



ELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DREAM TEAM

Friday 31st March 2017

Contact us: Tel: 01244 981170

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Visit: www.elton.cheshire.sch.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



31st March— School Disco
31st March—SCHOOL CLOSED FOR EASTER
18th April—SCHOOL RE-OPENS
20th April—Foxhowl Residential
20th April—Parent Surgery, 9am

LETTERS HOME

Governors Letter—All
Parent Surgery—All
Early Finish—All
Daily Mile—All
Spring Attendance Newsletter—All



YEAR 3 AND 4 PRODUCTION



Well done to year 3 and 4 for their wonderful performance of Treasure Island. Year 4 had made the stage background for the show on their residential at Conway and it looked brilliant. All the children and staff have worked so hard over the passed few weeks and it was lovely to see everything come together. We had two very complimentary emails from parents about the quality of the performance which was lovely to receive, thank you.

EASTER SERVICE



On Monday, Reverend Ackroyd came into school to talk to the child about the Story of Jesus in the Easter Assembly. You too can experience the story read by Dai Woolridge by logging onto www.biblesociety.org.uk/supercool. For your info, details of the Easter Services for Thornton-le-Moors with Ince and Elton can be found on the school website under School Curriculum/ RE.

PARENT VIEW



Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about your child's school, from the quality of teaching to dealing with bullying and behaviour. The survey can be completed at any time; you don't have to wait until the school is being inspected. To log on, please visit— www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

RED NOSE DAY



Thank you to everyone who bought a red nose from the office, donated £1 to wear their own clothes and bought a cake, you have helped raise £251.94!

YEAR 5 CLASS ASSEMBLY



Don't forget, Year 5 will be holding their class assembly on **Monday 24th April at 9am.**

SCHOOL DISCO



The Friends of Elton school disco takes place tonight in the school hall. Infants is from 5pm-6pm and Juniors from 6pm-7pm. The price is £2.50 per child. This includes a drink and a snack.

ANGIE'S KIDZ CLUB



Don't forget, if you are stuck for childcare during Easter holidays, why not give Angies Kidz club a call. The holiday club will be open from 3rd to 7th April 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 craft, baking, visiting the park and much more. To book please call 07805095781.

CELEBRATE



We would like to wish Finn (Nurs), Maisie (Y2), Zarai (Y1), Jack (Y3), Ruby (Y3) and Emil (Y5) a very happy birthday. We hope you all have a wonderful day.

SCHOOL REOPENS ON TUESDAY 18TH APRIL
LUNCH MENU W/C 18th APRIL — 1

Headteacher's Blog

It has been another busy half term here in school. I am sorry for the absence of my blog, in response to a couple of parents who felt it wasn't appropriate, I stopped doing it for a while but the overwhelming majority of parents have been asking for me to reinstate it, so here it is- weekly ones after Easter holidays! My apologies to those parents who didn't like to read it – please stop reading now!

We have spent a lot of time as a school in the last 5 weeks working on our obligation to promote excellent practice. This has been under a real black cloud introduced by the government in the form of a “fair funding” proposal. I am in the debt of both the Governors and also Friends of Elton who were wonderful in getting that information out to you all and asking for your gratefully received support in signing the petition that the Chair of the PTA has sent off to our local MP Justin Madders.

It is with a heavy heart that we sent out letters giving parents warning of the impact of such changes, larger classes, the potential of a 4 day week etc. The parent panel this half term was all about finances and the minutes of that meeting will show you the lengths that school have gone to over the last 4 years to balance our budget. We have literally no way of shedding any other outgoings and have cut staffing to such a degree that each of us must not only do our day job, but also try to earn money outside of school to bring money in. For example, I go out to other schools regularly and assess them, which brings in money, I write articles which we are paid for, I support research across CWAC, which school gets the benefits of, as well as supporting staff here, overseeing teaching and learning, meeting with parents, doing lunch duty, running before school booster clubs for maths and so on and so on and many other staff do similar things. Our office staff have had their hours halved, and are so under pressure that sometimes they do not have the time to contact parents as they would like to, to send texts out to inform parents of events, and despite our best efforts, the cuts of the last few years have left us all a little ragged and under enormous pressure. So this is why we will be fully online for payments after the holidays, why our newsletters come by email rather than pages of photocopying etc. and why sometimes you miss information. It is not ideal, but it is a sign of the times that as we have to do ever more with so much less, we will at times not come up to our own high standards and have to apologise with grace such as the late text about end of term closures etc.

This half term, as part of our safeguarding work I have attended Safeguarding supervision meetings with the LSCB and governors; we have had Road Safety day and had members of CWAC in to talk to children about road awareness and safety to further promote the Parking Pledge Scheme – which our School Council have been instrumental in leading. We have promoted the “mile a day” initiative, with a trial last Friday, and will commence this fully, daily, after the holiday. We welcome the local police into school now on a regular basis so that they can support our safety both in parking outside, road crossing, behavior expectations etc.

I think you will be pleased when you read the following: we have celebrated World Book Day and invited our School Improvement Partner into school who was literally WOWED with the standard of teaching in school and how vibrant and full of energy school was. He also came in to look at our Teaching Assistants and our maths provision – giving us some pointers where we can further improve. We had a fabulous KS2 movie night, supported a community Bingo night and did Children in Need Red Nose Day! We have held staff-lead/children-lead whole school assemblies on the topics of what religion is, different families, how people practice religion and Easter. I held a parent panel with the topics of finances; welcomed visitors in from the Church to talk to our children about Easter beliefs; we welcomed Speech and Language teams in to work with children, Educational Psychologists in to work with children; Autism specialists to work with children; hosted Child In Need, Team Around the Family, Looked After Children and supervision meetings (an emergency one of those was called last night and I had to miss the Year 3 and 4 production to attend it in Chester). We have thought about forgiveness as a concept and done several lessons as a school on Philosophy For Children (P4C) which have developed and cemented much of the work discussed above in the educational world of our children.

The staff training evenings have been on RE/P4C, PE, spelling, parents evenings, making resources for our website for parents to support their children; there have been after school clubs, many schools having lost staff no longer do these so I am grateful to our staff for still putting in the effort on behalf of our children; we have had many stay and play/stay and learn sessions for and with parents; the Year 3/4 performance. We have shown parents around school and welcomed new starters; supported staff from other schools to compile research questions and proposals through Ignite and my responsibility within that alliance to guide research and development; met with and liaised with the LA with regard to ongoing heating issues in school; met with several parents about the progress and development of their children and how we can best support that as a team at parents evenings; had a Governors meeting and I been shadowed several times by one of our new Governors for the purposes of knowing and understanding how school and a modern Headteacher must work.

We have also continued to support the local community by hosting classes run by Sharon Tinn on a Thursday in our hall – these will continue after Easter so watch out for the adverts for them.

We gave out our annual parent/pupil/staff questionnaires, all collated by Ms Ninis-Jeal and shared with our Governors, and are working towards actions that we may take as a result of the feedback – although this can vary and keeping everyone happy all of the time is impossible.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Mrs Barnes today, and wish her well in her new job! She will rise to the new challenges and be as brilliant in her new school as she has been here.

Meanwhile, your children have been learning and making progress! Please take the time this Easter to enjoy yourselves and eat as much chocolate as you can. Rev Ruth would be delighted to see you all at Church, the service details are on the Elton web page!