



Elm C of E Primary School

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Wisbech Schools'



Everyone learning, everyone caring!

Friday 10th February, 2017

Dear Parents,

Coasting School: DfE visit

We recently received a letter from the Department for Education informing us our results over the past three years have been below acceptable standards, and that we have been labelled a "Coasting School". I have written to parents before about my concerns about standards at Elm and that concern has driven our conversion to academy status (now due 1st April).

We have been working very hard to improve things, seeking support and advice and improving our teaching and learning. On Tuesday this week we had a visit from a DfE advisor (i.e. inspector, but not OfSTED). He was pleased with what he found and told us we were "taking appropriate action". This is very pleasing. We are on a long slow road of improvement, but it is good to hear that we are making strides in the right direction. My thanks to all staff and governors who are working hard to provide a better education for your children.

Graham Water residential visit

This takes place for children in Years 5 and 6 on 3rd – 5th July and is always a great experience. Due to some children dropping out we now have two spaces available – please let us know if you are interested by contacting the school office as soon as possible.

Clubs and attendance

We have a number of children whose parents put their names down for clubs and then do not attend. Where children do not attend for three weeks in a row we will take them off the list and offer their place to someone else.

Attendance

This week the best attendance was in Year 2 with 100%. Well done! Overall attendance last week was 96.8%, much better! Please note we are not authorising holiday absence except in the most exceptional circumstances. Please see attached the Attendance Matters newsletter published across Wisbech. It is interesting to see that attendance across the town was 95.64% in the autumn and improving. Sadly we let the town down with a disappointing 94.8%. Things are improving a bit now, but there is still a long way to go – your children need to be in school every day to get the most from our teaching!

Class	Attendance
Reception	98.7%
Year 1	94%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	94.4%
Year 4	97.3%
Year 5	96.8%
Year 6	96.7%

Achievement awards

a) Good to be green

These children stayed on green all week: Lacey Pearly, Suzie-May McMullen, Fletcher Clifford, Maddie Axten-Mattingley, Summer Gosling, Rosie Nichols, Keira Hibbitt, Alexis Loveridge, Maddison Doughty, Tiffany Clark, Keira Blackford-Frost, Connor Smith, Cody Asker-Brown, Jay McMullen and Samuel Bowers. Well done!

b) Lunchtime awards

The following children were picked out by our midday staff as behaving particularly well: Harrison Rae, Harrison Chenery, Oscar Rolfe and Kay Phoenix. Well done!

c) Learning awards

We awarded certificates for progress in lessons to Lewis Hunt, Jenson Chapman, Will Garfoot, Maisy Reed, Ellen Reynolds, Dannielle Martin and Tristan Back. Well done!

d) Lexia

Well done to: Brooke Richmond and Alexis Loveridge for their progress with this reading scheme.

e) Pen licences

Well done to Nathaniel Baines for improving his handwriting.

Dates for the diary

- We break up for the half term holiday on Friday 10th February and children should return to school on Monday 20th February, 2017. We break up for Easter on Friday 31st March and return to school on Tuesday 18th April 2017.
- Thursday 2nd March – Fairtrade Coffee afternoon and art exhibition run by Years 5 and 5 for all parents from 1.30 p.m.
- Friday 3rd March: World Book day. We have a wonderful actor, Anthony Pedley, coming to give Key Stage 2 “A taste of Dahl” and then a performance of the BFG for the whole school in the afternoon! Should be exciting.
- We have a training day scheduled for Monday 26th June 2017. This is the last one of the year.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher