

ELEANOR PALMER PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN TERM 2020 NUMBER 3
www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk

Thursday 17th September 2020

Dear Families,

Events in school next week, 21st-25th September:

Tuesday 22nd

Day 2 of Year 6's project with Hermes!

Wednesday 23rd

9am Year 4 cross country practice on the Heath

1.30 Another French lesson for Years 3 and 4 with Mr Morley.

Covid update - I do hope this is clear!

I'm so sorry that several of you have become embroiled in the test fiasco. Here is where we are after what are daily briefing/updates that Tania, Vicky and I have.

- If your child (OR ANY MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD) displays any of the main Covid symptoms (temperature, sudden onset dry persistent cough, loss of taste/smell) they must stay off school until they (OR SYMPTOMATIC PERSON IN HOUSEHOLD) have had a test - and it is negative - even if the temperature (cough) disappears. If you are unable or unwilling to get a test, they will have to miss the full 10 days.
- Given that there are currently some issues with testing capacity in Camden (and beyond) this will be very frustrating. We hope this is rectified soon. All EP families seeking tests have had secured within 48 hours (and all negative).
- The test must be taken within 5 days or the results are not valid and the full 10 days absence must be taken;
- If the test is negative and your child is well - hurray- back to school!
- If it is positive, we must know immediately and your child must quarantine for 10 days. The family must quarantine for 14 days;
- Members of the household must stay at home too, but do not need a test if they are not symptomatic;
- If during that time, another household member has a positive test, the 10 day rule starts for them from that day;
- The child's class (bubble) has to quarantine for 2 weeks and we will start google classrooms again. The above advice applies to all members of the bubble. There can be no exception for key worker children;
- Club EP and Breakfast Club are also a bubble. Whilst members of the Club may have to self-isolate (we will have guidance from Public Health about defining close contacts) should there be a case, their classes would NOT have to;
- You can see why we are, unusually, asking that children stay at home if they seem ill. Many of you are calling to ask our opinion. Our general advice, given the heightened awareness, is to keep your child at home. However, there are other viruses out there and 98% of tests nationally are currently negative so we must all be proportionate in our response. I think investing in a new decent thermometer at home is a must! See our useful flowchart on the App for steps to take.
- Our office intel on managing the test system is growing on a daily basis so do call to ask for advice and to share your tips/experience if you've had to go through this.
- We're sharing a short survey about our remote learning provision as we prepare for a possible year group closure. Hold your phone camera over this QR code or use the link on the EP App to share your feedback. We think - and know- our system worked well last term. In the event of a class lockdown we want to ensure we include as many children as possible - and successfully - so would appreciate some feedback on how we can get even better. Thank you. Phew!



EP Cross Country Event

Well done Year 3 on being the first class to leave the site this term, for their cross country practice. Each junior class will have a practice session (Wednesday mornings) - Year 4 next Wednesday 23rd at 9 - and then each class will run a final event as follows:

- Monday 19th October at 2pm Year 3
- Tuesday 20th at 2pm Year 5
- Thursday 22nd at 2pm Year 4
- Friday 23rd at 2pm Year 6.

We'd love parental support as marshals for these events - do let Coach Martin or Coach Kane know!

Other positive news

- Year 6 have started their craft project with Goldfinger Factory and Hermes Paris.
- The juniors are loving their French and Spanish lessons with Matthew Morley!
- We have two storytellers coming later this term - watch this space!
- We are finding places to visit for each class. We will organise coaches, which are hugely expensive and so will have to reduce the number of outings. In most cases, we anticipate being the only class at the site and will of course make sure the site/museum has good Covid health and safety procedures.
- Year 6 should be leaving for their much-anticipated 7 day residential at Wick Court Farm next Friday. Sadly, this can't happen, but we have managed to get a place at another wonderful farm (run by the same organisation) in West Wales for May! Fingers crossed.

Black Lives Matter

We are working in many ways to ensure that our curriculum is more representative and inclusive. We will have to find a way to enable parents to come in and see the children's fantastic responses to Black British Artists, our theme for our whole school art.

In assembly (we are having small socially distanced assemblies) we are placing the traditional (and statutory) history of Britain in the context of world history and so will be learning about the amazing Ancient world and its achievements. Ask your child about Persepolis, Gobekli or Bamiyan. I don't suppose there are many children that learnt about Zoroastrianism - ask them who was the most famous follower by faith!

Each teacher is ensuring their lessons include previously untold stories and perspectives. Year 6 have been learning about Walter Tull (footballer who became the first black British army officer) and, would you believe, we discover his biographer lives locally so of course, he came into EP to meet Year 6 today!!

We have staff training with the high profile 'Black Curriculum' organisation in the next fortnight.

Flu Immunisation

Tania has secured an in-school date for (optional) flu immunisation for all children in Reception-Year 6. It will be on Friday 16th October. Make a note! This will make a huge difference to the management of symptoms. Nursery children remain under pre-school care, so contact your health visitor/GP about immunisation.

Guitar lessons

Professional musician Sam Amidon (Arthur Year 5) already offers fantastic guitar lessons to some EP children and he has room for a few more! Contact Sam directly on samidon@gmail.com

Child's bike

A member of staff is donating a very lovely yellow bike, in good condition, suitable for a 5-7 year old. They are asking for a reasonable donation to EP! Let us know if you'd like to see a picture/have a test ride - it's lovely.

Newsletter border designs

Thank you to Maryam Hussain in Year 5 for this week's border design

Two important date corrections

- The Spring term ends on Thursday 1 April - not Wednesday 31st March.
- Sports Day is on Tuesday 6th July and not 29th June.

With best wishes,
Kate Froot and staff