



ELSLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

learning, sharing, achieving and respecting

January 2016

Headteacher's Message Happy New Year to you all.

It was a pleasure to see all the children returning for school in January and I have been pleased to see the good progress and learning taking place. I have been particularly pleased to see so many parents joining in school activities and making the most of the opportunities we offer the community, whether that is attending the recent Parent Staff Association (PSA) meeting, or participating in adult learning. Please continue to support the events which will benefit you and your children. See below for upcoming courses. Just before the holidays, the school performance tables were published and it was pleasing to see that Elsley continues to improve, with the combined Level 4s increasing from 71% in 2013, 72% in 2014 to 78% in 2015. I know that children and all the staff are continuing to work hard in all year groups to meet targets and achieve well. Keep up the good work!

NEWSLETTER

Follow us on  @ElsleyPrimary

City Farm update Amazing news! A national supermarket has agreed to support our City Farm. Elsley has been awarded a share of a community grant. Members of the public will be asked to vote for 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices. Details will follow...



Adult Learning

We run a range of classes and courses to support parents, including English classes and practical parenting support. See the diary at the bottom for dates.

There are **Reading Workshops for Year 1 and 2 parents**, in February and March. These will be after school and children will be looked after during the workshops.

Parent Workshop: Managing Fighting and Aggression This course outlines how children develop resilience at different ages, and provides concrete strategies for parents/carers to help create a strong emotional foundation for the future.

Parent Workshop: Dealing with Disobedience Learn strategies for encouraging co-operation and managing non co-operation without shouting or threats.

Attendance /Punctuality **Medical Appointments**

Please try to arrange routine appointments (eg to the dentist) after school or during the holidays. Up to half a day may be authorised for urgent appointments and you may be asked for proof. Please note that absence will not be authorised for a child to attend a medical appointment for their sibling.

School starts at **8.55am** for juniors and **9am** for infants.

If your child is unwell, please email absence@elsley.brent.sch.uk or call the office. A full copy of the attendance policy is available on our website or a copy can be obtained from the office.



If you change your mobile number, please inform the Office.

Expansion of Elsley - Update

The London Borough of Brent has applied for planning permission for Elsley's new buildings. The plans include excellent facilities including a multimedia room, a cooking room, a Learning Resource Centre, extra group learning rooms and an outdoor multi-use games area. The building work is expected to start this summer.

Sufra NW London is grateful to teachers and pupils at Elsley Primary School for supporting their Christmas Raffle and raising funds for the food bank.

The winter months are very busy at Sufra Food Bank, as many low-income families are forced to choose between heating and eating. The funds raised by Elsley Primary School helped provide emergency food to over 500 people in the run-up to Christmas. They look forward to working with teachers and pupils on other initiatives in the coming year.



Thank you!

Behaviour Principles - Parent Consultation

Thank you to parents who sent feedback on the Governing Body's Behaviour Principles. Your comments have been incorporated into the finalised version which has been published on our website.

Please ask at the office if you would like a paper copy.

Keeping Safe (Safeguarding)

Mrs Sarkar is in charge of Safeguarding.

For safety reasons, **ball games are not allowed before school starts.**

We encourage children to be healthy and scoot to school but please use the scooter park and **don't bring scooters into the playground.**

To ensure we are actively keeping everyone safe, we regularly practice fire or emergency evacuations. We recently practiced an evacuation during the

Governors Corner - Mrs Davina Ajana, Parent Governor:

I studied a BA (Design Studies) and an MA in Photography and Urban Cultures. I work Part time as a Creative Manager for a large retail company.

My first child attends Elsley in Year One. I'm extremely happy with how the school supports her academic progression.

I applied for Parent Governor, as I'm passionate about education, the community and the continuing improvement of the school. I'm delighted to represent the views of parents and support the staff.

Ms Anna Townsend, Co-opted Governor:

Hi! I joined the governing body as a community governor in 2014. I live in Willesden Green and work for Teach First, an educational charity, in which we work with lots of schools nationally to ensure equal education for all pupils, regardless of background.

I am a former Design and Technology teacher having taught in 2 schools in West London before moving to my present role where I oversee the programme of 90+ West London schools.

I am thoroughly enjoying being a governor and getting to know Elsley Primary and its wonderful community.

Dates for your Diary

February

Wed 10th Parent course: Managing Fighting & Aggression 9am-11am

Wed 10th Year 2 Parents' Reading Workshop at 3:30pm

Mon 15th - Fri 19th Spring Half Term Break

March

Tues 1st Year 1 Parents' Reading Workshop at 3:30pm

Mon 7th Parent workshop: Dealing with Disobedience 9am-11am

Tues 22nd **School closes 1:30pm** for Parent-teacher meetings

Thursday 24th Last Day of Term (Summer Term starts April 11th)

April

Mon 11th First day of Summer Term

Early Years

The Reception children had a very exciting month. They had a visit from a monster so they decided to make a monster's den for it to live in.

The children made their own monsters to play with the monster. They also created character profiles for their monsters.

At home they made story boxes and in school are using these to make up their own stories.



Train to Teach

Elsley partners with a number of organisations to train new teachers. We are partners of the **Brent Teaching School Alliance** and **Teach First**. We also train PGCE students with **UCL Institute of Education (UCL IoE)**.

If you, or anyone you know, is considering a career in teaching, direct them to apply through UCAS to train with the Brent BTSA alliance - at Elsley or our partner schools.

TeachFirst
Partner School

For more info:
www.btsa.london

B/T/S/A
BRENT TEACHING
SCHOOL ALLIANCE

Our lunches are freshly made by Chef Lucia and Harrison Caterers.

Children in the school council help decide the menus which are tasty and nutritionally balanced. There are themed menus to reflect special calendar dates - there will be **themed meals** for **Chinese New Year** and for **Easter**. Parents will be notified about these dates so all children have the opportunity to have a school lunch on those days.

The government currently pays for meals for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and we expect all children to have the free meals. The majority of our older pupils also have a school meal. If you wish to swap from packed lunch to school dinner - or wish to make a change - please complete a form in the office.



Year 2 children have been learning about Road Safety.

In this photo they are learning to cross the road, within the school grounds.

They have linked their learning to English by writing instructions on how to cross the road.

Year 4 have been studying India in geography this term. In small groups, the children presented TV documentaries to demonstrate their knowledge of the city of Bangalore. They chose different roles including Presenter, Director and Script Writer.



Year 3 children set up an Italian pizzeria in their classroom. They are learning about Italy and what better way of learning than making - and eating - their own pizzas! **Thank you Chef Lucia** for making the dough and visiting the Year 3 Pizzeria to speak to the children. They used basil, mozzarella and tomato passata (the colours of which are shown on the Italian flag) to make their own margarita pizzas.

They loved making and eating them!



Nursery places - there are a limited number of places for the current Nursery. **We are also still accepting applications for September 2016** entry into the Nursery for 15 hours of free education.

Children who attend Nursery consistently achieve more- even once they are older. Please ask the office for details of how to apply.

Pupils in Year 6 have been reading the book *'The London Eye Mystery'* and have been writing poems and doing art based on the London Cityscape.



As part of his home learning, Rushil created a model of the London Eye using Knex puzzle pieces.



Mr Sterling is a new teacher in Year 3. He comes to teaching with a background in law and government before completing his teacher training.

He combines a commitment to young people and social progression with a passion for education through inspiring teaching.

Mr Sterling has taught at both primary and secondary and has extensive experience supporting children of different needs and abilities.

Mr Sterling has many strengths, including a particular interest in pupil motivation and mentoring. He has received national recognition as an 'honoured professional' for his work in this area.

In his leisure time Mr Sterling enjoys travelling, reading, fitness, running and spending time with quality time with his son and family. Make sure you say hello if you see him around!



Newsletter via email If you would like the newsletter to be sent to you each month, in colour via email, send a message to parents@elsley.brent.sch.uk with your name and the title 'newsletter.'