



Friday 16th March 2018

What a lovely week we have had at Elstow. Most classes have had assessments this week – we try as much as possible to minimise the impact on children and to reassure them that they are to show teachers what children know and help us know what we need to teach or reteach. So far it is looking as though children have made great progress!



Year 2 visited Wrest Park this week – Badgers had joyous sunshine and Squirrels unfortunately had their visit in the rain. Actually it didn't make any difference and both classes thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Additionally 29 year 6 pupils

visited Bedford Academy on Wednesday afternoon. This was a STEM Science afternoon and the pupils chosen were those who are joining Bedford Academy in September. They were amazed at the size of the building; ongoing trips to all the secondary schools are planned throughout the summer to help the Y6 have successful transitions to Y7. In addition to this Y6 will be joining with Y7 from BFS to play a series of netball and football matches here at Elstow. These competitions will be fun and help the children understand the behaviour expectations of secondary school through relaxed contact with those students.



We are very much looking forward to **Sing into Spring** performances this week – EY Y1 and Y2 are on the morning of Thursday 22nd - at 9.15am. No tickets are needed and the entrance will be at the gate at the far end of the car park. All the year groups will sing songs they have learned as well as songs they have been rehearsing in singing assemblies each week. Y3 and Y4 will perform their Sing into Spring on Friday afternoon in Elstow Abbey starting at 2.30pm. Again there are no tickets, all are welcome and if you want to/are able, you can take your child home from the abbey at the end. (Year 5 and 6 performance will be on Monday 26th March in the afternoon in Elstow Abbey Church at 2.30).

We have had some visitors to the school this week, Liz Arden, the Chair of the Advantage Schools Trust Board came on Friday morning and walked around the school with me, Caroline Skingsley, Head of Goldington Green and Dan Wiltshire, Literacy lead from Caudwell school both came to see how we teach reading. All loved seeing the happy, calm and purposeful atmosphere of the classes. Stuart Lock also walked around and saw science experiments across the school – YRY1 talked about surface tension in bubbles and stratus rain clouds. Year 2 froze a few Lego men and talked about the best way to get them out of the ice. Mrs Maker even made a timelapse film for the children to watch and discuss! Year 3 did experiments on sound and talked about how we make and hear sound. It was great to hear so much in depth scientific language and explanation from teachers and pupils. So totally in line with our Knowledge Curriculum.



This week Early Years have been learning how to ride balance bikes – and have had great success – they were so engaged and determined! All have practised balancing and also tricky skills like putting on bike helmets!

DROP OFF AND PICK UP SUMMER TERM CHANGES

Some news now about next term. The senior leadership team have watched the morning drop off and pick-ups to and from school carefully and also measured the impact of the staggered start both on punctuality and the use to the teachers of the teaching time at the start of the day. We have decided that from the start of the summer term the school gates will open at 8.25 and close at 8.40. All pupils will need to be on site before the gate closes at 8.40 as the registers will be taken shortly after. Early Years children will go directly into their classrooms but all other children will go to the playground. They will line up and be walked into class at 8.40 and the registers taken then. Children who arrive through the front of the school will be marked as late. All teachers will help you by talking to all children about making sure they help themselves by getting up and being ready in the mornings!

Diary Dates

19th Mar Bikeability Y5 & 6 all week – please make sure their bikes have locks to keep them safe onsite in the week

20th Mar 9am Kestrels Class assembly

21st Mar 9am Hedgehogs class assembly (Big Hall)

9 – 10am Maths calculations workshop for parents – helping your child with maths (Small Hall)

6.30 – 7.30 Maths calculations workshop for parents – helping your child with maths (Small Hall)

22nd Mar 9.15 am EY and KSI (Y1 & 2) Sing into Spring concert – Big Hall

23rd Mar 9am KS2 Celebration assembly

2.30 pm Y3 & 4 Sing into Spring Concert – Elstow Abbey Church

Children in the performance can be collected from the church at the end

26th Mar 2.30 pm Y5 and 6 Sing into Spring Concert – Elstow Abbey Church

Children in the performance can be collected from the church at the end

27th Mar Friends of Elstow Easter DISCO £2.50 contribution – pay at the office please.

3.15 – 4.15 Reception and Y1

(Please send change of clothes into school with the children in the morning. Children will go straight to the disco from class.)

4.30 – 5.30 Years 2, 3 and 4

5.45 – 6.45 Years 5 and 6

Mrs Loose will be working with Mrs Jameson and Mrs Plater to help co-ordinate parents and helpers and will be encouraging you to get involved with the work of the Friends! We are hoping that lots of parents will offer little bits of time to help raise money for the school and help us enrich our children's lives at school even further.

28th Mar 9am Otters Class assembly

29th Mar Silly Sock Day Mufti Autism Awareness

Term Ends 2pm