



Elm C of E Primary School

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Wisbech Schools'
PARTNERSHIP

Working Together

Newsletter March 2011

Thursday 10th March 2011

Dear Parent/Carer,

Red Nose Day

Friday 18th March is Red Nose Day and once again we will be raising money for Comic Relief. This year we will be holding a non-uniform day in which the children can donate £1 and wear something red. Also each class teacher will organise a competition for their own class in which the children can 'do something funny' to try to win a red nose. We look forward to lots of support for this charity event.

Homework Clubs

We would like to add two Homework Clubs to our range of after school activities. Starting next week, on Tuesdays there will be club after school for children in Year 3 and 4, and on Thursdays there will be a club for children in Years 5 and 6. Both Homework Clubs will be run by one of our teaching assistants, Mrs Brown and will be from 3.10 to 4.00 p.m.. For children in these age groups, there is a reply slip enclosed. We expect children to attend regularly each week, bringing their homework and their reading book. Please collect your child from the front entrance promptly at 4.00 p.m.. There will be no charge for this club.

Attendance

I continue to monitor attendance regularly, and would like to thank the many parents who ring in to the school office to let us know if their child is ill. This saves us time and money and is very much appreciated. Our attendance across the whole school since September is currently 94.6%, with the best attendance in Years 5 and 6 and the worst in Reception. This is below the governments minimum expected level of 95% and therefore causes some concern. Whilst I understand that most children will miss school from time to time because they are genuinely ill, there remain a small minority of children who take time off school for holidays or non-urgent appointments. Every day at school is important, and we would like to recognise and celebrate good attendance more, so over the next few weeks we will be starting to award a trophy in 'Proud Of' assembly to the class with the best attendance each week and also rewarding individual children with stickers and small prizes.

Design and Technology

On Tuesday 15th February we received a visit from an Ofsted inspector who was looking at Design and Technology as part of national survey. The feedback from the visit highlighted our broad and balanced curriculum which was considered to be good. All other aspects of our work in Design and Technology were graded as satisfactory. We were pleased with the outcome of this subject survey inspection, and will act upon the inspector's suggestions to improve our work further. If you would like to read in full the letter from the inspector there is a copy available for you in the school office. It will also be published on the Ofsted website at some point in the next month.

Elm School Association – Zumba Night

There are still tickets available from the school office for the ESA's Zumba night on Friday 18th March – this is a great chance to try out the latest exercise craze and I am sure it will be great fun too!

The Royal Wedding

We break up for the Easter holidays on Friday 8th April and the summer term begins on **Thursday 28th April**. As this is the day before the royal wedding and is also the day before our additional bank holiday, we have decided to make this into a special celebration day. The children are invited to dress up in red, white and blue in exchange for a donation of £1 to CLIC Sargent, the children's cancer charity. Each class will have day of fun activities based around the royal wedding. Further details will be included in the next newsletter.

Yours sincerely

Fiona McCallum
Headteacher