



Elton Primary School & Nursery

School Lane
Elton
Chester
CH2 4LT

Telephone: 01244 667750

Email: admin@elton.cheshire.sch.uk

Website: www.elton.cheshire.sch.uk

Headteacher – Mr Kevin Manning

Our ref: PARL 0996

31ST March 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

Well we have almost completed another term and as ever it was action packed. We saw a slight increase in Covid cases in the second half of the term but in comparison to other schools we managed to get through relatively unscathed.

I just thought I'd write to you all to keep you up to date with what has been, or will be, happening in school.

Changes to the Times of the School Day

I wrote to everyone on Monday to inform you of a slight change to the school day starting from 19th April. We are moving the end of the school day to 3:15PM for all classes. Please spread the word to other parents/guardians.

Staff Changes

Mrs Charlton has left us, after 7 years working in our office, to start a new exciting job away from the world of education. She will be replaced by Mrs Davies who will start with us on 19th April.

Miss Jones is leaving us at the end of this week. Miss Jones has undertaken many roles in our school during her time with us: teaching assistant, mid-day assistant and cleaner. She will be greatly missed by all of us and we wish her well with her new job.

We are still looking for a new mid-day assistant and/or cleaner. If you know of anyone who would be interested, then please let them know.

Friends of Elton

We are also saying goodbye to two amazing friends of the school. Clare Wright and Louise Hardwick have been unsung heroes of our school for many, many years. They have been the organisational experts behind every school disco, every film night, every sleepover, every Summer and Christmas fair and every Year 6 leavers evening. However, their roles extend well beyond this. They source funding from local industries and access grants to help fund things like our outdoor classroom areas; they funded and designed our ELSA room, and most recently have given our PPA area an amazing redesign: making the rooms much more welcoming for staff, visitors and children. Beyond that they have helped us to paint and decorate both the outside and inside of the school – and carpet the classrooms! During the lockdowns they played the key role in getting funding for the educational materials we delivered out to the children and then they delivered them out to families – along with



free school meals and laptops! I'm sure I've missed loads from this list too! All of this as unpaid voluntary work!

Clare and Louise have decided that it is now time for them to move on: both have started new jobs recently and their children left our school many years ago. I will greatly miss the tremendous support they have given me personally and the school community as a whole.

At our last disco we were well supported by some parents who volunteered to help out. We really appreciate this support – which allows us to put on these nice events for the children. On Thursday 31st March at 5:30 there will be a meeting at school for any parents who are interested in volunteering to take over the Friends of Elton role. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Hopefully we will be able to invite Louise and Clare into school next half-term for a proper send off from the school community...I just need someone to help me plan that, they always did those events too! Clare doesn't escape fully just yet – she is still Vice Chair of our governors!

Attendance

As you know, one of the targets that OFSTED gave us in our last inspection was to improve attendance - particularly with regards to persistent absentees. A child is classed as being persistently absent if their attendance is below 90%. When their attendance is below this level, it means they are missing one phonics/reading session per fortnight, one maths lesson per fortnight and an English lesson per fortnight. This creates gaps in their learning which will hinder their education as they progress through school causing them reading, writing and maths difficulties. Hence the reason it was identified by OFSTED as such a key target for us.

Obviously the last few years have been massively disrupted by the pandemic and attendance figures nationally have been much lower than normal. However, with the improved Covid situation now, attendance has become a key target both nationally and for our school in particular as we await our next OFSTED inspection.

With this in mind, can I reiterate the importance of parents/guardians contacting school in the morning if your child is absent. This is a key requirement for all schools as part of normal safeguarding procedures. It also allows us to correctly code the absence. Without any notification, the absence is classed as unauthorised. Five unauthorised absences in a term can lead to a fine.

If there is anything that school can do to help with any attendance issue then please contact either me, Miss Jackson or Mrs Deakin.

Website

Thanks for everyone who answered our questionnaire about our website. We will look to make changes when we upgrade our site next term. Lots of the things that parents requested such as information about classes, what the children were learning and links to purchase uniform are on the site. What we will look at now is how to make the site easier to navigate – particularly when using a mobile phone!

At this point I will do my usual shout out for our twitter site which has daily tweets that showcase some of the things that are taking place in our classes. You don't need a Twitter account to access this. You can just google: Twitter Elton Primary School Cheshire or use our twitter name @EltonPrimary to see all the tweets.



Parent View

It has been nice recently to see that some of our parents have completed the short survey on Ofsted's Parent View. We needed 10 entries before we could see the results. It was great to see that 100% of our children felt safe and happy at school, and that parents felt that their children were doing well. If you would like to complete the survey which is a very short one of 14 multiple choice questions then you can do so by creating a user at:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>

So that just leaves me to wish everyone a lovely Easter holiday and to remind you all that we return on Tuesday 19th April.

Yours Truly



Mr Manning

Head Teacher

