



Ask your child about...

... the **Life Skills** we learnt about in March: **self-discipline, self-motivation and responsibility.**



... the **religious festivals** and periods at this time of year: **Holi, Passover, Ramadan, Lent and Easter.**

... **World Poetry Day** and whether they learnt a poem for Poetry By Heart if they are in the Juniors.



... **what to spot in nature this April:** swallows heralding warmer weather and carpets of blue and purple bluebells.

Dear Parents and Carers,

At EP we believe that primary education should have at its heart, deep, rich learning through which the children make connections across subjects and experiences. The second half of the spring term has been testament to this and we hope that this came through at your Parent Progress Meetings. Your children's progress may be seen not just in their fantastic achievements in maths and English, but also in their sketching at the Tate Modern, or asking questions of experts in The Natural History Museum. It's in the way they announce a whole class strings piece and play with confidence for an audience, or play as a team at a football tournament.

March has been an amazing term for enrichment. Year 4's term-long project with The Place dance company culminated in a fantastic performance on stage, Reception visited Buckingham Palace, and Year 2 visited the Charles Dickens Museum. What is important to us is that these experiences are always woven into the children's learning and are always essential parts of the curriculum, as well as being fun and memorable! What a delight the Year 1 and Year 2 assemblies were, showing how much their historical knowledge has grown, as well as their confidence to speak, sing and dance! Similarly, Year 5's strings concert showed how important music making is and just how much progress the children can make with your support for their practice. A Year 5 team yesterday participated in a debating championship comprising 60 teams, a fantastic first foray into debating, with more to come in the summer term.



Thank you to our wonderful PTA and everyone who took part in our Bingo Night this term - we raised £947! Well done to our winners on the night who all went home with cash prizes - Tom, Marcus, Lolita, Oscar, Arya, Annabel, Laurence (Marcus and Lou) and Miss Mac.





Whole School Newsletter



World Book day showed just how much EP children love books, reading, stories and authors (Hannah Lee and Ben Lyttleton being highlights)! Thank you very much for your support if you dressed them up or bought books at the Book Fair, but most importantly thank you for reading with them and to them at home! This is such an important ritual to have, throughout and beyond primary years, and is a gift that stays with your child for life.

Congratulations to the huge number of children, and their families, who have achieved 100% attendance this term! This means not a minute of learning has been wasted and we appreciate just how crucial parents and families are in supporting this brilliant life-long habit and upholding the value of all the opportunities available at school. We know that attendance and punctuality are life changing - attendance below 90% (19 days of school lost a year) has been shown to reduce GCSE results by a full grade! We thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring your child doesn't miss a minute of EP.

The Egg Race today has been such a joyful way to end the term, encapsulating all our values of innovation, engagement, excellence and belonging at EP. Well done to everyone who made an egg-mobile and to families who joined us to cheer on every skateboard, tyre, Lego car and toilet roll. After over two decades of racing and 1000s of egg-mobiles, we still see new designs and ways to race!

<https://www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk/news/the-great-ep-egg-race-2024/>



We wish you a very happy holiday, and look forward to seeing you all again on our first day of the summer term, Monday 15th April.

Best wishes,
Natalie and Sally



Key Information & Reminders

Summer Concert 2024 - Thursday 13th June

This will be the final Summer Concert at EP for our wonderful music teacher, Laura McWilliam. This year, we are changing the format and will be inviting just our Junior children (Year 3 - Year 6) to perform at the concert from 4pm. We hope that this will make the concert slightly shorter, so that the performers and audience can really appreciate the joy of music! It will also enable our younger musicians to watch and take inspiration for participation for future years. We will send out details and guidance after the Easter Holiday along with an application form to complete if your child would like to take part.

Trustees

We are looking for new charity trustees for the Eleanor Palmer School Association Trust, in addition to our brilliant treasurer and EP parent, Lucy Whitaker (Oscar and Eddie). Ideally, trustees would have the skills to oversee our PTA's finances and financial planning and would be able to commit to the role for at least three years. The role is not time-consuming, but requires your availability to meet once a year for trustee meetings and oversight of the treasurer's production of the annual accounts. Please let us know if you would be able to help and fulfil this vital role to support EP!

Payments

It is now crucial that any outstanding debts for clubs or school dinners (N) are paid. As you will be aware, school budgets are extremely tight and funding reduced, so we rely on prompt payments. We heavily subsidise class trips, but ask that families help contribute toward these too. We are currently running at a £5,000 a year loss on trips and visits after these contributions come in, so please do contribute if you are able. This can be done on Scopay <https://www.scopay.com/login> or through the office.

Club EP

We are committed to providing wraparound care for working parents through our Breakfast Club and Club EP. Our primary purpose for this provision is to support parents who have no other childcare options at these times. As a small school we have a limit to the number of places we can offer each day. This is not just about staffing numbers and providing safe, happy clubs, but also because space is limited as school remains a working environment for teachers who use classrooms for planning and preparation before and after school. We know that Club EP in particular is extremely popular and runs at capacity most days and we now operate a waiting list. If you do not need the club on a particular day please cancel with good notice to enable other working parents to make use of the provision. Thank you!

Our Summer sports clubs for Year 1-6 have been shared by email and as always Coach Martin and team are offering a range of clubs to energise the mornings and afternoons. Do sign up, and remember that clubs only start in the second week of term.





Important dates for the year

Summer Term

- Monday 15 - Friday 26th April - **Year 1 and 2 swim**
- Thursday 18th April - **whole school Eid lunch**
- Friday April 19th - **Eid Party**
- Monday 13th - Friday 25th May - **Year 4 swim**
- Friday May 17th - **CBC Party**
- Sunday May 19th - Run Kids Run
- Summer Concert -**Thursday 13th June** - 4pm
- Thursday 20th- Friday 21st June - **Year 3 trip to The Mill**
- Thursday 27th- Friday 28th June - **Year 4 go camping**
- Saturday 6th July - **Summer Fair**
- Tuesday July 9th and Thursday 11th - **Parent Progress Meetings**
- Wednesday July 24th - Last day of term ending 1:30pm

Friday Snack Sales

- 19th April - **Year 6**
- 26th April - **Year 5**
- 3rd May - **Year 4**
- 10th May - **Year 3**
- 24th May - **Whole school for Run Kids Run**
- 7th June - **Year 2**
- 14th June - **Year 1**
- 21st June - **Reception**
- 28th June - **Nursery**





Whole School Newsletter

DONATE

Thank you so much to those families who already donate. With current donations, we have £43,430 for this financial year to put towards all EP's enrichment. Our annual aim is to raise £100,000.



It is increasingly hard for many people to donate money in the current climate so if you are able to do so, this is a way of helping all the children in our community by giving our school secure predictable income. You can donate one off amounts, or set up a monthly direct debit, all anonymously... just scan this QR code with your phone camera or follow this link

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/10176#!/DonationDetails#%2FDonationDetails>



YOUR HELP

If you are having a spring clean over the holidays we would welcome any of the following:

- Arts and crafts resources (always!)
- Felt tip pens
- Lego and building blocks
- Toy cars (to hold, not sit on)
- Jam jars with lids (washed) for Year 3
- Rugs for Nursery (woven IKEA style)
- Reception topic will be *Under the Sea* so any toy fish, sea creatures etc. Plus anything with a pirate theme.
- Nursery will be planting, so welcome any seeds, seed trays, pots, compost, plants, seed tray covers/propagators and small garden tools
- Leggings/ tracksuit bottoms for Junior children.
- Nice cushions for book corners
- Children's watering cans
- Compasses
- Old wellies for planting!
- Sleeping bags

PTA & EVENTS

Upcoming summer term events are:

- CBC Party - Friday 17th May
- Run Kids run - Sunday 19th May
- Summer Fair - Saturday 6th July

Please look out for weekly class newsletters and support your children's trips and visits when you can, too!

MATCH FUNDING & GRANTS

Many employers offer schemes to 'match' donations you make to charity - donating pound for pound, a set amount, or for the time you volunteer. Eleanor Palmer is a Charitable Aid Foundation (CAF), so donations are tax effective for employers to deduct. **Please find out if your employer has a scheme... or suggest one if they don't!**



Thank you to

- Kirsty (Rafa and Sid) for linking us with the wonderful and inspiring author, Ben Lyttleton
- The PTA chairs and all the wonderful parents and family members who helped us to raise £946 at Bingo Night
- Richard (Verity) for running a half marathon to fundraise to support charities including Keep it EP!
- Amrita's Naani for talking to Year 2 about the Hindu festival of Holi
- Phil (Archie and Alfie) for telling Year 2 the Easter story.
- To everyone who has donated snacks for Nursery - keep them coming please!
- To our wonderful volunteer readers who provide such great support helping our children with reading

...and to our whole EP community for sharing our values, for working in partnership and for your fantastic children!