

ELEANOR PALMER PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN TERM 2020 NUMBER 1
www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk

IMPORTANT ATTACHMENTS
PINK - OUR TRIP SYSTEM
BLUE - LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS
WHITE - TERM DATES AND CLUB EP

Thursday 3rd September 2020

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the Autumn term and a new school year, albeit a bit of a different one!

I wanted to start this newsletter with the important news that this will be my last year at EP. I will be 60 next year and have always intended that to mark a change; not least to work a little less hard after 38 years in London schools, 23 as a headteacher. It is a very emotional decision as EP is a huge extended family to me and I have loved - love - my time here, hence why I have stayed for so long! Being part of a small community school has enabled me to stay close to the children and the classroom, which is vitally important to me. And yet being EP, my time here has been anything but parochial and inward looking. It is - and will continue to be - an exceptional, creative and outward looking school full of love and energy and inspiration.

So that's said and now let's get on with the year ahead; I really don't want to spend the whole year crying! I know it may seem a very long notice period but I want to give the governors the maximum time possible to find my successor and for me to be able to support a smooth and full handover. I have absolute faith in our Governing Body; they have plans well underway and I know they will want to hear from you too. Importantly, they have already established with Camden that EP will continue as a stand-alone school with its own headteacher rather than the 'executive head' model put in place in many one-form entry schools nowadays. Hurray!

Events in school next week, 7th - 11th September:

So there is very little going on at the moment as Covid constrains so much of our enrichment.

We will resume some 8am clubs soon! We will not however do the 8am football on Monday and Tuesdays (take a break parents!)

Wednesday 9th

8am Governors Curriculum committee

6.30 and 7.15pm - Meet the Teacher - see over!

Thursday 19th

8am Governors Resources committee

Well done!

We are proud that our own Coach Kane has made the final shortlist of 4 for the London apprentice of the year award in the category of 'contribution to a school'. The winner will be announced on Twitter at 12 noon on Wednesday 9th September!

Books for free!

We had such a busy week sorting and clearing classrooms and glory holes. We have too many books! We have had a great sort out and tomorrow after school will have a stall in the Home Zone enabling children to choose books for FREE. Some have been replaced with more up to date copies, others we have many copies of. If you exit in Raveley Street, do come round the corner and choose a few!

Meet the Teacher - Wednesday 9th September

Clearly life at EP cannot be quite the same for a while, but our staff are committed to finding ways to enable us to retain our strong contact with parents and not simply live behind a screen! We are going ahead with our popular event to meet your child's new teacher and hear about the year ahead next week with the following changes.

- The meeting will be repeated at 6.30 and then 7.15pm;
- There will be 15 places per meeting and we will facilitate social distancing;
- **Places must be booked and we will email/text a booking system this week (like Parents' Evening system).**
- We'd ask that only one parent per child attends and that you wear a mask as we will be congregated inside;
- For parents who prefer, teachers will record themselves presenting the slides and these will be posted on our website on Friday 11th (to include a chance to add answers to any questions asked on the night).

Breakfast Club and Club EP

This will start next Monday! In line with government guidance in supporting parents back to work, we will offer both wraparound care at the end of the day. **Places MUST be pre-booked** so that we have accurate records of who has attended. We will follow all the same hygiene routines and Covid expectations as school.

See our flier for Club EP attached! We are so pleased to be managing this ourselves now: the payment system, the food ordering and how the club is run! Wonderful Taynee and Zoe are freed up to spend more time with the children. Do support this new venture!

Booking for both is simple. Just go to those 3 lines top left on the EP App!! Alternatively email Tania with your pre-booking.

Our trip system - very important

You should all have received a pink letter attached to this newsletter detailing our system for dealing with 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 ask 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 to the office and make your contribution on line. If the all-important pink letter isn't attached - 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.

I know this is a different year but teachers are managing to get bookings and we have committed to use coaches for the time being.

School Journey

We are delighted to report that we have secured bookings for May (both the week of the 17th) for both our Year 5 and Year 6 residentials cancelled this autumn! As this is some time away, we will not collect payments yet.

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; we are into our 9th year now and have a wonderful archive.

Secondary transfer

Things are planned school by school, some 'live' (and you will need to book) and others virtual. My advice would be to go to each school's website or to <https://www.camden.gov.uk/secondary-school-admissions> and click on the 'secondary school admissions' brochure link. We are expecting hard copies in school soon. As ever, we strongly encourage both Year 5 and Year 6 families to take as much time out as they like to visit our secondary schools, both the evening showcase events and during the day. I'm happy to have meetings with any parents finding the decision hard or who simply wants a chance to talk it through. Do simply catch me/email to fix a meeting.

Consent for use of images

Last year we asked for consent for using your child's image online. We will assume your choice remains the same unless you contact the office.

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!

A few start of term reminders and nags (not about Covid!!) :

- 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.
- We are brilliant at giving notice, telling you what is happening and opening up opportunities...but it does rely on pupil post! **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.
- Don't forget to use the Piota App too - links to download on the website (just ask in the office if you need a hand).

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, once again, are this year's term dates.

Term dates

Note the unusual INSET day in February and the mid-week finish in July and APOLOGIES that the one on the website was wrong!

Our other key communication method is texting. **If your contact numbers have changed you MUST notify the office**, not just so we can update our texting system but so that we can contact you in an emergency. It is now expected that we have a minimum of 2 contact numbers.

Phew that's it! With best wishes and high hopes for another great year ahead despite the current constraints!

Kate Frood and staff.

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

This is very thin!! So much of what we do and love cannot as yet be arranged. Cross everything that we are able to have all our EP community events soon. Equally, we have not had any Camden sports events confirmed yet.

- Wednesday 9th September - Meet the Teacher Evening at 6pm and 7.15pm.
- Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd October - One to One Parents' Evening from 4-7.30pm.
Half term - the week of 26th October
- Thursday 12th November - Primary Maths Challenge for Key Stage 2
- Thursday 10th December - Year 5 Shakespeare production at 2pm and 7pm
- **Friday 18th December - last day of term.**

Dates already fixed for later in the school year

- School starts for children Tuesday 5th January
- Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st January - mid-year One to One Parents' Evening
- Friday 5th February - INSET day
- Half term- the week of 15th - 19th February
- **Weds 31st March - the 18th Great Egg Race and last day of Spring term**
- Monday 19th April - start of Spring term for all
- Thursday 29th April - UKMT Maths Challenge
- 10th - 14th May - SATs Week for Year 6
- Half term - the week of 31st May - 4th June
- Monday 7th June - Staff INSET. School closed to children.
- Monday 14th June -Staff INSET. School closed to children.
- Tuesday 29th June - Sports Day. TBC
- Saturday 4th July - The Summer Festival
- Wednesday 8th July - End of year Parents' Evening
- Friday 16th July - Year 6 Leavers' Family Barbecue
- Tuesday 20th July - Year 6 Leavers' Show
- Wednesday 21st July - last day of term

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