



New Learning Opportunities Started

Ian MacDonald (Headteacher)

This week we have started some of the different learning opportunities that we give to the children inside of school. On Monday, Taurean, from Colchester School of Gymnastics, started working with Classes 2, 3 and 5. On Tuesday, Mrs Minshull, our Stave House Music specialist, introduced all classes to the Stave House Music approach and Aaron, from Colchester United, did football/multiskills with Classes 1, 4 and 6. On Wednesday, Laura Ladybird started Forest School sessions with Class R. The children participated enthusiastically in all of these sessions and enjoyed these learning experiences which will be continuing throughout the term. To find out more about some of the exciting things we will be covering in each Class this year, see our Curriculum Maps at: <http://www.elmsteadprimary.com/about-our-school/curriculum>

Parents' Evenings

This term we will be having two Parents' Evenings which will be on Tuesday 22nd October: 3:30pm – 5:30pm and Thursday 24th October: 3:30pm – 8:00pm. These will be an opportunity for you to discuss with your child's teacher how your child is progressing and what their next step targets are.

Each appointment will be ten minutes long and, I'm sure that you will appreciate, it is important to keep to this amount of time to ensure that teachers are able to fit in all their appointments. If there is something that you feel needs further discussion after the ten minutes is up then it would be more appropriate to do this at another time. We encourage Key Stage 2 children (Classes 3 – 6) to attend the appointment with their parents but not Key Stage 1 children (Classes R – 2). To aid with this, Mrs Sharman is going to be running a crèche facility in the hall for those parents who may find it difficult with childcare. This crèche is for school age children only.

Communication with School

I have attached to this week's Newsletter a copy of the School Communication Flowchart. This has been written in response to some parents/ carers not being sure of who they need to speak to regarding any queries that they may have. Please do keep a copy of it somewhere helpful at home.

Healthy Snacks



Healthy School

As a 'Healthy School', we ask that you encourage your child to bring a healthy snack, and packed lunch, to school. Studies have shown that healthy foods, as opposed to sugary or salty foods, encourage children's bodies and brains to work more effectively during the school day. The body of a child who eats sugary foods at break and/or lunchtimes may suffer a sugar 'high' which, in turn, may be followed by a sugar 'low'. Therefore their attention span may waver, which can affect the rate at which they learn. Please give a little extra thought when packing up your child's lunch for school and replace any sugary or salty foods with something a little healthier.

Here are a few suggestions:

Fresh fruit (including tomatoes, cucumber), chopped vegetables (such as carrot, pepper), bread sticks, pitta bread, cheese (and un-sugared/un-salted crackers) or yoghurts. Please be aware that there are some pupils with allergies and food containing nuts should be avoided.

Spelling Shed

Children from years 2 to 6 have been issued with their own personal login details to enable them to access 'The Spelling Shed' regularly at home. This is a spelling practice website which gives the children the opportunity to play a variety of fun games to practise the spellings which are relevant to their year group. In class, the children will be given the opportunity to use their spelling skills within their work to test their recall. Teachers will teach different spelling rules each week and your child's practise words will change weekly to reflect this. The game gives four different degrees of support in the form of difficulty modes: Easy, Medium, Hard and Extreme. Please encourage your child to select the most appropriate level for their own ability. Parents and children need to be aware that scores are accumulated over 7 days and therefore if a pupil's accuracy, speed or performance decreases, their total scores may go down. If you would like to give feedback regarding this new learning platform over the next few months, please contact your child's teacher.
Mrs Trapp



Times Table Rockstars

Both in school and at home, the children have access to the online game 'Times Tables Rock Stars' where children create their own rockstar avatar to play in different times table challenges. The children can use this to develop their speed and accuracy in their rapid recall of times table facts. Each time they play, they create average speed scores and receive points, which create class and whole school records. We are encouraging children to continue with developing their times table skills at home, as well as in school. For more information, and to log in, visit the website: <https://ttrockstars.com>

Each child has their own unique username and passwords (we encourage children to change and not to share their password with others). Please see your child's teacher if you need any support with this.

Miss Keitch

Class R Forest Schools

This week, Class R attended their first Forest School session with Laura Ladybird. They had great fun choosing an animal which is now their Forest School name. They explored the woodland area; collected leaves; found bugs and also found acorns which had fallen from an oak tree.

Miss Woods



Pupil News

On Sunday 8th September, Isla in Year 4 competed in the Essex Amateur Gymnastics 'in age' Level 5 competition. She was up against six other gymnasts in her category and managed to win her first gold medal and trophy – 1st place for her Floor routine. She also won bronze medals for her bars routine and for coming third overall in her category. Isla performed amazing routines and is feeling very proud of her achievement as she worked hard for it – mentally and physically! She felt quite nervous at the warm-up competition several weeks ago so, as well as her 17 hours a week gym training, she also used the time in between the competitions to practise various calming/distraction techniques which then helped her to be more confident for the big day!

Well done Isla for a fantastic achievement!

EPSA Updates

Cash 4 Coins

We are still collecting old English coins and foreign coins and notes for our cash 4 coins fundraiser. Thank you to those that have already donated money to this fundraising event. Money will be counted / weighed after school next Friday.

Inflatable Afternoon

There will be the Inflatables back on the school field after school next Friday. Wristbands will be £5.99 for unlimited fun. 3:15pm – 6:00pm. There will be food and drink available. This is only for children that attend this school. Further information can be found on our Facebook page EPSA – Friends of Elmstead Primary School: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/EPSAFriendsOfElmsteadPrimarySchool/>

School Lottery

The School Lottery takes place online every Saturday and there is one winner from school each week. For £1 a week you also get entered into a draw to win £25,000. To find out more please click visit: www.yourschoollottery.co.uk

Our next EPSA meeting is on 17th October, here at school, at 7:00pm. 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)

Aldi Kit for Schools Scheme

The school is participating in the Aldi Kit for Schools scheme. Every time you spend over £30 in any Aldi store you'll receive a Team GB sticker. Please bring your stickers to school to help us complete our poster. Once complete with 300 stickers, we can send the poster back to Aldi and we will receive an exclusive sports kit and then we could be in with a chance to win £20,000 for your school. For further details, go to:

https://www.aldi.co.uk/kitforschools?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIn8vqpoTO5AIVhrHtCh0owg_5EAYASAAEgJ7IfD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds

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 20 th September	EPSA Mega Inflatable Fun Afternoon – 3:15pm – 6:00pm
Tuesday 22 nd October	Parents' Evening – 3:30pm – 5:30pm
Thursday 24 th October	Parents' Evening – 3:30pm – 8:00pm
Monday 28 th October	Half term holiday week
Friday 29 th November	Non-Pupil Day
Wednesday 18 th December	Whole School Trip to the Pantomime
Thursday 19 th December	Last day of term

Spring Term 2020

Monday 6 th January 2020	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 7 th January	First day of term for pupils
Monday 17 th February	Half term holiday week
Friday 3 rd April	Last day of term
(Good Friday 19 th April/ Easter Monday 22 nd April)	

Summer Term 2020

Monday 20 th April 2020	First Day of term for pupils
Friday 8 th May	Bank holiday
Monday 25 th May	Half term holiday week
Monday 1 st June	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 2 nd June	Non-Pupil Day
Wednesday 22 nd July	Last day of term