

Elm Academy

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Principal: Mrs J Fish

End of term Newsletter Thursday 14th December 2017

Tomorrow is Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day and all Children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper/something Christmassy in return for a small donation to Save the Children. Elm Academy finishes at the normal time of 2.55pm/3pm tomorrow.

Enterprise Day

Last Friday all the children took part in enterprise today, it was wonderful to see the entrepreneurial and healthy competition between the classes to raise the most amount of money for their class. They all worked so hard on creating their merchandise and enjoyed selling the goods they had made. The children were also very excited to go shopping and buy lots of lovely gifts and treats to take home. The results will be published in the New Year.

Nativity

The Nursery and Reception Nativity was a lovely memorable event. Please remember that photos will be available in the Daily Echo's Picture Nativity Supplement published today. Due to the volume of the photographs the Daily Echo have received they will be publishing a second supplement tomorrow with additional pictures. Not all the photographs will be included in the supplement but you are able to view all the images on the Daily Echo website: www.bournemouthcho.co.uk/nativity

Christmas Carol Concerts

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the Christmas Carol Concert and your generous donations to Cancer Research. We raised £250 for this worthwhile charity.

Mrs Spears – PE Teacher

Mrs Spears will be leaving us at the end of this term as she is relocating out of the area. Mrs Spears sheer enthusiasm for helping all our children develop their sporting abilities will be missed. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Mrs Sprears all the very best for the future. I am pleased to announce that we have appointed Mr Carden who is eager to continue the good work that Mrs Spears has put in place.

ParentPay

All Parents and Carers will receive a letter with an activation code for ParentPay. From 2nd January 2018 Elm Academy will become **cashless** and all payments, trips and bookings will now be made online. The system is really easy to use, you will be able to view letters linked to trips and tick to confirm you give your consent for your child/children to attend. If you have any difficulty with using ParentPay please notify Mrs Payne or Mrs Canning who will be more than happy to help with any questions you may have.

Lunch Bookings 2018

With ParentPay being introduced all lunch bookings from 3rd January 2018 will need to be made online. It is really important that you book your lunch options even if your child is eligible for free school dinners via ParentPay as the system generates a report so we know how much food to order. If your child is eligible for free school meals you will have zero balance to pay.

Extreme Weather/School Closure

Please be assured that every effort is made to keep the Academy open. However, there are exceptional circumstances where the safety of your child/children is the primary concern. At such times a decision is made on whether it is safe or practical to open the school to our pupils. For example, when the journey to school is dangerous due to weather conditions such as heavy snow or when teaching staff who travel

some distance to reach school, are obliged to abandon their journey due to unsafe weather conditions. At such times school closure is considered the safest option. If a decision is made to close the Academy a text alert will be sent as soon as possible informing you of the closure. Information will also be posted on the front page of the Elm Academy website: **www.elm-academy.org.uk**

Important Reminders

After school arrangements

If you need to notify the Academy office of a change of arrangements for after school, please ensure you call by 1.30pm to ensure there is sufficient time to get the message to your child/children's class.

Leave of absence

Will only be agreed in exceptional circumstances. Please do not make travel arrangements until time off has been agreed as you may be liable for a fine. Exceptional circumstances include:

- Bereavement
- Religious observance
- Public production (licence & evidence required)

Family holidays are not considered to be an exceptional circumstance and will **not** be approved. You may be asked to provide evidence to support your claim for absence.

Medical Appointments

Please remember that wherever possible, medical appointments should be booked outside of school hours. From 4th September to 8th December 2017, a total of 110 sessions were missed due to appointments. If your child must attend an appointment within school time, please provide a copy of their appointment letter to the school office for our records. Where appointments are in the middle of the day, children are expected to attend school before and after.

Reception Admissions

The deadline for applications to be submitted to apply for a reception place in September 2018 is

Monday 15th January 2018. Applications can be made online at

www.bournemouth.gov.uk/childreducation/Schools/ApplyingForASchoolPlace.aspx

Elm Academy have the following tours currently available:

- Friday 5th Jan at 10.45am
- Friday 12th Jan at 10.45am

Please contact the Academy office on 01202 574 212 to book your tour.

I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and look forward to welcoming all the children back on Wednesday 3rd January 2017.

Very Best Wishes for 2018,



Mrs Fish
Principal

Term Dates 2017 - 2018

Christmas Holiday 18th December 2017 - 1st January 2018

Inset Day 2nd January 2018

Half Term 12th February - 16th February 2018

Easter Holiday 30th March - 13th April 2018

Inset Day 25th May 2018

Half Term 28th May - 1st June 2018

Summer Holiday 26th July - 31st August 2018

Inset Days 3rd & 4th September 2018