

Elm Park "In Touch"



Newsletter 10: January 12th 2018

Census Day is Thurs 18th January – we shall be having fishfingers and chips for lunch. Please help support school with funding by ensuring your KS1 child has a school dinner on this day. Thank you.

Head's Message

As always it's been a busy week at EP – but a very positive one indeed. Well done and thanks to everyone in our school community for your important contributions.

Teaching & Learning Observations in all classes have followed on from last week's Pupil Assessment & Progress Reviews. These areas of our work ensure that we can regularly recognise progress and improvement; identify next step learning needs and strategically plan to support and challenge our own practices in order to impact on children's learning. This week the senior leadership team have been observing Phonics and Maths learning across the school – these are two of our key improvement priorities for this year. Please see below for more on this.

Coming Soon!

- PTFA Meeting on Tuesday 16th 2.45pm in the hall – all welcome!
- Governors Meeting with Parents on Wednesday 17th January at 2.30pm.
- Meet the Elm Park Team ... starting with the Office Team 19/1/18
- A list of drop-in invitations to visit your child's class and look at books ...19/1/18
- Classroom Close-ups ... Elm Class 26/1/18
- KS1 Playground Improvement Works 29th Jan to the end of half term!

Key Dates

15/01/18 Life Bus visiting
15/01/18 Year 5 Pedestrian Training
15/01/18 PTFA Nearly New Sale
16/01/18 Life Bus visiting
17/01/18 Y5/Y6 Boys & Girls X-Country Team 1pm-3.45pm
18/01/18 **Census Day – fishfingers and chips for lunch!**
18/01/18 Year 5/6 Boys football match v St Helens (Away)
22/01/18 Y5 Pedestrian Training
25/01/18 Year 5/6 Girls football match v Olveston (Home)

Classroom Close-up: Maple Class

What a busy start to Term 3 we have had! Maple Class started their new topic 'The Great Fire of London' with a crime scene to investigate. They discovered a burnt out bakery and had to ask questions to try and solve what had happened. The children worked out that there had been a fire that had started in the oven in 'Pudding Lane Bakery'.

This week, the children have been learning key facts about the fire and have sequenced the events from the fire starting to it finally being extinguished 4 days later.



Children in Maple Class have been working hard in Maths. They have been learning about using repeated addition to multiply and have started using the 'x' symbol to represent multiplication.

Maple Class have begun reading this term's text 'Claude in the City' written by Alex T Smith.

Already they have written a character description, a free verse poem about the city, drawn a map of the route characters took through the city and today wrote a postcard in the role of the main character.

Teaching & Learning at Elm Park

There are many positives in Elm Park's Teaching and Learning provision. All good schools are, however, always working to develop our strengths even more and to target improvements in areas of learning where we need to be better.

Over the coming months we'll be sharing some greater detail of our work with parents through this feature and in other ways too eg parent meetings, workshops, Governor newsletters and meetings.

To get the ball rolling and by way of an introduction, these are our key priority improvement areas for the year:

- Improve our teaching and learning standards so that at least 80% of work in all our classrooms can be shown to be consistently GOOD to OUTSTANDING teaching, learning and assessment practice.
- Improve learning outcomes for all our pupils in English and Maths ... at Elm Park we require more than the national average % of our pupils to reach the Expected Standards / Greater Depth Standards in all year groups.
- All leaders will share a strong focus on pupils' learning – our systems will focus on setting the highest standards of ourselves and for our children. Our work will consistently model best practice in leadership of learning; it will set and support the highest expectations in classroom practice and it will deliver increased consistencies through a programme of termly monitoring and assessment processes. Our success here will be judged upon how we impact on the two target areas above.
- We will ensure that teaching and learning in all subjects links more to and better supports Maths, English, Science and IT learning; all pupil learning can add to the evidence that allows us to evaluate positive progress for our children.
- We will ensure that all aspects of the school's Safeguarding practice are focussed on developing our excellent work even further within the criteria for 'Outstanding'.

NB The key priorities above relate to many **more specific targets and actions** relating to eg closing the gap in our KS1 phonics scores to national figures or ensuring that end of KS2 Maths results reach at least national standards etc ... Our intent is to explore some of these areas in future newsletters over the coming months with you. In short, future communications will become increasingly practical and real. Our first focus will be on what we have done differently since September to change how we deliver teaching for your children.

Mr Evans and Mrs Bond

Weekly News

PTFA News

We'd like to say a very big thank you to everyone involved in the Christmas fair it was a huge success. Whether you helped plan the event, wrapped or purchased presents, designed and filled the wonderful Christmas jam jars, helped on the evening or attended with your families, we couldn't have done it without you all. We are very pleased to tell you that the total raised was an immense £1600 for the school. Thank you!