bikes and scooters scattered across the space. If the event of a real fire this could cause an accident and a delay. If any bikes and scooters are left overnight (and often for days) we cannot take responsibility for their disappearance;
- We don't allow toys in school.

This is a mammoth first mail-out! PTO for a fridge list of all our fixed dates for the year. 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 5<sup>th</sup> INSET day as Monday 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

Our other key communication method is texting. If your contact numbers have changed you **MUST** notify the office, not only so we can update our texting system but also so that we can contact you in an emergency.

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 13<sup>th</sup> September - Meet the Teacher Evening at 6pm and 7.15pm.
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September - Year 6 EP exclusive Cross Country.
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September - - Wick Court School Journey for Year 6
- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September - the Camden Schools' Cross Country for Years 3-5.
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - PTA AGM.
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October - One to One Parents' Evening from 4.30-7.30pm. Teachers will offer alternative daytime appointments too during the same week.
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 6.30-8pm - Welcome party for all Nursery and Reception families
- 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> October - Sayers Croft School Journey for Year 5
- **Half term - the week of 23<sup>rd</sup> October**
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November - the unmissable EP DISCO
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November - Primary Maths Challenge
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December - Year 5 Shakespeare production at 2pm
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December - Christmas Fair
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm - Whole school Carol Service
- **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December - EP's Got Talent and last day of term. We have decided, after 11 glorious years of the X Factor to have a different end of year charity event!**

**Dates already fixed for later in the school year**

- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January - Staff INSET
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February - BINGO
- Our annual Challenge Partners review - 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> January
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January - mid-year One to One Parents' Evening
- 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> February - Half term
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March - Year 4 Show
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March - the 15<sup>th</sup> Great Egg Race and last day of Spring term
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April - start of Summer term
- Friday 20 April - Camden Schools' Swimming Gala for Years 3-6
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April - UKMT Maths Challenge
- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May - Year 3 and 4 Football Tournament
- 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> May - SATs Week for Year 6
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June - Staff INSET
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June -Staff INSET
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June - Camden Athletics (Y5 and 6)
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June - Summer Concert
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June - Year 2 adventure at The Mill
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June - Year 4 Camping survival trip
- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June - Camden Athletics (Y3 and 4)
- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June - The Summer Festival
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July - Sports Day
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July - End of year Parents' Evening
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 Leavers' Family Barbecue
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 Leavers' Show
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July - last day of term

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

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, 4 and 6), £25 per Reception and Key Stage 1 child (Reception, Years 1 and 2) and £10 for Nursery children** (with the exception of children who, under the new Government scheme, are paying for Nursery; this cost is included in your fee). As indicated before the Summer break **Year 5 have an increased contribution of £50** this year to include the Golden Hinde residential trip (see letter attached). This payment will cover your contributions to all travel, workshops, museum entries, speakers, artists etc that enrich our curriculum. It will not cover parental contributions to any of our usual 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](http://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.

With best wishes

Kate Frood

.....  
**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 22nd 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 17-18

I enclose a contribution of £30 per child (Years 3-6), £50 per child (Year 5) £25 per child (Reception - Year 2), £10 per child in Nursery (excepting fee paying families - please however still complete this slip as trip consent).

I have paid online

Signed .....

