



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

ELMWOOD INFANT SCHOOL

Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow

Newsletter – 24th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Belated New Year and Happy Chinese New Year!

We are writing to all children's families to emphasise the importance of being in school on time as there have been numerous incidents of some families routinely arriving at school at 9.00 a.m. or later and collecting their children at 3.20 p.m. or later.

School starts at 8.50 a.m. every day, so that they can start their lessons promptly. Children who arrive late are greatly disadvantaged because they miss starting the day with their peers and the beginning of lessons. This means that they are often unsettled and confused about tasks. Their teacher will not always be able to re explain work. It is also very important that children establish good routines and habits in preparation for the rest of their lives. Punctuality is a life skill that they need to develop whilst they are young. It is essential that you ensure that your child arrives at school on time to prevent disruption to your child's own learning and that of others.

We will continue to focus on this area with children through class work and school assemblies

We are required to monitor children's punctuality and attendance. On-going lateness (after the class register has been taken) is classified as an unauthorised absence and this is contrary to The Education Act.

We understand that there may be rare occasions when you are unavoidably late due to unforeseen circumstances. On these occasions please make sure that you contact the school office to inform us when you will arrive.

Children must be collected from their classes at **3.10 p.m.**

High levels of unauthorised absences or poor punctuality can result in a referral to the Educational Welfare Service or other agencies which have a duty to investigate further and could result in legal action being taken against you.

If you are experiencing difficulties with punctuality and would like to talk to us about it, please make an appointment to do so.

NEU- Teachers' Strike- School Closure

The National Education Union has called a strike on Wednesday 1 February 2023. As most of the teaching staff at Elmwood Infant School are members and have decided to take industrial action. Therefore, the school will be closed on that date. A £3.00 Food voucher will be sent to families who are entitled to free school meals.

Parents' Meeting

Our second parents' meeting will take place this Friday 27 January from 9am. The last meeting proved very successful and informative.

Thank you to Stella Osan for organising it. Stella reports that many parents have been asking when the next meeting is.



Mrs Thurgood is 80!

One of our longest serving and much valued members of staff, Mrs Lilian Thurgood turned 80 on 7 January this year. The staff celebrated this momentous event by giving her a surprise birthday breakfast on 6 January. Mrs Thurgood has worked as a teaching assistant at Elmwood Infant School for almost thirty years. She continues to provide valuable support Year 2. We wish Mrs Thurgood a Happy 80th Birthday!

Spring Term dates:

22 January- Chinese New Year

Friday 3 February NSPCC Number Day

Tuesday 7 February - Safer Internet Day

15-20 February – Half Term

Monday 20 INSET Day – No School

Tuesday 21 February- Return to school

Wednesday 1 March – Parents' Evening

Thursday 2 March – Parents' Evening

Thursday 2 March – World Book Day

Early Years Dance Workshop

On Tuesday 24 January Nursery and Reception classes took part in a Chinese New Year dance workshop to commemorate the Chinese New year of the Rabbit. The children said , 'It was fun and colourful.'

Our Wednesday Food Market

Our weekly Food Market has proven very popular. We receive donations from food outlets via the Felix project which enables the school to donate free food. We also collect donations at the market. Our aim is to use those collected funds to support our families in most need. So far we have collected **£139.77.**