

ELEANOR PALMER PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
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www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk

Thursday 12th November 2020

Covid Update

You will all have received notification that we have our first Covid class closure yesterday. Our systems, communications and track and trace were trialled and it all went smoothly, with huge thanks to Year 3 parents! Then today we have had to close Year 1; again, fantastic parental support and cooperation. ***There is no connection between the two cases and there has been no infection in school.*** In both cases, the infection has come from outside school and the children concerned have not been in school since last Friday. However, the guidance is that by now closing the classes, we can prevent further spread.

We have a few other children isolating at home, not ill themselves, but having come into contact with other confirmed positive cases. Again, thanks to parents for their swift action and communication. The experience of the last two days have been invaluable.

There has apparently been a small 'surge' in Camden with some thought it is the impact of half term and more movement. Do remember the current restrictions on household mixing and limited travel; should you need a support bubble, it must consistently be one other household. **A reminder too, to respect our request for distancing and face covering at the school gate.**

And of course - we wish all our families well who are affected by this!

Events in school next week, 16th-20th November:

Again, a quiet week with limited activity due to the current restrictions.

Wednesday 18th

PTA Hamper construction day. We have had very limited donations to date!! We don't have our lovely usual drop off at the classroom door system so are relying on donations handed to staff at the gate or placed in the festive boxes. Please donate anything unopened that is a treat.

Thursday and Friday

The main event next week, across Thursday and Friday is the selection process for the new headteacher. Governors will spend 2 days with candidates putting them through a range of activities. Children will be very aware of, and involved in, this important event!

Christmas Fair Patchwork goes live next Thursday 19th!!

So what's in store??

- You will be able to PRE-ORDER handmade cakes, gingerbread, brownies, festive face masks and copies of EP Cookie recipes for collection, fresh, on Thursday 3rd December;
- Would you like to see a teacher dressed up as an elf or a fairy for the day? The top 3 will do so in the last week of term. Vote on the site!
- You will be able to book a Treasure map for a local festive hunt!
- Place your bets on the traditional 'how many sweets in the jar' and 'how much does the Christmas Cake weigh'. Closest guess wins it!
- Check out our luxury hampers - always a fantastic bargain - and place a bid.
- We also have limited edition Harry Potter bags of goodies - to go to the highest bidders!
- This will be a portal for Christmas tree orders too
- You can contribute to our new gates on Raveley Street. A lovely PTA project that I am humbled by. See over.

Message from the PTA: The end of an era; the start of a lasting legacy: Please support "Kate's Gate" on Raveley Street

Headteacher. Maths wizard. Child whisperer. Community champion. Pandemic warrior. No single label can capture the essence of Kate Frood OBE, who has worked tirelessly for almost twenty years to make Eleanor Palmer what it is today. She has also contributed to schools nationwide through leadership and teaching programmes. Kate is retiring from headship next summer.

Kate deserves a fitting legacy in recognition of her long service and Herculean contributions. The PTA could think of no better monument than a new, bespoke gate at the Raveley Street entrance of EP. The existing gate is now used daily for socially distanced entry, but it is no longer fit for purpose, or up to EP standards, with its damaged exterior and rusty bolts.

An art covered, safe and welcoming point of entry will remind us all of Kate's twin loves: inclusivity and punctuality; children will design new images to capture Kate which will adorn the gates. We would like to install Kate's Gate before she leaves, so please contribute what you can. There will be a crowd-funding link in our Patchwork virtual Fair Site when it goes live next Thursday!

Lunchtime cleaner needed

We have lost our lunchtime cleaner, needed now more than ever. If anyone would be interested in this 2 hours 'in the middle of the day' role primarily focussed on the children's toilets, please contact Vicky in the office.

Xanthe's book

Years 2 and 4 enjoyed a wonderful day with the storyteller Xanthe Gresham-Knight. She has just published a new book. Do seek it out at a bookshop or on line. It's called 'Goddesses and Heroines: women of myth and legend' and it's wonderful!

Newsletter border designs

Thank you to Kayla Nur in Year 2 for this week's border design

This week in Assembly

We learnt more about the West's gain in power through its colonisation of Central and South America. And of course, we acknowledged the historic achievement of Kamala Harris as the new US vice -President.

With best wishes,
Kate Frood and staff

