



## Elton Primary School & Nursery

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**Acting Headteacher – Mr Kevin Manning**

15<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Our Ref: PARL:0746

Dear Parent/Carer,

Well the third half-term has been and gone. We are now well into the second half of the school year already – where has it gone? The last six weeks have seen the whole range of weather conditions hit us: snow, ice, gales and even a bit of sunshine – if only for a few hours! But we've not let the elements stop us from having an amazing time at Elton Primary School and Nursery - as any regulars to our Twitter page will testify! If you are not a follower yet, then @EltonPrimary is our Twitter name and we have regular photograph updates throughout the term from all classes.

One of the big events in school this half-term was our Safer Internet Day. During the day, the children worked across year groups within their school teams: Delamere, Dee, Beeston and Manley. It was great to see the children working so well with their friends from different classes and some of our Year Six children have definitely got the skills for a future career in teaching! Mrs McCarroll is our Computing subject lead and was the brains behind the whole day; she even set up our own blog which offers some handy tips for parents which can be found by following the link: <http://www.elton.cheshire.sch.uk/blog/safer-internet-day-2019/34479>

Despite the snowy, windy and icy conditions, our hardy children and staff have loved undertaking the orienteering activities that have taken place since Christmas. The sessions are led by Paul - you might remember him from autumn's marshmallows and campfires last term. Paul is an expert in outdoor learning and works across many schools. I know he has been delighted within the teamwork skills, resilience and positive attitude from all the children – and with their orienteering skills too.

The weather was kind to us at the start of term for our two trips to Chester Zoo. One of the perks of the Acting Head Teacher role is that I got to go on both of the trips. The children were fantastic throughout both days and taught me some interesting animal facts as we walked around: if rumours of David Attenborough leaving the BBC are true, then we have some ready-made replacements for him at Elton Primary!

This term we have welcomed a couple of visitors to school to talk to us about the local community. We had John Heselwood in to do a whole school assembly to discuss some exciting ideas about how to improve the local playing fields. Afterwards, the children all got to vote for their favourite options: the outdoor gym idea was one of the more popular suggestions. With her PE subject leader's hat on, Miss Preugschat will be glad that option was so popular especially with the Year Six children after her 'Fitness Friday' sessions. Another visitor was Coleen from Sanctuary Housing who did a project about homes and the local housing development with the Year Six class. This was followed by a



naming competition that was won by Eve and Paris with their suggestion of 'Bluebell View'. Well done to the two girls – although I'm still secretly disappointed that they didn't choose Manning Lane! Look out in the near future for information about a project we intend to undertake regarding improvements to Elton Train Station.

'Stay and Learn' sessions have taken place again across school this term and all the staff have been delighted by both the amazing turn-out we've had for the sessions and with the excellent feedback we've received from them. As a working parent myself, I know how difficult it can be to get time off work or child cover for school related activities and so we really appreciate it when so many of you can make it. For those who couldn't attend this time, look out for our next sessions in the summer term.

Other highlights of the term include the on-going cricket coaching with Mr Edwards which has been happening weekly in Key Stage Two. Given how poorly England have performed in the West Indies this winter, we are expecting the selectors to be phoning us for help soon. Away from sports, our Year Six maths team took part in regional qualifications – it was extra hard for them this year as the preliminary practice session were cancelled due to illness so they had no idea what to expect. Well done to all four of them.

As I sit here writing this letter, our Year Four class are on their annual residential to the Conway Centre with Miss Preugschat and Mrs Deakin. The residentials are always highlights of the year for both the children and the staff: the children get to undertake some great new experiences and the staff get to see the children shine in different environments away from the classroom. We have just started to look into a potential change to the Year 5 and Year 6 residential for next year and will keep everyone posted on developments as they occur.

Next half term will be an exciting one for the school as we will have appointed our new permanent headteacher before the spring holiday (we can't call it Easter holiday this year as we are back in school before the Easter weekend). Two appointments that have occurred already this term is the appointment of Mrs Evans as a part-time teacher: she has already started to teach writing to Year Six for two afternoons and after half-term she will be with us for every afternoon doing class cover and writing booster groups. Miss Jones will be joining our Mid-day team in the next half term too as one of our Mid-day assistants.

One sad piece of news to share with everyone is that next half-term will be the last one at our school for Mrs Morphet - our amazing SENDCO. We offer our best wishes to Mrs Morphet as she takes up a permanent full-time SENDCO post at a much larger school. During next half-term, Mrs Morphet will begin the process of handing over the role and its responsibilities to Mrs Higginson ready for her to take up the position in the Summer Term.

It just leaves me to say thank you once again for all the support you have given the staff this term and particularly the support I've been given in my Acting Headteacher role. It is great to see so many parents at the start and end of the day, and to hear such positive feedback from so many of you. Could I also draw people's attention to the website: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> where you can quickly give feedback about our school.

I hope the children all enjoy their week off and come back fully charged for the shortest, action packed half-term of the year.

Mr K Manning

