



## This month, ask your child about...

... *their new topic!*

... *what they can remember from our assemblies on the new term, new topics and our theme: 'What kind of person can I be?'*

... *what made them smile and who they have made smile.*

... *Whole School Art - has your child found their artwork around the school?*

## Message from the Heads

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to EP! It has been a wonderful first week back and the school has been abuzz with children and staff learning, talking, collaborating and playing. What has really stood out is a calm purposeful atmosphere across the school. We know this will continue and we're going to have a really special year.



## Welcome to EP and Meet the Teacher

On **Monday 16th September**, we have our **Meet the Teacher sessions** after school, followed by a **Meet the Headteachers** session in the hall. These sessions are for parents, carers and babes in arms, and not for children. If bringing your child is unavoidable, they are of course welcome to sit in the library, resource area or in the infant class outside areas.

We will run two identical Meet the Teacher sessions back to back, outlining the curriculum, routines and most important elements of the year group, and of course giving you the chance to meet the teacher! **These are very important and we ask that everyone attend if possible.** In between teacher meetings, we will have a **Meet the Headteachers** session for everyone in the hall; to outline our approach at EP and how school and home work together towards giving your children the best education possible. We will not have time to answer all individual questions during the Meet the Headteachers session so **please submit any questions [via this link](#)** and we will try to incorporate these into our talk.

For those of you with children in the Juniors who are **beginning to think about secondary school**, we are hosting a **'Meet the Parents' session in the hall at 6pm**. This will be a chance to meet parents and children from our Camden secondary schools to give you their perspectives, and for you to ask them questions too. More information from the organisers below.

Here's a summary of the timings on Monday 16th September:

- **Nursery - Year 6** - Meet the Teacher in classrooms, at either 4:30- 5pm and repeated 5:30- 6pm
- **Meet the Headteachers**, at 5-5:30pm in the hall
- **Meet the Parents Secondary Session** in the hall from 6 - 7pm



**Ready, Respectful, Safe**

As children settle back into school, there is a focus on 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 school adults, and how **safe** they make each other feel to try new things. This term we have **changed our end of day pick up routine for the Juniors** to make this time even more calm, positive and safe. Do reinforce our three school rules with your child at home and see attached our Positive Behaviour at EP one-pager, which captures our approach.



**Communication**

Thank you for respecting that teaching is not a desk job: our teachers' and LSAs' time is treasure! They are focused on the children 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. Please be mindful that **emails to staff will not 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.

We encourage you to **make an 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. Do this by emailing the teacher directly or telling the office, indicating why you would like to meet.

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

There are many ways in which our school communicates with parents and carers, not least face to face after school or over the phone. **Please ensure that your contact details are up to date with our office.** It is now expected that we have a minimum of 4 contact numbers.

**Attendance**

At EP, each second is precious and our teachers make sure every learning opportunity is used! Please make sure that 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

**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 through [Scopay internet payments](#).

Whole school comparison per year	Standard Primary School	Eleanor Palmer Enrichment
Visits & Visitors	10	75 +
Residentials	1	4

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.

We ask you also to consider making a regular donation to [Keep it EP](#), which funds our enrichment offer including extended sports, arts and wellbeing opportunities in addition to trips and visits.



### **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 in line with the national theme of 'reclaiming 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.

### **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](mailto:rosie@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk)

Best wishes,

Natalie Stevenson and Sally Hill

[natalie@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk](mailto:natalie@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk) and [sally@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk](mailto:sally@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk)

### **Key Information and dates for your diary**

#### **Monday 16th September - Meet the Teacher, Meet the Headteachers and Meet the Parents events!**

- *Nursery - Year 6* - Meet the Teacher in their classroom, at either 4:30- 5pm or 5:30-6pm
- *Meet the Headteachers*, in the hall at 5-5:30pm
- *Meet the Parents Secondary Session* (hosted in the hall) - 6 - 7pm

#### **Meet the Parents Secondary School Event - 6 to 7pm in the hall.**

If you are thinking about your child's transition to Year 7, this is a chance to raise any questions you might have about our local state secondary schools with a friendly panel of parents and students from Acland Burghley, Camden School for Girls, La Sainte Union, Parliament Hill and William Ellis. You can also chat to them privately afterwards. Meet the Parents is unique to Camden, and aims to fill an information gap between secondary school open days and rumours about schools. Education is seeing a lot of change now, both in the state and independent sector, and this is a way to get frank, up-to-date information in advance of open days. We encourage you to book a [free place here](#).



### New term reminders:

- Term dates are on the website and EP App. With such good notice of dates, there should not be any accidental holiday bookings. Holidays in term time will not be approved. 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. A firm no to sugary flavoured waters.
- Junior children can bring in fruit to have at break time. Fruit is provided for Infants.
- **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 ahead of the start of each half term, as the booking calendar resets. Please book through the App wherever possible and please tell the office if you do not need a place on any booked day as these can then be given to children on the waiting list.

### 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 for the Autumn Term

- Monday 16th September - either 4:30-5pm or 5:30-6pm - **Meet the Teacher** class meeting
- Monday 16th September - 5 - 5:30 - **Meet the Headteachers**
- Monday 16th September - 6 - 7pm **Meet the Parents Secondary Session** (hosted in the hall)
- **Sports Clubs** start w/c 16th September - booking information will be sent home next week.
- Thursday 19th September - 5:30-7pm - **Foundation Stage Welcome Party for N and R**
- Friday 27th September - **Stay and Play** - Y1 to Y6
- Monday 23rd - Friday 27th September - **Year 6 go to Wick Court**
- Monday 7th - Friday 11 October - **Year 5 go to Sayers Croft**
- 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.
- 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!

- 20th September - Year 6
- 27th September - Year 5
- 4th October - Year 4
- 11th October - Year 3
- 8th November - Year 2
- 15th November - Year 1
- 22nd November - Reception
- 29th November - Nursery