



Attendance

Ian MacDonald (Headteacher)

At Elmstead we have high expectations for children's attendance at school. Our School Attendance target this year is 97%.

In line with the Essex County Council directive on attendance, I have to point out that the current law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child out of school during term time. The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 prohibits Headteachers granting leave of absence to a pupil except where an application has been made in advance and the Headteacher considers that there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. The Department for Education has published data on their website that clearly shows the link between attendance and attainment. The tables below show the link between attendance percentages over an academic year and the number of lost learning hours.

Therefore, the key message is to encourage you to ensure your child's school attendance is as high as possible to ensure uninterrupted progress and to avoid gaps in their learning.

The tables below show the link between attendance percentages over an academic year and the number of lost learning hours:

Descriptor	Threshold Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
Good	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
Cause for concern	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
	94%	179 days	11	55
	93%	177 days	13	65
	92%	175 days	15	75
	91%	173 days	17	85

Descriptor	Threshold Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Learning Hours Lost
Unsatisfactory	90%	171 days	19	95
	89%	169 days	21	105
	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125
Serious Cause for Concern	86%	163 days	27	135
Critical	85%	161.5 days	28.5	142.5
	84%	159.5 days	30.5	152.5
	83%	158 days	32	160
	82%	156 days	34	170
	81%	154 days	36	180
	80%	152 days	38	190

Annual Governance Statement

As part of its duties, the School's Governing Board releases an Annual Governance Statement highlighting some of its work over the last academic year. A copy of the Annual Governance Statement can be found in the foyer or on the School Website at:

<http://www.elmsteadprimary.com/governors>

Attendance, Homework and Marking Policies

At the beginning of this term, we have looked at and updated our attendance, homework and marking policies. These were approved by the Governors this week.

To see the new policies visit the School Website via the link below:

<http://www.elmsteadprimary.co.uk/school-policies>

You will also shortly be receiving a paper copy of the attendance policy that we would like you to read, sign and then return the slip to us to say that you will support us to implement the policy. Thank you in advance for your support with all of these policies.

Spelling Shed Update

Following on from the information in last week's Newsletter about Spelling Shed, I know that the children have been keen to use this both in school and at home to improve their spelling and there have been some high scores posted!

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.

In order to access this online you can go via the website to:

<https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb/index.html> or

you can download the app via the App store at:

<https://apps.apple.com/app/spelling-shed/id1264568098?ls=1> but there is a cost of

£2.99 if you decide to get the app.

Happy Spelling!





National Key Stage 2 General Knowledge Championship

This year, as a school, we have entered the National Key Stage 2 General Knowledge Championship. The National Key Stage 2 General Knowledge Championship is a unique and exciting competition which motivates, inspires and rewards children in their quest for knowledge and provides them with the opportunity to celebrate their achievement by representing their school in the country's largest inter-school competition. Momentous events in history, incredible geographical landmarks, beautiful art, inspiring music and literature, amazing science, cultures from around the world, current affairs and world knowledge all feature in the quizzes and look to broaden our children's understanding of our past, present and future.

Over the course of this term, Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be undertaking the four practice quizzes before doing the team selection quiz where the winner in each class will be chosen to go forward and represent the school in our area heat.

For more information, go to: <https://www.quizclub.org/general-knowledge-championship> and also get revising!



Breakfast Club Assistant and Midday Assistant Vacancies

We currently have two job vacancies in school:

- A Breakfast Club Assistant (Band 1, Point 1 to 3. £9.00 per hour rising to £9.36 per hour) – the hours will be 8:00am – 8:45am Monday to Friday, term time only
- A Midday Assistant (Band 1, Point 1 to 3. £9.00 per hour rising to £9.36 per hour) – the hours will be 11:50am – 1:05pm Monday to Friday, term time only

If you are interested and would like to apply, please see Jackie Vaughan for an application form, which needs to be completed and returned by lunchtime on Friday 4th October. Interviews will then take place on Tuesday 22nd October.

EPSA Updates

Tea Towels

We have a few new tea towels left over that the children in Years 1 to 5 made in the last school year. These can now be purchased for £2.50 from the school office. We also have a few tea towels that were made a few years ago which feature children now in classes 5 & 6 these are available for £2.50.

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

Recycle Bank

Recycle bags for our recycle bank are available from the School Office. This is a great fundraiser and thank you to all those that continue to use this facility.

Firework Display

Elmstead (EPSA) will be hosting the spectacular annual Firework display on Sunday 3rd November. Tickets will be on sale soon. Further details to follow. Save the date!

Our next EPSA meeting is on 17th October with a 7:00pm start. You are all welcome to come and find out what fundraising ideas we are planning. We are always grateful for extra help at events and we welcome fresh new ideas. You don't have to attend every meeting!



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=EAlaIqobChMIIn8vqpoTO5AIVhrHtCh0owg_5EAAYASAAEgJ7IfD_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 – CANCELLED
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