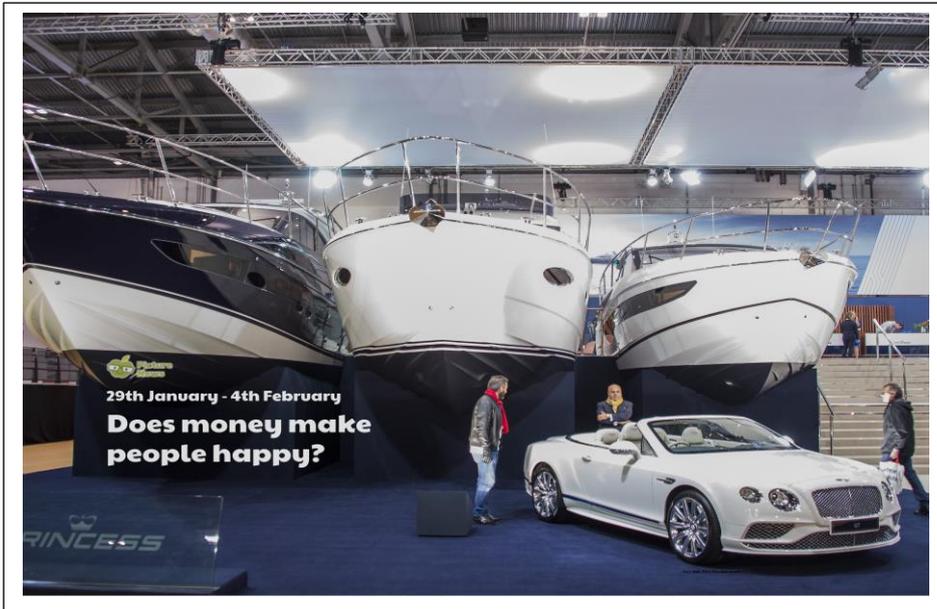




How to be happy 😊

This is the fourth Principal's blog for the week starting 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018. This has been an incredibly uplifting and positive week in school. On Monday we had Jo Rees, Inclusion Lead

for Ark Atwood Academy. She worked with Mrs Maples on ideas and tracking for our SEND pupils. She was impressed by the great behaviour and obvious support in place in class and during break and lunchtimes. Our whole school focus in assembly was on whether money makes you happy. We shared this poster and in



class children are discussing how to be happy, and this is in preparation for next week's Wellbeing Week in school. There will be activities all week such as mindful colouring, Cosmic Yoga, Fill a bucket and encouraging random acts of kindness!

February 5 - February 11

Shine Bright, Wear Bright!

Welcome to our main schools campaign which takes place in the week before February half term: Shine Bright, Wear Bright.

We invite schools to wear brightly coloured clothes and donate £1 for a

Find out more >

Childrens Mental Health Awareness Week

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February, in support of CHUMS the Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Service for Children– we are holding a Mufti day with the focus on 'Spread a little kindness and wear bright'. The website with ideas and to help explain CHUMS work can be accessed [here](#)

This week around Elstow, there have been a great number of trips and events. Reception classes went to visit Pizza Express in Bedford. They learned about healthy eating and made a pizza too! Next week Early Years parents are invited into join in with pancake races – sounds fun!



On Tuesday morning, Badgers held their class assembly. It was packed full of all the activities and learning they have done over the year so far, ending with information about the Romans. They have been so excited by this topic, and a big WOOSH to parents who encouraged some of the wonderful shields which are now on display in class and in the corridors.



Talking of the Knowledge Curriculum, four of the teachers in Key Stage I have gone today (Friday) to see it in action in West London Free School. The opportunity for teachers to see other teachers in action comes around only occasionally and is really rewarding. It allows us to think about our own teaching and talk about new ideas for improvements in our own setting. I have seen Knowledge questioning and ideas across the whole school – especially in year 6 at the start of the day. This morning it was a focus on who Charles Darwin was!

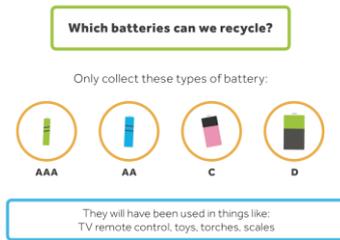
Meanwhile, year 2 have decided to make a quiz to test me on my Roman knowledge. I dropped into the Greek workshop for Year 3 on Tuesday. Wow, such a lot of information and the children were so excited to learn and show what they knew.



Up at the top end of the school, Year 5 have been writing persuasive speeches which they performed to their classmates (Mrs Ciantar and I both dropped in to listen to some of these). The quality of language was fabulous, with sophisticated links between statistics, things individuals can do, and the situation in the world as it stands. Impressive stuff! Mrs Harding had peer tutoring in her maths lessons and reported back the quality of focussed talk and learning as a result was amazing.

As you all know- Elstow is part of a Multi Academy Trust known as Advantage Schools. One of the benefits of this alliance is that Elstow is able to use some of the secondary resources. We have been offered some specialist PE coaching and support on Monday and Fridays after half term. I look forward to hearing your children tell me about how PE is improving. We are also committed to making sure all our children have plenty of opportunity to run around daily. All the children have a half hour at least at lunchtime to play and in addition all have a 15 minute active break and run the Daily Mile. This is all in addition to the two PE lessons they all have weekly. We are now working on extending the range of sport offered including competitions between other schools. You will be informed by the class teachers about which Monday and Friday extra PE sessions your child may be taking part in.

Look out for our batteries recycling bins, as part of a school initiative led by Duracell. Please send in used batteries from now on! Let's see if we can beat the lead primary school in Durham.



### *Dates for your diary*

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Mental Health Awareness Week in school

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 9am Squirrels Class assembly – parents invited! Please come to reception and you will be shown to the hall.

13:00 Tag Rugby tournament @ Lincroft School. Pupils involved will be brought back in the school minibus. Expected return time 17:00.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb Mufti Day Shine Bright £1 donation requested. Money donated to CHUMS Child Mental Health charity.

Hawks Class – final swimming session 9 – 11am

9am KSI Celebration Assembly – parents of pupils awarded certificates invited to attend.

9.30 – 10.30 Pancake Races Early Years parents invited

Half term break

Pupils return to school TUESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> February. 8:25am.

Have a restful weekend

*Samantha Baxter*