



ELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DREAM TEAM

Contact us: Tel: 01244 981170

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Friday 18th November 2016
Visit: www.elton.cheshire.sch.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Christmas Fair—16th Dec
Christmas Lunch—21st Dec

LETTERS HOME

Snow Queen—All
Lantern Walk—Y5



CHILDREN IN NEED



Today all the children have been busy voting for a member of staff they would like to see get a Pie in the Face, the member of staff who received the most votes was.... All of them!!!

Tonight we will be hosting our first KS2 Sleepover. If your child is taking part can you please ensure they arrive at the school office by 7pm, final admission time will be 7:20pm. We ask that each child bring with them the following :

Blow up bed already inflated and sleeping bag

Pyjamas

Teddy Bear

Toothbrush, toothpaste and Towel.

The children will NOT NEED any electrical items /games or food.

It is essential that your child is collected **PROMPTLY** at 8am on Saturday morning.

CLASS ASSEMBLY

Year 4 Class Assembly, ' Conflict Peace' 28th November at 9am. We kindly ask that no sibling attend this sessions, thank you.

Year 2 Class Assembly , date has changed from Monday 27th February to Thursday 30th March.

CHANGE OF MENU

F.Y.I. **Tuesday 6th December**— Beef Burger and Wedges, Jacket Potato or BLT with Shortbread.

SNOW QUEEN



Can all payments and reply slips for the Snow Queen performance please be handed into your child's class teacher or the school office, no later than **Wednesday 30th November**.

BIG MATHS



On Thursday Year 6 attended a big Maths session at Ellesmere Port Catholic High school. The children all got involved with practical problem solving. Mr Manning said how proud he was of his class and the minibus driver commented on how Elton had been the best behaved school, well done Year 6.

YEAR 5 BIKEABILITY



Well done to all Year 5 pupils who took part in bikeability last week. Ms Carr received an email on Monday thanking all the children for their superb energy and enthusiasm throughout the course.

HELP NEEDED— if there is anyone who has a skill or talent for DIY, plumbing or joinery and would like the opportunity to do a few jobs around school, can you please let the school office know.

THIS WEEKS WINNING TEAM IS BEESTON ALL CHILDREN IN THIS TEAM CAN WEAR THEIR OWN CLOTHES ON FRIDAY 25TH NOVEMBER.

★ STAR OF THE WEEK ★

This week's Star of the week is for 'P4C/RE' and we would like to say congratulations to the following children:

REC : MARLO



Y3 : EVIE-LOUISE



Y6: CHANEL

Y1 : HARRY

Y4 : WILLIAM

Y2 : WILLOW

Y5 : BROCK

CELEBRATE



We would like to wish Harry Y1 a very happy birthday. We hope you have a wonderful day.

LUNCH MENU NEXT WEEK— 3

Headteacher's Blog

Another busy week in school began with a visit from Reverend Ruth, local vicar, member of the community and school Governor. She lead assembly about conflict to round off last week and the weekend of Remembrance, and turned it on its head, instead of discussing conflict, she discussed what we could do to reduce conflict in the world basically by being good friends - which echoed my message in our own Remembrance assembly on Friday morning. She essentially talked about messages from St Paul the Apostle and the children responded well to them, whether practicing Christian or not, because she talked about being a good friend and what that might look like.

The message she gave, for those who are keen to follow up with the bible, was essentially from Romans 12:9-21 and went along the lines of "love from the centre of who you are and don't be fake, run away from evil, hold on to what is good, be a good friend and sometimes let others win". She went on to say that sometimes, loving your 'enemy' and trying to think of ways to be nice to them can result in actually becoming friends, making friends with children you consider "nobodies" can make a massive difference. She also congratulated all of the children who participated in the display for Remembrance and also those who attended church yesterday for their own service- she said she was very proud to be a Governor, as I was to be a headteacher when she told everyone about the exemplary behavior and knowledge the children had in Church. I then asked her to congratulate one of our children who, for the last 4 weeks, has shown how capable he is and how philosophical in both RE and P4C sessions and this has been commented upon by his teachers and observed by me in lessons. This was a real treat!

I was delighted to show new parents around school on Tuesday along with their lovely little tot who starts with us in Nursery hopefully very soon! It was also great to welcome parents in for Y6 Stay and Learn for a Mr Manning Magical Maths extravaganza.....well maybe not that magical but what can you do when it is a fractions lesson??? Feedback was great and one parent wrote "It was good to see what is expected of the children in maths. It was fun to have a go with them to help them understand. Very worthwhile experience. Thank you!" It is always an eye opener I think, as a parent, to see what your child is really expected to know and do when all you have to go on is what is in the press. Another parent said, "I'm really impressed. It was really helpful to see how children are taught."

I was also able to see children in Year 1 doing RE. I learned all about a Christening and what happens when this takes place. The children did brilliant role play and enacted the entire thing discussing key words like 'font' and so on with ease. It was great to see them using the artefacts and interacting with each other, especially when their experiences of this were so diverse!

I met with our Parent Panel on Thursday afternoon and discussed with them the parent views on RE and P4C in school. This was a brilliant and very frank discussion all about the ethos of Philosophy for Children (P4C) and the outcomes for children in terms of their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We discussed the wide ranging and sometimes contradictory nature of the Government expectations and how this affects decision making in school, and also discussed the skills that we value and help to teach children such as tolerance, forgiveness, acceptance, in addition to the big questions we help them to develop. Last week children came up with "what is similar between Islam and Christianity?", and "Is it ever right to have a war?" This week one of the Year 4 children said they had been wondering on the way to school why there were so many different types of Christianity and if it mattered to God whether you were one or the other!

We discussed how RE was a discrete topic – the education of our children about the major religions recognized in the world, which is different to us enforcing our own personal views onto them. We discussed how RE can be taught using a discrete and traditional approach and also a P4C approach and how it is nice for the children to experience a variety in the approaches that we teach and who teaches it. We also ironed out the difference between assembly and collective worship (the second one is a part of a religious act in a faith school or a church), and talked about how our assemblies encompassed issues related to being a good member of society in general and would include many different topics and visitors where possible. Naturally there are no "right" answers to this, if there were concrete answers then there wouldn't be so much difficulty in the world, but the good news is that our children are learning how to share their own opinions and thoughts on big topics such as creation. One of our parents has a concern about the teaching of creationism versus evolution, another was happy for this to be taught, one believed that we should be teaching it – we all had differences of opinion in the meeting and whilst it was respectful it also represented the diversity of thinking shared by ALL of our parents so we agreed that we will never be in a situation where all parents are happy with all the stuff we do in RE and in our work on P4C and diversity because everyone has their own strongly held views. Phew! We all left smiling and Janet did the minutes so watch out for them on the website. The next Parent Panel is on Thursday 19th January and will be about Internet Safety and the Prevent Agenda- remember to email in your opinions.

Children in Need day was hilarious, imagine my face when I attended a meeting at Chester University and was covered in pie that I could not get out of my hair! Thankfully I remembered my goggles, don't like to be a spoilsport, because I have had SUCH sore eyes this week and been suffering from a terrible eye infection! I am sure I will get a sound night's sleep tonight and Oh no, wait, I won't!!! The staff and I looking after the children on the FoE sleepover! Haha never mind, I will have a good rest tomorrow... oh no, wait, I won't! My son is 13 and I am taking him and his friends go-carting and then hosting them for a party.... My eyes may look twice as bad next week!

Never mind, I have Miss Hughes assembly to look forward to on Monday – don't panic parents, it isn't one for you Yet! This is their practice run! Their parent "Class Assembly" is on the website and you will be invited to attend it on Monday 30th January.