

# Elm Park "In Touch"



**Newsletter 14: February 9<sup>th</sup> 2018**

## Head's Message

It was wonderful to see so many children looking at their books with parents and grandparents this week during our two Open Classroom sessions. We'll be holding Term 4 Open Classrooms on March 20<sup>th</sup> 8.30-8.45 and March 21<sup>st</sup> 3.30-3.45.

The Jenkins Cup previously awarded for Sports has been reintroduced in Cup Assembly today. The award will be awarded to pupils who demonstrate excellent individual skills, great teamwork, leadership qualities and the essential resilience needed in physical activities. We aim to ensure that pupils who are passionate and committed to sport at school and home will be celebrated through this award. **Term 3's winner is Lana in Y5 – "Lana approaches all physical activity with a positive attitude and a smile on her face."**

Well done Lana!

Wishing all Elm Park families a safe and fun half-term holiday. See you all on Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Key Dates

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  
01/03/18 World Book Day  
02/03/18 PTFA Quiz Night  
06/03/18 Mothers Day Sale (PTFA)  
06/03/18 Parents Evening  
08/03/18 Parents Evening

## Classroom Close-up ... PINE CLASS

This term, Pine Class has been learning all about the Great Fire of London! To finish term 3 we had a drama workshop led by a Mary Porter who walked us through a re-enactment of the series of events.



We acted out different occupations that the residents might have had at the time, for example bakers, pub workers, butchers, fishmongers and dock workers.



*Fish for sale! Come and get your fish!*

We also learnt that the fire started in a bakery on Pudding Lane owned by Thomas Farriner and how he didn't put out the fire very well.

What a mistake that was! Here is Caleb pretending to throw water on the fire.

## Classroom Close-up ... PINE CLASS



Then we acted out the fire itself, starting off small and growing until it reached the tops of the buildings and then spreading wildly in the wind.

In Maths, our focus has been addition and subtraction up to 20 using a number line and number bonds to help us. We have also been focusing on numbers to 50 and how they are made up of tens and ones.

## Theme Lunches

**Our Chinese New Year menu will be provided on Wed 21<sup>st</sup> February as follows:**

Chinese Chicken Noodles – Chicken & Pineapple – Vegetable Chow Mein – Oriental Fried Rice – Cucumber & Carrot Sticks – Fruit Fritters



## Phonics at Elm Park

Developing our Phonics provision to be even better is a key priority this year at Elm Park. We have been taking part in a highly successful Phonics Project since September – we are working closely with the local Teaching School, other primary schools and with a range of phonics advisers. Mrs Gibbon and Mrs Northam are our school leaders on the project but all our EYFS & KS1 teachers and teaching assistants are involved in developing our learning provision from this work.

Phonics is already well-embedded in Reception Class practice where the children are taught in two groups. Having recently observed the children's learning I can report on how engaged and stimulated they all are by the excellent teaching they receive in this area.

All our Y1 children are being taught all elements and phases of phonics learning so that the balance of support and challenge helps all our children to fulfil their individual potential by the end of Y1 – and, where necessary, again in Y2.

We check on pupil progress at key points in the year (we've just carried out a check this week) and in the next two terms we shall be carefully monitoring the progress of every child's phonics learning over the course of each few weeks. Our phonics sessions now occur both in the morning and also in the afternoon. They are short burst learning sessions and intervention support for focus pupils is planned in addition to the main body of learning.

The children love phonics learning as it is interactive, often involving actions and learning games on the multimedia whiteboard screens in classrooms. High quality learning occurs best when high quality teaching provision builds excitement, challenge and FUN into the children's experience. We are all very much committed to achieving this aspirational goal in our phonics at Elm Park.

**Letters Sent Home this week:** Club letters (including football, drama and cheerleading), Art Club (Y6 only)