



Elm Park Primary School
Newsletter No. 9 18.02.2022
Inspiring Enriching Achieving
Head teacher's Message



Dear Families,

As we come to the end of another incredible term at Elm Park, I wanted to send a few reminders out. This week, you will have received some important documents. One was our Home School agreement. This was sent out at the beginning of the week. It encapsulates our home/school partnership and how we aim to work together for the benefit of our amazing children at Elm Park. If you haven't yet sent yours back, please do so at the start of term 4.

You will have also received our attendance leaflet. I hope this leaflet helps you to understand the importance of all children attending school on time every day. I thought I would use my message this week to provide a few reminders about our

School start and end times:

Gates open at 8:40 and close at 8:55. Please ensure that your children arrive and are in their classrooms ready to learn by 8:55 at the latest. As a school, we are working hard to reduce the number of children, who are turning up to school late on a daily basis. Please take a moment to think about how stressful it feels if you are late for something and remember that your children will also feel this way if they are late.

Pick up is at 3:30. As the year progressed, we have noticed that some children have not been picked up until 3:35 or later on a frequent basis. Please can I ask that if you are finding it difficult to collect your child/ren on time (3:30pm) that you arrange for a friend or family member to collect them on these days as our staff have a lot of jobs to complete once the children have gone home.

Let's get health: We continue to work closely with the local authority to improve the nutritional benefits of school meals. Our kitchen staff work with high quality ingredients to make delicious school lunches. The salad bar is a particular favourite of many children! Having a super picky eater at home, I know that school meals are not for everyone so I am sending out another plea. Let's get healthy at lunchtime

Please help us to support your children's healthy choices by providing them with a wholesome and healthy lunch.

You should try to include:

Starchy Foods - These include bread, rice, potatoes, pastas and others.

Protein Food - These include meat, eggs, beans, fish and others.

Vegetables or salad, and a portion of fruit.

A Dairy Item - This could be yoghurt or cheese.

To find out more about some exciting and nutritional additions to your child's lunch box, please follow this link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

Please try to avoid having too much processed food or sugary snacks in their lunchboxes as it is not only an unhealthy choice in the long term but it also does not help children to stay focused during their afternoon learning.

During morning and afternoon break, children are encouraged to bring in a piece of fruit/veg or a health snack. At morning and afternoon breaks, children are not allowed to have processed foods, including crisps and chocolates.



As a quick reminder, we are a nut free school. Therefore, we politely request that your children does not bring any food to school with nuts in within the ingredients list, this includes spreads that contain nuts including Nutella. If the label says that it **may contain nuts**, this is very different and of course, the children can bring these foods.

Parking reminder:



If you are unable to walk, cycle or scoot to school, please could I ask that you park legally and responsibly. We have had a few local residents asking us to remind families not to park across driveways. Additionally, in order to keep our children safe, we ask that parents do not stop/park on the zigzag lines. These are on the road to keep school entrances as safe as possible.

Crossing Patrol:

Currently, South Gloucestershire Council are looking to recruit a crossing patrol person for both Park Avenue and Nicholls Lane. If you know someone who might be interested in this incredibly important role, please follow this link for further information: <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/transport/road-safety-transport/road-safety/school-crossing-patrols/school-crossing-patrols/>

Finally, a return to normal... When we welcome our children back on 28th February, we look forward to showering you with our smile faces once more. From term 4, we are removing our masks and are excited to welcome our families back into the school! We will resume whole school assemblies, face to face meetings, our lunches for families to come and join us, as well as the host of exciting opportunities, which were sent out at the beginning of the school year.

Thank you to everyone for all of the support you have provided us by continuing to help us keep our school a safe place. One thing we are going to keep remotely is our parents' days. We have had an overwhelmingly positive response to these taking place on teams or via telephone and so we want to continue this success.

Wishing you and your loved ones a very happy half term. We look forward to seeing your smiles when we return on 28th February.

Carol Bond

Inspiring

Term 3 has been packed full of action at Elm Park Primary School. Our Connected Curriculum key question of 'How can we look after our world for future generations?' has really inspired our children to learn more about looking after the local community and the wider world.

Some of our children wanted to share their learning with you:

Key Stage 2

In Connected Curriculum, we have been learning about how we can look after our world for future generations. To kick off our topic, we went on a litter pick around Winterbourne, Chloe said:

"On our bang day, we went on a litter pick. We sorted the rubbish into what was recyclable and what wasn't. We did this to help save our planet from pollution. We found a lot

of litter on the floor unfortunately, hopefully people will start to be more aware and find a bin!" Throughout the topic so far, we have looked at Climate change. "We have been learning about global warming this term. It can cause polar ice caps to melt which would then cause flooding as a result. Hopefully, we can find ways to stop this happening. We have also been



learning about solids, liquids and gases in science. We have done some experiments to identify what happens to solids when they are put in liquids."

Enriching

Whilst learning about Early Islamic Civilisation and The Silk Road, children in Elm created their own silk paintings. We explored Islamic artwork and created our own geometric designs to paint onto silk.

Isla M: It was really fun and I really want to do it again. It was really fun to be creative and learn about history at the same time.

Isla O: It was very satisfying to paint onto the silk.

Anaiya: The painting was the best part because we used pastel coloured pens.



I'm sure you will agree that the children have created some incredible masterpieces.

In UKS2, we have been exploring percussion using alto and soprano xylophones. To help us in this, we have used online resources from Charanga, a world-leading music teaching and learning platform endorsed by South Gloucestershire Council Music Hub. During these sessions, the children have been learning basic music notation and have worked on rhythm skills. They have been taught how to play their instrument using the correct techniques.

Infants

The children in Acorns class have been BUSY BEES learning about looking after their local environment. They have enjoyed taking part in the RSPB Big School Bird Watch and are now fantastic at naming common British birds. The children have made a class bug hotel, been learning about bees and even had a visit from a local beekeeper to enrich their learning.

Freya – The bees are good for us and we need to help them to look after the flowers. Rogan – I like bees now. I don't think that they will sting me.



This term we have been focussing on climate change and how we can help our planet. The children have learnt lots about the continents and oceans of the world. They have looked into the effects climate change has had on hot and cold countries. They have then written a lovely letter to David Attenborough, telling him all about the things they have been doing to help the environment.

Quotes from the children

We focussed on Anthony Goldsworthy this term and the children thoroughly enjoyed collecting leaves which they then painted and created patterns with.



Achieving

On Friday 4th February, this term's inter-house sports competitions were held. The children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 competed against each other in a variety of multi-skills activities. They used their throwing, jumping and balancing skills as well as speed to earn points. Year 3 and 4 children took part in a hockey competition and their teamwork, tactics and enthusiasm were very impressive. The children in Year 5 and Year 6 competed at netball, and again, their skills and teamwork were a pleasure to watch. Well done to all the children for representing their house teams so well.

The winners of the competitions were –

Multi-skills – Green house

Hockey – Blue house

Netball – Yellow house



We are looking forward to competing in different sports again next term.