



ELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DREAM TEAM

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Friday 11th December 2015
Visit: www.elton.cheshire.sch.uk



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16th December—Nur & Rec Nativity (over 18's)
18th December—School Closes for Christmas.
4th January—Inset Day (Staff Only)
5th January—School re-opens.

LETTERS HOME

Email address—Year 5
Tree Planting Press Permission—Y5 & Eco



ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Attendance for November is **94.03%** Total of **75** Late Marks for Morning Registration

Punctuality is very important to both your child and those around them. Teaching and learning begins right away and late comers disrupt the class and miss out on valuable lesson time. **Children must be in school for morning registration at 8.55am.** If your child is going to be late for school, you must notify the school office of this. The office will query any late comers where no reason is provided. Our aim is to work with you and your child to ensure they are getting the full education they are entitled to in order to reach their full potential.

Thank you to those parents who continually ensure their children are on time.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNERS



Well done to the following winners: 1st Mrs Lyons, 2nd Libby (Y5), 3rd Mrs Walkden, 4th Miss Plank, 5th Mrs Edwards, 6th Alfie (Y3), 7th Milan (Y1), 8th Roman (Y4), 9th Chloe (Y2) and 10th Mrs Rae. Cuddles the giant teddy bear was won by Lucas (Y1).

FESTIVE FUN



This week school has been full of festive fun. Wednesday was Christmas dinner, which was delicious and the children all looked great in their Christmas jumpers. Thursday and Friday Year 1 and 2 performed a traditional nativity in church and in school and last Friday was the Christmas fair which raised an amazing £1296. Well done to everyone who made it all possible.

END OF TERM FUN



Next week is the end of term and to celebrate, Monday is Toy Day and own clothes. Children are allowed to bring in a toy from home to play with in class. Can we please ask that **NO ELECTRONIC** items are brought into school, this includes I-Pads, mobile phones etc.

FAMILY COOKERY ON A BUDGET



From 11th January to 8th February Elton children's centre are holding a family cookery on a budget course. It runs for 5 weeks from 12:45pm to 2:45pm, a crèche is available. Please call 0151 338 2227 to book your place.

STAY AND PLAY CHRISTMAS PARTY



Tuesday 15th December, Elton Children's centre are holding their Christmas party. It runs from 1:15 to 2:45pm. There will be party games and Christmas crafts. Everyone is welcome, no need to book, just turn up.

CHOIR CD

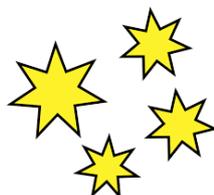


Copies of our very talented school choir CD are available from the office for £3.

★ STAR OF THE WEEK ★

This week's Star of the week is for "PE" and we would like to say congratulations to the following children:

Nurs: **Aaron**
Rec: **Ethan**
Year 1: **Antony**
Year 2: **Alfie**



Year 3: **Bethan**
Year 4: **Jake**
Year 5: **Peter**
Year 6: **Savannah**

CELEBRATE



We would like to wish Phyllis Rec, Jessie Y5 and William Y5 a very happy birthday. We hope you all have a wonderful day.

LUNCH MENU NEXT WEEK IS - WEEK 3

Headteacher's Blog

Well, I am not sure my blog has enough room to share this week's joys, but I will give it a go as I only have one more to write to you before I am off for a whole term and you get a break from my weekly ramblings! On that topic, many thanks to those of you who have offered hugs and kind words of support – someone said to me recently, 'If life throws lemons at you, have a gin and tonic' (I had thought the rest of the phrase was ...'make lemonade', but the first one seems more fun!), and this sums up my attitude to life. I will wait and see on the G&T front but I will certainly look positively on the next few months and take time to recover whilst holding Elton and all of you in my thoughts. When I am up and about I will be tweeting and eager to follow what goes on in school so I won't be completely incommunicado for the whole term...

Our Christmas fair last week was simply wonderful. It was a real gathering of the community for the community and encapsulates the philosophy and mission statement that our Governors and I made in the summer at our Strategic Meeting Day – 'Outward Facing'. We wanted to engage the community and share the brilliant stuff that goes on in school, but also find new ways of working with other groups to build a sense of a rural village that may have been lost over the years. With the huge impact Rev Ruth has made, and the tram work between our PTA, the Church and all who volunteer there, our fabulous staff and children and very supportive Governors – we have done that with sparkly stars on! Although not the main point, in total on the day, all groups raised approximately £1500!!! Our SIP (School Improvement Partner) who works in 40+ schools, quipped last week that he hates coming to our school because the HUGE report he has to write up afterwards takes him a whole day because there is always so much going on and the report he wrote this time was no exception (7 pages!). I am so proud of all that we do and the values we hold and of the staff who work here. Just a few of the observations he made whilst walking around our EYFS (Early Years Foundation Setting) were:

"The hall itself has many exciting and recently developed features (it was reported that the HT herself had sewn the newly-erected curtains which screened the dining-room tables, and had brought her own drill into school to fasten a number of large display boards to the wall to enhance the hall's visual impact.) The impressive global-learning display which dominates one of the longer walls has been produced by a local artist, and is indicative of the school's current momentum to further enhance its outward-facing and all-embracing culture ...The AH [Assistant Headteacher] reported a number of associated activities, representing the school's efforts in this latter regard, and partnership working with the PTA and community groups i.e. the recent coffee morning to support Macmillan Nurses, fun run to raise money for AlderHey where a child is currently being treated for leukemia, own clothes day to support the autistic brother of 2 of the children, Black History and GRT History days, hosting consultant in 'British Values', Chris Trevor and being part of the day in a 'case study', the visit from all local Old People's settings into school in December, the involvement of a local clergy representative in activities such as harvest assemblies, the head and PTA delivering surprise packages of food to the needy identified by the church, the imminent Christmas Plays and Christmas Fair to which parents, local groups, and friends were invited, etc. These elements are a strong feature of the wider whole school's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural activity, which in turn is indicative of its associated strength within the corresponding Ofsted Framework area of "Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare"... In summary, the SIP was very impressed with the ethos and the integrity in the working practice of the Nursery. Alongside the head's strategic vision and planning for it to happen, he considered that the enthusiasm, commitment, professionalism and expertise of the EYFS leader were key elements of its successful development."

One of our parents then wrote to me out of the blue to tell me how much he loved the school and all that we do and I was overwhelmed! He said:

"I have felt the need to send you this email for several months but as always, time and life got in the way, but at long last I have half a day to myself so what better way to start it by having a cup of coffee and catching up on emails etc. It's been many years since I left school and I'm sorry to say the happiest day of my school life was the day I left. And this brings me to the point of this email, as you know my son and daughter and my two grandchildren are pupils at your school. So I think I have a fair view of the way they are being educated and taught life skills by you and your staff. I am always amazed every school morning in the way my children are so eager to get to school. No moaning that they want a day off in fact when they are not feeling very well we have to force them to stay at home. They always have smiley faces and are excited to get to school and start learning new and exciting things. I cannot believe the sense of community and learning you and your staff have taught our children touching such diverse subjects as race and sexuality in such a compassionate sensitive way. The way the children play together and learn together is a credit to the whole community. I feel happy in the knowledge that our next generation is being taught strong caring values by such skilled, kind and sensitive staff. I'm proud to say "my kids go to Elton School" what a great foundation for their lives ahead: the values you teach will stay with them as long as they live. I must also comment on your teaching staff. How lucky are we to have them teaching our children - they are such a fantastic collective of passionate teaching minds and this shows with the knowledge they bestow on our children in such a positive, happy way. From the caretaker to the dinner ladies and playground staff right up to you, the head teacher, I have only praise and gratefulness in the way you are teaching and molding my children into hard working well-educated young adults. In fact everyone I have ever met in conjunction with the school are fantastic and caring and all of you deserve a massive pat on the back."

Thursday saw our lovely Y1 and Y2 children perform a traditional nativity in Church, Chloe Y2 was brilliant singing along and Oscar Y2 did a fantastic job as the donkey, we all LOVED it (it was repeated on the stage in school today also of course)! I am sure that the parents did too and many have contacted me to say how much they enjoyed it and how pleased that they were able to take video and photographs. Thank you to Miss Hughes and Miss Plank for making it all possible, the children and staff have worked really hard to get everything ready for the final performance. Fitting then that it was Human Rights Day on Thursday. When I paused for a moment to take in the smiles and pride on the faces of some of our youngest pupils I realised that we ensure that they have all of their needs met, and this makes me feel sad for the millions of children, locally and world-wide, who do not. How lucky we are. My daughter, the animal lover, was very keen to share with me that it was also International Animal Rights Day yesterday too...

Those of you who are still Christmas shopping, take care and enjoy it over the weekend - thankfully I am all done (praise the internet as I hate shopping!). Giving is a wonderful feeling. As you know, I have spent a lot of time at Clatterbridge Hospital this last 6 months and therefore I plan NOT to send cards this year and spend the money instead on bottles of booze for the St John's Hospice in Clatterbridge, where terminally ill patients spend their final days. I tweeted them at the weekend and they said their patients love a sherry or Bailey's but anything is gratefully received so I also bought a bottle of whiskey. Shelley our cook has already given me a bottle of sherry to add to my growing collection and I know some others of you have having seen my tweet said you will bring a bottle in - too kind! If you fancy dropping a bottle off, via your child's teacher or the office, I will be dropping it off next weekend and take a photograph so you can see it handed over to the staff there who do an amazing job.