



## Elton Primary School & Nursery

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Our Ref: PARL 0731

Dear Parent/Carer,

Autumn term is over! What an action-packed and fun-filled 15 school weeks it was too! The second half-term of autumn is always a fantastic time to be in school as the children have fully settled in to their new classes and of course attention starts to turn towards Christmas.

The highlight of our Christmas preparation this year was most definitely the superb performance of 'Hey Ewe' by our nursery, reception and infant children. It was lovely to see the hall filled with so many parents, grandparents and younger siblings. I'm sure everyone who got to see one of the performances would agree with me that the children were absolutely amazing. I was stunned at just how confident every single one of them was when on the stage in front of such a large audience.

That wasn't the only time our children got to show off their amazing acting and singing skills. Reverend Ruth and some of her friends retold the nativity story to the whole school during assembly and we had many budding stars from each class act out the story for her. While at the 'Celebration of Christmas', which was organised by our tireless 'Friends of Elton', each class got to sing a Christmas song to grandparents and local retired residents. A special mention should be made to Mrs Harland and the school choir: fresh from wowing everyone at the local shops during the turning on of Elton Christmas lights, they once again delighted the audience with their wonderful singing. At the end of the celebration, we were inundated with lovely comments about how enjoyable the whole afternoon had been.

Talking about excellent feedback, one of my highlights of the term was getting to read all the wonderful comments left by over fifty parents about how fun and informative they found the 'Stay and Learn' sessions. I know all the teachers were delighted to see so many parents at the sessions and every parent I spoke to said they really enjoyed the opportunity to see how their children were learning and to discover ways of supporting them at home. Look out for more of these throughout next term – we will get the spring dates out by the start of the term.

One of the best parts of my role is having the chance to visit every class during the day to see the excellent work that the children are doing. An added bonus to these visits has been the chance to see which children have made it to their class's 'Proud Cloud'. During the November INSET, Mrs Higginson (I still keep calling her Miss Blake!) introduced some new changes to our behaviour policy – the highlight of which was the 'Proud Cloud'. Any child who has been spotted doing something excellent in their work or their behaviour has their picture put on the cloud. Then when we visit the



classroom, either Miss Roberts or I get to give the superstar a special sticker and find out about what they had done to achieve it.

Any regular visitors to our Twitter site will have noticed that some unusual lessons have taken place across all classes over the last half term. We have been fortunate to welcome Mr McLoughlin to our school over several days to work with every child in school. His specialism is 'Learning Outside the Classroom' and the children have loved going outside (despite the cold weather) to take part in making campfires, toasting marshmallows and building dens. He will return next term to run some orienteering sessions in school.

The school has welcomed several other visiting teachers to the school this term. Our Year Five and Year Six classes have had the opportunity to work with two teachers from a local high school. Mme Thenot has taught French to both classes and Mr Reid has taught Design Technology to Year Five. Meanwhile all our junior classes have had great fun being taught cricketing skills from Cheshire Cricket coaches.

We have also welcomed visits from the paramedic service who gave the children a tour of the inside of their ambulance; the Rhema Theatre Company who performed their panto 'Angel Delight'; Chris and Dave Trevor who led a 'Stone Age' workshop; and a wide range of other professionals and visitors. Every single one of these visitors has left the school with comments about how much they enjoyed working with the children: how inquisitive, enthusiastic and well-behaved they were.

The term ended with Miss Carr returning to say goodbye to all the staff and children. After exactly six years at the school, she officially leaves us now to take up the permanent role of Headteacher at Woodlands Primary. I'm sure everyone will join me in thanking her for all her hard work over the last six years and in wishing her well for the future. I will continue to undertake the Acting Headteacher role for the rest of the school year while the governing body begins preparations to appoint a permanent head to start in September 2019. Lots of people have asked me whether I will be applying for the full time position. I can confirm that I will be applying for it and on that note would like to express my full gratitude to all of the parents who have written to our Chair of Governors expressing their support for the current arrangements.

Miss Phillips will be joining us as a Teacher Assistant in January. She will spend every morning supporting the Year Three and Year Four classes. This will allow Mrs Deakin to spend more time undertaking her role as Learning Mentor and ELSA lead in school.

Before I finish I'd like to say thank you for all the support you have given the school and me in particular. The lovely comments that staff receive at parents' evenings and 'Stay and Play' sessions means a lot to us all and makes a great job even more enjoyable. Remember if you see me standing on my own on the playground at the start or the end of the day, then please come over and say hello: I'm easy to spot – I'm the one wearing the silly hat Wendy bought me!

Finally, on behalf of all the staff and governors may I wish everyone a very merry Christmas.

Mr K Manning

