



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: PARL1032

12th September 2022

Dear Parents

I am just writing to keep you up to date with how the start of the new academic year has gone.

I have been extremely impressed with how well all the children have returned this year: they all look super smart in their uniforms and have all settled down to their work fantastically.

The Queen

The sad news of the death of Queen Elizabeth has been a big focus in school since it was announced on Thursday evening. We have had two whole school assemblies where we have looked back and celebrated the life of Queen Elizabeth. I'm sure that you are aware that next Monday – 19th September – is the date for the funeral and has been declared a bank holiday. This means that school will not be open for the whole of that day.

Meeting Class Teachers

A note for your diaries – parents' evenings will be held on the 11th and 12th October. Once the children have settled into their new classes fully, we are planning to reintroduce 'Stay and Learn' sessions when every parent will be invited to join their children for a lesson each term. We will send out dates for these sessions once they are confirmed. If you need to speak to your class teacher before these events then all staff are usually available after school – if you have trouble catching anyone then Mrs Deakin and I are always available on the playground and we will be able to help put you in touch with whoever you wish to talk to.

Attendance

One of our school priorities continues to be attendance. As you will know, OFSTED set it as a target following our last inspection.

Last week's attendance figures were very good across the whole school and set a great marker for the rest of the year.

Attendance falls under several areas of an Ofsted inspection and is a key issue for the "Behaviour" grade and for safeguarding. There is an even greater government focus on attendance this year and so you might notice school contacting you about attendance issues more frequently during the year. It is especially important for safeguarding reasons that we are informed of any absence on the first morning. As you know, there is a legal duty for parents to bring their children to school each day and the initial phone call allows us to code absences correctly and to ensure children are safe.



If you have any queries about any attendance issue then please contact either me or Miss Jackson by the usual channels.

Educational Attainment and Progress

Last year was the first time in three years that national tests took place in primary schools. I have been delighted to see the progress that has continued to be made across all year groups in our school and to see that our progress is now in line with all schools nationally.

Attendance obviously plays a key part in how well the children progress with their education and in what grades they attain during their school journey. Regular absences will leave gaps in the children's phonics, reading, writing and maths skills which will of course slow down the progress that they make.

Government data clearly shows that by the end of Year 6, pupils not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had a poorer overall absence rate compared to those meeting the expected standard.

Hopefully the excellent attendance that we have seen since the start of this school year will continue and this will allow our children to build even further on the good progress that we saw last year.

Kind regards



Kevin Manning
Headteacher

