



Elton Primary School & Nursery

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**BA Hons QTS, MA, NPQH, MA,
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Our Ref: PARL 0719

Dear Parent/Carer,

Well those eight weeks went fast! Today marks the end of our longest half term of the year and it has been action packed. Where do I start?

Let's begin with our Age UK Cheshire art project. Over the last four weeks we've been lucky enough to welcome Vivienne into our school to work with all our classes from Year 1 to Year 4. She has become our resident artist! The children have worked on creating a big piece of art work to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the ending of World War One. Vivienne has commented on how amazing the children are: great art skills, excellent manners and impeccable behaviour. What has made it such a special event is that so many grandparents have joined us during these sessions to work on the project. The project ends on the first week back when the Year 5 children, and hopefully some of their grandparents, get to work with Vivienne. The completed artwork will then be displayed for all to see in the Boat Museum on Remembrance Sunday!

Talking about the boat museum, the children in Year 5 and Year 6 got to spend a day at the museum exploring science, technology, engineering and maths ideas. These included a workshop looking at how to design a functioning city and a session in the astronomy dome. Space has been a big talking point in our reception class this term too, Mrs McCarroll has been telling me all about their alien visitors who have been busy replying to all the fantastic handwritten questions that the children have left out for them!

Sport has been a big focus again in school. The junior children have enjoyed playing football and netball in our new MUGA pitch on the back playground. Miss Preugschat is the sporty one in our school and always organises a range of events for the children. A Tag Rugby tournament was the highlight of this half term. Next term we have the Cheshire School Football Cup, the Girls' Cheshire Football Cup and a Badminton Festival to look forward to.

Other highlights from this term included a visit from Mr Kenyon (Miss Preugschat's Grandad) who talked about his book 'A Good Cluttering'. If anyone wants to volunteer to support reading in our school then do get in touch – especially any male role models out there. We had a really successful Macmillan morning which was organised by our amazing 'Friends of Elton' Team: almost £500 was raised during the morning. Reverend Ruth led our Harvest Festival assembly where once again the generosity shown in the donated food was amazing to see. Finally the junior children got to watch the



superb play 'Adrift' which was kindly paid for by Essar and performed by the talented Action Transport Theatre.

This term we have been lucky to welcome some new people into our school team. Miss Clarke took up the post of our new cook and has spent the last few weeks serving up some lovely treats to the children (and the odd cake for the acting head too!). In the office, we have been fortunate to have Miss Jackson join us. The office is now open every school day from 8:30 uninterrupted through to 4:00. Other new faces include our teachers Miss Curry (Year 1) and Miss Mathison (Year5). We have also seen a change in roles for Miss Stanley, Mrs Henderson and Mrs Ninnis-Jeal as they've undertaken Teaching Assistant Roles across the school. Mrs Harland has also taken so well to her new role of teaching in the juniors it's like she's been doing it forever.

Sadly we have had to say goodbye to some of our staff this half term too. I'm sure that you are by now all aware that Miss Carr has left us to take up the full time position at Woodlands Primary. However you may not be aware that two unsung heroes of our school sadly say farewell to us after many years working at Elton. Mrs Shaw and Mrs Smith have both worked for over a quarter of a century at our school as mid-day assistants and cleaners. We will miss them both very much and wish them the very best for their retirement.

We will all have to get used to a new name on the school staff next half term too. Miss Blake is getting married at the end of the first week back. I'm sure everyone wishes the future Mrs Higginson the very best for her special day.

Looking ahead to next half term, we have seven jam-packed weeks planned between now and the Christmas holiday. Our Infant classes will be rehearsing for their Christmas production, we have a theatre company in for our Christmas play, there is a sleep over taking place, lots of sports events are planned and our reception and nursery classes will be visited by fire officers in their fire engine and paramedics in their ambulance.

On a personal note, I've really enjoyed the last eight weeks. It has been so enjoyable getting to pop into all of the classes and see the amazing work that the children produce. I've even ventured as far as the nursery class – fortunately Mrs Wynn and her team went easy on me. I've shown many visitors around and every single one of them has commented on how great the children are. I've also enjoyed the opportunity to go out onto the playground before and after school to chat with some of you. If you see me on the playground please come up and say hello. I know that Miss Roberts as Acting Deputy, Miss Blake as Acting Assistant Head and myself as Acting Head have all appreciated the support that we have received from you this half term and we look forward to working ever closer with you next half term.

Mr Manning

