

# Elm Park "In Touch"



**Newsletter 18: March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018**

## Head's Message



The Choir at Mothers' Day Gala Concert at the Colston Hall. Wow! What an event to be part of. MANY THANKS to Mrs Kidger for giving up her time to take our children. Congrats to all who participated in this superb event.

It was great to see such a great response to our European Languages Day yesterday. Thanks to all parents and children for supporting the day so enthusiastically and thanks to all staff for making it such a good experience for all. Thanks to Mrs Moore and her café team and to Mrs Wishart for being the creative brains and driving force behind the whole day. Tres bien et merci!

Final thanks .. to Mrs Bond for organising today's Easter Egg Hunt. Eggcellent work!

Term 4 has been a short but very busy one and I'd like to thank all staff, children and families for the hard work in making it a successful one at our school. May I wish everyone at Elm Park a happy and blessed Easter holiday. See you all on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April.

## Coming Soon ... Key Dates

Look out for our flamingo (James!) who'll be around Cabot Circus and Broadmead this holiday☺

09/04/18 Term 5 Starts

12/04/18 Cedar Y5 pupils Parent Meetings (see texts sent out today)

13/04/18 Oak Class Close-up .. postponed from snow closure

08/05/18 T5 Open Classrooms 8.30-8.45

09/05/18 T5 Open Classrooms 3.30-3.45

## Maths Update at Elm Park

### **Maths Home Learning**

Maths home learning for Years 1 – 5 will be changing in Term 5. We have introduced Abacus resources into our maths learning at school and we are now able to give children the opportunity to use these at home. All children will have access to a personalised area of the Abacus website [www.activelearnprimary.co.uk](http://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk) and will be set regular homework activities on there. There will also be additional times-table and mental maths facts activities available to the children. Year 6 children will continue to have Rising Stars revision homework but will also have a log-in and access to a variety of mental maths activities.

You are warmly invited to come and learn how to use the website and find out more about how you can support your children with their home learning.

**The meeting will be on Thursday 12th April from 9:00 – 9:30 in the hall. We hope to see you there!**

**Mrs Lugg  
Maths Lead**

### **Developing Maths learning at Elm Park...**

We continue to check or 'moderate' our learning judgements with local schools in our 'cluster'. This helps us to be more confident in our own professional assessment judgements and to plan specific next learning steps for pupils. We are also working closely with specialist colleagues from the local authority and also with colleagues from other schools where aspects of their good practice can support our own.

The Year of Maths programme has supported Mrs Lugg to guide our teaching and also supported our staff development positively so far this year. Now both Miss Manning and Miss Kelly-Jones have been involved in the programme so that both KS2 and KS1 teaching can benefit directly from the work.

Our new Maths scheme has been up and running for over a month now. We used our training day after Feb half-term to introduce this .... it is now providing teachers with additional resources, tools and ideas to enhance Maths learning opportunities for our children. The homework note from Mrs Lugg above will lead into a more significant review of homework at Elm Park for next September.

During Terms 5 and 6 Maths will continue to be a focus for our improvement work and our ongoing staff professional development. Identifying the exact areas where there are gaps in a child's Maths knowledge can be key changing the rate of their learning progress. This is an area of our work next term – the more accurately we can analyse these gaps, the better we can plan to remove such barriers to progress for all our children.

We look forward to seeing parents at the meeting on April 12th ... **if you can't make it along we shall ensure that there is a summary included within an 'In Touch' Newsletter shortly thereafter.**

## Other Info

### **Polite reminder...**

The school has a no smoking policy. Please ensure that you do not smoke or vape within the school property or by the school gates. Many thanks for your support with this.

### **Attendance:**

A huge thank you to all of the families, who ensure their children come into school on time. Punctuality is a truly important life skill. Sadly, lateness continues to be a problem for a number of children. Please ensure that your child is in school by 8:50am so that they are ready to start their learning at 8:55am.

### **Parking:**

Many thanks to all those parents who are parking safely and legally at drop-off and pick-up. Should parents feel that others are 'letting the side' down with this, please do feel free to report a problem to the school office or to local police colleagues who are based only a few short steps down the road.

Police colleagues are very supportive of our efforts to keep all our children and other road users safe around our school and taking the above steps best ensures that no direct conflict situations develop amongst school parents.

### **Summer Concert:**

St Michael's Church are organising an annual summer concert on Saturday 16th June at 7pm. The concert usually lasts approximately 90 minutes and runs straight through followed by refreshments at the end. They have a range of performers in both age and genre; some are poets, others sing and play instruments. If you think this is something you'd like to be a part of, please let Mrs Kidger know so she can ask them to include you in the programme. Mrs Kidger is not available for the evening, but will happily pass on your details to the organisers.