



Elm Park Primary School
Newsletter No. 10 11.03.2022
Inspiring Enriching Achieving
Head teacher's Message



Dear Families,

What a busy few weeks we have had at Elm Park. It has been a true delight to return to a little more normal within our community. My favourite part of the day is seeing children and adults walking through the school gates with beaming smiles on their faces. The power of a smile can easily be forgotten as they have been hidden for so long by face masks.

As always, Elm Park has had a lively start to the term! Over the course of the past two weeks, our children have:

- Dressed to impress with their World Book Day outfits, enjoyed the fun and excitement of the (slightly delayed) Valentine's Disco,
- experienced life as a scientist as we celebrated international Science week exploring the theme of growth,
- explored what our local community has to offer by venturing to Filton to the Aerospace Museum to learn about the growth of aviation within our community.

As always, my incredible team of staff have truly inspired our children by planning amazing learning opportunities for all to enjoy. I wanted to make a few special mentions. Firstly, I would like to thank Mrs Byrne, our reading leader. She has really boosted reading for pleasure throughout the school by organising the book swap activities and also our book fayre (next week).

I would like to extend a special thank you to Miss Griffiths and Miss Green. They have planned and resourced some phenomenal scientific investigations for all of our children to complete throughout science week as they learned about growth. A personal favourite of mine was trying to spot teachers from photographs of them as 4 year olds. Some people really haven't changed!

Additionally, I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Harris for helping me to organise the trip to the Aerospace Museum. The children have had a wonderful time learning about the growth of aviation. It made me realise how history has changed in the time I have been teaching as I took the second class I had ever taught outside to watch Concorde on her final flight into Filton and some of my teachers proudly explained that they had only just started school at that time!

Finally, I wanted to say a huge thank you in advance to all families and our wider community for the incredible outpouring of support for our appeal to help families fleeing Ukraine. Our community can never be underestimated with the kindness, compassion and generosity. I have been overwhelmed by the levels of support from not only Elm Park families but Winterbourne and the surrounding villages. I will be opening the school from 10am until 12 noon tomorrow for all of your donations. Thank you for showing families in the worst time of their lives that goodness in the world still exists.

Wishing you all a happy weekend.

Carol Bond

Head Teacher

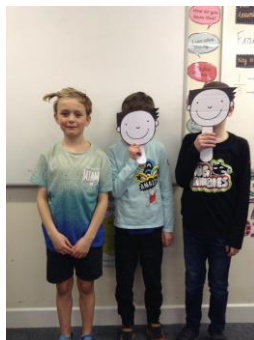




World Book Day truly has been a resounding success at Elm Park. Children were asked to donate pre-loved books that could be swapped with other children. Initially, it do not look as though many books had arrived but after a plea (and some staff helping to share their own children's pre-loved books) the tables were full to bursting with pages of magic and mystery, adventure and fantasy. Each class had a time slot to come into the hall and choose a 'new to them' book. It was lovely to hear children of all ages recommending books to friends and being delighted with their new story to take home.

As if that wasn't inspiring enough, Mrs Isaac (our resident author) read her latest book 'Farm Fun' to Acorns class. The children sat and listened with very wide eyes as they heard the story teller herself sharing a book she wrote! What an inspiration to us all.

To top the day off, children (and adults) were dressed as some of their favourite book characters. As I walked around the school, I was chased through the building by Mr Tickle and I saw a shot of fire coming from Zog as he sneezed! Winnie-the-pooh appeared with a pot of honey. A Giraffe from The Giraffe and The Pelly and Me was roaming around and Cruella Deville started chasing puppies in the playground. A few passers-by noted that Mary Poppins and Bert had also joined us for the day and Father Malcolm joined them in a rendition of 'A Spoonful of Sugar' when he led the assembly.



These are some quotes from children throughout the school:

Isla was really taken with her favourite author and was excited to find some new books, 'I found two Jaqueline Wilson books. I like Jaqueline Wilson stories so I am glad that I found more books by her.'

Lily's smile lit up the room as she talked about her experience of World Book Day 'I enjoyed doing the book swap and getting to dress up! I love the book I picked – The BFG!' Lily, I can honestly say that you have chosen a Hopscotchy-Whizzpopping book!

Asher is a budding artist as well as a reader, 'I enjoyed drawing my character and being Gregg from The Diary of a Wimpy Kid.'

Bella had a great time rummaging through all of the books. It took quite a while for her to decide which book to choose, 'The book swap was exciting because you could swap books you have read for new ones.'



Well... this week really has started with a big BANG! Or, should I say a chemical reaction... On Monday afternoon, I led an assembly to launch science week. The children helped me to make a rather large amount of 'Elephant Toothpaste'. It was a lot of fun! They also learnt how to grow a piece of paper so that it is big enough for me to walk through!

During the course of the week, children across the school have become scientists. They have looked at who is a scientist and we have worked hard to dispel myths about 'What a scientist looks like'. It has been really exciting to hear children throughout the school be amazed and excited to hear that anyone with a passion for science can become a scientist!

The theme for the week has been about growth and has linked to end of year outcomes from our connected curriculum. The children have conducted a range of experiments and have made detailed observations and recordings over the course of the week. I would warn you that if you happen to see some bread in any Key Stage 2 classrooms... don't eat it! It may be a little green!!!

As the week progressed, the children ventured to Aerospace Museum in Filton. A short journey but full of maximum excitement as the children went on a double decker bus! Many children have shared their stories about the different things they found out about the growth of air travel and have all been really excited to sit on Concorde. Each class was treated to a hands on workshop. As I am writing this, I am waiting for year 5 and 6 to return with their stories of their adventures.

Below are some of the many pictures taken throughout the week:



Cedar Class wanted to share their thoughts with you...

Our window drawings are about a book called 'Window' which has the theme of growth. Our first pictures are of the house with lots of grass and trees and a mother holding a baby. The second drawings are of the same window but there are now lots of houses, cars and roads there instead of the grass and trees.

Archie



"I really enjoyed Mrs Bond's assembly especially the experiment of making elephant toothpaste. It was amazing!"
Chloe. Chloe, thanks for the compliment! Mrs B.

Achieve



Valentine's disco

After postponing due to covid and then a storm, we finally managed to celebrate our first disco at Elm Park for a very long time! Mrs Corin and Mrs Moody had worked tirelessly to organise party bags, shopped for food, drinks and trinkets as well as organising all of the decorations and the stall. At the last minute a curve ball was thrown at them when the DJ cancelled. However, a quick call to Mrs Hathway and the disco was saved! She very kindly packed her car with all of her disco gear and got the party started!

A very big thank you needs to be extended not only to Mrs Corin, Mrs Moody and Mrs Hathway but also to all of the parents and staff, who kindly gave up their evening to make this disco a huge success!

In order to keep having such wonderful events, we need your help! On Thursday 17th March we will be holding a virtual PTFA meeting. We will be discussing planning for the Mothers' and Fathers' day sales, organising a team to start planning the summer fayre as well as many other events. It would be incredible to have some more people popping along to help as we are few in number but mighty in spirit.

House Team News

Last week, Yellow House, who had the most points in Terms 1- 3, celebrated their victory with an afternoon of fun. They enjoyed drinks and biscuits, games, colouring and Lego. It was wonderful to see their big smiles and hear their happy voices.

The house points have now been re-set and the children have worked hard in the last fortnight to collect them again. We are very proud of them for showing our Golden Rules in so many ways. Well done everyone!

The house points so far this term are:

- 1st – Red – 269 points
- 2nd – Blue – 204 points
- 3rd – Green – 199 points
- 4th – Yellow – 181 points





Comic Relief – Friday 18th March

Comic Relief on Friday 18th March will see the return of 'Wacky Races' to Elm Park. Each child (with their year group) will have the opportunity to take part in two wacky races, no sports prowess required, just a big smile and sense of fun.

We are very mindful of the fact that we have asked for a lot of money/donations recently and we also understand that many people support Comic Relief by purchasing a red nose, therefore, we are asking that all children wear some form of active wear with something red. They will also need to wear trainers. If you have any spare money, please feel free to make a donation, but we understand that things are very challenging for a high number of our families right now and so please know this is not expected.