



# Elm C of E Primary School

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Headteacher – Mr A. C. Howe B.Ed Hons M.Ed

Wisbech Schools'



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2016

Dear Parents,

### Meet the teacher

We have meetings as follows for you to come in and meet the new staff working with your children and hear about our plans for the term and beyond. It will also be a chance to see how you can support with homework.

**Years 5 and 6 – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30 p.m.**

**Years 3 and 4 – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30 p.m.**

**Years 1 and 2 – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30 p.m.**

Meetings will be in the hall (not Years 5 and 6 – they will be in classrooms). We look forward to seeing you there. We are providing a crèche for each meeting for the children.

### Clubs

A booklet about the range of clubs on offer this term is going home today. Please look out for it and sign up as soon as possible. Thank you to staff who are providing these activities.

### Homework consultation

Homework is a thorny subject. Some parents support it and want more. Others do not support it and feel that learning belongs only in school. Research tells us that homework is not a very effective tool in promoting learning. On the other hand, it helps prepare children for later schooling.

If you attend the meetings next week we will be asking you your views about homework. Currently we are proposing the following as an interim:

- Daily reading – nothing is more important!
- In Key Stage 2 there will be a written reading comprehension exercise each week.
- Ten spellings, with 5 changed each week to ensure consolidation.
- Number facts – memorising number bonds, multiplication tables, etc. Every child is meant to know up to 12 X 12 by the end of Year 4.
- Topic work projects set over a half term.

We think if everyone was doing that it would support learning in school very well.

But what do you think? Complete the slip at the end of the letter to tell us. Thank you.

### Attendance

**First of all the good news: last year we increased attendance from 94.3% to 95.3%.** Thank you all for your support in managing this. The crusade continues this year! Across the country attendance in primary schools averages 96% and I do not see why Elm should not manage this. We have to improve standards of achievement in the school and the first step has to be ensuring your children are here every day. We will continue to keep you informed through newsletters and other letters about your child's attendance, use rewards and incentives for the children and continue to work with the Education Welfare Officer.

This week the best attendance was in Year 4 – well done Miss Short's class!! Overall attendance was 97.3%. Whilst this is above target, it is a disappointing start to the year. I think we can do better next week!

Class	Attendance
Reception	99.3%
Year 1	99%
Year 2	98.7%
Year 3	93.4%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	96.7%
Year 6	95.7%

**Achievement awards**

We are resuming awards for various aspects of achievement and behaviour which will be given out in achievement assembly on Friday afternoons. From next week parents of children awarded certificates will be invited to attend. This week we had a “dry run” for the new staff and children.

The following awards were made:

**a) Good to be green**

Mason Barnes, Oliver Ryan, Mason Hills, Lily Hunt, Keiran Wakefield, Lincoln Warden, Verity Baines, Oscar Rolfe, Kasey O’Gorman, Joshua Thacker, Tristan Back and Harry Balding. Well done!

**b) Lunchtime awards**

The following children were picked out by our midday staff as behaving particularly well: Macen Lloyd, Mason Smith, Ashton Busby and Anthony Smith. Well done!

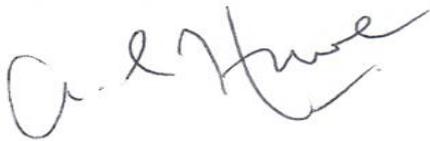
**c) Learning awards**

We awarded certificates for progress in lessons this week to: Anthony Smith, Macen Lloyd, Keira Hibbit, Keira Blackford-Frost, Thien Clare and Millie Full. Well done.

**Dates for the diary**

- Meeting to hear about the annual residential visit to Grafham Water for children in Years 5 and 6 – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.
- Swimming starts for Years 5 and 6 on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September.
- Harvest Festival is on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 10 a.m. in All Saints Church.
- The half term holiday starts on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October and we have a staff training day on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October, so children come back to school on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher

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**Homework consultation**

Please tell us what you think would be useful, and your thoughts about homework.

- Your child’s class.....
- Are you in favour of regular homework? YES/NO

I think.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....