



Thursday 21st January 2021

Hello everyone!

Week 3

We love finding, discussing and explaining new words at EP. Having a wide vocabulary is so important. Tania came across a very apposite word for our times - **Kenopsia** ...Look it up.

We miss you!

We all send you thanks, love and cartloads of admiration for sustaining a third week of yet more juggling. We know how hard it is – you all deserve medals. Please call if you feel disconnected (literally or metaphorically) or need support in any way. As teachers we are extending our repertoire each week and trying to find ways to re-create the best of the classroom. Look out, for example, for group-work whiteboards (a Jamboard) and recorded voices (Mote) in the children’s feedback!

On that note, unless you have the google classroom app on your phone and have its notifications turned on, you may not notice the teachers’ feedback. Do check! It is a great private place for a dialogue between the teacher, your child and you. Teachers are working hard to get through tasks daily.

Thankfully no new cases this week, reflecting the national picture of a slowing in cases, although it does remain bleak for our NHS colleagues. We are crossing everything. Staff members remain ill, and sadly, right at the very very end of her quarantine, Janet has fallen ill. I know you will join me in sending love and best wishes to her for a safe recovery along with Susie, Sam and Bethan who are still recovering. My thanks to the stretched EP staff team in school covering yet more bases.

We are very much in the swing of our visits to Acland Burghley for our lateral flow tests and are so grateful to the team there. These fast tests are available to the public too. They specifically look for asymptomatic cases. Details of a local centre are here.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/islington-assembly-hall-free-no-symptom-covid-19-testing-tickets-133840260823>

Please continue to follow the rules! If we can all just hunker down for a few more weeks we stand a far greater chance of re-opening after half term. I’m afraid I have no intel to share on that. Just know that we will be very much ‘Team Open’ if it is safe to do so! Whilst it has been empowering to develop remote learning skills, nothing persuades me that it should take the place of a happy, busy, focussed and stimulating classroom!

Home improvements

It has been heartening in a difficult week to see the new infant climbing frame – kindly funded by your good selves – taking shape. The soft astro-turf looks amazing and we like the addition of the climbing wall!

Two of our governors – Tim Peake and parent Christophe Frerebeau – are also very kindly installing a long climbing wall in the playground! Thank you.

A reminder about our next PTA project: new gates in Raveley St that will be re-designed and rebuilt. They are to be called ‘the Kate Gates’. We are running this as a crowd-funding project and, if we don’t reach our target of £10,000 by the closing date of April 1st, we cannot access ANY of the pledged money to date! Here is the link. If you were able to share it with alumni that would be great. A huge thank you to all those who have so generously donated to date.



<https://donatemyschool.com/eleanor-palmer-school-association-2403>

Teachers will be asking all the children for designs for the gates next week. Please all get involved! What would be an appropriate design? What images should be on the gates? What would be a suitable reminder of Miss Froud? Thank you to parent Gonzalo Coello de Portugal for drawing up architectural drawings.

Parents' Evening

We will hold this mid-year Parents' Evening on **Zoom** as everyone is now so familiar with using it. Bookings will through the text/email alert system that has worked so well previously. We will send the booking alert out tomorrow for appointments **from 4-7pm on Wednesday February 3rd and alternatives during the 3rd and 4th.**

On Wednesday 4th Parents' Evening

- The Parents' Eve zoom link will be shared on the day via email, text and Google Classroom. Each class will have a different zoom link.
- Join the waiting room for your child's meeting 5 minutes before your scheduled time (saves any last minute login panic!)
- Teachers will 'let you into' the meeting at the time booked.
- Meetings will promptly finish after 10 minutes. Please don't be offended if teachers move on quickly at the end of the time slot. They need to 'let in' the next parent so that everyone is able to have their full 10 minutes of meeting. If you join late, unfortunately this means your meeting will be shorter so that everyone can still have their full session.

Critical worker places

We continue with our message that, we'd ask you to only request critical worker places in school if there is **no suitable childcare at home**. Although there is no priority ranking within the very extensive list, we see a priority for two parents /one lone parent working **outside the home** in critical worker roles such as education and health. Please do not feel you cannot ask; it is not our intention to be unsupportive. The intention is to keep mixing and movement of people to a minimum - as per the national guidance - and for me to balance supporting children, parents and staff in managing risk. We already have over 20% of our children in school; remember this includes many pupils in school who meet other government criteria.

Stars of the week

Congratulations to you all on another week. Teachers will continue, in the absence of Golden Book assembly, to highlight children who have done particularly well. I have a large collection of chocolate button bags for this week and last week's stars. Do come and collect yours anytime 8-6 daily – we'd love to see you!

Year 6 Maxi – for his amazing independent research about a female micro-biologist currently working on Covid 19.

Year 5: Gaia - who always goes the extra mile in all her work.

Year 4: Frankie, who has been so diligent in turning in his work and has been creating some exceptionally thoughtful pieces of work. Mr P was particularly impressed with his thinking during our philosophy lesson, discussing the quote 'knowledge is power!'

Year 3: Mr C loved Clemie and Georgie's news report on the floods of Hampstead.

Year 2: Gabriella for her incredible research on African Savannah animals. Over 25 facts about the lesser flamingo and bush baby!

Year 1: Thea - is a superstar! She works to such a high standard and is always thoughtful and thorough in her activities. Even when she finds something tricky she perseveres until she completes it!

Reception: Hiba - has been producing some beautiful work. I can tell she's working really hard with her phonics and letter formation. I was very impressed with her language retelling the story of the Three Little Pigs!

Nursery: Elias has been so engaged with all of our home learning activities this week. Team Nursery have loved seeing all of your pictures and hard work. Well done!

And a shout out to Assim in Year 6 who takes the lead in the whole school times table league – averaging 0.84 seconds an answer! EP by the way, is top in Camden!

This week's Shakespeare

We are delighted that The Tempest is the RSC play of the week. Classes will share the link tomorrow in google classrooms.

With love and best wishes to you and all your family.

Kate Froud