



**ELTHAM**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
SINCE 1814

## Newsletter – Autumn Term 1

Week 7 #23

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of our first half term, I can't help but think about how much we have already achieved this academic year. This week alone has been jam-packed with wonderful events and activities. Year 3 did us proud being out and about in London today when they visited the Southbank Centre for an author visit. We will always prioritise trips and educational visits as part of our curriculum offer as these experiences enrich what we do in school and give the children a fresh view of the learning in a different context. Of course, sometimes these trips and visits are just a great way to see our wonderful city and they are brilliant for our children's mental health and wellbeing too. We are blessed with so much right on our doorstep!

### PTA

Our PTA are always VERY busy! Thanks to them all for their hard work with the Autumn Goody Bags today. Please keep an eye on the calendar dates section below for future events. They have also written a section of this newsletter (below) too!

A PTA DATE FOR YOUR DIARY! Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November PYJAMA DAY (please wear shoes/trainers rather than slippers!) and donate an item for the Christmas Shop. Look out for a Parentmail next week to know what each year group is being asked to donate. As always, we really appreciate your support with this.

### SCHOOL PHOTOS

Our new school photographer visited on Tuesday and Wednesday to take individual and sibling photos. Andy is an excellent photographer who made the photo shoot lots of fun and emailed me the next day to comment on what a great school we have and how wonderful your children are! Proofs will be available during the w/c 11<sup>th</sup> November when the children will bring them home to you. If you would like to take a look at what to expect, please click [here](#).

### PARENTS' EVENINGS

There is always such a fantastic atmosphere around the school during Parents' Evening. Thank you for your many supportive comments about all we are doing as a school. I know you all agree with me that the staff at Eltham CE are excellent and do so much for your children.

Wishing you all the very best of half term breaks with rest and time doing what you enjoy. We look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November (All in Winter Uniform please!) ready for more learning.

Very best wishes

Matt Wills

Headteacher

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. **Philippians 1 v 3-5**

### **Calendar Dates!**

**Remembrance Day** - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November

**PTA Christmas Jumper Sale** - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November

**Christmas Shop** - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November

**Last Day of Autumn Term** - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 1:30pm finish.

**INSET day** Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

### **Message from Revd Caroline-**

There is a beautiful passage in the Bible which starts... 'For every time there is a season' (Ecclesiastes 3. 1-8). I have been reflecting on this a lot as we draw this first term of the school year to a close.

It has been a hard season in many ways especially as we returned to school to the news of Chisimdi's sudden death over the holidays. He loved and he remains loved; and I thank you for gathering around his family in love and prayer and support. The outpouring of heartfelt messages; the attendance at his funeral; the collection taken in his name; each of these actions showed the depth of grief we felt and the depth of support for Chisimdi's family. The time for grief does not end quickly nor easily so please do get in touch if it would help to talk.

Amidst the grief, there has also been a season of generous giving. The donations collected at Harvest were desperately needed by the Food bank- a thank you letter (below) explains more. We collected food and hygiene items and restocked empty shelves. More importantly, though, we showed local people in need that they are not alone. That people do care and want to help.

Now, as this half term ends, it is a season for rest. This is mirrored by the actual seasons as we move from autumn into winter. Please take care of yourself and those you love over the break. May it bring you well needed rest and refreshment.

God bless,  
Revd Caroline

St Edward the Confessor Church

Dear Rev Caroline

### **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

I am writing on behalf of St Edward's Church and the Mottingham Foodbank to say a huge thank you to everyone involved at St John's church, Eltham Hill School year 7 and Eltham Church of England Primary School for the very generous Harvest Festival donations. Thanks also to those who delivered the goodies to St Edward's. The shelves looked well stocked for the first time in ages and our volunteers were thrilled to receive it all.

There was such a lovely variety of food and our foodbank users will be so pleased to have the many different items in their food parcels. Special thanks to the young people who went the extra mile in decorating their boxes and/or including notes. That was a lovely touch that is much appreciated by foodbank users.

Please pass on our grateful thanks to everyone.

Yours sincerely

Elaine McNaughton

Trustee and Parochial Church Council Secretary

### A few words from the PTA....

A massive thank you to all parents and staff for your continued support of PTA events. This half term, we have been busy spending some money raised last year. A few practical necessities have been brought such as a new shed to keep PE equipment in and paper recycling bins for all the classrooms.

Mrs Leonard has been busy booking a range of fieldwork themed activity days for over the next year. These are day trips for the children that bridge the divide between class teaching and the outside, real world. This will give our children the opportunity to experience the WOW factor of our natural world in different localities and help to develop some important geographical skills. These days sound fantastic! Watch this space!

And excitingly, the Christmas Pantomime has also been booked again for this year!  
Oh no it hasn't!! ..... Oh yes it has!!

It has been wonderful to welcome some new members onto the PTA. Christmas is our busiest time of the year so please look out for the fun events we have coming up but most importantly please put

**Friday 29th November** into your calendar. **It's the Christmas Fair!**

**WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP OUT!**

**Please sign up via the school office and join the fun!**

A massive thank you must go out to Ben Simpson of Simpson Garden Services.

(@SIMSPONGARDENSERVICES on INSTAGRAM – please notice how this is spelt if you're taking a look). He came and helped some parents for two hours, free of charge, to turn the 'Edible Jungle' back into the '**Edible Playground**' again!

He was flexible, reliable and I'm sure you'll all agree, did a fantastic job so thank you Ben!  
(07710972656).