



Welcome Back

Ian MacDonald (Headteacher)

Welcome back to the new school year. Wednesday was a very exciting day in Reception as our newest pupils experienced their very first day at school and they have settled in to school life very quickly. As well as our newest pupils, I would also like to welcome to the school all the parents/ carers who are new to Elmstead Primary School and also Miss Emily Woods, who is teaching in Class R. I have been really impressed by the way the children have all come in very keen to learn after the long Summer break and there has been a very happy, positive atmosphere around the school. I look forward to what I know is going to be another busy and exciting academic year.

Staffing Updates

I have two staffing updates:

Firstly, I can confirm that Mrs Brennan left the school on 31st August 2019. I wish her well for the future. Due to Mrs Brennan leaving, the following plans are in place to ensure consistency for the children:

Mrs Blunden will be the acting Deputy Headteacher for the Autumn Term.

Mrs Blunden is going to be working full time – four days – Monday to Thursday – teaching in Class 1 and then she will be out of class on a Friday. Miss Ali will be teaching in Class 1 on a Friday.

Mrs Gratze is going to be working for three days a week – Monday to Wednesday – teaching in Class 4 job sharing with Mrs Rees for the whole of the academic year.

Secondly, Mrs Cleavelly's son is due to have an operation and therefore she is going to be starting her maternity leave slightly earlier on 23rd September. This means that Mrs Katie Smith, who is going to be covering Mrs Cleavelly's maternity leave, is going to be starting this role on 23rd September.

Vision Statement

We have made a slight change to the School's Vision Statement. As you will know from our consultation, the intention is for the school to become part of a Multi-Academy Trust with Gt. Bentley and Frinton Primary Schools. In view of this, the three schools' core values have now been aligned. Our new core values are: Courage, Open-Mindedness, Nurture, Endeavour, Communication and Teamwork. To see the updated Vision Statement visit: <https://www.elmsteadprimary.com/about-our-school/vision-statement>

Assemblies

Every term we focus on the School's Core Values (Courage, Open-Mindedness, Nurture, Endeavour, Communication and Teamwork) in our assemblies. This term the focus is on: Courage and Open-Minded. Below are the aspects of the Core Value that will be introduced to the children through assemblies. You may wish to discuss them with your child at home.

Core Value	Aspect of Core Value Covered
COURAGE <i>From week beginning 2nd September</i>	What is courage? How can courage be defined? Learning from our mistakes Admitting when we are wrong Taking sensible risks Making choices – in work and socially; standing up for what we believe Making choices – in work and socially; standing up for others Doing what you know is right, even if others are not Courage to stand up for what 'needs' to change' – link to British Values - Democracy
OPEN-MINDEDNESS <i>From week beginning 4th November</i>	Understanding what we mean by respect How we show respect in school Showing respect for people's differences Showing respect for other people's feelings Self-respect – making the right choices Respecting property Thinking before acting and consider alternative actions Considering the consequences of our actions (focus on famous role models/ cases)

Curriculum Overview

I have attached to this Newsletter a Curriculum Overview for the term for your child's year group. This will give you an understanding of the various things your child is learning during this term.



Growth Mindset – a Reminder

This is reminder for all parents/ carers but will certainly be useful information for all new parents/ carers in the school: Having a 'Growth Mindset' is something that is fundamental to the work that we do as a school. Research has shown that everybody has one of two Mindsets: Fixed or Growth and this Mindset can change depending on what you are doing at the time. For example, you might be a keen writer and so have a Growth Mindset for this but then when learning to play a musical instrument you might have a Fixed Mindset.

We are promoting a Growth Mindset with everything the children are doing in school.

This means we want the children to:

- embrace challenges
- show resilience and persevere when something is difficult
- understand that effort is vital to improving
- not be afraid to make mistakes and get thing wrong (this can be when most learning occurs)
- learn from feedback
- are inspired by other people's success

These things will help them not only in school but later on in life too.

If you would like to find out more about Mindsets then follow this link:

<http://www.mindsetonline.com/whatisit/about/>

John Harris – Storyteller and Author Visit

The new school year got off to a very good start on Thursday, when pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2 were treated to a visit by children's author and storyteller John Harris.

John was invited to visit our school, because he shares our passion for developing the children's love of stories. The children were mesmerised by his performance and there was plenty of laughter and gasps of surprise as he entertained them with tales from across the world.

John's inspiration will be used in the children's forthcoming English lessons to write stories of their own and to enjoy reading a variety of books.

Communication (School App)

For all those new parents/ carers, and also as a reminder to you all, the quickest and easiest way to get up-to-date information from us is via the School App and I would suggest that you download this to your mobile devices if you haven't already done so:

For iOS users:

To find the app in the App Store, simply search for **School Jotter** and download the app powered by Webanywhere.

You might also want to use this link:

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/school-jotter/id1353760196?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4>

For Android users:

To find the app in the Google Play Store, simply search for **School Jotter** and download the app.

You might also want to use this link:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.webanywhere.schooljotter.containerApp>

When you open the app, simply search for our school in the top search box typing in the school's name or postcode. Then select our school from the list. Once you have chosen the school, it will always load first when opening the app.

When you have downloaded the app, also please make sure that you allow Notifications to be sent to you to allow us to keep you as up-to-date as possible – this can be done via 'Settings'.

You can also visit our School Website at:

www.elmsteadprimary.com

Online Safety Newsletter

I have attached to this week's Newsletter our Online Safety Newsletter for September. Please do take the time to read it as it does provide really useful information for you to help you keep your child safe online. (For new parents/ carers – previous copies for May, June and July can be found on our School Website at:

<http://www.elmsteadprimary.com/parents-area/newsletters>)





Parents/ Carers picking children up after school

Please can you make sure that you let the Office or your child's teacher know if your child is going to be picked up by someone other than yourselves so that we can ensure that all the children have left the school site safely. I thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

Free School Meals for KS2

If you think your child is eligible for free school meals, please check the Essex County Council

Free School Meals website:

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Pupil-Parent-Support/Pages/Healthy-Living-School-Meals.aspx>

This will give you details of the criteria required to qualify and an online application form.

After School Club has started

Our new after School Club has now started. Our After School Club team is made up of: Mrs Penny – Supervisor; Mrs Halfacre – Assistant; Mrs Sharman – Assistant and Mrs Tearle – Assistant. All of these people are current members of the School staff and are familiar to the children.

You need to pre-book to use this service and fees **must** be paid on a weekly basis, at either the beginning or end of the week, via the School Office or the online SIMS PAY payment system.

Whether children stay to the shorter or longer session, we will be providing them with a snack and a drink. There will be a choice of either: fruit, vegetable batons, bread sticks, oaty biscuits, cereal bars and muffins. Water and milk to drink will be available.

If you have any further questions about this, then please go to the School Office.

After School Sports Clubs

Starting next week, on a Monday afternoon, a coach from Colchester School of Gymnastics is going to be working with classes and on a Tuesday afternoon a coach from Colchester United's Football in the Community is going to be working with classes during the school day. Starting on 23rd September, the Colchester School of Gymnastics coach is going to be running an after school club (more information about this club will be out on Monday – there will be cost for this club). Starting next Tuesday, 11th September, the Colchester United's Football in the Community coach is going to be running a KS2 Invasion Games (football, hockey, tag rugby) club. To sign up for the KS2 Invasion Games, please go to the School Office – the cost of this club is £4 per week and there are 24 places available.

EPSA Updates, including Cash 4 Coins and Inflatable Afternoon

Cash 4 Coins

EPSA are collecting **any** old English or foreign coins and banknotes. Coins and notes can be from any country, of any date and even obsolete. Individual classes will be once again be competing with each other to win half the total funds raised. Please take your old coins and notes to your class teacher. Individual class collections will be counted and weighed before we send the money off to be valued and exchanged. The winning class will then, along with their class teacher, decide how to spend the funds. This will run until Friday 20th September.

It is estimated that there is £100 million in old and foreign coins across the UK. EPSA can turn your old money into a valuable donation to support our school. If your business would like to support this fundraising event, please get in touch with the school office.

Inflatable Afternoon

We have organised for the inflatables to come back to school on Friday 20th September. This is £5.99 a wristband, straight after school until 6:00pm. Further information can be found on our Facebook page EPSA – Friends of Elmstead Primary School: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/EPSAFriendsOfElmsteadPrimarySchool/>

Our next EPSA meeting is on Wednesday 11th September at 7:30pm – we meet at the school. All parents, grandparents and staff that work at school are welcome to attend. It's only a short meeting and no invite is necessary, just pop along and meet us.



Year 6 Parents/ Carers – Secondary School Applications

I would like to remind parents/carers that they should ensure they have applied for Secondary School admission for their child for admission in September 2020 by 31st October 2019. For further details, go to:

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Admissions/Pages/Apply-Online.aspx>

(Tel: 0345 6032200)

iAchieve Extra Tuition Sessions (Learning Academies)

I have attached to this week's Newsletter a flyer from Learning Academies about their tuition sessions which start on Wednesday 11th September from 3:15pm – 5:15pm. For more information and the relevant contact details please see the flyer.

Attachments – Electronic Copies

For electronic copies of any of the attachments mentioned in this week's Newsletter, please go to the School Website: <http://www.elmsteadprimary.com/parents-area/newsletters>

Diary Dates

Academic Year 2019/2020

Autumn Term 2019

Friday 20th September

EPSA Mega Inflatable Fun Afternoon – 3:15pm – 6:00pm

Monday 28th October

Half term holiday week

Friday 29th November

Non-Pupil Day

Wednesday 18th December

Whole School Trip to the Pantomime

Thursday 19th December

Last day of term

Spring Term 2020

Monday 6th January 2020

Non-Pupil Day

Tuesday 7th January

First day of term for pupils

Monday 17th February

Half term holiday week

Friday 3rd April

Last day of term

(Good Friday 19th April/ Easter Monday 22nd April)

Summer Term 2020

Monday 20th April 2020

First Day of term for pupils

Friday 8th May

Bank holiday

Monday 25th May

Half term holiday week

Monday 1st June

Non-Pupil Day

Tuesday 2nd June

Non-Pupil Day

Wednesday 22nd July

Last day of term