



ELSTON HALL Primary School

Elston Hall News



As we find ourselves almost at the end of the term, might I take this opportunity to thank families for your support so far this year. We have had plenty to celebrate this term with lots of trips and visits, taking part in the City's Diversity Celebrations, and plenty of sporting success - including another recent victory in football last week as our team won a match against East Park.

This week has been an extremely busy one full of festivities. Our school Christmas Lunch / Jumper Day was thoroughly enjoyed on Tuesday and confirmed that our decision to open the school! Thank you to all the families who have visited school over the last few days to watch the Christmas productions – we hope you have enjoyed them. The staff were all very proud of your children and they certainly help to bring the festive spirit to our school. I would like to offer my personal thanks to Elston Hall staff for delivering these performances alongside their planning, teaching and learning! The festivities aren't over yet as next week will see years 3 & 4's performance as well as our party days!

You may have seen recently in the local press the publication of primary school league tables for 2017. We at Elston Hall know there are many factors that help to make our school the best, however 89% of our 2017 year 6 children reached expected standard of learning in maths, reading and writing (combined). This placed us 3rd in the City rankings!

It is a shorter than usual Christmas holiday with children returning on Wednesday 3rd January, for what promises to be another busy term - a term where we really look to consolidate our learning.

Finally, may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas with your families.

Kevin Grayson.

What's Coming Up...

Tuesday 19th December - Year 3&4 performances
9.30am and 6.30pm
Tuesday 19th December - Nursery Party Day / last day for Nursery
Wednesday 20th December - Party Day and Break up for Christmas
Wednesday 10th January - Class 11 Strings Concert details TBC

Term Dates

Children break up for Christmas on Wednesday 20th December and return to school on Wednesday 3rd January 2018.
A full list of dates as ever is included on the reverse of this newsletter.

Weather and Site Safety

Thank you to families for your understanding regarding the school closure on Monday. It is never a decision which is taken lightly. However, the safety of our children, staff and families is paramount and this will always come first in our decision making. Should we have further bad weather in the early Spring term then we will again try to let families know of any closures as soon as practically possible. We have remained open for the remainder of the week and tried to ensure our site has remained safe so that our Christmas plays can go ahead. As ever, the car park at the back of school remains a bone of contention and its safety at this time of year. We have requested that the Council try and find time to grit this area. I understand that there are still mixed messages about ownership of the carpark. Whatever the past disagreements, on conversion to an Academy the car park was not part of the land leased by the school and it does not belong to us. Once again, thank you for your understanding.

Attendance

The overall attendance figure for this term as of 8th December is 96.8%. Thank you - this is fantastic, lets see if we can beat it in the Spring term!

Sickness

There has been a lot of sickness in school this week. It is always a balance between keeping your children away from school if they are ill and sending them in and of course we do encourage good attendance at all times. However, medical advice is clear that the best practice is to keep your child away from school for 48 hours if they have had sickness or diarrhoea due to a 'bug'. Please keep staff informed if your child has returned to school following an illness. We have a number of pregnant staff and vulnerable pupils in school and we need to be fully aware of viruses that are around in order to support your child and others on their return once they have recovered. Many thanks!

Events calendar for the academic year 2017/2018

Please find below an updated list of events, we hope this helps with your arrangements

Tuesday 19th December – Nursery Christmas party day 9.45-11.45am and 1.30 – 3.30pm

Tuesday 19th December – Nursery Children break up for Christmas

Tuesday 19th December – Year 3 & 4 Christmas performance 9.30 am and 6.30 pm

Wednesday 20th December – Christmas Party Day and children break up for Christmas (Nursery Closed)

Thursday 21st December – Monday 1st January - Christmas holiday

Tuesday 2nd January – INSET day, school closed to children

Wednesday 3rd January 2018 – Children return to school

Wednesday 10th January – Violin Concert (details TBC)

24th and 25th January – Fire Service in to visit Year 4

Wednesday 14th February 2018 – Year 5 Trip to Cosford

Monday 19th February – Friday 23rd February 2018 – Half Term

Tuesday 13th March – Year 1 to Western Park, class 4 and half of class 5

Wednesday 14th March – Year 1 to Western Park, class 6 and half of class 5

Thursday 29th March 2018 – Children Break up for Easter

Monday 16th April 2018 – Children return to school

Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June 2018 – Half Term

Thursday 5th and Friday 6th July – Year 6 Robotics Days

Friday 20th July 2018 – Children break up for summer

Please Note – we have one more Inset Day for this academic year which is yet to be arranged. We will inform you of this date as soon as it is arranged.