



Principal's Blog

2 November 2018

Such a lot has happened this term and we have so many good things to tell you about!

to
see



Yesterday Y3 had their Greek workshop enhance their learning. It was lovely to how much they enjoyed it and learned!

We
can

are also continuing to invite parents who offer a few hours each week, to come



into the school to read with KSI (EY, Y1 and Y2). We have hosted teachers from Goldington Green Academy – looking at our phonics and EY and Y1. Needless to say, they were very complimentary about the teaching practice, wonderful behaviour for learning and great atmosphere in the school.

You may have noticed that we have had advertisements out for some teaching in school. We have had a lot of interest and applications to work in Elstow and everyone who has had walks around the school is so impressed and keen to work here. This is because the teaching and learning in this school is a priority; we all want your children to be the best in Bedford and go onto secondary school and later life. We now have a prospectus which will be handed out to parents who are applying for a place at Elstow – at least 33 families wanting places in Reception in September 2019 have looked around the school. At the moment we have 412 on role with 3 more places due to be filled this week. All a very good sign indeed!

Prefects

Our first six year 6's gained prefect badges on Monday this week. They have shown they are able to represent Elstow's values consistently in the first 7 week's of term and are now able to carry out a range of activities and jobs in school of their choosing and which help out in the school day. This might be something like taking out the lunch trollies, helping in Early Years during lunchtime, tidying books and preparing the hall for assemblies. The rest of Year 6 are working to get prefect badges too, and they will be awarded as the children show the great attitudes and values for an Elstow child!

Energy Kidz – End of Term

Just a note that Energy Kidz are available up until 5pm on the last day of term the 14th December, for parents who might need extra child care on that day. Please book with them direct. Details are on the front page of the website.

Disco

I look forward to seeing Y1,2 and 3 at 3.30 till 4.30 and Y4,5, and 6 from 4.45 to 5.45 at the disco this coming Monday 5th November. There are no tickets needed and a donation of £2 is requested for the Friends Fund. The disco is being held in the Big Hall and entry and exit will be through the Clubbercise Gate at the top of the car park. Reception children will have their disco at a separate time to make sure they have fun and enjoy themselves in a less noisy setting! You can send Y1 2 and 3 into school on Monday with clothes for the disco to change into and we will escort these children into the disco. Please let us know if you don't want your child to attend!

Dates and timings

7th Nov -Reception open afternoon 3.00-3.30pm

· 13th Nov -**Parent consultations 3.50-5.30pm**

· 14th Nov -Year 1 trip to Mead Open Farm (information to follow)

· 15th Nov -**Parent consultations 3.50-7.20pm**

· 21st-28th Nov -**BOOK FAIR**

· 6TH Dec -Nasal flu spray vaccinations for Reception – year 4 pupils

· 7th Dec -**CHRISTMAS FAIR**

· 11TH Dec -Reception Christmas Nativity 9.30am

-Year 1 and 2 Christmas Cracker performance 2.30pm

· 12th Dec -Year 3 and 4 Christmas Carol concert 2.30pm At Elstow Abbey Church

· 13th Dec -Year 1 and 2 Christmas Cracker performance 9.30am Big Hall

-Reception Christmas Nativity 2.30pm Big Hall

· 14th Dec -Year 5 and 6 Christmas Carol concert 12.45pm At Elstow Abbey Church

End of Term finish at 2.00pm – Back to school Thurs 3rd Jan

Parking

After the terrible accident a few weeks ago, when a child was knocked down by an adult speeding off the roundabout on the wrong side, we have taken some quick action with local representatives. During a meeting, we agreed with Tim Hill our local councillor, and Andrew Prigmore from Beds Borough, that we would find ways to make entry and exit from Elstow safer. As more happens on this I will report it. But in the meantime we are going to change the rewards system in school for children to help us all decrease the congestion outside the gates. We ask that all children walk from the top roundabout by Waltham

Drive, in the mornings and evenings back to cars parked further up the road. This will help parents not feel as though they should drop off directly outside the gates. Children will be rewarded with DOJO points for walking morning and afternoon and the class with the most DOJO points for walking each week will get a class reward. In addition, I will report back which class has the most points on a half termly basis, and give a class play reward for that. I hope this will encourage children to want to walk and make good choices and allows you as parents and carers a chance to drive further away from the school to drop off and pick up.

I will be monitoring this closely to see how it goes. I only want what we all do, which is that the road outside the school becomes safer!

Have a lovely weekend

Samantha Baxter