



ELTHAM
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL
SINCE 1814

Autumn Newsletter December 2019

MESSAGE FROM MR BULPITT

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas nativities in Early Years and Key Stage 1, and also to everyone who came on Wednesday night to the school carol service, where the choir and year 6 led our service to remember the birth of Jesus. The choir sang beautifully, and our readers were excellent – a fantastic evening. Thank you all for making Christmas at Eltham Church of England Primary School a special and reflective time in our busy lives.

This term we say farewell to Mrs Tammadge who is retiring from our Mid-day Supervisor team this week. She has served our children for 23 years and we wish her well as she enjoys the next chapter of her life. Also, Mrs Gammon begins her maternity leave this week. We pray for God's blessing and care as she and her family await their second child. Our love and good wishes go with her.

Lastly may I wish you all a peaceful and restful Christmas break. May God bless the time you have with your families and friends and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 6th January 2020.

Matthew Bulpitt
Headteacher

Charlie Rhodes
Deputy Headteacher

Inside this issue

Message from Mr Bulpitt	1
Messages from the office	2
School Association	3
Attendance	4
Safeguarding	4
Sport	5
Edible Playground	6
Curriculum	6
French update	7
Choir update	7
Class updates	8
Term dates	12



Children return to school,
on Monday 6th January
2020



MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We would like to remind parents that the school clubs for the Spring term go live via SIMS pay on Monday 6th January. A copy of the clubs letter that went out can be found on the school website.

Please note, if you are late collecting your child after their club has finished more than once they will not be allowed to carry on with the club.

HOLIDAY MEALS FOR GREENWICH FAMILIES OVER THE CHRISTMAS BREAK

There are a number of free meals available over the Christmas break for all families living in the borough. Please see the attached flyers for more information.

DINNER MONEY

The dinner money for next half term will be £78.00 and is payable in advance via SIMS PAY.

JK CLOTHING

JK Clothing (our school uniform provider) have asked us to inform parents and carers of their opening times over the Christmas period:

- Open as normal till 23rd December 9.00-5.00
- Closed from 24th December till 1st January
- Open on the 2nd January 9.00 – 5.00

TWITTER

Please follow us on Twitter (@ElthamCE) to keep up to date with photos of some of the trips, school visitors, news, events and celebrations which take place each week in school.

If you don't have a Twitter account it is really easy to set up. If you require any help please see Jo Leccacorvi in the school office who will be able to help. Jo works on Wednesdays and Fridays only.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

We would like to thank our parents and carers for all the lovely cards and gifts we have received. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

The Children return to school on Monday 6th January 2020. We wish you all a wonderful and hopefully relaxing break over the Christmas holidays.



PTA UPDATE

Dear parents and carers,

As the year draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and update you on our projects and fundraising efforts.

This term has been very busy, from the Macmillan Coffee Morning in September to the Christmas Fair in December, we have tried to offer a variety of events for all: Quiz night for the parents, School Disco, Film Night and Christmas shop for the children and of course our Christmas Fair for the whole community!

We have also tried out a new fundraiser this year with the Christmas cards! We hope you were all happy with the lovely cards, mugs, coasters and gift tags ordered.

Thanks to your support, since September, we have raised more than £6,000 for the school!!

We are proud to announce that so far, we have been able to fund a keyboard for the piano lessons, recycling bins for the school & playground and the Christmas Pantomime. We will also cover the costs of one theatre experience for all the children at school! From January, each class from Year1 to Year 6 will be able to attend a show either at the Churchill Theatre or Unicorn Theatre. Nursery and Reception children are not forgotten: an outreach session will be performed in their classrooms!

We have other projects we would like to fund over the next few months. We look forward to sharing these with you in the near future!

Please remember the PTA when you are clearing out after Xmas we would love outgrown Xmas jumpers, toys, uniform and any unwanted new gifts! We can collect them all when school reopens in January.

UPCOMING EVENTS

As the new year starts, we have a series of fun events planned for everyone to enjoy. Please note in your calendar the upcoming events:

- Film night – Friday 31st January
- School Disco – 6th March
- Quiz Night – 1st May
- Film Night – 15th May
- Summer Fair – Saturday 27th June

Thank You for all your donations, time and help over the last few months. If it wasn't for your support and generosity none of this would have been possible. We look forward to working with you all to raise more funds for our children's school journey in 2020.

In the meantime, should you like to contact us, please email us on pta@elthamce.greenwich.sch.uk.

Many thanks and we wish you a Merry Christmas from all of the PTA



ATTENDANCE FOR Autumn 2 TERM

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 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 2019

Corbett	95.2
North	96.7
Bek	97.2
Mills	97.8
Archery	97.7
Tarn	97.1
Sherard	97.0
Shaw-Brooke	97.0
Nesbit	96.4
Gregory	95.7
Chaucer	97.6
WG Grace	95.9
Roper	97.5
Avery	95.1
TOTAL	96.8

SAFEGUARDING

ONLINE SAFETY

With Christmas fast approaching and children potentially receiving electronics as presents we would like to remind parents about online safety. Childnet have updated their parent and carer toolkit that will help parents have conversations about online safety. Their booklet 'Let's talk about life online' includes ten key messages that should be shared with children:

- "You can always come to me if you need help."
- "What would you do if this happened...?"
- "Remember that not everyone is who they say they are online."
- "Keep your personal information safe, and other people's too."
- "Be respectful to others online."
- "Think before you post."
- "Remember to ask if it's okay."
- "Remember not everything is true online."
- "The things other people post online might not always show what their life is really like."
- "Recognise how going online makes you feel and take a break when you need to."

The Parent and Carer Toolkit can be found here: <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/parent-and-carer-toolkit>.



SPORT AT ELTHAM



FOOTBALL

A group of year 5 and 6 boys attended the Football EFL Cup organised and run by Charlton Community Trust.

There were four groups with seven teams in each group. Our team were amazing; out of the six group matches played, they won five (1 - 0; 2 - 0;; 5 - 0; 2 - 0; 2 - 0) and drew one game (0 - 0). They went through to the semi-final and had to play a very experience Dulverton School team. Every member of our team played exceptionally well and were so unfortunate to lose 2 - 0.

We were so immensely proud of all the boys because they showed great sportsmanship, they conducted themselves so well and were a real credit to the school and themselves. To finish in the top four out of the twenty eight schools was amazing.

SEATED VOLLEYBALL

A group of eight year five and six children had the opportunity to participate in a seated volleyball workshop at Shooters Hill College. The children were very excited and enthusiastic to take part in a sport which they had not tried before. Despite being new to them, they threw themselves into the game, showing great skill at serving and working together as a team.

Both Mrs Jebson and Mr Horsburgh were really impressed with the positive attitude, good sportsmanship and behaviour shown by the children throughout the event. The children can't wait to share this new sport with their classmates.



DODGEBALL

A group of year five children took part in a dodgeball competition at Plumstead Manor. Despite this sport being unfamiliar to most of the team, they couldn't wait to take part. They got off to a great start, winning their first two matches and exhibiting amazing throwing skills and, at times, quite acrobatic dodging!

The competition was tough but, although not winning overall, the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and Mrs Jebson was incredibly proud of them. Well done to all.



INDOOR ATHLETICS

A team of year six children took part in an athletics competition at Shooters Hill College with other Greenwich schools. There were remarkable performances from everyone, too many to list! Our most memorable highlights include George's outstanding triple jump, Ajisola's remarkable long jump, first place for the girls 4 x 1 relay race. We clearly have some talented athletes at the school.



EDIBLE PLAYGROUND



EDIBLE PLAYGROUND

We are excited to announce the completion of our school Edible Playground. We were lucky enough to receive support from the charity 'Trees for Cities' who funded the scheme, with a contribution from the school. The Edible Playground will be used by the children as part of their curriculum time as well as having access each break and lunch time. Some of the children have already planted in the beds and are waiting patiently to see what will grow. Watch this space!

If you can lend a helping hand in our Edible Playground, please speak to Mrs Luchford in the Nursery.

CURRICULUM UPDATE



HOW WEEK

The focus of our themed week this term has been exploring HOW things work and sharing our understanding with others. Once again, the scope of our work has extended beyond the National Curriculum entitlement to include more diverse coverage, particularly in the areas of engineering and design and was set within the context of the City of London. We have been hands-on in school supported by the Explore Minds coding workshops and with the virtual reality headsets loaned recently by St Mary's. In addition, we have also been lucky enough to see engineering at work at:

- The Tower of London
- The Institute of Civil Engineers
- The London Architecture Group
- INTEL
- The London Transport Museum

The scope of much of our in-class work was science based with some exciting work in developing clocks (and sharing our outcomes with a partner school in Germany), exploring the neurosciences to better understand how our brain works and getting to grips with chemistry (with the support of one of the famous City of London Livery companies, The Salters' Company). For the first time, our Digital Ambassadors were able to support us in surveying children on their responses to themed week events. This allows us to understand better what type of activities are most impactful on their learning, engagement and aspirations.

Thank you to all the families who support the HOW competition and who joined with us earlier this month to celebrate the children's achievements in our Exhibition Evening.

The success of our themed weeks relies entirely on the support of our children and families and the energy and goodwill of all the staff here at Eltham. So many of you have been kind enough to pass on your thanks to them directly, thank you. I am sure you will all join me in wishing them all a very restful Christmas.

Lisa Leonard | Assitant Headteacher



WHAT'S NEW FROM FRENCH



FRENCH

Children from year 2 to year 6 have produced some amazing French work this term. Year 2 have got off to a great start describing all kinds of animals and have finished the term describing what is in the stable. Year 3 have just about finished re-writing the Very Hungry Caterpillar story and will be reading their books to Reception in the New Year. Year 4 have been telling the time in French and have also received postcards back from a school they wrote to in Germany. The children were very surprised to find that the German children have similar interests as them and it was wonderful to see pictures of where they live in Germany. I was absolutely delighted to read the feedback year 5 children gave each other in a recent speaking assessment about their ideal house; such fair, informative comments. Year 6 had the most amazing day in France on 5th December. We left school very early in the morning and set off for the town of Arras. We visited the Canadian National Memorial first where we were able to experience walking through replica trenches and visit the museum. We then moved on to find the huge memorial in the thick fog which has the names of nearly 12,000 Canadian soldiers who do not have their own resting place carved around it. We then donned tin helmets to visit the Wellington Quarry before arriving at the Christmas market to spend our Euros on candy floss, crêpes and Christmas gifts. We received several comments from stall holders and other market visitors about how lovely it was to hear the children speaking French and how polite they all were - well done year 6!

Don't forget that children can keep up with their French learning on the <http://www.linguascope.com> website. The user name is elthamps and the children know the password.

Joyeux Noël!

Madame Edwards

WHAT'S NEW FROM THE CHOIR

Choir

What a fantastic start to the year for the choir! Miss Fryer and I have thoroughly enjoyed picking the songs and love the enthusiasm from all the children. Our first song, True Colours by Cyndi Lauper, this year has some very difficult harmonies, but, like always, the children have risen to the challenge and already sound amazing.

With Christmas coming ever closer, we have already started rehearsing a beautiful song which has lovely melodies and the opportunity for some solos. As well as that, the children will be rehearsing a Christingle song. We look forward to performing these songs at the church and on the High Street.

Mrs Fountain and Miss Fryer



WHAT'S NEW FROM HOPE CLASS

LITERACY

This term the children have continued to have lots of fun in the Nursery. We have read Owl Babies and created Owl Baby paintings, baked and decorated Gingerbread Men as part of the Gingerbread story and read Stickman.

The children have been taking part in Phase One Phonics activities such as a listening walk and mystery sound bag, where they had to guess which item is making the noise inside the bag.

Next term, our topic is wild Animals, with a focus on Under the Sea and Farms. If you have any books you would like to bring in for us to read, please send them in.

The children did us proud, performing brilliantly in the Christmas Nativity. A big well done!

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mrs Luchford



WHAT'S NEW FROM RECEPTION



TRANSPORT

This half term has been a very busy one for Reception. We have thoroughly enjoyed our Transport Topic and have especially enjoyed Pirate Day and a recent Trip to Eltham Fire Station. The team showed us around, talked us through all the equipment they use and we got to sit in the truck, try on their helmets and even sprayed the hose! Naughty Bus has been causing mischief not only in our class room but also in Mr Bulpitt's office! One morning we found that the cheeky bus had driven through Mr Bulpitt's breakfast! He was of course was not happy which meant we had to write an apology letter on Naughty Bus's Behalf.

Reception were complete stars during their Nativity Performance. They made all of the staff and their families proud. Well done, you have definitely deserved your Christmas break! We hope you all have a fabulous Christmas.

In Spring our topic will be 'Food'.

From the Reception Team



WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 1



HOW WEEK

We have had a fun but very busy half term, starting with How Week where we had so much fun learning about how transport works and visiting the London Transport Museum. We have been reading the story of the Jolly Postman and have been learning about the different fairy tale creatures that the Jolly Postman visits and have been writing letters to them as well as writing our own stories. We have been learning about Kings and Queens in our topic and have been drawing portraits of Queen Elizabeth II learning different skills to draw and paint them. We were very excited when we got to visit the edible playground last week after it had been completed and cannot wait to begin to use it next term. Over the last few weeks we have been very busy with lots of different Christmas activities as well as learning the songs for our Nativity play which we enjoyed performing at the church with Year 2. We have had a lovely term in year 1. We hope you have a good rest, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Miss Dann and Miss Fryer

WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 2



HOW THINGS WORK

What an exciting half term Year 2 have had. We thoroughly enjoyed the first week back carrying out many different investigations including using circuits, looking at friction, Lego robotics and even a trip to learn about how Tower Bridge works. Our thanks to Ms Grattan and Mrs Leonard for helping to organise such fantastic activities!

We have also had a trip to Southwark Cathedral to learn more about the Nativity story. With the help of Mrs Day we made king sculptures that were the talk of the Cathedral. We have also enjoyed all the hard work that has gone into our own Nativity play and hope you enjoyed watching us.

We have done lots of other exciting work this half term too – such as painting ice caves using our knowledge of colour mixing and hues; developing our knowledge of money; writing about Antarctica and developing our gymnastics skills.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and hope you enjoy this season of hope and joy; coming back ready to enjoy many more fun learning opportunities in January.

Thank you all for your hard work and support this half term.

Mrs Rhodes and Miss Gardiner



WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 3



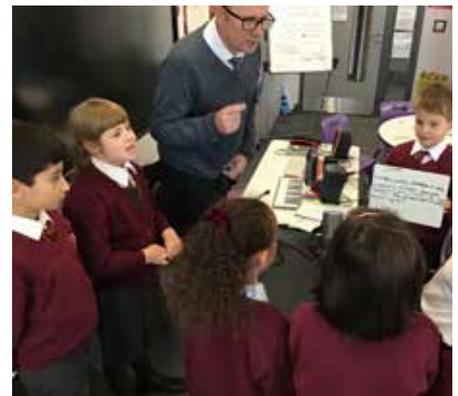
CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Year 3 have had an exciting and busy half term! The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about our text 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.' The children produced terrific Willy Wonka character descriptions and setting descriptions of the chocolate room in the factory and have really impressed us with their knowledge of the text during Guided Reading. In Topic the children have been learning about the Mayan Civilisation and created some amazing Mayan masks using mosaic paper tiles to create symmetrical patterns. A highlight of the term was our 'Chocolate day,' where the children loved exhibiting their chocolate creations!

We hope that all the children and their families have a lovely Christmas and New Year. Many thanks for your continued support.

The Year 3 Team.

WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 4



SONGWRITING

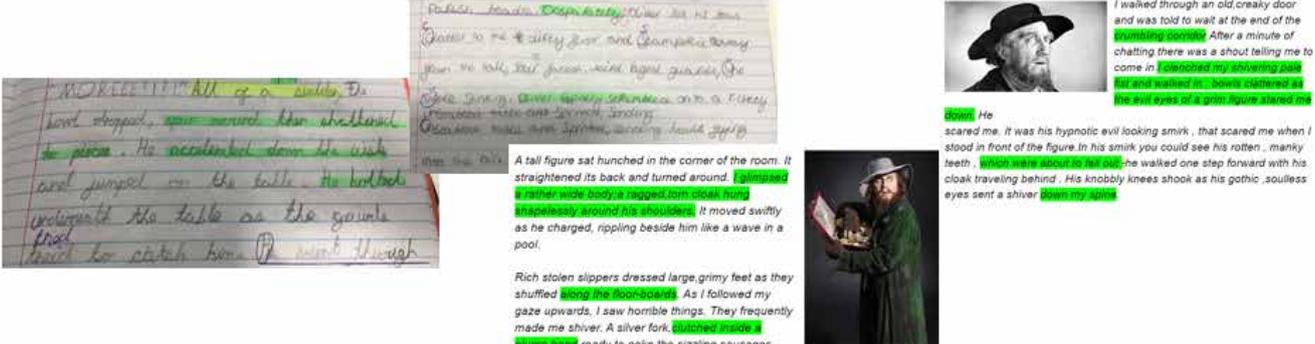
Year 4 have become songwriters this half term! Both Year 4 classes had the opportunity to create their own songs about being kind with the Songwriting Charity. Each class spent half a day writing and creating the beats and lyrics to our songs.

As teachers we noticed the musical talent in our respective classes and were so impressed by the enthusiasm of the children. If you would like to hear our songs please visit the following website:

<https://soundcloud.com/the-songwriting-charity/tracks> and look for our school name.



WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 5



*...had stopped, and turned their shattered
to pieces. He recollected down the wall
and jumped on the table. He looked
underneath the table as the ground
had to catch him. I went through*

*...I walked through an old, creaky door
and was told to wait at the end of the
drinking corridor. After a minute of
chatting there was a shout telling me to
come in. I snatched my shivering pale
hat and walked on. Some clattered at
the evil eyes of a grim figure stared me
down.*

*A tall figure sat hunched in the corner of the room. It
straightened its back and turned around. I glimpsed
a man with a jagged nose and a
wide smile around his shoulders. It moved swiftly
as he charged, ripping beside him like a wave in a
pool.*

*Rich stolen slippers dressed large, grimy feet as they
shuffled along the floorboards. As I followed my
gaze upwards, I saw horrible things. They frequently
made me shiver. A silver fork, switched inside
a pump handle, ready to poke the sizzling sausages.*



OLIVER

After starting the half term with a fantastic HOW week focused on time, Year 5 have been exploring the Solution Revolution and Oliver Twist. The children wrote exciting action sequences describing Oliver's attempted escape from Mr Bumble, and then described Fagin using a wide range of expanded noun phrases.

For our new understanding board, the children made beautiful stain glass shadow profiles. We were also treated to two types of musical performance, one from a jazz band and the other from a music theatre troupe, in the all singing and dancing show 'HONK!'. Finally, we've been out in the Edible Playground finding out about what we are going to be planting, and in some cases helping with the planting of raspberry canes. Watch this space!

Mrs Fountain and Mrs Grattan



WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 6

THIS TERM IN YEAR 6

This half term for Year 6 began with 'How Week'. All the children enjoyed learning about the Brain and Memory and were involved in a number of activities including busting brain/memory myths, making brains out of Play-Doh and explaining the 'How' of static electricity and kinetic energy to Year 1 in a science fair. It was a fantastic week and all the children thoroughly enjoyed the science fair where they were able to show off their homework projects. We also enjoyed a trip to the New London Architects where children learned how to use computer software to design a new building for the City of London. Every class also had the opportunity to go to Intel where they had a coding session using M-Bots and had an opportunity to have a hands on look at all the new technology innovations being developed including AI (artificial Intelligence). Roper will get the opportunity to go in the Spring Term.

In English we have been reading Rooftoppers by Katherine Rundell and exploring the use of figurative language and how it can be used in descriptive writing. This links to our curriculum topic 'France: Friend or Foe' where we have been considering France's location in Europe and how the French Revolution affected French society. Our maths focus has been on securing knowledge around fractions and in particular calculations with fractions. Again, it has been such a busy half term and we wish all of Year 6 and their families a peaceful and restful Christmas break.

Mrs Baily, Mrs Leonard and Miss Feeney



SCHOOL TERM DATES 2019 / 2020

SPRING TERM 2020

Pupils Return:

Monday 6th January

Half Term:

Mon 17th – Fri 21st February

Pupils return:

Monday 24th February

End of term:

Friday 3rd April

Easter holidays:

Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April

SUMMER TERM 2020

Pupils return:

Monday 20th April

Early May Bank holiday:

Friday 8th May

Half-term:

Mon 25th May to Friday 29th May

Pupils return:

Monday 1st June

End of term:

Friday 18th July

INSET DAYS:

Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st July

