



Elton Primary School & Nursery

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Headteacher – Mr Kevin Manning

OUR REF : PARL 1169

30th November 2023

Dear Parents / Guardians,

As we near the end of our longest school term, I thought I would just write to you with an update about some upcoming events.

With December starting tomorrow, we are now in full Christmas mode. It was lovely to see the Choir singing at the village event on Sunday and to see all the great artwork displayed around the tree. Well done to Lottie, Huw and Phoebe in particular for having their drawings selected by the Parish Council as the winning entries!

Other events that we have coming up include:

- Wednesday 6th December – Christmas Dinner Day – the children can come to school wearing their Christmas jumpers if they would like to.
- Thursday 7th December – Christmas Jumper Day – the children can again come to school wearing Christmas jumpers if they would like to.
- Friday 8th December – Christmas Stalls – our Christmas fair will take place straight after school.
- Monday 11th December – Nativity performance for the juniors – our final dress rehearsal will take place in front of an audience of all the junior children.
- Tuesday 12th December – 9:30 – EYFS/KS1 Nativity Performance to Parents
- Tuesday 12th December – 19 KS2 children have been invited to attend Helsby High to watch their Christmas play.
- Wednesday 13th December – 1:30 – EYFS/KS1 Nativity Performance to Parents.
- Thursday 14th December – Virtual Panto for all classes – we will watch a recorded version of the panto Cinderella in school.
- Friday 15th December – Talent show and Toy Day – School Closes for Christmas.
- Friday 12th January – Yr2 and all junior classes will visit Theatre Porto to watch a performance of their play “Little Red”.
- Tuesday 30th January – the whole school from Reception to Year 6 will visit Chester Zoo.

Please note that school closes at the normal time on Friday 15th December and children return on Wednesday January 3rd.



Parental Contributions

We are aware that the financial situation is tough for some families still and so we have tried to keep requests for parental contributions to as low as possible while still giving our children a wide range of opportunities.

Costs – especially transport – have continued to increase. For example, it will now cost school £3000 in transport costs to take our Yr6 class swimming for 12 week in Spring – that is in an increase of over £1000 on last year's cost and equivalent to £250 for each journey to Ellesmere Port for a 30 minute swimming lesson! And that's just the cost of the coach – never mind the pool and instructors hire!

You will have noticed that the panto this year is going to be a virtual one. This is to avoid transport costs and the PTFA have kindly paid the cost of £200 for the license. We have been lucky enough to be offered free transport for our trip to Theatre Porto but will need to ask for a small contribution towards the cost of the Theatre tickets. We have also been able to get free Chester Zoo tickets (which were only available in winter months) but will need to ask for a contribution towards transporting the children.

Residentials

Before Covid, we used to have 3 residentials a year but obviously they were paused during and immediately after the pandemic. Since then – as prices have increased – we haven't been able to secure enough interest from families to make them viable.

However, we have again started to explore the possibility of offering these trips. This week I have asked Yr3 parents to tell me whether they would be interested in a one night/two day residential visit when they are in Yr4. Enough parents have now said they would be and we will make a provisional booking. More details will be available soon.

I intend to write very soon (once I have full cost details) to parents in Yr1 to see if they would be interested in their children having a one night/two day residential visit when they are in Yr2. I will also write to Yr5 parents to see if they would be interested in their children having a two night/three day residential visit when they are in Yr6. Please keep an eye out for these letters and let us know your thoughts.

Free School Meal Vouchers

If your child is entitled to benefits related Free School Meals (not the universal KS1 free school meals), we have been given £30 per child to purchase vouchers to cover the costs of lunches over the Christmas holiday. Those vouchers should be available for collection next week.

Nursery Payments

An important letter is going out today detailing some changes that we have had to make regarding how we take payments for paid nursery hours. If you pay for your nursery hours then please keep an eye out for this letter. Payments will switch to the Parent Pay system from January.

Special Thanks

When I speak to our children, it is always great to hear how much they enjoy their school lives. A lot of the work that goes into making school such an enjoyable experience goes unheralded at times. We have so many people who generously given up their time to support the school that it would be impossible to name everyone but I would like to mention some.



Thanks to all the PTFA members who have given up so much time organising discos and the Christmas Fair.

Thanks to the "Open The Book" volunteers who have led an interactive assembly each fortnight. Thanks to Steve Yandell, Andy Eardley, Mrs Fisk, Mrs McNally and our Chair Mr Canham for volunteering to fix the issues that were addressed in our tree survey - keeping us safe and saving school lots of money.

Thanks to Mr Fisk for running his Code Club each week. Thanks to Mrs Gibson for coming in to read with our children several times each week.

Thanks to Protos Community Benefit Fund for all their support with their class trips this year.

Thanks to Spar and the Community Centre for their kind donations; Chester FC and Cheshire Phoenix for the free season tickets and all the other organisations and individuals who have helped us out – as I said there's far too many to list everyone.

I look forward to seeing you all over the next few weeks at our Christmas events.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Kevin Manning
Headteacher

