

Ellenbrook Community Primary School

Autumn Newsletter 2017



I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break. The children are very happy to be back and all of our new starters, including teachers; Miss Wilks Y1, Miss Bethel Y2 and Miss Hay Y5 have settled in nicely.

Congratulations to Miss Garrett who is now Mrs Roden!

Events

Walkden High School Parents Q&A

Y5 and Y6 - The Road show is a one hour presentation by Walkden High's Head Teacher, Mr Lennox and four of our past pupils. It will start at 2:30pm, this is so that Parents collecting their children can also listen to the presentation about Walkden High School and ask Mr Lennox or any of the pupils any questions.

Harvest Festival 20th October

Reception, Y1, YR2 in the school hall at 9:30 am

All Key Stage 2 at St Mary's Church 10:30 am-11:15 am

Halloween PTA Family Disco

Friday 13th October, 7-9.00 pm in the school hall.

Half term

Last day Friday 20th October

First day back Tuesday 31st October

Parents Evenings

5:00pm-6:30pm Tuesday 17th October

4:00pm -6:00pm Thursday 19th October

These are the only dates that the teachers are available. We will do our best to accommodate your choice of time and day.

Family Night

Friday 1st December 7:00 pm – 9.00 pm. in the school hall.

School Photographs

31st October & 1st November

Performances

EYFS 10:00am-11:00am 5th and 7th December

KS1 1:30-2:30 5th and 6th of December

No filming please and no close-up photographs of children other than your own. Please do not post photos of other children onto social networking sites.

Christmas Dinner - 18th December

Parties

EYFs/ KS1 19th Dec

Y3/4 15th Dec

Y5/6 20th Dec



KS2 Carol concert

St Mary's Church Monday 10:00am -18th December

Last day Wednesday 20th December -first day back-
Wednesday 3rd January 2018

There's lots more happening in school and details of all events will be emailed or sent home nearer the time.

Reminders

Please support our school policy on pupils' smart appearance.

Please make sure we have your correct contact details on our system.

Remember

Healthy snacks in lunchboxes only. Plain water for classrooms and fruit for breaks. Please do not send in chocolate, sweets or biscuits.

Parking

Please remember- do not park on any walkways; on or opposite the zigzags or dropped kerbs; or obstructing driveways.

PTA

Ellenbrook PTA

Log on, and earn money for Ellenbrook Primary School. www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Please try to join our PTA it's always good to see new faces.

Thank you to all of our parents for responding to the school questionnaire.

We had 67 returns and the results were overwhelmingly positive, with 83% of replies either 'agreeing' or 'agreeing strongly' with all of the statements. We had some lovely comments from some very happy parents.

'Very happy with the school's fun, productive approach.'

'A very welcoming environment for pupils and parents.'

Of the remaining 17%, the responses 'disagreed' or 'strongly disagreed' with one or two statements mainly centred around communication.

We are working hard to make communication faster and easier for parents to access. Problems with emails and not being able to print letters or forms can be fixed quite quickly - see below.

1. I can't print off letters or forms at home.

There are always hard copies of all parent emails in the reception area. If all the copies have been taken, our secretary will be happy to print one for you.

2. I can't change my details on Parent pay.

Please come to the office and we will change it for you.

3. Events are often at very short notice.

The newsletters and school website often give advanced notice of major events. Please also check your child's book bag.

One or two parents were not happy with the way school had dealt with their concerns. Where parents had included details we were able to quickly resolve these issues.

We are always happy to talk to parents about anything that is worrying them. If you feel you have an unresolved issue, please contact school and make an appointment to see your child's teacher or a member of the management team.

There are many more dates for your diary and news of trips and events will coming to you via email and the school website.

<http://www.ellenbrookschoo.com/school-diary/>

Kind regards,
Mrs Parkins, Head Teacher

Getting to Know Your Governing Body

A message from our Chair of Governors

Suzanne Charlesworth

Governors are one of the largest volunteer forces in the country and have an important part to play in raising school standards. The governing body is responsible for working with the school to ensure that it delivers the highest quality education for our children in a safe and stimulating environment. We work closely with Mrs Parkins and the senior leadership team to set the strategic direction and policies for the school and hold the school to account for the educational and financial performance.

I have been a governor at Ellenbrook for just over 6 years and when I joined I felt that my 20+ years' experience in HR would help me contribute in role. Around 2 years ago I took on the role of vice-chair and then became the chair of the governing body in November last year. The role of the chair is to lead the governing body ensuring it fulfils its functions well and work in partnership with the head teacher. Being new to the role of chair, there is still lots for me to learn but it has been really interesting and enjoyable so far! As a governing body we are lucky to have a good mix of skills and experience and a team who work well together.

In addition to being chair, I am also the safeguarding governor. This involves working with the Safeguarding lead (Mrs Parkins) to ensure the school has the appropriate systems, policies, processes and records in place and that school staff training is up to date.

In future newsletters, other governors will introduce themselves and their role on the governing body. If you are interested in learning more about the role of a governor please see our section on the school website.



Regards
Suzanne Charlesworth