

Year 1 Welcome to the Summer term

Summer term? That must be a typo.....There's not much summer going on yet is there?!
Fingers crossed it gets the memo soon!

The first 2 weeks back have flown by and the children have settled back in brilliantly. We started the term off with an art-day and created some garden themed collages inspired by the work of artist Gustav Klimt. These should be adorning the hall display boards shortly! We really do have a lot to look forward to this term and it promises to be full of events and exciting learning opportunities, which will include our annual May Day dancing event! Come on sun... we need you 😊

As per usual, I have tried to pre-empt any questions you may have in the information outlined below, but as always, if there is anything I've missed, or if you would like to talk to me about something specific, please email me on mmytton@elton.cambs.sch.uk or feel free to 'grab' me outside at the end of the day.

The Big Question - Our 'Big Question' this term is "How can I ignite my spark?" with the main focus being 'Elton Experiments and Experiences'.

We will be exploring 2 key concepts through the big question and these are:

- Failure
- Innovation

Curriculum – We have plenty to look forward to in terms of the subjects that the children will be studying this term. We have already started a history unit on "Seaside holidays in the past". The children have been comparing seaside holidays now, to seaside holidays in the Victorian era – quite an eye opener for them! (After half term, our focus will be on geography, in particular Seas and Coasts and this will be a lovely link to our history topic.) The children will be developing their DT skills by designing and making a chair for baby bear as a "fossil" out of modelling clay. In Science, we will be identifying different types of animals, and putting them in to different categories; reptiles, mammals, fish, birds and amphibians, and also introducing the terms herbivore, carnivore and omnivore.

If you have any artefacts, skills or experiences that you feel would enhance our 'Big Question' then please get in touch; we'd love to hear from you!

Staffing – I continue to teach the class every day, apart from a Monday afternoon when the children have PE with Callum and a Friday afternoon when I am not working. The wonderful and ever-popular Miss Muggleton continues to support the class for phonics, writing, reading and maths in the mornings, and foundation subjects in the afternoons. T

I am working with Mrs Steenkamp to plan the school trip and I am in the process of organising a visit from the RNLI to talk about water safety and a summer term trip linked to animals is also in the pipeline. More details will follow shortly.

PE – As I have already mentioned, our timetabled PE slot this half term continues to be on a Monday afternoon and will be taught by the brilliant Callum. Your children will need to

come to school on a Monday in their full PE kit. Children should also come to school in their PE kit on the days when they attend a sports club after school. Please remember that earrings should be removed or taped and long hair should be tied back, in accordance with the school uniform policy.

Homework – I will continue to set weekly homework on your child’s TEAMS account every Thursday. This will detail the mental maths and spelling tasks for the week. These tasks should be undertaken daily for 5 minutes per subject. This term, the children will continue to complete a spelling test on their given spelling words every FRIDAY morning. Every week I will also endeavour to set an assignment on EdShed to support with the children’s spelling homework.

Reading - All children will be reading on a daily basis in class. On Tuesday to Thursday this is in the form of a guided reading session and on Monday and Friday we do whole class reading sessions. In addition, we are supported by an adult helper once a week who reads with many children and Miss Muggleton and I hear individual readers as necessary, during the week.

It is also vitally important that your child reads at home as part of their daily homework. Your child has access to a wide range of school books to read in school. As well as this, the children can also take home a ‘reading for pleasure’ book to share with you. I would really appreciate if children can log on to the Big Collins E book site to practise reading their school book. As children become more adept at reading the texts and language used becomes more demanding so it is really important to keep up the reading at home.

Many thanks for your continued support – it really is much appreciated. I look forward to a busy and exciting summer term with your children!

Michelle Mytton