



ELTHAM
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL
SINCE 1814



Spring 2 Newsletter April 2019

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL, MRS RHODES

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, this week the children have had lots of opportunities for outdoor learning and development through Adventure Learning Week. What a fantastic week it has been! I am sure you will all join me in thanking all the staff and Mrs Leonard in particular for the organisation of such an amazing week. Any feedback about the week you have would be greatly appreciated. One parent has told us that “this week they (my children) have honestly bounced out of school, with rosy cheeks from all the fresh air, and full of excitement and stories about their day. They are physically worn out and sleeping so much deeper but can’t wait to come back for another day. This is exactly what they need. Well done!”

We are delighted to be welcoming back Mrs Bailey from her maternity leave after Easter and she will be doing some work with Year 6 and Year 1. As Mills parents will know, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Simpson this term and thank her for all her work with the children in Year 1. Miss Gardiner and Mrs Bailey will be teaching in Mills class for the Summer term continuing to be supported by Mrs Harper on Fridays. We also wish Mrs Ferguson well as she begins her maternity leave in May.

As we begin our Easter break and all the celebrations that come with it – please take time to reflect on the meaning of the season, the new life and let Easter be a time to rejoice and be thankful for the gifts of life, love and joy.

We look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 23rd April for the Summer Term.

Charlie Rhodes
Head of School

Matthew Bulpitt
Executive Headteacher

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Easter Church Services at St John the Baptist

Please visit St John the Baptist’s website for details for their Easter church services:

<http://elthamchurch.org.uk/category/services/>



SPORT AT ELTHAM



TENNIS

In March Eltham took part in two inclusive tennis events. The first event was for pupils in Year 3 and Year 4, the second event was for pupils in Year 5 and Year 6. The event took place at The John Roan School.

In both events the children played exceptionally well, with the Year 3 and Year 4 pupils winning their event. A special recognition award was also awarded to Arthur Robinson. All the children said they enjoyed the tennis and they felt that they had improved their skills.

Mrs Jones and Mrs Leung accompanied the children for both events and they reported back that the behaviour of the pupils was impeccable and that they demonstrated excellent sportsmanship towards the other schools.



DODGEBALL/BENCHBALL

A group of children from Year 5 took part in a Dodgeball/Benchball Event at Plumcroft School.

Originally they were attending a badminton workshop but unfortunately it had to be postponed. However the children thoroughly enjoyed the two activities they tried and learnt new skills.



MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

SCHOOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Thank you for supporting the school's book fair, we managed to raise £525. We plan to expand our library for each classroom.

TIME OFF FROM SCHOOL FOLLOWING ILLNESS

We would like to remind parents that if your child has diarrhoea OR vomiting it is the school's policy that they remain at home for 24 hours from the last episode of illness.

If your child has both diarrhoea AND vomiting they should remain at home for 48 hours from the last episode of illness.

DINNER MONEY

The dinner money for next half term will be £57.20 and is payable in advance via SIMS PAY.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Booking for after school clubs is now open. There are still some places left so please log onto SIMS PAY to sign up.

From Tuesday 9th April, if there are still club places available, there will be no restriction on the number of clubs a child can attend and parents can then make further purchases.

EASTERTIDE SERVICE

There is a special Easter service for the school at St John's Church on Friday 26th April 2019. The service starts at 2pm and all parents and carers are welcome to join the children. The service will finish by 3pm, please note you will not be able to take your child home after the service and they will need to be collected, at the normal time, from the school.

CLASS PHOTOS

The class photos are being taken on Friday 3rd May 2019. Children will need to be in their full summer uniform.

KS1 PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

We would like to make parents and carers aware that the new playground equipment in the KS1 playground is supervised during school hours. This is to ensure the safety of all pupils using the equipment. Please could parents and carers encourage their children not to use the equipment during drop off and pick up times.



PTA UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term has been full of fun activities and entertainment for the children:

- We have launched our 5p challenge which is doing so well, we want to thank all the children and parents for taking part. And as many of you have asked, we have decided to run the challenge for a little longer. So get looking for those 5ps over the holiday to top your class bottle up. No spoiler, but I have heard the year 1s are doing amazingly well!
- We also had our School Disco back last week. The children had so much fun playing and dancing! It's always a big success. Well done for some fantastic masks that were designed, we have some great artists in the school!
- We hope you found what you were looking for at the uniform sale. We would be happy to hear from you if you think we should hold another one before the end of the school year.



Fundraising Focus

With the money raised this term, we were able to help fund much needed resources for RE, and some extra games for the KS2 playground (Giant dominoes, Giant Jenga, Connect 4)

We will also be offering First Aid courses to children in Year 3 to Year 6. It will take place during school time. More details to come soon.

Upcoming Events

- **Book Sale** on Thursday 25th April after school
- **Film night:** Friday 14th June
- **Summer Fair:** Saturday 29th June
- **Quiz night** – adult only: Friday 5th July
- We will also hold a **Donation Week** – details to come soon



HELP

The PTA is always looking for volunteers. You can help in a number of ways for example – send in ideas, be an event helper, make a donation, attend a meeting and come to as many of our events as possible.

We will especially need help with the Summer Fair so please get in touch if you could help, even if it is just for half an hour on the day. The more helpers we have the more activities we can offer.

Thanks

PTA

pta@elthamce.greenwich.sch.uk



ATTENDANCE FOR SPRING TERM 2

At Eltham Church of England Primary School we continue to promote and celebrate good attendance and punctuality.

Not only is good attendance beneficial to pupils' achievements it is also an excellent 'life skill'.

We also use the Royal Borough of Greenwich's Attendance Advisory Service to monitor and support our management of pupil attendance.

Under Fast Track, families will be informed when their child's attendance has crossed the threshold even when all absences have been correctly documented and understood. If a child's attendance continues to decline and gives the Attendance Advisory Officer a cause for concern, then a meeting between the school, the parents and the advisory service is convened.

The school's target is to ensure that whole school attendance is consistently above 97% and better still above 97.5%

Can we remind parents that all absences need to be supported with a written letter outlining the reason for the absence as soon as your child returns to school.

Also, that all holiday will be recorded as unauthorised, however a child's overall attendance will be taken into account when consideration is given to the Fast Track procedures.

Class Attendance since September 2018

Corbett	96.7
North	95.8
Bek	96.3
Mills	95.3
Archery	96.5
Tarn	96.9
Sherard	96.1
Shaw-Brooke	97.7
Nesbit	95.7
Gregory	97.0
Chaucer	96.8
WG Grace	95.9
Roper	96.3
Avery	96.6
TOTAL	96.4

SAFEGUARDING

MENTAL HEALTH

At Eltham Church of England Primary School we support our students to develop self-confidence and a "can-do" mentality. This month we have seen our children further developing these attributes through our fantastic 'Adventure Learning Week'. Keeping our minds healthy is a big part of this! It is important that children are encouraged and supported to look after their mental health every day at home and school. This term, we are offering some suggestions for how you can help your child do this at home; our everyday habits are important to our mental health, just as they are to our physical health. Here are a few suggestions to help your child develop good habits.

Are there things you can encourage them to do, or do together, each day?

Talk openly about mental health

Just as you might encourage children to eat fruit and veg to keep their bodies healthy, talk openly about, for example, staying connected with others or being physically active in order to take care of our minds.

Enjoy a quiet activity together

This can make it easier to talk to your child without it turning into an interrogation. Creative activities such as arts or crafts can be a great way to bond with your child using materials you have around the house.

Consider phone usage – both theirs and yours

We don't fully understand the impact of social media on our mental health but using phones, games consoles and tablets can impact on our sleep, which is important to our mental health. We're also more likely to listen to one another if we're not distracted by technology.

Notice any changes in your child's behaviour

Young people tell us how they're feeling in many ways, not always verbally. Learning what is normal for your child makes it easier to notice when things change, and if this might be a sign that they're struggling. If you think that your child is struggling do speak to your child's class teacher or make an appointment to see a member of the Inclusion Team.

Further advice can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/mental-health-services/camhs-information-for-parents-and-carers/>



WHAT'S NEW FROM FRENCH



FRENCH

The term has ended with a big burst of energy in French. Years 3 and 4 took part in a chocolate-free Easter egg hunt as part of Activity Week. The children used teamwork and thinking skills, whilst learning about Easter traditions in France. Year 2 have been doing some more class surveys to find out what their friends like or dislike. Year 5 have got off to a great start consolidating their learning by creating e-books about themselves. This has really helped them realise how much French they now know. Year 6 have continued on the topic of health and are now tackling modal verbs whilst building on their use of opinions and extended sentences. All topics can be revised and practised at home by logging on to <http://www.linguascope.com>. The username is "elthamps" and the password is the usual one with 2019 on the end - the children should know. Any Linguascope worksheets printed off at home and given to me in lessons will be marked and put in their French folders.

Madame Edwards

WHAT'S NEW FROM THE CHOIR



MUSIC FESTIVAL

Choir have shown great dedication this half term as we had to increase our rehearsal times to prepare for the Greenwich Schools Music Association's Music Festival at St Thomas More School on Monday 18th March. We rehearsed 4 songs which were performed with four other Greenwich schools and we also sang our own song. The children did a great job of their individual performance and managed the harmonies beautifully. The choir is making great improvements in singing as one voice. We are now getting ready for another performance next half term, followed by the Summer Concert in the Summer Term. Music will soon be available on the parents's pages of the school website so children can practise over the holidays. Keep singing!

Mrs Edwards



WHAT'S NEW FROM HOPE CLASS



FAIRY TALES

Hope class have been extremely busy this half term. Our role play area has been transformed into a castle to link in with the books we have been reading. Our books that we've been reading are Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood and Sleeping Beauty. We have been dressing up in different costumes, such as princesses and Spider-Man, as well as having a fun time dressing as different characters for World Book Day.

We have created lots of art work in class, for example experimenting with colour mixing to make orange to paint pumpkins as well as making magic wands and paper crowns.

In maths we have been focusing on 2D shape and using different shapes to create pictures, for example a house for Grandma in Little Red Riding Hood. We have also continued to count, and recognise, numbers to 20.

Well done Hope class for the hard work this half term and Happy Easter.

WHAT'S NEW FROM RECEPTION



BEARS

We have had a very exciting half term focusing on our topic of 'bears'.

We all brought our teddy bears in from home and they helped us to do our work! We used them for all sorts of work including measuring and painting.

We celebrated Comic Relief and raised a huge amount for charity, well done everyone. It was great to see everyone in red! We also dressed up as our favourite characters for World Book Day and did some fun activities.

We were very lucky to have a 'We Are Going on a Bear Hunt' workshop which the children loved!



WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 1



GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

Bek and Mills have loved learning about the Great Fire of London and are definitely all experts on the topic! They created some wonderful eBooks on Samuel Pepys to share with the children in reception when they reach Year 1. They became art critics as they had their own personal gallery viewing in the school and critiqued different paintings showing them what the fire would have looked like. They discussed the different colours and shapes they could see and shared how the images made them feel.

They have had great fun during their PE sessions on dance, linked to the seasons, and I know Miss Donnelly and Mrs Simpson have been very impressed with their moves! In particular their Spring dance inspired by Singing in the Rain!

We have really enjoyed our literacy sessions this half term and were very lucky to have a visit from a poet during World Book Week. This has inspired us to create our own shape poems about Nessie the Loch Ness monster!

WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 2



AFRICA

In our Spring Term, year 2's learning has revolved around Africa. The children have been working towards naming and locating African countries, particularly focussing on Kenya. Our texts, 'Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain' and 'Lila and the Secret of the Rain' both describe the weather and seasonal patterns of many African countries, including the risk of droughts. We have thought about how this might affect the people and animals who live there and how these weather patterns compare to our own country. More recently, we combined our P.E. dance lesson with the creative curriculum in order to make a rain dance. We practiced rhythmic and repetitive moves as a whole class and then collaborated as a group to make our own. We even got to introduce some instruments such as bells and drums.

With Easter quickly approaching, our R.E. lessons have sequenced the events which lead up to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. The children have been imagining how the disciples may have felt and developed an understanding of the meaning of Easter as a Christian Festival.



WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 3



LEARNING

Year 3 have had an exciting term packed with opportunities for learning in different ways. They thoroughly enjoyed learning about the text 'The Carpet of Dreams,' which is a Traditional Tale from Afghanistan.

The children used their senses to produce outstanding setting descriptions as well as non-chronological reports about the desert packed with fascinating facts. A highlight of the term was a workshop with the poet and author Justin Coe. The children loved creating their own poems with a real life poet!

Many thanks for your continued support

The Year 3 Team

WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 4

ART & DESIGN

In year 4 this Spring term, the children have been learning about Art and Design, in particular portraiture, looking at Leonardo Da Vinci and understanding that there are ways to mathematically divide up the human face in order to place features in the correct positions. However, on further observations we have understood that every person is unique, therefore there will be variations to these rules when applying them to an outcome. As a year, we have looked at different portraits by various artists and have commented and reflected upon our thoughts and feelings of what the images are conveying to us and what message the artist was wanting to portray.

Using our sketchbooks we looked at Viking faces and used the proportion lines as a guide before looking closer at any details. Later on, these skills were transferred to create a 3D version of a face. We worked with a new medium, clay, which required some new skills of manipulation. For example, using hands for rolling the clay and tools to create definition.

All of the children seemed to thoroughly enjoy the process, even if the head did not resemble the correct proportions the first time, they showed concentration and resilience to not give up and as a result produced some great outcomes.



WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 5



SCIENCE

This term in science, Year 5 have been leaning about Earth and Space. The children have had fun learning about the planets and their relative distance from the sun. We have looked at why we have day and night and been able to plot the sunrise and sunset on a graph.

We were lucky enough to be able to go on a trip to the Planetarium. The day was split up into 3 sections: a show in the planetarium, an earth and space workshop, and an opportunity to explore the galleries and hands on activities.

We all had an amazing time and were transported by the incredible space show in the Planetarium.

WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 6



ADVENTURE WEEK

Year 6 have had an amazing week outdoors.

We went to Danson Watersports Centre on Tuesday and Lesnes Abbey on Thursday.

We tried some exciting water sports, built dens and tested them with water and did some fantastic problem solving activities.



SCHOOL TERM DATES 2018 / 2019

Please note that we use the local authorities published term dates as a guide to our term dates. Below are the dates for the next academic year:

Easter holiday

Monday 8 April to Monday 22 April
2019.

SUMMER TERM

(Term five)

Tuesday 23 April to Thursday 23 May
(except May Day bank holiday on 6
May).

Half-term holiday

Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May
2019 (spring bank holiday on 27 May).

(Term six)

Monday 3 June to Tuesday 23 July
2019.

STAFF INSET DAYS:

Friday 24 May 2019

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2019/2020

To be confirmed, but please note the following staff INSET Days:

- Monday 2nd September
- Tuesday 3rd September

Children return to school on Wednesday 4th September

