



PARENT UPDATES



TEACHER LEAVERS

Sadly at the end of this term Mrs Zylstra, Mrs Saunders, Ms Liddle and Ms Marks will be leaving us. We thank them all for their hard work and contributions over the past years. Please come and visit again soon! Best wishes and good luck from all !!



Elmhurst
Baking Club



Just to update all parents that many successful parent activities have taken place at Elmhurst this term. Our baking club with Saleha Ahmed which takes place Thursday 9.30am-11am has been exceptionally popular. If you would like to be involved come along Thursday morning and enjoy baking and sharing recipes!

TERM TIME HOLIDAY LEAVE

Please note that from 1st September 2013, heads may no longer grant any leave of absence during term time except for exceptional circumstances (e.g. being made homeless). Parents should therefore not ask for any holiday leave during term time since we are no longer allowed to grant this. Penalty fines may be issued to parents who take term time leave without permission. We understand that this will cause inconvenience to some of our parents. However, this change has come from the government. There is a £60 fine which must be paid within 21 days. If not paid within 21 days it rises to £120 if paid within 28 days. Non payment will lead to prosecution.

FREE SCHOOL MEAL APPLICATIONS

As you know all primary school children in Newham are allowed free dinners. All families however must be registered to the free school meals system at Newham. Even if you don't receive benefits your child needs to be registered. The application route to 'Eat for Free' using an eform via the Newham website is <http://www.newham.gov.uk/Pages/Services/Free-school-meals.aspx>. The benefits of registering are huge for the children and include the following: Each child eligible for free school meals will generate £900 for the school. This money has been used for tuition, additional booster sessions and a lot more. If we lose this funding, which was over £300,000 for this year then our excellent services and support for the children might be affected.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY DATES

Holiday Start Date	Return Date	Reason
Wednesday 21st December 2016	Wednesday 4th January 2017	Christmas holidays
Friday 20th January 2017	Monday 23rd January 2017	Inset day
Monday 13th February 2017	Monday 20th February 2017	Half term
Monday 3rd April 2017	Tuesday 18th April 2017	Easter Break
Monday 1st May 2017	Tuesday 2nd May 2017	May Day
Monday 29th May 2017	Monday 5th June 2017	Half term
TBC	TBC	Eid Ul Fitr
Monday 24th July 2017	Monday 4th September 2017	Summer Break

LOST PROPERTY

Please make sure that your child's belongings have been labeled with their name and class as there has been an excess of lost property items. Please take your child's belongings home because anything that is not taken home will be thrown away. The Lost Property trolley is located in Key stage 1 area!



CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK AND LIBRARY LAUNCH

A famous author Dr. Seuss, said, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Many of us love to read here at Elmhurst and greatly value its importance. With a flick of a page, our experiences are enriched and knowledge broadened.

Cressida Cowell, internationally famous author of the How to Train your Dragon books, visited our school on 31st October for a day filled with fun! We had a workshop and ITV News even came in to film our Year 5 pupils in the library. Thanks go to Newham Bookshop and Book Trust who helped organise the event.

We also launched our new library officially with our visiting author, Cressida Cowell, cutting the ribbon. We have spent thousands of pounds buying new books for our fantastic new library. Our pupils love it and are very excited about all the new books.

5G Literacy were extremely lucky to meet Cressida Cowell, the inspiring author of 'How to Train Your Dragon.' During her visit she spoke about her love of reading and how this led to her love of writing later in life. We were lucky to witness the author drawing characters from her stories, learning about the processes she goes through when writing. As if this wasn't enough, ITV came to film us! Some of the children were interviewed about their love of reading. This gave us an insightful experience into television production.

We are extremely proud of the children and their television performances!

Here is a link if you would like to see the children in action.
<http://www.itv.com/news/meridian/update/2016-11-02/teachers-and-pupils-back-calls-for-daily-story-time/>

A huge thank you to our wonderful Miss Young for organising this fabulous day.

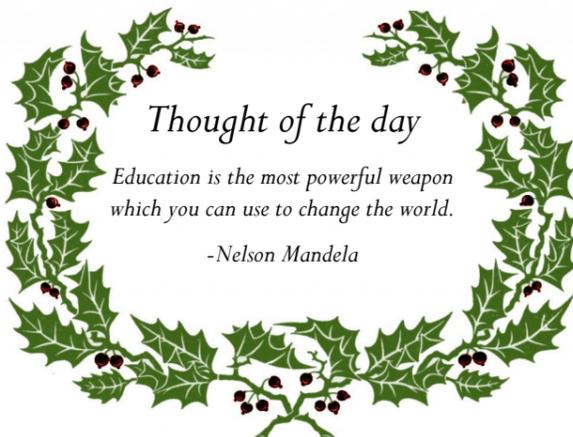


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RICHARD III PRODUCTION

This year's Shakespearean production has been another excellent one by the talented KS2 cast who were exceptional when they performed Richard III at the Shakespeare Schools Festival on Monday 21st November at Stratford Circus. Elmhurst pupils really shone brightly, commanding the stage and acting with conviction and confidence. Sarah Bonnell, the local Secondary School, also participated on the same night and our youngsters more than held their own. A special congratulations to the actor/director Narinder Samra and director Mrs Colthrust who spent time really understanding the text. Our next production will be The Tempest and all those who feel inspired should come and audition!



STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council has had a successful first term. As well as feeding their classmates ideas on to the teachers and school leadership team, the Council has had the opportunity to learn about children's rights and to visit the Houses of Parliament. Next term, the Council will be changing slightly; Y5 and Y6 will have meetings on Tuesday lunchtimes with Mr Walker. Y2, Y3 and Y4 will meet on Tuesdays after school, and will now do so every week. Priorities for the Council when we get back include charity fundraising, a local community clean up, and preparing for Red Nose Day.

BEDTIME STORY READING

On Monday 12th December we held a bedtime story session with hot chocolate and biscuits for pupils, parents and staff. We all dressed in our pyjamas (including staff) and teachers read their favourite stories to the children. The children all had a wonderful time! We encourage all parents to read regularly to their children at bedtime.



YR 5 NEW FOREST TRIP

Children from four Newham primary schools have collaborated with a poet to create some incredible and memorable learning out in the New Forest. Thirty pupils and six members of staff from Elmhurst Primary, Park Primary, Vicarage Primary and Manor Primary took part in the Y5 Poetry Retreat which was organised and created by Mr Walker and Adisa the Verbaliser, a performance poet.

The visit, which took place between 7th and 10th November, saw children exploring the forests, wandering amongst wild horses and using the world around them to inspire their writing. From Elmhurst, 12 Year 5 children took part: Preet, Ayaz, Ralya, Mohamed Bilal, Moqhadasa, Saurav, Aayehsa, Dion, Abia, Zaid, Zainab and Ayan.

Children explored the themes of Rhythm, Space and Movement through expressive-storytelling, performance poetry and a wide range of written poetic forms. As well as taking direct inspiration from the forest, pupils explored their thoughts about growing up and gaining independence, about migration and about the impact we can make on the planet.

Mr Walker said "The week that the Newham Poets spent together in the New Forest was an example of empowering learning with a purpose, and it has brought so many benefits to the pupils involved, whose writing was so expressive, sensitive and deep. For many pupils, it gave them an enormous boost of confidence, and they returned home feeling more mature and more brave. The kids' writing was just brilliant."

Abia, who attended the trip, said "It was very inspring because here we don't get to see the lovely sunsets and all the grass. I liked getting to meet children from other schools." Zaid added, "It was really fun and it made me think more than I normally do. I just loved seeing all the wild animals."

The project culminated in a Poetry Recital and Reunion on December 14th at 4pm, where children, parents and staff came together to hear the children's poetry, to watch a short film of the week, and to receive a copy of their anthology. The anthology, titled 'I Touch The Mythical' (a line from a poem by Ayan Thangal in 5L), contains poems written by the pupils, teachers and Adisa.

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CHRISTMAS FAYRE

This years Annual Christmas Fayre was yet again a huge success.

We had a bouncy castle, raffles with some wonderful prizes, face painting, food stalls and best of all we had Father Christmas to surprise the children. Everybody who came and participated had a brilliant evening.

And now (drum roll) the moment you have all been waiting for. The grand total of how much money was raised in the Christmas Fayre was an unbelievable amount of £1000!

The money raised will go to the Canning Town Homeless Shelter who are very grateful for the generous donation from Elmhurst Primary School.

Thank you to Ms Gaughan and Mrs Jethwa and staff and parents for all the help and support put in to making our Christmas Fayre such a fun event.



NATIONAL INTERSCHOOL QUIZ CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

Out of 240 students, four children were selected to represent Elmhurst Primary School at a very special National Science Quiz. The event was held at Broadwater Primary School in Tooting Broadway and the children managed an amazing seventh place out of the twelve teams, despite only attending a few booster sessions. All four children did the School extremely proud: Mahim Sikder (5L), Inaya Crawford (5S), Ehsen Khan (6A), Muhammad Hamza (6R).

