



Elton Primary School & Nursery

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Headteacher – Mr Kevin Manning

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Dear Parents/Guardians

As we end our penultimate week of the longest half-term, I thought it would be a good time to write to you about all things Elton Primary School and Nursery. This will be a long letter I'm afraid because of the data information included but hopefully the subheadings will help you navigate to the information you are interested in.

Parents Evening

Can I start with a big thank you to everyone who came to parents evening this week. It was fantastic to see so many of you and to hear from the teachers how positive the experience was for everyone involved. We really do look forward to these nights which is why we reinstated face-to-face meeting much sooner than most schools following the pandemic closures. They are a great way of sharing successes and targets. One thing is clear from this week – there are 202 children in our school of whom their parents and teachers are rightly and thoroughly proud of.

I will be writing to Year 4 parents later today about an open afternoon next week to give you a chance to look through books and to chat with staff – keep an eye out for that. I will also be writing to everyone straight after half-term with some dates about when our “stay and learns” will be. These are days when we invite parents in to join in a lesson with their children. The pandemic has meant that they have been put on hold for almost 3 years but we are reintroducing them from next half-term.

Communication between school and home is key for the children's development. This is why Mrs Deakin and I are on the playground every morning – along with at least 2 infant staff. At the end of each day, an adult from every class is always available on the playground to chat to you should you or they need to.

School Data

For the first time in over three years, and the first time since I became the full-time headteacher, schools have received data based on how well their children performed in national tests. Usually government share this data with parents but they have opted not to this year following the pandemic. Therefore I thought it would be useful for me to share the results instead.

Reception Class

At the end of Reception year, all children are assessed against 17 Early Learning Goals (ELGs). The children are then assessed as to whether they have achieved the Good Level of Development (GLD). To achieve this GLD they need to have achieved ALL the ELGs for maths, English, communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development.



Last year we had 65% of our children achieve GLD which is exactly the same percentage as achieved it both nationally (65%) and in Cheshire West and Chester as a whole.

Phonics

At the end of Year 1 all children are required to take the Phonics Screening Test. 83% of our children passed the test, which is higher than both national (75%) and Cheshire West and Chester levels.

Year 2 SATS

At the end of Year 2 the children are assessed in the SATs for Reading, Writing and Maths. Last year 76% of our children met the expected standard in reading compared to 67% nationally; 67% met it in maths compared to 68% nationally and 52% met it in writing compared to 58% nationally.

Year 4 Multiplication Test

At the end of Year 4 the children undertake a multiplication test. We still haven't got any formal national comparisons but it seems from informal feedback that our scores are in-line with national ones. We had 44% get full marks of 25/25, 56% got at least 24/25 and 82% scored at least 20/25.

KS2 SATS

At the end of Year 6 the children undertake the Year 6 SATs in Reading, Writing and Maths. These are slightly different in that they are the only tests that also state how good the children's progress has been as well as what grades they attained. This is to allow a fairer comparison to be made between schools who serve different types of communities. Our progress figures for all three subjects was exactly in-line with the national average progress.

I am delighted with the data across the whole school – especially when considering it includes all children - including those with attendance issues. Unfortunately attendance is still an issue we are facing in school for a large cohort of our children. The data shows the high quality education that teachers and teaching assistants deliver in school and the hard work that the children are putting into their lessons. This view was supported this week when our school advisor reviewed our geography curriculum. He stated that, “the pupils' knowledge of the geography curriculum is strong” and that “the quality of teaching seen on the learning walk and the focus on developing vocabulary in all classes was strong.”

If the children attend regularly, they make good progress across all year groups.

Attendance

As mentioned above, attendance continues to be the biggest barrier for some of our children. Last year almost a third of our children were persistently absent. That means that they missed over 20 schools days – a minimum of a school month's worth of teaching and learning. We continue to work closely with the Local Authority's Education Welfare Officer (EWO) to improve attendance for all children. Following the pandemic the government have made attendance a key issue, and ensuring that parents follow their legal duty of sending children to school was one of our key OFSTED targets that was set in our last inspection.

It should be stated here that obviously children get ill – currently we have a sickness bug circulating in our infant classes – and it is important that the children don't attend school when ill. This is why the EWO focus is upon those who are persistently absent with multiple absences rather than those who have just been unlucky to catch a bug or virus.

Miss Jackson, Mrs Deakin and I are all available every day to discuss any issues or difficulties that families are having in relation to attendance.



Mental Health

While I mention Mrs Deakin, it is a good time to discuss all things mental health. One of my first acts on becoming Headteacher was to put Mrs Deakin in place as our ELSA/Learning Mentor – a role that we hadn't previously had. Mrs Deakin still has many roles in school -the ELSA one being one that includes the valuable work she does in supporting children with their worries and concerns. She is always available at the start and end of the day on the playground for a quick chat about concerns you would like to share.

I led an assembly last week on Worry Wizards, which will be followed up in all classes through the teaching of 5 lessons over the year discussing worries – how we all have them and how it is good to talk about them. We also celebrated World Mental Health Day last Monday by taking part in Hello Yellow – check out Twitter for some pictures from the day!

We are also lucky to be supported in school by a Mental Health Support Team who come into school to deliver a range of initiatives from worries about high school transition to relaxation and calming techniques. Volunteers from the charity Passion for Learning also come into school each week to work with some selected children to support their well-being.

PTA

A letter will be going out soon about the PTA. School staff have volunteered to take on the key roles for the PTA – Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. We are hoping with that barrier cleared that we can now get a PTA formed with a mixture of parents and staff.

Half Term

Just a reminder to everyone that half-term starts next Friday - 21st October -at the normal end time of 3:15. The children won't return until Tuesday 1st November as the Monday is an INSET day.

We are still awaiting clarification of 2023-24 holiday dates from the Local Authority which we expect imminently.

Wraparound

As you know, from November the school will no longer be able to offer before and after school provision. So far, only two parents have replied to the Community Centre about their survey and so that looks unlikely to be an option. I have been informed that one of our local childminders is increasing her capacity to try to meet the increased demand. Contact school if you would like her details.

Sorry for the long letter – lots happening in school! As ever, check out our Twitter feed each day for pictures from school – you don't need a Twitter account to access them.

Yours Truly



Kevin Manning

Headteacher

