



Elton Primary School & Nursery

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Headteacher – Mr Kevin Manning

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Our Ref: PARL 0781

Dear Parent/Carer,

And that is the end of another half-term and of another year! What a year it was too!

For our Year Six children the final half-term of the year was also their final seven weeks at Elton Primary School and they crammed so much into those weeks. The highlight was undoubtedly the absolutely fantastic production that they put on: X-Factory. Anyone who was lucky enough to have watched the show would have been as spellbound as I was. The singing, acting, comic-timing and superb confidence had to be seen to be believed. When you consider that the children only had a few weeks to put the production together, it is even more amazing that it was of such quality.

Year Five also had their chance to show off some acting skills during the half-term when they produced a short performance about World War One during their Play in a Day session. As with the Year Sixes, the confidence of the class was brilliant to see. The children's excellent singing skills were on display too when the School Choir performed a series of songs to their parents. We've got some definite stars in the making in school.

The half-term wasn't just about showing off our drama skills. We had enough sunny days during the seven weeks to fit in lots of sports activities. Sports Day was a great success (helped by it not raining this year) and it was great to see so many parents and grandparents turn up to cheer the children on. All the children took part with a great mixture of trying their best while also enjoying themselves. The Sports Day was organised by our sports expert Miss Preugschat and she also arranged lots of interschool activities for the children during National School Sports Week. I got to accompany Year One on their multi-sports activity day and was exhausted just spectating! Thanks to the great skills and sportsmanship from the children during these events we have been awarded the School Games Gold Award! Go Team Elton!

Nursery got involved with the sporty theme during their own sports day. Miss Halligan and Mrs Wynn had fortunately looked into their crystal balls and decided to practise the sessions in the hall in case of bad weather: an excellent idea as it happened because on the day we had torrential rain. The children all performed their races brilliantly and then got to enjoy a well-deserved ice lolly afterwards. Turnout was excellent again - standing room only!

Being sporty is one of the key ways we teach the children to keep themselves healthy. Another way is by having lots of sleep. Sleep was somewhat lacking however during the Key Stage Two sleepover that took place this half-term. The turnout was fantastic and the children all enjoyed the night: although I stayed up way past my bedtime. Keep an eye out for some more sleepovers next year.



For a second year in a run, we have ended the year with a whole school focus on an environmental issue. This year's topic was designed by Mrs McCarroll and was based around the topic of plastic waste in the oceans. The project was based on the true story 'Duffy's Lucky Escape' and Year Four and Year Five were lucky enough to get the chance to Skype the author Ellie Jackson to ask her some questions that they had created. The topic has resulted in some excellent artwork made from waste plastic – don't worry we will recycle it all when we are finished.

I mentioned before that Year Six had crammed a lot into their final seven weeks. One of the activities that they completed was to create their own game based on the theme of the periodic table. The game they created was inspired by Blockbusters and was called Elemental. It only went and won the 'Chemical Industries Association's International Year of the Periodic Table Competition – Primary School Category.' The prize was £1000 towards science books in school – fantastic work from the Year Sixes and Mrs Evans.

As I've mentioned in every letter as headteacher, I have been delighted with how well school and parents have worked together this year. The lovely comments from parents on the playground or after sports days and performances have been really appreciated by all staff. Equally the staff have appreciated all the support they have been given from parents, and particularly with the amazing turnout and feedback we have received from every stay and learn session. We are always looking into ways to capture parents' views and ideas more, so if you have any ideas please let me know.

The Infant Hall has been a hive of activity on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings recently thanks to the roaring success of the Friends of Elton Toddler Group. Louise and Clare have been delighted with the large numbers of toddlers and parents that have attended the sessions, and it has certainly created a superb family feel to school. I know that all parents and toddlers have really enjoyed themselves during the mornings – and I have even popped in once or twice for a quick cup of tea and a cake myself!

Unfortunately the Year Six children are not the only people we are saying farewell to this week. Mrs Henderson, Miss Stanley, Miss Phillips and Ms Ninnis-Jeal have all been valuable members of our teaching staff in their roles as Teaching Assistants. Unfortunately we are saying goodbye to them all as they move on to roles in other schools. On behalf of the whole of Elton community, I give them all our thanks for their hard work and wish them the best of luck for the future.

Another person to leave us this week is Reverend Ruth. Ruth has been a governor of the school for four years and has also been a very regular visitor to school during assembly times when along with her friends she has taught the children many Bible stories. Ruth is taking a well-deserved retirement and once again I'm sure everyone will join me in thanking her for all the support she has given school and in wishing her well for her retirement.

I've really enjoyed my first year as head teacher and look forward to working closely with you all again next year. There's loads to look forward to next year starting with the return of our resident artist Vivienne in September who will help us create some more intergenerational artwork – grandparents get practising those art skills. Before then, we have several summer clubs taking place in school – Angie's, Friends of Elton and our sports coach Danielle all have activities taking place at school during different weeks in the holidays.

The children return to school on Tuesday 3rd September - with the school being open on the Monday just for staff INSET. Until then, I wish you all a great summer holiday: I'm planning on watching a lot of cricket!

Mr Kevin Manning
Headteacher

