



ELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DREAM TEAM

Contact us: Tel: 01244 981170

Email: admin@elton.cheshire.sch.uk

Friday 18th December 2015

Visit: www.elton.cheshire.sch.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- 18th December—School Closes for Christmas.
- 4th January—Inset Day (Staff Only)
- 5th January—School re-opens.

LETTERS HOME

- Walk to Church for Christingle—All
- Press Permission for Tree Planting—Y5
- Chair of Governors Letter—All



RETIREE AFTERNOON



On Wednesday afternoon, school hosted a retiree afternoon for grandparents and local residents. Reception performed a traditional nativity and the choir sang Christmas carols. All the children performed beautifully and made the school very proud. Friends of Elton then finished the afternoon with a selection of Christmas goodies, even a Christmas tipples. It was a lovely afternoon, a big thank you to everyone who made it possible.

HOLIDAY CLUB



Angies Kidz club will be open from Monday 21st December to Wednesday 23rd December and Monday 4th January from 7:45am to 6pm. A full day is £26 per day and half day is £13, also there are 3 hour sessions for £8.50. Children will be kept occupied with lots of fun activities including arts and crafts, baking, visiting the park and much more. To book please call 07805095781.



CHILDREN'S CENTRE CHRISTMAS RAFFLE was won by Mrs Lyons. Well done!!!

FAMILY 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.

DROP AND SHOP MULTI-SPORTS CAMP



Monday 21st December to Wednesday 23rd December from 9am to 4pm, Horn's Mill Primary have a multi-sports camp. Drop your children with premier sport, while you do the Christmas shop. Book early to avoid disappointment on 07496926383 or online a WWW.premier.org.

APPLYING FOR SCHOOL PLACE - RECEPTION 2016



If your child is born between 1st September 2011 and 31st August 2012, applications can be submitted for a school place in Reception 2016. Applications can be made by visiting www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/admissions or you can call the central admissions team on 0300 123 7039. Please note, the closing date for all primary school applications is **15th January 2016**, thank you.

REPORTING SICKNESS



If your child is poorly and unable to attend school then please telephone the school office immediately on Tel: 01244 981170. There is an answerphone so you may ring at anytime.

END OF TERM



Can you please ensure all PE kits and lunch boxes are not left in school over the Christmas holiday, thank you.

CELEBRATE



We would like to wish Johnny Y2, Jack Y6, Alesha Y1, Jaime Y3, Toby Y6, Bradley Y4, Nikola 3, Reece Y1, Holly Y1 and Natalie Y2 a very happy birthday. We hope you all have a wonderful day.

LUNCH MENU NEXT WEEK IS - WEEK 4

**We wish everyone at Elton Primary School a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.
School re-opens on Tuesday 5th January.**

Headteacher's Blog

Well, what a week. I know that I could say this every week, because literally it is non-stop here hour by hour, week by week, but we have done it! One third of the way through the year and a whole lot of progress going on! How do I know? Because our School Improvement Partner, SIP, has been in yesterday and validated my work on ensuring that it has been happening. It is his job to check that what we say is accurate and truthful and he was in all day checking children's books and looking at the amazing work that they have managed to do in only a few weeks. He talked to our children and some of our parents who he bumped into and again was impressed.

I am always proud, probably I spend as much time thinking how proud I am of the staff as I do of the children, a weakness of mine is that I love every single one of them and wish them every success on a daily basis and in life. I go the extra mile to make sure things happen here and use a lot of energy working with our staff so that we have a constant supply of innovation here. I will simply hate being away next term but rest assured, I will not forget about any of you and will be a pest on the phone and email making sure that everyone is happy and doing well! On that note, my deepest and most heartfelt thanks to those of you who have reached out to me and wished me well in the coming weeks. I am scared of course, but I am definitely looking ahead and thinking positive and am blessed to have so many people rooting for me, so thank you. And to the parent who wrote me a card telling me I am a 'Great Headteacher' you made my day (you know who you are)!

As I reflect on the last 3 years of my tenure here, and the last term **progress** and **growth** are the two key words I would use to describe the journey. It is not easy when you need to focus on these things as there is inevitably at times, some friction. It also requires innovation, ingenuity, creativity (particularly as a result of the drastic reduction in school funding) and taking a few risks. You have all been part of the journey with me, and given me feedback at times to help me make improvements, for which I am grateful. I am happy to say that when I have made a mistake, I apologise and sort it out, as do the staff, and we model this to our young people on a daily basis. It is important to recognize when to say sorry and to be given chance to make reparation and fix situations – we have actually had a few occasions when I have been proud of our children who have actively demonstrated this. Brilliant. Nobody is perfect but we are educating children to manage their own mistakes and fix them without fear of reprisal. If only the outside world was so accommodating!

I think that my job is many things and all of them are related to learning and development, both as a professional and as a human being. When I am told by professionals that the most vulnerable families that we work with value our support and contribution, I feel an immense sense of pride in the people with whom I work. Every adult in Elton Primary School and Nursery when we open the doors again on the 5th January is an exceptional person – bar none. Despite navigating the issues imposed upon us in education, the staff work tirelessly to ensure that this does not detract from the quality of work done with the children and the progress that they make. The Governors are more active now than ever in the past, and we are overjoyed when they come into school and see firsthand the fruits of their labour – the time they give is unpaid and can be very onerous but they do not complain and give up valuable time to do super things for the community. The parents who have become employees, who see the school in a different light have given me valuable opportunities to ask about improving our service to children and the community and in many circumstances have supported me in making my 'big ideas' reality. They comment that they are 'blown away' by how hard everyone works and this is of course nothing new to me because I do know and value the work done here. This won't change haha! I am sure that with the time off to physically recuperate I will be dreaming up more plans to enrich the lives of our children and staff... watch this space.

This week I attended an assessor training day so that I can assess the proficiency of other schools in RE, which can earn money for our school each time I do an assessment (great news!). Then I attended a Governors meeting on Monday night where the Governors voted for us to go for a converter academy license – brilliant news, although we won't hear until late next term if we have it! It has taken up a lot of time in completing the paperwork to apply but it will be worth it in the end. We will keep you posted as to the progress of this application but for now, there will be nothing to report for a few months. The Nursery and Reception Nativity and the retirees afternoon were roaring successes (I wonder if that was the sherry and Baileys????!!!) and we had a great safeguarding review on Wednesday by the LA who said our paperwork was very thorough. Phew! The Christingle this afternoon I am sure will not disappoint and then we all have 2 weeks with our families which we can enjoy and give thanks for. I am grateful to Rev Ruth for her support over the Christmas festivities and I know that, despite the children focusing all of their energies on the Christmas Fair this year, and not performing to the retirees, they have loved speaking to our elderly visitors and are very much looking forward to the soup afternoons in January hosted by the PTA with the Church supporting them. I posted a video on my twitter feed recently that made me literally stop and catch my breath – children in Africa who had received shoe boxes from the West containing little gifts etc. we are all so very lucky and much better off in real terms than we realise I guess. At the moment I tell myself on a daily basis that there are a lot of people a lot worse off than me so that I gain joy from every day and everything that life throws at me!

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a wonderful, happy and healthy new year. I will sign off for now and promise to be back after Easter.