

# Elm Park "In Touch"



**Newsletter 11: January 19<sup>th</sup> 2018**

## Head's Message

It was great to share aspects of our school's improvement work with parents this week – hopefully the first of many positive discussions between parents, governors and school leaders. Don't panic if you weren't there ... I've include some of the main areas we talked about below for all parents.

A parent asked me if we could publish dates further in advance than just in the weekly newsletters – please don't forget that our annual calendar is on the website and gives dates for eg parent evenings through the year.

## Coming Soon!

- Classroom Close-ups ... Elm Class 26/1/18
- KS1 Playground Improvement Works 29<sup>th</sup> Jan to the end of half term!
- Meet the Team – our brilliant kitchen team and lunchtime supervisors 2/2/18

## Key Dates

22/01/18 Y5 Pedestrian Training  
25/01/18 Year 5/6 Girls football match v Olveston (Home)  
01/02/18 Year 6 to Life Skills Centre  
05/02/18 Great Fire of London Workshops (KS1)  
12 -16/02/18 Half Term Holiday  
19/02/18 Inset Day  
22/02/18 Y6 to visit WIA – French visit  
23/02/18 School Disco (PTFA)  
27/02/18 Y5/Y6 to Steam Museum

## Meet the Team: The School Office

Whether you're a parent or a visitor to our school the first port of call for all is the school office. The three excellent colleagues in our Elm Park office team are highly professional and are vital in effectively supporting both parents and staff members alike. Their impact on our day-to-day (and longer term) success as a school cannot be understated.

At Elm Park we are incredibly fortunate to have Mrs Lynn Ingle leading our administrative team – Mrs Ingle deals with financial, personnel and recruitment for the school in her strategic role, in addition to working front of house with Miss Turner and Mrs Harris dealing with all enquiries at the window, over the telephone and via email.

Miss Turner and Mrs Harris also deal with all school visit and school journey enquiries. Miss Turner specialises in financial work and Mrs Harris leads on both medical and personal areas. Mrs Harris is also our Health and Safety Officer and a Lunchbreak Supervisor.

All three colleagues will help you with general enquiries regarding online payments, clubs, music lessons, etc. Our admin team are always happy to help or to put you in touch with the right person to address your query or concern.

On behalf of the Elm Park community, I would like to thank Mrs Ingle, Miss Turner and Mrs Harris for the brilliant job they do to help everyone's school lives.





## Entries open Saturday 20 January at 10 am!

Take part in the new multi-terrain 10k raising funds for Elm Park. We are limited to 200 runners so grab your spot at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-frome-valley-10k-tickets-39042738883>.

Stay up to date on all the details by liking our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/thefromevalley10k/>. The race will start and end at the school field with a cake sale and BBQ for everyone. Mark your calendars even if you aren't running, as we'll need an Elm Park army for marshals and volunteers. Watch the newsletters and Facebook pages (FV10k and PTFA) for volunteer requests or get in touch by email at [elmparkptfa@gmail.com](mailto:elmparkptfa@gmail.com). We are sure it will be a great day out in April!

## PTFA News

### Ice Skating Saturday 3 February 1-3 pm

We are looking forward to our Ice Skating session at WADCA! Thank you to everyone who has purchased tickets. The PTFA will be selling hot drinks and snacks for before and after your session and any spectators. Look out for the sign up sheet by the school office for volunteers.

### February Disco – 23 Feb

The next Disco will be 23 February. **Reception and KS1 disco will be 3:30-4:30 pm; KS2 disco will be 4:45-6:00 pm.** We will be doing party bags for KS1 again (order forms will be sent home at the start of February), and will need all orders in by 9 February due to half term. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be displayed by the school office the week before half term.

### Fundraising initiatives

We have a number of ongoing fundraising initiatives which will help us raise funds through your everyday purchases – at no extra cost to you.

- **\*NEW\* Uniforms through Tesco** – you can now order Elm Park embroidered uniforms through Tesco, saving you money and the school receives a donation of 5% of all sales. Win win! <https://www.tesco.com/direct/elm-park-primary-school/18346.school>
- Stikins labels – quote our fundraising number when ordering: **35777** or visit: <https://www.stikins.co.uk/?NAME-LABELS=35777>.
- Make online purchases through [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk): <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/elmparkprimaryschoolptfa/>

**Further details of our fundraising and all 2017/18 PTFA event dates can be found at the PTFA website: <http://www.elmparkprimary.com/pta-get-involved/>, you can contact us anytime at [elmparkptfa@gmail.com](mailto:elmparkptfa@gmail.com), and don't forget to 'like' the Elm Park PTFA News Facebook page to stay up to date with all our events!**

## Teaching & Learning at Elm Park

On Wednesday Parents and Governors met to talk about Teaching & Learning developments at the school. Parents were welcomed by Mrs Sandra Allen (our Chair of Governors) and also heard about the roles of various governors and committees from other Governor colleagues. On behalf of parents I would like to thank Mrs Karen Anderson, Mrs Nicola Allaouat, Mrs Conway and Mr David Drew (Governors all) for supporting this new and valuable communication process within our school. I'd also like to thank those parents who were able to attend.

NB Meetings at any time of the week are difficult for parents to attend and we will ensure that we alternate the times that we hold future such meetings of this nature – so that different groups of parents are more likely to be able to attend eg before school, at pick-up (with crèche) or in the evenings.

It is important that we try to reach as many parents as possible with our communications. Here are some excerpts from the meeting:

### Some key Q&As from the meeting were as follows:

*Area of parent concern – The school's results last summer were published locally at 51%. Parents were rightly worried. Some clarification and some further context ...*

- *That figure is actually the % of pupils who achieved the expected standard in ALL 3 areas of Reading, Writing and Maths results for Y6 last year.*
- ***It is absolutely a significant concern** and the school has been addressing the issue since Mr Evans arrived in September.*
- *Maths in Y6 was expected at 75%+ ... pupils actually achieved **only 56%** and **THAT is the main focus of our concern as it is the reason why the '3 subjects combined' score was dragged down to 51%***
- *Reading results in Y6 last year were 71% at expected standards – this met national standards and progress was above national*
- *Writing results in Y6 last year were also at 71% - around national and the % of pupils who achieved the higher standards was above national.*

*Area of parent concern – were the other class results last year broadly the same as Y6?*

- *NO. There is clearly room for us to improve and we have already been doing that since September but the Y6 Maths results were the most disappointing scores ...*
- *EYFS results at expected standards were up at 81% - well above national!*
- *Y1 Phonics results have risen by over 10% to 71% of pupils achieving the standard last summer - this is still not quite at the national score SO we have targeted this as a focus to improve this year.*

## Teaching & Learning at Elm Park (cont'd)

- KS1 (end of Y2) results in Reading were 78%, Writing 68% and in Maths were 80% - all of these were above national standards.

*Area of parent concern – so what are we doing to improve things this year?*

- This was the main focus of the meeting and we looked at Maths to show how the teaching, learning, assessment and monitoring of a priority area has already been significantly changed within the first four months of the school year.

**Please click on the Maths document on the website to see all the Maths info that was discussed at the meeting.**

I hope this gives all parents some helpful detail on how the school is practically committed to making your child's learning at Elm Park even better as an immediate and consistent priority.

Please note that whilst some areas are a key focus this year, we are still working hard to develop all learning areas every day.

In a few weeks I'll include a piece on how our Phonics teaching is developing to support pupils' learning.

## Weekly News

### VACANCIES

We currently have two vacancies for Lunchbreak Supervisors. One for two days per week and one for three days per week. If you would like further information and an application form, please contact Mrs Ingle in the school office.