

ELEANOR PALMER PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN TERM 2017 NUMBER 2
www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk

Thursday 14th September 2017

Dear Families,

It was great to see so many of you last night! Teachers cannot repeat their talk on a 1:1 basis for all those who couldn't make it, but do ask if they have arranged a 3.30 repeat. **Please keep those trip slips and donations coming in.** Years 3 and 4 have their first trip next Monday and we **MUST** have permission slips back before they can take part.

Events in school next week, 18th - 22nd September (Clubs and 8am football start)

After school today

The Camden Event at the Camden Centre, on Thursday 14th 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 (search Camden Moving On 2017).

Tomorrow

9am Camden School for Girls Open Morning. Please let the office know if you're going.

Year 3 Cake Sale.

Monday 18th

And we're off! Year 4 head to Lullingstone Roman Villa in Kent and Year 3 to the Ragged School in East London. **TRIP SLIPS MUST BE BACK BEFORE YOUR CHILD CAN GO!**

6pm Camden School for Girls Open Evening.

Tuesday 19th

8am Early morning football for Years 3-6.

8am Cross Country training! Join Coach Martin (and parent volunteers please!) on an early morning jog to the Heath; training for the Camden Cross Country on the 29th.

3.30-4.30 Second team football team trials for all children in Years 4, 5 and 6. 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.

3.30pm NEW!!! Music Tech Club with Mr G for Years 5 and 6.

3.30pm Homework Club.

Wednesday 20th

8am Governors PPC Committee.

Year 5 are going to *spend the night* sleeping on The Golden Hinde, the ship Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the world in from 1577-1580! It is moored on the Thames at Bankside. This is an amazing new EP experience!

Thursday 21st

8am Multisports Club for Years 1 and 2 with Coach Martin.

8am Governors Staffing Committee.

Reception visit the CLC.

2pm Open afternoon at La Sainte Union School.

Friday 22nd

8am Girls Sports Club with Coach Martin.

3.30pm Cake Sale hosted by Year 2.

Year 6 leave for Wick Court, an Elizabethan farmhouse in Gloucestershire. They will spend 7 days and nights living and working on a farm. It is a highlight of Eleanor Palmer! A big thank you to staff members Rosie Thomson, Sophie Hartnell, Pauline Bradley, Coach Martin and student teacher Hetty Wooding who are going too. I will spend 24 hours there on the following Tuesday/Wednesday so can take forgotten items! Sally Hill will spend the week in Nursery, covering Sophie.

Homework

I hope teachers explained the new plan in more detail last night. There is still homework in that we hope you will support the learning of key skills: reading, spelling and core number skills such as times tables. With less to do, there is a clear expectation that the children put time into this. Weekly yellow newsletters may also suggest other prompts that could lead to investigation or follow up at home, but there is no expectation that this is picked up or that anything written comes into school. One such prompt is that the whole school has been working on Henri Matisse's work this week, and we shared his amazing life history in assembly. Why not visit a London Gallery to look for one of his paintings or the current exhibition at the Royal Academy?

Homework Club will carry on! Teachers will be on hand to teach you a good game to help with core skills, to enable you to use laptops and to give you great resources that support learning.

School Journey payments - Years 5 and 6 only

Final instalments are due before the residential trip departs. Not long now! Year 6 leave next Friday 22nd September for Wick Court Farm in Gloucestershire and Year 5 to Sayers Croft in Surrey on Monday 16th October. Please see Tania in the office if you'd like to make more payments or find out what you still owe.

Can you help?

We need more parents to help on Monday mornings to run early morning football for Years 1-2. Unfortunately we can't get the club off the ground this term until we have more volunteers. Please do let the office know if you can help.

We'd welcome donations of toys for our playground shed. Durable toys, in a good condition and suitable for outdoor play would be gratefully received.

Our Playcentre are recruiting a new playworker. If you know anyone who may be interested in this position please speak to Tania in the office.

Our PTA (Parent, Teacher Association)

We have our AGM on Tuesday 3rd October at 7pm. This is both a formal occasion - summary of the year, financial summary, election of new officers - and a chance to meet with other parents and find out how you get involved. A particular invitation to our many new parents in Nursery and Reception. Whilst having a lovely time getting us together for many occasions (fairs, the disco, BINGO...) our PTA raises over £14,000 along the way! This money always goes to 'extras' that help to make our school special.

Please come along to find out how you can help the school. If we are not able to find a new PTA chair/team then events such as this term's Disco will not get off the ground!

Lab Update

Things should happen quickly now. There are mutterings it will be ready in November but realistically we think it will be in use after Christmas. The children (and staff and parents) have been so patient given the disruption. As well as the building we have amazing plans for the section of playground currently out of use...

Safeguarding and Child Protection at Eleanor Palmer

Periodically we let parents know more about the key safeguarding practices and policies we have here at Eleanor Palmer. Creating a safe learning environment so that children can develop socially and emotionally is central to our school life and work. The following factors are very important to safeguarding and child protection at Eleanor Palmer:

- We have excellent recruitment procedures; every member of staff has full checks and up to date references, as do visiting artists, regular volunteers, supply teachers and governors;
- All staff receive appropriate training as part of induction and then routinely every 2 years;
- We have policies and practices that focus on ensuring the health and well-being of the children, for example: risk assessments before every class trip, an annual safety check of our playground, a medicines in school policy and staff presence at the school entrance every day;
- We have well-established ways of monitoring and responding to incidents of concern, for example: unexplained absences, difficult behaviour and significant changes in physical or emotional appearance;
- The ethos of the school is open so that staff, parents and children feel able to share concerns.

Local Authority guidance suggests that *every* parent who accompanies class trips should also undergo full criminal record (DBS) checks. Our Governing Body has taken the decision **not to do this** in line with guidance from the National College of Teaching and Learning who run safer recruitment training. This is because of the particular ethos and values of our small community school. Close relationships are central to our school ethos and parental participation in our many trips, that are central to our curriculum, is a much valued part of school life for children, parents and staff. We strongly encourage all parents to take part in trips and school life and would not wish to threaten this. Parents who volunteer on a regular (at least once a week) basis however, will be asked to undertake full DBS checks. Our full Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is on our website under the Policies link within the School Info tab.

With best wishes,

Kate Frood and staff.