

ELMLEY CASTLE NEWSLETTER

Friday 7th April
2017



Elmley Castle Church of England First School

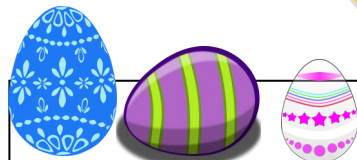
Executive Headteacher Mrs Claire Davies

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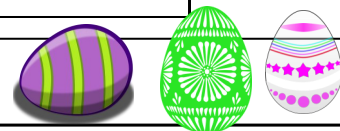
email: head@elmleycastle.worcs.sch.uk

Website: www.elmleycastle.worcs.sch.uk



School closes on Friday 7th April at 3.15pm for the Easter Holiday.

The Summer term starts on Monday 24th April at 8.45am.



Dear Readers,

I can't believe we are at the end of another term! But we seem to have made it against all odds—and achieved TWO extremely positive outcomes for ECFS along the way—namely our GOOD Ofsted judgement and the launch of our Nursery.

Easter Service—it was a pleasure again to be able to welcome so many parents and families to share in our Easter celebrations this morning. It does mean a lot to all of us at ECFS to know we are so well supported by you all. The service was lovely with excellent contributions from the children and an entertaining address from Reverend Richard! It was also our formal opportunity to say goodbye to Miss Bussey who has worked here at the school for the past few years through some difficult times. I know you will all join with us in wishing her the very best for the future as she leaves to take up a post at Abbey Park Middle School.



Another new venture for ECFS began this Monday with the introduction of our **Open the Book** assemblies. This is an initiative whereby volunteers from local churches come together to present Bible stories to children in lively and informative ways, using drama, mime, props, costume – and even the children and staff themselves! Our Open the Book team will be visiting ECFS once a half term and I know we will look forward to these visits with great enthusiasm. Do ask your children what they think of these assemblies—and let us know!



Best Regards, Claire Davies Executive Headteacher

Mon	Breakfast Club After School Care
Tues	Breakfast Club Swimming—YR/1 PE Y2/3 After School Care
Wed	Breakfast Club Forest School Music Club—YR-5 After School Care
Thurs	Breakfast Club PE—YR/1, 4/5 Cricket Club
Fri	Celebration Assembly

Swimming

Reception and Year 1 children will go swimming on Tuesdays, starting the first week back after Easter. If you haven't returned the consent slip please do so by Monday 24th April.

Milk

If your child would like milk next term don't forget to register with Coolmilk, <http://www.coolmilk.com/> by Monday 10th April.

School Uniform

We will be putting in orders for school uniform after Easter ready for the new academic year. Order forms will be sent home next term. The PTA also have some good quality second hand items at a cost of £3 per item. If you would like to see if there is anything in your child's size please let Wendy Spragg or the office know.

Attendance Slips

Today you will receive a slip informing you of your child's attendance level for the academic year up to this half term. This is data generated by the computer registers and it is important we share it with you.

We realise there may be valid reasons why children are occasionally away from school, for example, if they have been ill or have had important appointments. However, the data we collect only records each morning and afternoon session as an attendance or an absence. If a child is away from school for a whole day, they are recorded as having **two** absences.

We hope those children who come home with a white slip this half term will have higher attendance from now on.

Blue = attendance 95% to 100% Excellent attendance

White = attendance below 95% Low attendance

These slips are for your information and are not intended to cause offence.

Not coming to school ? Please let us know !

We like to know our pupils are safe so please report their absence before 10am.

Tel: 01386 710279 OR email:- office@elmleycastle.worcs.sch.uk



Cycling Challenge

On Saturday April 29th I will be cycling from London to Paris... in 24 hours! The total trip is around 320km (200 miles). I am cycling from London to Paris as it is an exciting personal challenge for me. Whilst undertaking this challenge I want to raise funds for a local charity. *Onside* is a charity that aims to make a difference to the lives of people in Herefordshire and Worcestershire by providing advocacy services to support vulnerable adults; it is a charity I am proud to support.

If you would consider sponsoring me and sharing the link to my fundraising page I would be extremely grateful. You may also wish to look at the *Onside* website to find out more about the services and support they offer.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Keith-Walden1>

<http://www.onside-advocacy.org.uk>

Many thanks for your kind support.

Keith Walden

ATTENDANCE

We will keep you informed of your child's attendance percentage at the end of every half term. Our target for every child and every class is 95% or over. Please make sure your child is in every day unless they are genuinely ill. Thank you. The attendance percentages for the last five days are:-

Year R	96%
Year 1	82.5%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	100%
Year 4/5	74%

Congratulations Reception, Year 2 and Year 3!

30 Free Childcare Hours for Nursery Children

From September we will be offering 30 hours free child care to all families who are eligible.

The 15 hours free childcare currently available for all 3 year olds the term after their 3rd birthday will continue. However, some families will now be eligible for 30 free hours.

Who is eligible for the 30 hours of free child care?

- Both parents must be working - or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family
- Each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage
- Each parent must have an annual income of less than £100,000

To get 30 hours free childcare, you'll need to do the following:

- Apply online through the childcare service. (This system is not yet set up)
- If you're eligible, you'll receive a code – this will allow you to arrange your Nursery hours ahead of September 2017
- Bring your code to the school along with your National Insurance number and your child's date of birth
- We will check the code is authentic and allocate your child a free childcare place

What if one parent in a couple isn't working?

- This is basically a scheme to help working parents, so families where one parent doesn't work, or both parents don't work, will usually not be eligible for these additional 15 hours.
- However, if one parent isn't working because they're an official carer (eg receiving benefits relating to being a carer) or they are receiving disability benefits, and the other parent is working, you may still be eligible
- If one parent who normally works but is temporarily away from the workplace, for example on statutory sick pay, you should still be eligible

What if you are self-employed or on a zero hours contract?

- You will be eligible if you (or both of you in a couple) earn at least the equivalent of 16 hours at the National Minimum Wage.

What if one parent loses their job?

- There will be a short "grace period" - although this hasn't yet been defined - allowing parents to have a chance to find new employment.

Please note:

The 30 free hours are for only 38 weeks per year - not 52 weeks of the year. It's basically equivalent to school term times - and totals 1140 free hours across the year. In theory, you may be able to spread the free childcare out over further weeks, but this will mean you'll get fewer than 30 hours free childcare each week.

More detailed information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs>

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please make sure the office have your current email address.

Important letters and newsletters come home every Friday.
Spare newsletters are kept in the entrance for one week.
Please help yourself.

Mrs C. Davies
HEADTEACHER