



This month, ask your child about...

- ... how they have shown respectful, polite good manners to everyone in our community.
- ... when they have used a growth mindset to try new things or when something is hard at first.
- ... what they can remember from our assemblies, class stories and discussions about Black History Month.
- ... what gives our skin unique and beautiful colours? (melanin!)
- ... trips and residential they've been on; what connections to their topics and new learning did they discover?

Message from the Heads

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term we have two of our wonderful residential school journeys - Year 6 has just returned from Wick Court Farm and Year 5 are about to go to Sayers Croft Field Centre. These trips epitomise what we believe matters at EP: experiencing new places and engaging with our beautiful world, forging deep connections and a love of learning, and making lifelong memories.



Every day just outside our office, younger children come and look at the photos of these residential trips from previous years, talking about how much they are looking forward to going too. In order to continue these opportunities, we rely on regular donations to Keep It EP and the fundraising of the PTA - to which you **all** belong! Ways you can help:

- Come to the **PTA AGM** to find out how money is raised and our priorities for spending it - Monday 25th November - time tbc
- **Check ScoPay** for your trip contributions and other school payments owed.
- **Make a regular donation to Keep it EP** if you can, to fund our enrichment offer including extended sports, arts and wellbeing opportunities in addition to trips and visits. Please Gift Aid your contribution! <https://www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk/keep-it-ep/>
- **Volunteer** to help at events and please come to them too... each hot dog and each drink you buy goes towards keeping it EP!



Black History Month - October

This 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 significant figures in the Black community in line with the national theme of 'changing narratives'. 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. To develop the children's understanding of race, identity and heritage as the term goes on, we will be sharing the fantastic films produced by [BBC Teach, British Asian History](#), in the Juniors - a program that Natalie consulted on a few years ago! In KS1 we will be discussing families and family histories/heritage as part of our Wellbeing Curriculum. You can support this by talking to your child about their family heritage and identity.



School dinners - fuelling your child's learning and growth!

It is vital that your child has nutritious food and enough water at each meal to grow and flourish, and there is a direct link between learning, emotional self-regulation and being hydrated and full. Put simply, if your child is not eating and drinking enough nutritious things, they cannot learn.

We have a wonderful catering team led by Chef Sam, who make sure each child eating school dinners has a balanced, nutritious meal - we know this is true as so many of the school staff eat it with the children at lunch! Please support our teaching team in the messages we give them in the dinner hall:

- You must have a balanced meal, which means a little variety on your plate including veg and/or something from the salad bar.
- It's important to try food, even a small taste if it is new to you or you think you might not like it.
- We won't ask you to finish everything on your plate, but we will ask you to eat the parts that you like.
- If you choose something from the salad bar or breadbasket, you should eat it so it doesn't go to waste.

We never want lunchtime to be stressful and we know that many children go through phases of not liking much variety. If you have any concerns about your child's eating please let us know so that we can work together to make lunchtime positive for them in the EP cafe!

Ready, Respectful, Safe

This month we are going to start building upon the children's growing understanding of what respectful behaviour looks like and its link to **good manners and being polite**. All of our pupils are part of Team EP, working alongside each other daily, collaborating and learning together. Manners are so important for receiving positive responses from others, and to developing strong **social skills**, which in turn contribute to **success** in education and beyond. Good manners are a great way to show **kindness** and so they are crucial! At EP we encourage children to speak up assertively and have a voice, but also to respect others and their right to be heard. This means not interrupting, waiting for our turn to speak and saying please and thank you. We are working in school to more actively notice and praise good manners, and we will remind children of our school value of **respect** when manners are absent. We welcome your aligned support in this.



Please encourage and praise good manners such as saying good morning/ hello, please and thank you, excuse me and taking turns in conversations - what you pay attention to, you get more of! All these little things can seem really simple, but they are incredibly important within our community and for each child's future. We want every EP child to go out into the world able to make a **positive impression** and to get along with anyone they meet - **they are ambassadors for our school, your family and ultimately for their own fantastic selves!**

Attendance

At EP, each second is precious and our teachers make sure every learning opportunity is used! Thank you for valuing school as much as we do - we've had a brilliant start to the term and our September attendance figures took us to the **top of the Camden schools' attendance leaderboard!** However, we can always do even better! Please make every effort to **ensure your child is punctual and 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.

The Department for Education has issued new statutory attendance guidance that all schools have to follow. As a result all term time holidays will be recorded as an *unauthorised absence (one day equals 2 sessions)* and *fixed term penalty fines* have also been increased for cases of unauthorised absence.



Trip voluntary contributions and Keep it EP

A reminder that we ask for a voluntary contribution to pay for the many amazing trips and workshops that your children experience at EP. For context and to see how unique our school offer is, please see this chart comparing EP with a standard primary school. Please make payment on the Scopay or cash to the office. We understand that parents of children in Years 5 and 6 will also be paying for residential trips this term and that for some people, part paying and spreading the payment across the year is more convenient.

Harvest Collection Friday 18th October

On **Friday 18th October** we have our harvest collection in aid of the Camden Foodbank, a local charity supporting adults and children in food crisis. Part of the Trussell Trust group of foodbanks, they are welcoming support as an increasing number of people are accessing the banks. Please only bring in donations at drop-off on **18th** as we will be unable to store ahead of time. Whilst any non-perishable donations are welcomed, they particularly need the following items:

Tinned fish, vegetables, soup, fruit, tomatoes, baked beans, rice, pasta and pasta sauce.

Biscuits, jam, honey, cereal, and long-life milk.

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and shower gel, toilet rolls, and laundry powder.

Reading Volunteers - we need you!

It's vital our pupils leave EP as fluent, confident readers, with a love of books. We really appreciate the additional 1:1 support given by our team of volunteer readers and would like to recruit more this year! It's great fun and highly rewarding as your time and enthusiasm can have a huge impact. You will be given training and undergo an enhanced DBS check before being matched with a child who would benefit from additional reading time with an adult. You would need to commit to reading weekly (normally at a set time, agreed in conjunction with the class teacher) for at least a term - ideally a year! For more information or to express an interest please email Rosie Thomson rosie@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk

Thank you for your support and Shana Tova to our Jewish families celebrating the new year!

Natalie Stevenson and Sally Hill

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

Key Information and dates for your diary

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.
- Please keep the office up to date with changes of phone number and address. We are required to hold four phone numbers for each child. Obviously we will always contact parents/carers in the first instance, but need further emergency contacts please for exceptional circumstances.



Whole School Newsletter

- 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 before 9am if your child will not be attending school.** A phone call is best where possible.

Important dates for the Autumn Term

- Monday 7th - Friday 11th October - **Year 5 go to Sayers Croft**
- Friday 11th October - Cross Country rescheduled for Junior squad
- Friday 18th October Harvest Festival collection for Foodbank Aid
- 28th October - 1st November - **Half Term**
- Wednesday 6th November 4 - 7:30pm and Thursday 7th November, 4-6:30pm - **Parent and carer progress meetings**
- Friday 15th November - **Disco!**



- Friday 15th November - deadline for **Winter Variety Show entries**, in-class auditions the following week.
- Monday 25th November - **PTA AGM** after school
- Friday 29h November - **Stay and Play**
- Friday 6th December - **Winter Fair**
- Wednesday 18th December, afternoon at Acland Burghley School - **Winter Concert (tbc)**
- Friday 20th December - **Winter Variety Show** and **last day of term**
- **Christmas Holidays** - Monday 23rd December - Friday 3rd January inclusive.

Snack Sales

On Fridays after school parents and carers host a snack sale in support of PTA fundraising. Each class takes a turn each term- please contribute when your turn comes around. The monies raised from these small sales really add up across the year. Thank you!

- 4th October Year 4
- 11th October Year 3
- 8th November Year 2
- 15th November Year 1
- 22nd November Reception
- 29th November Nursery