



PARENT UPDATES

ECAM

ECAM lessons take place every **Wednesday** and **Friday** afternoon. Please make sure your child is bringing in their instrument as we are no longer calling home for this.



FREE ENGLISH COURSE AT ELMHURST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Free English Course at Elmhurst Primary School for **reception parents only** is currently going really well. Parents are being taught to improve their own English at school. Parent are getting an idea of how to help their child do even better at school. All participants will be receiving a certificate on completion of the course.

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.

KS2 PLANTERS

Our gardeners have been busy this term putting in beautiful Olive trees in the KS2 playground area.

Please ensure your children know about the importance of looking after the trees and not to touch the branches.

Thank you!

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.

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!



SPRING NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY



CHAUCER PROJECT 2017

In the Autumn term, 20 year 6 students took part in a special Chaucer project run by Marina Angadi of The Twist Partnership (a leadership development organisation working with schools, young people and adults). The project aimed to empower students and develop a love of literature by engaging them with the general prologue of Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales. The poem, a 14th century poem normally studied at A-Level, is the story of a group of pilgrims who are travelling to Canterbury together and tell each other stories to pass the time. The children began the project by visiting the National gallery to look at contemporary paintings and through them understand the historical context of the poem. They went on to do storytelling, debating, perform with actors in role plays, write an essay and ended by preparing a performance of their work for the school and parents. The group learned sections of the poem in the original medieval language which is very different from the modern English

that we use now and performed this alongside their own modern versions of the characters in the poem. They transformed "The Miller" into a baker working in Greggs and "The Franklyn" into the owner of a halal restaurant all of which was enjoyed by their audience. The children all received certificates for excellence at the end of the performance and five students were given special awards for outstanding achievement and hard work in their essays.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CRICKET COMPETITION	2
FOOTBALL COMPETITION	2
SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE	2
POETRY WORKSHOP	2
TIMES TABLE TOURNAMENT	3
PARENT UPDATES	4
HOLIDAY DATES	4

UPCOMING HOLIDAY DATES

Holiday Start Date	Return Date	Reason
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 (One 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



CRICKET COMPETITION

On 14th December 2016 Elmhurst qualified with St Edwards, Lathom and Central Park in the Langdon Region of the Chance to Shine Indoor Competition. On 19th January these teams met with qualifiers of the Cumberland region in a play off to determine the Newham Representative in the next round of the competition. Central Park did not turn up for the event which meant Elmhurst playing in a group of 3. Elmhurst met Calverton in the finals and won by 7 wickets!



FOOTBALL COMPETITION

A great change in fortunes with the boys training very hard, taking Elmhurst to another level in the football competition which took place at Chobham Academy, giving cricket some competition! They are currently second in the league and are doing extremely well! We are currently trying to put together a girls football team. If you are interested, please see Mr Ben!

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

On 2nd February 2017, members of Elmhurst's Student Council from Years 3 to 6 had the opportunity to meet Elmhurst's Chair of Governors, Mr Graham Lane. The children shared the work that the council has done in the last year, showed photographs of their visit to Parliament, and outlined their fundraising plans for Comic Relief. The children enjoyed talking about politics, democracy and fairness with Mr Lane, who has such a wide experience.

Thought of the day: Always do your best. What you plant now, will harvest later.

POETRY WORKSHOP

On Friday the 27th January 2017, we invited Adisa the Verbaliser, a local and internationally known poet, to our school to help our children create entertaining poetry performances. Adisa spent the morning with the Year 3 children working on their performance skills. Later, the Year 3 and Year 4 children confidently performed their poetry in the afternoon in front of the two year groups, as well as parents and governors. Some Year 3 children from 3CB had written their own poems and their poetic talent greatly impressed Adisa.

We were also very lucky to have Adisa perform his poetry with us, which everyone really enjoyed. The whole day brought out the children's love for poetry and by the end of the day, our children were definitely inspired to write more poetry in their spare time.



MATHS BEE 2017

After the success of our spelling and geography bees, we thought a Maths bee would be a great way to celebrate our love for Maths and provide a fun opportunity to challenge our talented young mathematicians. The competition is open to 24 schools. The 24 teams will compete in 2 heats of 12 schools, with 4 schools from each heat qualifying for the final. The final will take place on Wednesday 22nd February 2017. The lovely people at Mathelona and BarLogik, have agreed to produce materials for the competition and help us provide tricky problems for participants!

EVERYDAY MATHS: A WALK IN THE PARK

Pupils will be visiting West Ham park to carry out treasure hunt mathematical trails based around measuring, estimating and using their sense of direction. We would love for parents to provide their support by attending with their classes.

MATHS PARENT WORKSHOPS

Thank you to the families who attended the maths parent workshops! This was a purposeful opportunity to share our calculation strategies with yourselves. There were about 130 parent attendees for Key Stage 1 and Early Years and 60 for Key Stage 2.

TIMES TABLE TOURNAMENT

This year we had a tantalising round of inter-year group times table competitions (for Key Stage 2 classes) and number bond competitions (for Key Stage 1 classes) this term. A comment from one of the Year 5 parents included, 'I was really nervous just watching from the audience! I think this is a great way to add a competitive buzz amongst the pupils, as well as encourage team work'. Recalling times table and related X and ÷ facts by the end of year 4 is a standard set by the National Curriculum. Winning teams were awarded with mathematical board games, Mathematical Brain box sets and rubix cubes. Thank you to parents for your support in participating the tournaments and let's all keep boosting the rapid recall of times tables with our children.

FAITH IN SCHOOLS

Year 4 pupils reflected on the importance of religion in their lives this month, during an insightful session run by Faith in Schools.

The organisation visited all four classes in the year group and gave children the opportunity to question Christians from local churches, including a priest.

The enjoyable event tied into our current Religious Education topic 'Why is The Bible important to Christians?' and students added to their knowledge by asking questions about when people read the holy book, who they read it with and what lessons they learn from it.

They also looked in depth at one story in The Bible – when Jesus calmed the waves – and discussed what messages Christians might take from this to use in their daily lives.

The children, who said how much they enjoyed the session, which was held on Tuesday February 2nd, were also given the chance to think about their own faiths and share with each other how their religious beliefs inspire them.

