



Principal's Blog

16 November 2018

Firstly – I need to tell you about our new staff – due to join in January. The Kestrels Class Teacher will be Miss Catherine Moranda. She is an experienced teacher and an expert in Modern Foreign Languages too. She brings a wealth of expertise and she is excited to be joining us. In Early Years we have a new teaching assistant with experience in helping our youngest children learn. More details on this will follow. We are about to interview for the post of Cover Supervisor and as soon as I appoint, I will let you know the outcome.

It was lovely to see so many parents and carers in school on Tuesday and Thursday this week, to find out how their children are doing and what they can do to help their child progress further. I know the communication from the school still needs to improve, including the use of ParentMail and possibly paper newsletters with dates and information about trips. There has been some feedback about homework – a perennial discussion. We have an agreement across the school about homework and its use. In general, if parents want to do more with their children at home, we are happy to make sure that the topics and resources which parents want to use are appropriate. If you want to ask about this either speak to the class teacher or for Kestrels and Hawks please speak to Mrs Whiting.

Prefects

The prefects are working hard around the school litter picking, helping reception children and supporting the office team amongst other jobs. They are polite, helpful and a delight to see. Great work so far!

Energy Kidz – End of Term

Just a note that Energy Kidz are now available up until 6pm 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. The later finish time is as a result of parent requests.

Friends of Elstow School

The disco was really good fun and raised a profit of £323. It was much better held in the big hall but collection for Year 1 and 2 was a bit scruffy so we will work to make it easier to find and collect children at the next disco which is booked in for Tuesday 5th February. The Friends of Elstow School now has a new organiser, Sam White, who will be contacting parents to find help for our Christmas Fair. We are planning a really good event – on Friday 7th December 3.30 – 5pm. An email and poster have already gone out about a mufti day and to ask for donations for the hampers and raffle prizes. We will be collecting these on Friday 30th November. The only thing we ask is that glass objects and bottles are brought into the office by adults.

Children In Need day

Robins and Owls have been taking part in activities related to Children in Need today which included a run, making spotty repeating pattern biscuits and using adjectives to describe Pudsey! We have seen all kinds of fun activities around school – Pudsey maths, poems and lots of discussions around why we fundraise for this important charity. When we have counted your donations, I will let you know how much we raised. Thank you for your support.

Trips



I know Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed this trip to Whipsnade and gained so much from it. Today year 2 visited Elstow Abbey Church to find out about how important these are to us and also be really aware of our local community.

Y1 have an in school workshop which is coming up too and details will be out shortly about this.

Year 6 have been invited to see the production of Legally Blonde at BFS. I am delighted to hear even more children are putting it first on their Secondary School choice list – it is well on the way to being one of the best Secondary Schools in the country. On December 12th a selection of our best Year 6 pupils will be taken over to BFS to see Legally Blonde. It is in the school day and the children will go and come back in the morning. You will be notified if your child has been drawn out of the raffle for a place to go.

Reception have been learning their songs for the Christmas Nativity. Please look out for the letters regarding costumes being sent home today. The Reception Performances are on Tuesday 11th December at 9:30am and Thursday 13th December at 2:30pm. Liz Polson our family support worker will be holding a Coffee Morning on Tuesday 11th December from 8:45am so please feel free to pop along to the coffee morning and chat with other parents.

Please see the front welcome page of the website for up to date diary dates – we are now making sure we update these as soon as anything else comes in!

I am continuing to monitor parking – and I notice that some parents are still parking at the school end of the road rather than at the top by the park and walking down the road. For year 4,5 and 6 it would be really helpful if you let us know you are parking at the top of the road and we will let the children walk up to you – and if for some reason you are not there, issue instructions that children must return to school. Could you let me know if you think this would help for those who are trying to park and walk up the road?

We continue to give Class Dojo's to reward walking and the first classes to receive this last Monday were delighted. We are also giving rewards to children for great Value and Academic effort in Friday assemblies – I love these ones where teachers are able to tell us all how well a child has done.

As I speak Y6 prefects are in my office sorting out the photographs for you at the end of the day – it's lovely to see and hear how they now are far more familiar with the younger children in the school. A true community and family spirit is being developed.

Have a lovely weekend.

Samantha Baxter