



Elm C of E Primary School

Newsletter

February 2012



Welcome to our 'new look' newsletter. We hope you will enjoy finding out about what is going on in school at the moment.

Year 5 and 6 Trip

On 31st January years 5 and 6 enjoyed a brilliant visit to True's Yard and the Green Quay in King's Lynn. The purpose of the trip was learn more about the environment of the Wash, supporting work in Geography and Science. Everyone enjoyed the day and learnt a lot. 'It was awesome' said Louise, 'the best school trip so far.' Georgia and Charlotte said 'We saw different creatures that live in the Wash, from plankton to a Mermaid's Purse.'



Big Writing

All of the classes from Year 1 through to Year 6 are getting involved in a new project called 'Big Writing'. This means that once a fortnight the children have a really special writing time. Before break, they play word games and 'warm up' their writing skills, then after break they have a silent writing session. We make the atmosphere in the classroom special by lighting a scented candle, turning on some coloured fairy lights and playing music softly in the background. The teachers encourage the children to improve their writing by focusing on four key areas—vocabulary, connectives, openings of sentences and punctuation. Our first few Big Writing sessions have been a great success, as most children have enjoyed writing and teachers have been very pleased with their efforts.



Year 2

In the last few weeks Mrs Wickes' class have been learning about the 'Great Fire of London'. They have found this a really interesting project and know lots of facts and details. 'The fire spread quickly because the houses were close together and the wind blew.' wrote Sidnee.



'Chinese New Year' in Reception

Here are some of our Reception children tasting noodles as part of their learning about Chinese New Year. They had a great time!

Keeping Safe at School

Please can we remind everyone to enter and leave the school site by the side drive, without taking a short cut through the front car park. It is much safer to come down the drive to put your bike or scooter in the bike sheds because there may be cars entering or leaving the front car park. We would also appreciate it if parents would not allow younger children or toddlers to use scooters, bikes or 'ride-ons' on the playground at the beginning or end of the day.

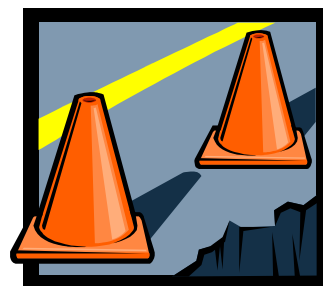
Year 3 and 4's Victorians Topic

Children in Year 3 and 4 would like everyone to know how much they are enjoying their current topic about the Victorians. In our Friday 'Proud of' assemblies they have amazed the whole school with information about the Great Exhibition and a PowerPoint presentation about working children. Later this term they have more special activities to look forward to—including a Victorian School day on Friday 2nd March, an afternoon with local historian Colin Bedford on Thursday 15th March and a visit to Wisbech Castle on Thursday 22nd March. We would love the children to dress up in a Victorian costume for each of these special days—one costume can be used three times. More information and a sheet with costume ideas will follow after half term.



Keeping Safe on the Roads

I am sure you will be pleased to know that the police are responding to concerns from local people about speeding through the village and congestion at the beginning and end of the school day by having a focus on traffic in Elm over the coming months. There will be more visits from PCSOs and the speed camera will be in operation on quite a few occasions. Please think about others as you park, and avoiding pulling into the top of the school drive to drop children off—it is dangerous for pedestrians at a very busy time of the day.



Did you know?

Did you know that the school office sells a range of hats in our school uniform design? There are caps, legionnaires hats and winter woollies all on sale for just £2, so please pop in and speak to Mrs Jobson or Mrs Jellis, or send the money in an envelope with your child.

We're looking forward to...

Book Week! The whole school will be enjoying a week of activities celebrating reading and favourite books in the week of 5th March. There will be a visit from a well known children's author, Steve Smallman, and every class will take part in a story telling workshop. On Thursday 8th March we will be asking all the children to dress up as a character from a book, and this will also be a chance to raise some money for Great Ormond Street Hospital, a wonderful charity which we know is a very special place for several of our families. Look out for more details after half term.



Don't forget...

ESA Discos on Friday 10th February: KS1 5.30 to 6.30 p.m. and KS2 6.45 to 8.00 p.m..
Half term holiday—school is closed from Monday 13th to Friday 17th February.
Friday 'Pop in' 24th February—call into the classroom to see some of your child's work.
Friday 24th February at 3.15 p.m.—next ESA meeting.