



Elm C of E Primary School

Main Road, Elm Cambs. PE14 0AG

Tel & Fax 01945 860295

e-mail ~ office@elm.cambs.sch.uk

Website ~ www.elmcofeprimaryschool.com

Headteacher – Mrs F McCallum

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Newsletter October 2011

Dear Parent/Carer,

Harvest Service

Thank you very much to the many parents who supported us at our harvest service. The collection for charity raised a total of £160, which will be donated to the 'Build our Schools' project in Vellore, India.

Walk to School Week

Next week, 17th to 21st October, the whole school will be taking part in national Walk to School Week. Please join in with us by walking to school every day if you live locally, and for those who have to drive in from further away you can help by 'distance parking' – park a reasonable distance away from the school and walk the last section of your journey. There will be reward stickers at the end of the week for children who take part and a small competition between classes to see who can walk the most. It is a good opportunity for the children to have more exercise and fresh air and also for us to ease the congestion outside the school gates. Parents regularly speak to me about their concerns about road safety, especially vehicles mounting the pavement along Main Road. This is a good opportunity for us all to put the safety of all the children first and park a bit further away from school.

There is also a competition for the children run by the Cambridgeshire 'Safer Routes to School Team'. The competition is to design and draw a Walk to School Superhero, giving the hero a name and a superpower. The Superhero's purpose should be to encourage children to walk to school, but how he/she does this is down to the imagination of the children. There is a first prize of a £25 book token and two runners up will each receive a £10 book token. Entries need to be returned to school by Wednesday 19th October and will be judged during half term.

Sponsored Walk

It seems to be a very fitting end for Walk to School Week for us to hold our Sponsored Walk, which raises money for school funds. The Sponsored Walk will take place on Friday 21st October beginning at about 2.00 p.m.. The younger children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be invited to walk a maximum of 10 laps of the field while the older children will be asked to walk up to 20 laps. You are, of course, very welcome to attend and cheer the children on. Attached to this letter you will find a sponsor form. If you wish your child to take part in this fund raising event, please help them to gather some sponsors. There is no compulsion to take part, but all the money raised will be spent on resources for our school. Please return the sponsor form to school by Thursday 20th October, and thank you in anticipation of your support.

Visiting Teachers

Our school is beginning to work in partnership with several universities offering initial teacher training. Over the coming year we will have several visiting teachers working in school, who I am sure will add greatly to the experiences of the children. In the near future we look forward to welcoming Miss Boorman, Mrs Martin and Miss Parry to our staff team.

Childhood Vaccinations

I have been asked by representatives of the local GP surgeries to remind all parents of the importance of primary immunisations. Vaccination against preventable diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria tetanus, polio, whooping cough and meningitis C is crucial as these diseases are highly infectious, especially in a school environment. These diseases can also be life threatening. If you are not sure whether your child has had all of the primary immunisations offered for free, or if he/she has not yet had the pre-school booster, please contact your GP surgery who will be happy to advise you further.

Maths Curriculum Evenings

I look forward to seeing many of you at the maths curriculum evenings next week. I am very sorry that there is a typing error on the sign up sheet, but the correct time for the Key Stage 2 session on Tuesday 11th October should read 6.00 p.m.. We will be producing information booklets for you to take home on the evenings, and these will also be available to parents who are not able to attend.

School Meals

Following the recent consultation about school meals carried out by the governors, I have been asked to make sure that all parents are aware that the school catering team can accommodate children with specific dietary requirements, such as gluten free or food allergies. If your child has specific dietary requirements and would like to have school meals, please contact the school office to talk about your child's needs and the catering team will be happy to help you.

Yours sincerely

Fiona McCallum
Headteacher