



EPPS Half Termly News Update

Spring 2 2024



Panathlon

The Treehouse children were invited to spend the morning at YMCA Romford for a SEND Panathlon, this involved 7 different sporting activities and they had to work as a team. There were several other schools we were up against and we managed to come 5th. The children thoroughly enjoyed it and loved travelling by bus to get to the venue.



Curriculum Update

This year, across the federation, the curriculum has been adjusted to block subjects. Most subjects such as Literacy, Maths, Science, PE, Computing, etc have run throughout the year. However, during the Autumn term the focus was on History, during Spring term it was Design Technology and Geography and the Summer term will focus on Art and Music. It would be great if you could take your children out on trips to art galleries during the holidays to complement learning in school.

Staffing

We are very fortunate to have such a stable staff at Elm Park Primary. There has been an increase in support staff to help meet the needs of pupils and cover staff absence. We are happy that most of our permanent staff are fit and well and have returned to their usual duties. This means some agency staff will not be with us after the Easter break. It is with regret that the Year 1 teacher we secured, Mrs Miah, was unable to continue with us until the end of the school year and as a result there has been some disruption in Year 1. The staff team in Year 1 have been amazing at ensuring provision continues at a very high standard. Mrs Toms and Mrs Smith will teach Chestnut class for the Summer Term. Thank you to those parents who contacted me directly with their concerns rather than sharing concerns via social media.

FOEPPS update

During the month of February the whole school took part in the Penny Wars Competition. Over £450 was raised in total. Larch Class were the overall winners with 2213 points and they will be rewarded with a Pyjama party in the Summer Term.

Our Mother's Day Sale was a huge success and we had over 300 children attend during the school day. The pupils love having the opportunity to choose their gifts for their loved ones, and we will be running the event again in the lead up to Father's Day (for Dads, Grandads and any special men in the lives of our pupils).

Thank you to everyone who donated an Easter Egg on the non-uniform day. We hope that lots of you attended the Easter Event in which all of the donations were used on the Tombola and Lucky Dip stall. This is our smallest Fayre of the year but we were overwhelmed with your generosity and huge attendance numbers.

As you will have seen in the previous newsletter, all money that is being raised by FOEPPS events will be added to the collection and will be used to help provide a new educational cabin.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support for our events - we really couldn't do it without you!

We hope you have a restful Easter break and we cannot wait to welcome you to our Summer events, which will include a Rainbow Disco, Clothing Collection Drive, Father's Day Sale and Summer Fayre (plus of course we will be supporting the School Sports Day).

Walk and Wheel Event

From Monday 11th March to Friday 22nd March the whole school participated in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel event which is held annually. This event inspires pupils to make the active journeys to school, to help improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world. Every event we hold for sustainable travel helps to keep our TfL Gold Travel Accreditation.

Poetry Week

The word worm was up to his old tricks,
Trying to put the children in a fix.
He gave the teachers treats
But disguised in the sweets,
Was a poison added to the mix

The teachers forgot what they knew
Which made them feel blue
But the children wrote poems galore
Now everyone knows about poetry once more!



Attendance

The Government has an expectation that school attendance is above 96%. We currently have our attendance at 94.7%. We promote good attendance in assembly each week and support parents if attendance dips. Attendance is reviewed every 4 weeks with the local authority with steps being agreed to address poor attendance. Supportive measures are always considered, however if parents take unauthorised holiday during term time, the local authority encourages issuing a penalty notice. It is difficult to authorise so we would please encourage you not to book holidays during term time.

Dates to note:

Summer Term - Y6 swimming lessons

16/04/24 - Reception dental checks - revisit

24/04/24 - Year 5 Sex & Relationships meeting with parents 3.30pm

25/04/24 - Rainbow Disco

26/04/24 - SEND coffee morning RJM 9.30am

03/05/24 - EPPS Parent Forum 9.00am

14/05/24 - Year 4 HEST workshop Best Buddies Session

13/05/24-16/05/24 - KS2 SATs week

10/05/24- 14/05/24 - Whole school assessment week

22/05/24 - SEND coffee morning EPPS 9.30am

Parent Forum

End of Day Transitions

Parents were concerned that the courtyard gets very busy at the end of the day and requested school to review where we release pupils from . When we return after the Easter Break, Year 4 parents can collect their child from the bottom of the stairs nearest to the car park gates. They will need to walk around the building and avoid walking against parents leaving and cutting through the car park.

The office have asked that if you arrange for someone other than yourselves, or the agreed person to collect your child, that you inform the office who will pass the message on to staff in class. Try not to email the teacher directly.

Breakfast & After School Club [BASC]

Parents continue to adjust to the need to book a space in our wrap around care facility two weeks in advance. This is necessary due to planning staffing requirements. Once you are booked on, staff are secured for the week and are paid accordingly. Therefore, as school have already paid staff, it is not possible to make a refund should you subsequently cancel your child's place. Equally, you are unable to book last minute due to staffing levels already in place. This could result in the clubs running at a loss and having to close as a result.

We endeavour to keep our costs as low as possible for parents and the booking system allows for this. If parents are dissatisfied with BASC at Elm Park Primary, there are alternative childcare options available within the local area. Parents are reminded that it is their responsibility to organise bookings and if there are issues with this, you are able to contact Coz Gearing in the office

cgearing.epps@theaspirelearningfederation.co.uk

TLCs

Parents felt the TLCs ran very smoothly and were a positive experience. The new booking system worked well. It was the best turn out of parents ever with almost all parents making an appointment. It is great to see such overwhelming support from parents and shows how school and home are working well together.

Holiday Clubs

Parents would like access to holiday clubs and this is something we can explore.

Year 3 Class Assemblies

Aspen and Ash performed their class assemblies to parents this half term, sharing lots of moments from their learning in Year 3. Parents were treated to a medley of times tables songs, short retells of our literacy books, Song Age Boy and The True Story of the Three Little Pigs, as well as a fantastic performance of songs performed in canon. Mrs Tucker and Miss Zanlerigu were very proud of all the children for learning their lines and performing without a script in sight. Well done Year 3!

Poplar Class Assembly

Year 5 Poplar had their class assembly on the 21st of March, showcasing their learning about Geography. The children spoke about different countries based on their natural resources and trading relations. We are very proud of how much they have learnt! The practice assembly was also recorded and put on Poplar's Google Classroom for any parents that may have missed the performance.

Reading

We have celebrated pupil's reading at home this term by awarding each child who has read 3 times a week a certificate and a prize. A huge well done to the 210 children who have read consistently at home throughout the term! This is the highest number of pupils receiving the reader's treat to date and it has been wonderful to see children really enjoying reading.

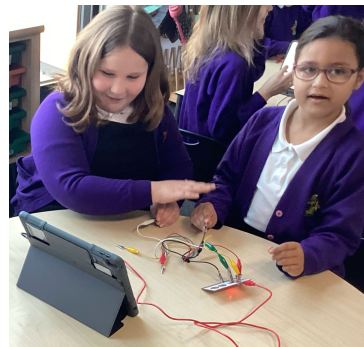
Don't forget that the year group reading challenges are available and if your child doesn't have a list please speak to their class teacher to request one.

Sports Hall Athletics

On Thursday 21st March, a team of children from year 1 participated in the Havering Sports Collective: Sports Hall Athletics competition. The children from Chestnut and Birch, took part in a circuit of 6 activities, which consisted of: jumping, throwing, bouncing and running. Elm Park came 9th out of 12 schools, all children received a certificate for taking part. This was a wonderful opportunity for our younger children to have their first experience of competitive sport.

Music Workshop

Year 3 were lucky to have visitors from Conductive Music delivering a workshop that combined our scientific, musical and mathematical knowledge. The workshop was fun and unique, focusing on becoming sound catchers. We made music through our ipads and were even able to use body parts to make different sounds.



SEND coffee morning

The SEND coffee morning is a regular event, usually held on the last Friday of the month. It takes place at EPPS and RJM on alternate months. Parent's of SEND children are welcome at any of the coffee mornings. It is a great opportunity to meet with other parents of children with SEND over tea/coffee, cake and biscuits. The SEND team from both schools attend and we often have visitors, for example the nursing team, CAMHS etc. Our next coffee morning is the 26th April at RJ Mitchell's; but EPPS parents are more than welcome to come and join us. The coffee morning in May is being moved to Wednesday 22nd May; we will have two members of the CAD (Children and Young Adults with Disabilities) team from the borough with us. They will be doing a talk on communication in the home. Hope to see you there!

Summary Assessments

All pupils will be tested during May to see what progress they have made so far this year. Tests will be in Reading, Maths, Grammar and Spelling. Pupils will also have their writing assessed.

What can you do to ensure your child has the best outcomes?

- Talk to them about their learning.
- Ensure they know their times tables facts.
- Read to them and with them daily.
- Help with learning spellings.
- Form letters with a pen/pencil correctly

These small things at home can make a big difference at school.

Year 6 Cultural Day

Year 6 had a wonderful Cultural Day on the 25/3/2024. We had a jam packed day where we cooked a variety of meals inspired by three ingredients. We created Geographical presentations for a chosen country in Europe and welcomed Year 6 parents to showcase these. We were very lucky to have two parents from different countries talk about their migration journey to the UK to sum up our the text we have been working on, 'The Arrival'.



KS1 Dance Club

Our younger children have had lots of fun rehearsing dance moves and performing their dance with confidence to an audience of parents!

Maths Week

Pupils were learning about weight and capacity during maths week this half term. It was wonderful to see pupils carefully pouring, weighing and measuring scales. This is a great skill to practice at home when weighing out ingredients, cooking, playing with water in the bath or water play in the garden. You can help your child to read scales, which can be very tricky.



Squid and School Lunches

Havering Catering Services (HCS) are changing their financial payment suite from sQuid to ParentPay. This change will not be a huge one for Parents of Elm Park Primary as we already use ParentPay. There will be letters coming out to you from HCS advising you in more detail of the changes. However, there is an issue we wanted to raise with you. Some parents have a credit on their account which will remain with sQuid unless you actively go into your account and request a refund. Some people are struggling to withdraw any amount less than £10, if this is the case, the advice is to top up your account to £10 then withdraw the £10. Similarly, if you have a debt on your account please make sure you clear this debt. The 'Go Live' date for Elm Park Primary School is 20th May 2024.

School Travel Plan

You may have seen the new cycle shelter alongside the reception play area. We were lucky enough to have received some funding from Transport for London (TfL) via our school travel plan to pay for the shelter in full. We have also secured enough funding for balance bikes and helmets for the children to use. Thank you for your continued support in supporting our school travel plan events throughout the year, this helps immensely for our evidence on the work we do in continuing our sustainable travel accreditation. Each year we go through a rigorous review from TfL and this is our 9th year of achieving a Gold Accreditation.



Sporting competitions

Thank you for all the children that have taken part and represented Elm Park in various sporting activities this term. Whether we win or lose the morale is high and all the children make us so proud.

Congratulations to everyone that has taken part and we look forward to competing in more events next term.

Mrs Thompson & Fluff.