



Article 17 - Children have the right to information & to speak out/be heard.

ELMWOOD INFANT SCHOOL

Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow

Newsletter –February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This month has seen the school celebrate NSPCC Number Day and Online Safety Day. These are both important curriculum events.

Well done to the children for their creativity in dressing up for **Number Day**. The day was spent taking part in fun maths challenges as well as raising awareness of the NSPCC.

Online Safety is particularly important with our children's use of technology nowadays. During Online Safety Day, we teach the children how to use the internet safely. We do remind them during their Computing lessons of the importance of keeping their passwords to themselves.

Writing Update

Writing has been a key focus for the school for the past three years now. It was also one of the areas of development from the school's last inspection. For many schools, writing is an area for development, one of the reasons being that children often do not choose to write with technology being so available nowadays.

At Elmwood Infant School, staff have worked hard under the leadership of Mrs Murphy and Miss Payne to improve writing by making the whole process a lot simpler. We are focusing on our children being confident in writing a range of sentences and being able to punctuate them with capital letters and full stops. For our younger children the focus is on leaving spaces between words, which we call 'finger spaces'. We teach the children that this will help people read what they have written.

This year we have introduced a new handwriting program called Letter Join, as we noticed that children were not forming letters correctly.

To help your child with their writing at home, try using these simple tips:

- ✓ Say their sentence before they write it
- ✓ Leave finger spaces between words so it can be read by you
- ✓ Encourage correct letter formation- Do not write their names in capital letters

In March's Newsletter, we will give you an update on our progress with our next key priority: Developing Vocabulary

Attendance and Punctuality Update

Our current whole school attendance percentage is now 93.39% (excluding Nursery). This is an improving picture. However, we do still have an issue with our punctuality. Please remember, that if your child arrives after 8:50am, they are late. Unfortunately, if your child is late ten minutes every day, they are missing almost an hour of teaching a week. Children can be very unsettled when they arrive late as teaching and learning start straightway at Elmwood.

February's Book Recommendation by Mischa in Seahorses

This month's book recommendation is *Coming to England* by Floella Benjamin.

I like this book because we live in London, the capital city of England. It teaches me what London was like in those days.

Friends of Elmwood News

Thank you to the Friends of Elmwood for organising Year 2's Movie Night last Friday. 97 children attended- It was very popular. The children chose to watch *Sing 2* which was almost two hours long! The Year 2 children were very excited, but were able to sing along to some of the more popular songs. The money raised will contribute towards Year 2's end of Elmwood Infant School trip.

Spring Term Dates:

12th-19th February – Half Term

Monday 19th February - INSET Day

Tuesday 20th February- Return to School

Wednesday 28th February –
Parents' Evening

Thursday 29th February – Parents'
Evening

Thursday 7th March – World Book
Day

Collection from School before Home Time

The school has noticed a number of parents collecting children early from school for unacceptable reasons, which are not directly linked to the children. Please avoid doing this as it does disrupt your child's education.

Kitchen Update

Thank you, parents, for your patience in providing nutritious lunches for your children due to our kitchen being out of action. We are hoping to remedy the situation as soon as possible. Despite the disruption, many children enjoyed choosing their own packed lunches.