



ELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DREAM TEAM

Friday 22nd April 2016

Contact us: Tel: 01244 981170

Email: admin@elton.cheshire.sch.uk

Visit: www.elton.cheshire.sch.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Monday 2nd May—School Closed for bank holiday

Monday 9th May— Year 6 SATs start.

Friday 27th May—School closes for half term

LETTERS HOME

Zebra Crossing—All

After School Clubs—All



FOXHOWL YEAR 2 RESIDENTIAL



Year 2 have enjoyed their first residential this week. All the children were very excited leaving on Thursday morning. Mrs Kinnear has been busy keeping parents up to date on our twitter feed, its looks like everyone has had a fantastic time. We are looking forward to hearing all about it next week.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS



Letters have been sent out this week for after school clubs. If your child would like to take part in any clubs, can you please ensure your form is back in school by Monday morning.

SWIMMING LESSONS



Year 5 and remaining Year 3 children's swimming lessons will start on Thursday 28th April.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS



The school photographer will be in school on Friday 29th April to take class photographs, can you please ensure your child is in full school uniform.

URENCO



On Thursday Year 4 had a visit from a scientist who works for Urenco. The children all learnt how Urenco extract uranium for rocks and other how other particles are found. Everyone enjoyed getting involved in the experiments.

ZEBRA CROSSING



The zebra crossing was officially opened today by Councillor Smith. This is a welcome addition to the school, improving the safety of our pupils and parents.

THIS WEEKS WINNING TEAM IS BEESTON ALL CHILDREN IN THIS TEAM CAN WEAR THEIR OWN CLOTHES ON THURSDAY 28TH MARCH.

★ STAR OF THE WEEK ★

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

REC: Leighton

YEAR 3: Lilwen

YEAR 1: Jamie

YEAR 4: Reece

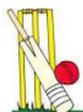
YEAR 5: Harry

YEAR 6: Alexandra



To Emil Y4 who took part in BBC radio 2 Official storywriter for 500 words 2016 with his fantastic story 'The Magic Button'. Emil received a certificate from Chris Evans.

ALVANLEY CRICKET CLUB



If your child enjoys playing cricket Alvanley cricket club having training every Friday night from 6pm—7.30pm for under 7s to under 15s. The club is run by qualified coaches and everyone is welcome. If you are interested contact Andy Bennion on 07812 207571 or email andy.bennion@yahoo.co.uk

LUNCH MENU NEXT WEEK - 2

Headteacher's Blog

Well, what a fabulous week. I am delighted to be back and (almost) fighting fit. The children gave me a warm welcome on Monday in assembly (whilst thanking Shellie the cook for cooking great meals?!!!) and it has been a week of warm welcomes all around. I have spent time visiting and talking to staff and children, thanking them personally for the work they have done in my absence, and chatting to one or two parents on the yard. One thing I noticed immediately upon driving into school on Monday is the new Zebra crossing which has been championed by one of our parent governors Helen Coy over the last 18 months and has been a real community initiative with the Parish council supporting with funds to make it happen. Thanks to all of the parents who have written in to us and liaised with Helen about their concerns around parking/driving near school and how this may affect the safety of pupils and parents – without this feedback and joined up work it is unlikely that we would have been able to make such huge strides in terms of improving. It is a testament to the fact that as a school we do listen, we gather evidence, and we are able then to act in the best interests of our community – even if it takes a little while! Thank you to all in school and the community who were involved in this. I also enjoyed walking into school and having a guided tour by our site maintenance officer, Wendy, who has done a fab job of sprucing the place up and keeping it presentable. She has clearly fitted right into the can-do ethos of the school and is already looking forward to sanding and polishing the hall floor!

I have spent a busy few days catching up on lots of correspondence and action since January. This has been mind-blowing and proves that our shared vision and expectations are not just something we talk about, but are tangible. My absence has thankfully had no impact on the expectations and standards in school because both of the Assistant Heads and I share the same commitment and rigour when it comes to school improvement and although they are pleased to have me back I can assure you that they have done a sterling job, with the support of our Governors, to keep the school buzzing and thriving. Our School Improvement Partner, SIP, has been in again several times in the last term and I've read the reports which almost bring a tear to the eye with how well the staff do for the children and the way that the children respond to the environment. This validates my views on the amazing work that they have managed to do in the last 2 terms with the support of the incredible staff here. He talked to our children and some of our parents, and again, although views differ on many aspects of the school depending on personal experience, he was very impressed. We also had separate inspections by the LA of both the Nursery and the Reception classes. The reports for both were excellent and made for brilliant reading when you consider the amount of work that has gone into the setting. I for one am especially proud of the staff down there who have embraced new roles and challenges during the year and made an amazing job of everything they have done – it is a pleasure to walk into that whole zone.

Progress and growth, like I said in my blog just before Christmas, are still the two key words I would use to describe the last few years and naturally this is important in today's climate. You will all have heard about Government legislation which now means ALL schools will academise in the coming few years. We, as a school, are already as you know examining the process of this and are actively working towards academy status in the near future so any further developments will be communicated directly to you, but as ever, please do respond to the consultation with your views. In addition to the huge changes around school management, the government have implemented changes around assessment which is really affecting schools too. They have withdrawn their ill-considered idea to assess all children at 3 or 4 and compare their progress at 11 – thankfully – although this cost an inordinate amount of money to do and was highly stressful for nursery/reception staff in September. In the same way, our Y6 children have followed a curriculum for a year that the government say will not be assessed in 3 weeks time, instead, they will be assessed using a completely different test and this has thrown all Y6 teachers, school leaders and governors into a state of anxiety because the outcomes of the tests, which will not be used to support your children in making progress, will be used to make negative judgments on schools. But, we are not phased! I know that the children are more than well equipped to go to secondary school, have had THE BEST teaching and learning experience possible and are happy. What happens with the test scores, and how this affects our rating nationally and locally we will handle and really is irrelevant when compared to real gains that children have made in terms of personal, social and academic development. Who knows? Maybe the mandatory pilot tests that our children did on Tuesday will help the government to see the error of their ways and again, at the 11th hour they will change their minds...meanwhile, the real job of education happens regardless!

I read an article when I was away about the success of a programme called Troops to Teachers. It has been limited nationally but I am delighted to report that we, as the brilliant school we are, have had 2 of the success stories right here! Mr Davies completes his training this term and has secured a job at a school on the Wirral, and Mrs McCarroll completed her training here and continues to work for us as Mrs Caldecott's maternity cover teacher.

Year 2 children went to Fox How! Brilliant weather and a super venue for their first ever residential and a big thank you to staff and their families for enabling this trip to go ahead. Brilliant to have them all back, happy and smiling and talking about the fun they have had.