

ELMVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER — October/November 2018



Hello everyone!

Term 2 is now well underway and everyone has been very busy, working hard. We have been pleased to welcome Mr Bell as relief janitor in Debbie's absence and we also have two new faces helping in P1/2 and P2/3—welcome to Miss Monk and Miss Hunter. Autumn's seasonal events have been enjoyed and Winter is heading towards us rapidly! Let's look back on what we have been doing, and at what's coming up.

Events that have been and gone!

Mini Triathlon

Well done to all our pupils who took part in the mini-triathlon and enjoyed their medals. This event is always approached with much enthusiasm and this year proved no exception.

Ditch the Stabilisers

Ditch the Stabilisers was also very much enjoyed by our P1s and they achieved success in reaching that momentous stage where two wheels take over!

Operation Safety

P7 took part in the annual P7 Operation Safety experience provided by emergency services from the region and they came back full of information—and also advice about how to keep safe.

Road Relay

Our pupils who are interested in running, were again able to take part in the Road Relay event at the Everholm, competing against other Annandale and Eskdale teams. Well done and thank you to everyone involved!





Tag Rugby

Last year's Tag Rugby was beset by several weather problems and was unfortunately cancelled. This year, plans were changed and the event took place in school time and luckily, was able to go ahead in reasonable weather! We were fortunate to have Ione McGregor coming to the school to help with training, which was supplemented by class teachers and Mrs Foster. A big thank you to all pupils and staff and to spectators who cheered the team on! Well done!

Harvest

Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to our Harvest Collection, which was donated to Kate's Kitchen again, as a local agency which is part of our community. Mrs Smith, once again, provided an excellent Harvest assembly and helped ensure pupils understand the ways we can all help each other.



Rag Bag

A successful Rag Bag collection was uplifted in October and raised £123.60 for school funds. This is such a great way to clear space and also help others and helps the school. Thank you very much! Well done Eco Warriors.

Learning Discussions/Parents' Night

Thank you all for coming to our Learning Discussions event before the holiday. Pupils are clearly much more involved in discussion, which we can see is making them more aware of and responsible for their learning. The Book Fair broke another record again this time and raised £380.78 in book rewards, which we can use for books for the school. This will help us to buy more copies of books to use with bigger groups and replace some which may have seen better days! Thank you!

PTA Card Bingo

The PTA Card Bingo event was extremely well-attended and we had to squeeze record numbers of tables into the hall! There was an extremely generous raffle, which we are very grateful to everyone for. The event itself is such a successful evening and you could feel the tension in the air, as the cards got nearer the end! Thank you to the PTA as always and to everyone who attended or sent in raffle prizes.



Homework

We had an excellent response to our Homework survey and received some very thoughtful and interesting comments back in to us. The Focus Group Meeting was also well-attended and represented views across the whole range of feelings about homework. Those views and ideas will be considered as we now put together our Homework Policy and strike a balance between too much/too little and also the balance between homework and home learning. Thank you to all who took the time to respond and come to the meeting.

Fire Safety and Health and Safety Inspections

We had visits from regional and Fire Service staff to check on our health and safety arrangements and we were very pleased to have positive outcomes. Now that refurb activity is nearly over, final fixes have been done and we are nearly back to 'normal'!

Halloween Disco

The PTA Halloween Disco has always been a much-enjoyed event and brings out the most amazing creativity! This seems to grow year on year and it can often be very difficult to recognise who is underneath all the face painting and masks. The usual display will be in the corridor—have a look when you are next in!



Remembrance

Mr Pickles led an assembly about remembrance with us and this involved a bit of memory testing! If you remember 'Kim's Game' from your younger days, I suspect pupils will enjoy playing this! The learning from this assembly linked to Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday on 11th November. Several pupils from the school represented the Annan Primary Schools group and Brooke helped to lay the wreath. It was nice to see so many other familiar faces in the crowd and amongst the youth organisations of the town. Well done, all.

Netball

We have lots of netball going on in school now with two groups on the go. Well done to the teams who participated in the Netball League on 15th November! Thank you to pupils and all helpers.

Children in Need

Another annual event in Elmvale! Pupils are always keen to support this and this year, we raised £163, which is a big amount of money to raise on a day. Again, it is always interesting to see what pupils choose to wear on this day and, if it's uniform, that's absolutely all right!



Swimming

Well done to a group of Elmvale pupils, who took part in the Scottish School Swimming event. Brooke, Alfie, Daniel, Josh and Liam

Book Bugs—P1 -3

We hope pupils in P1-3 enjoyed their Book Bug Bags and that parents enjoyed the input from staff on the use of them. This is one of the ways we are hoping to promote reading and this initiative is led by the Scottish government. Our Paired Reading, organised by Mrs Wilson is growing in strength too, led by Mrs Wilson. We would like to thank all our helpers for giving up their time to support reading.

Sports Hall Athletics

We participated in this event again this year and Mrs Dunlop and Mrs Gordon accompanied pupils for an afternoon of running, jumping and throwing activities. They seem to have thoroughly enjoyed this and have tried hard. Well done and thank you to all involved.



Chutney Factory



Second Level pupils have all been learning about food preparation and have been visiting Tesco to find out more and to practise their money and shopping skills! They will be cooking shortly so be on standby for chutney available to buy! Thank you to Tesco for supporting this learning!



We are delighted that Tesco have included us in their Bags of Help Scheme, running throughout November and December. Thank you for the support from you all!

Ongoing Events

Elmvale Christmas Card Competition

It was lovely to see so many beautiful, colourful entries to this year's competition. The winning card will be used as the school card sent to our partners. The competition is now at judging stage—all anonymously to start with and pupils will now cast their votes to choose the final one. Good luck!

Accelerated Reading

It is always interesting to see the effect of something being missing! Due to data changes, we had to find out information then send out to you all before we could use it this year—causing a delay! How we had missed it, and so have you, which is good to know! The demand for reading has increased beyond expectations and it is delightful to see. Most classes are up and running and pupils are clamouring for more books. Hurray!

Back Gate

We have been discussing the back gate and its use for a little while and it will now only be used for classes/the school to come and go, if appropriate to go offsite that way. This means the school has a single entry/exit point, which can be monitored easily by staff and it means pupils cannot leave after they have come in. Apologies if this causes inconvenience to anyone; we feel this improves our security and pupil safety.

Events Yet to Come

The Christmas Show

Although this very much fits into the 'Ongoing' category of the newsletter, it's in the Events to Come! Pupils have been involved in planning and preparing for our show since before the October holiday and there is great enthusiasm around! We have our lovely new stage to work with for the first time (being covered as this newsletter is being written!) and this year's show links to the end of World War I and the Armistice. It is called 'Tin Hats and Telegrams'. All pupils play parts throughout and will be on stage as usual—excepts for P1s, who have their own special moment every year. P6 and P7 have major roles and building up to this every year really shows the confidence and enthusiasm that can develop. You can help your child by encouraging learning of lines and songs. Costume letters will be with you this week—but we never look for anything complicated or expensive. Ticket sales will start in December and letters will be with you soon regarding this. We hope you enjoy it when it comes!

Festive Events

The PTA Christmas Quiz is on November 29th 6pm—7.30pm in the school. We hope as many of you can come as possible.

The format for the switching on of Annan's lights has changed this year and the event on 1st December is a family one. Please see the posters on the blog and the front door and we hope you enjoy taking part in it this year.

The usual post-show visit to the cinema has been arranged for December 14th so please make sure you have returned slips for it. The Christmas Lunch will also be that day so please look out for choices slips soon.

Parties will take place in the final week before Christmas—Tuesday for P1-P3 and Thursday for P4-P7.

The church service will take place on Wednesday 19th December at 1.45pm. As always, all are welcome.

New P1 Events

The time is almost upon us again to welcome new families to our school. Enrolment takes place on 14th and 15th January 2019 and we are having our usual Open Day on December 6th to let prospective new pupils see our school. This year, the PTA are supporting this by holding a Welcome Event on 13th December 9.30-10.30 for new pupils and their families. We look forward to both events!

How To Help:

- Please talk proudly of our lovely school and talk to us if there is an issue. We do aim to get things right!
- Please ask pupils about their learning. We think they are getting better at talking about it! Your encouragement means more than you think—both to them and to us!
- Please check regularly for head lice. Swift action prevents them becoming a nuisance for everyone.
- Once again, please can we remind you not to use the zigzags or the staff car park for dropping off or collecting children. The zigzags are clearly marked as no parking at the times of pupils coming to and leaving school. Even if it's 'just for a minute', that minute could result in dangerous consequences for our pupils. Please think about and respect their safety. The red 'table' is not a road crossing and pupils are encouraged to follow their Green Cross Code when using it. If you wave them out on to it, please remember you could be waving them into the path of a vehicle whose driver is unaware of what you are doing.
- Please ensure pupils have coats to wear during break and lunch—and please ensure a change of shoes is available. Our brand new carpets will quickly fade if they have dirty feet walked into them by us all.
- Consider offering to run a club—even a very short block would be appreciated and we would do our best to facilitate this.
- Keep returning surveys and questionnaires—they help us gather your views and contribute to future developments. Partnership with our families matters to us very much!

Current Clubs in Elmvale: Thank you to all the helpers who make these clubs and activities, and also all the Paired Reading activities and trips possible.

- Gymnastics
- Netball Juniors
- Netball Seniors
- Golf
- Choir
- Swimming
- Football Juniors
- Computer Club