



This month, ask your child about...

- ... *their new topic!*
- ... *what they can remember from our assemblies about gratitude, empathy, fairness and trust.*
- ... *how their new class is the same and different from last year.*
- ... *what made them smile and who they have made smile.*
- ... *Whole School Art - has your child found their art work around the school?*

Message from the Heads

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to EP! We are so grateful to return from the summer holidays to a school in which children and staff are keen to learn, talk, collaborate and take joy in our community. What has really stood out is a calm purposeful buzz across the school; kindness and welcoming play have abounded at break times and our new pupils and members of staff seem like they've always been here. We know this will continue and we're going to have a really special year.



Reading

What a wonderful testament to our shared commitment to reading, that so many of you sent in your extreme reading photos. We shared every one of these in our first assembly and had a lot of fun looking at photos of you reading among waves, on train luggage racks, in trees and even upside down! Reading unlocks other worlds for your child, possibilities expand and empathy develops. Please ensure your child is **reading every day** at home, and no primary aged child is too old to be read a bedtime story too; as well as being a calming, bonding ritual at the end of the day, there are so many words and phrases they'd never come across otherwise.



Ready, respectful, safe

This month is all about establishing new relationships and developing existing ones. The children always impress us with how **ready** they are for the challenges and opportunities of a new year, how **respectful** they are with new and old friends and teachers, and how **safe** they make each other feel to try new things. Our three school rules are absolutely embedded now; do reinforce these with your child at home and see attached our Positive Behaviour at EP one-pager and our Rights Respecting letter, that capture our approach and ethos.



Communication

Teaching is not a desk job: our teachers' and LSAs' time is treasure! Our teachers and LSAs are focused on the children in their class from 8:45 - 3:30pm, after and before which they are planning and preparing for learning. We want our staff team to be interesting and interested people with healthy and fulfilling lives so they can be the best teachers they can be. We ask that you respect this dedication by knowing that **emails to staff won't be read before 7am and after 6pm**, and that although they will do their utmost to respond quickly, as you can appreciate, teaching brilliant lessons comes first.

If there is an urgent message, please call the school office and this will be passed on immediately.

We encourage you to **make appointment for a phone call or meeting with your child's teacher** if you have any questions or concerns about your child's experience at school, which would require a more private conversation. Do this by emailing the teacher directly or telling the office, saying why you would like to meet.

In the mornings, allow teachers to settle their class in their classroom by **dropping children in Years 3-6 at the junior block door**, and in the infants, **encouraging children to enter the classroom independently**, enabling the teaching team to focus on all the children.

In Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, **use the whiteboards at the classroom door** to note arrangements for picking up your child if they're different from usual. If your child has an appointment during the school day, please let the office know and **come directly to the office to collect your child** rather than to the classroom.

There are many ways in which our school communicates with parents and carers, not least face to face after school or over the phone. You can expect to receive: a monthly whole school newsletter replacing the weekly orange newsletter, a weekly class newsletter (from week 3), a class curriculum letter at the beginning of each term. Text message reminders and emails are also used to share important information. Please ensure that your contact details are up to date with our office, as we also need correct details in case of emergencies. It is now expected that we have a minimum of 4 contact numbers.

Attendance

At EP, every second is precious and our teachers make sure every learning opportunity is used! Please make every effort to **ensure your child is in their classroom by 9am, if not at 8:45am for quiet early work**. This is so important for your child to hear the teacher's plans for the day ahead, ensuring a settled start and readiness to learn.

Black History Month - October

Next month marks Black History and, as in previous years, we will teach the whole school more about Black British History in particular, sharing stories of prominent figures in the Black community. If you would like to support EP by reading a story, speaking to one or more classes, or sharing something related to Black history, please get in touch.

Best wishes,

Natalie Stevenson and Sally Hill

natalie@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk and sally@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk



Key Information and dates for your diary

Meet the teacher - Thursday 14th September - 5-5:30pm & 5:30-6pm

Ahead of our parent progress meetings with individual parents on the 3rd and 5th Oct, each teacher will do a short introductory talk for parents explaining the year's curriculum, class routines and expectations and ways in which parents can support. There will of course be time for questions too and these sessions are very interactive. Because many of you have two or more children, each teacher will talk at 5pm and then again at 5:30pm. We will ring a bell at changeover time! This is a good opportunity to meet with other parents in your class too! Please note: these are adult only meetings.

New term reminders:

- Term dates are on the website and EP App. With such good notice of dates, there shouldn't be any accidental holiday bookings... we want to continue our amazing attendance record - often top in Camden!
- We are a **water only school**: both in school and on trips. Every child should have a named water-bottle to be taken home each day to be refreshed. A firm no to sugary flavoured waters.
- **Scooters and bikes must be parked tidily** behind Years 5 and 6. This area is a fire evacuation route so it is essential that it is kept clear and tidy - in 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.
- **No toys** allowed during the school day please.
- We don't allow any **jewellery**, other than simple stud earrings. Please ensure that **long hair is tied up** - it helps focus in class and helps prevent the spread of nits.
- Please book into **Breakfast Club** and **Club EP** using the EP "Piota" App. If your child attends regularly, please still make a new booking at the start of each half term, as the booking calendar resets. Please book through the EP App wherever possible.

Some safeguarding reminders:

- **Dropping off and collecting children within the school day** - please come directly to the school office and **do not go to your child's classroom**. It is essential that we know who is on site for safeguarding reasons, including adults, and we need you to **sign in and sign out** during the school day.
- **If you need to come in to drop off** key messages, items or forgotten lunches, please do this at the office.
- If your child is in school and expected at Club EP or an afterschool sports club, please let us know if they are not attending. We of course understand that plans change, but you must notify us as their absence will be of concern until we can locate them.
- **Please inform the school office by 9am if your child will not be attending school**. A phone call is best where possible.



Important dates

We have planned a year of brilliant EP traditions and events for the community; we have a few more dates to come, and of course the many trips and visitors planned for individual classes. If we change one of the whole school events, you will be notified! The dates will also be available on the school website and EP APP.

Autumn Term

- Thursday 14th September - 5-5:30 and 5:30-6pm - **Meet the Teacher** class meeting
- **Sports Clubs** start w/c 18th September - booking information will be sent home next week.
- Friday 29th September - **Stay and Play** - Y1 to Y6
- Tuesday 3rd October and Thursday 5th October - **Parent and carer progress meetings**
- Wednesday 4th October - 3-3:30pm - **Welcome to EP... Keep it EP!** Headteacher talk for parents
- Thursday 19th October - 5:30-7:30pm - **Foundation Stage Party**
- Friday 20th October - **Harvest Festival Collection**
- 23rd - 27th October - **Half Term**
- Friday 3rd November - **Disco!**
- Friday 24th November - **Stay and Play**
- Friday 1st December - **Winter Fair**
- Wednesday 13th December - **Winter Concert (tbc)**
- Thursday 21st December - **Winter Variety Show** and **last day of term**
- **Christmas Holiday** - Friday 22nd December - Monday 8th January inclusive.

Spring Term

- Tuesday 9th January - **Back to school** for all children
- Friday 26th January - **Stay and Play**
- 12th-16th February - **Half Term**
- 23rd February - **Stay and Play**
- Thursday 29th February - **World Book Day** - children can dress up as their favourite book character
- March 7th - **Bingo Night**
- March 25th & 26th - **Parent Progress Meetings**
- March 28th - **Egg Race** and last day of term

Summer Term

- May 17th - **CBC Night**
- July 9th and 11th - **Parent Progress Meetings**
- Wednesday July 24th - Last day of term