Elmvale Primary Parent Council

HT Report 4th February 2020

School photographer was in school 21st November, there was a slightly different way of ordering photos, ie on line preferably and we got more commission on those ordered on line. Overall however our commission was down this year from £558.27 last session to £336.80 this session.

P7 worked before Christmas with a group of Annan Academy students, Young Sports leaders and P4/5 & P5/6 will work with the same set of Sports Leaders in the coming weeks on fitness and cross country.

Mrs McNeill’s memorial service was held on 23rd November in St Andrew’s Church. It was a lovely service which reflected the amazing lady that Mrs McNeill was. My thanks to our PTA for helping with hospitality after the service.

P4 & P7 completed SNSAs at the end of November and P1 are in the process of working through them at the moment. The assessments prove very useful in confirming teacher judgement of where each individual child is with their learning compared to our school, local authority and nationally. They are also diagnostic so teachers can see where answers are correct or not and plan learning accordingly. Teachers are happy to share this information with pupils and parents, remembering that they are part of a wider range of assessments including teacher judgement.

We held successful open days for possible P1s on 5th & 9th dec. Thank you to Mrs Robson for coordinating the PTA event. Our enrolments for P1 catchment children sits at a healthy 15 with the non catchment applications still to be processed.

Bah Humbug was this year’s school show and it proved to be very successful with three performances almost sold out. The children enjoyed a visit to the cinema, parties with icecream and class gifts from Santa. Many thanks to our local Tesco for the ice cream and to our PTA for their generous Christmas class gifts.

Our end of term open afternoon was reasonably well attende, busier in some classes than others – perhaps we need to for suggestions from parents on how they’d prefer to be updated on progress towards targets?

Staff returned to school on Monday 6th January for two Inset days, the first was spent at Hecklegirth Primary with cluster colleagues working on Visible Learning and the second day in school planning for the term ahead. Three new pupils joined us in January bringing the current roll to 147.

Feis Rois is working with P5 this term and we look forward to a short performance with ukeleles this term.

Breakfast Club started on 14th January and we are averaging 16 pupils attending.

Elmvale hosted the cluster Scots Poetry competition on 24th January and we were delighted when Marley from P6 jointly won the Ann McNeill memorial trophy. Later that day we had a Kangaroo drive led by P6 &7 boys to raise funds for the animals in Australia affected by recent bush fires. We raised £196.

Last week I had tracking & attainment meetings with all the teachers. We discuss the learning progress and well being of each child and record any actions required by myself and the class teacher. I have asked the teachers to raise the profile of AR across the school – each class will have a designated reading slot every day and teachers will closely monitor pages read and number of quizzes taken. Miss Tweddle in P5/6 has implemented a small test of change around daily writing as a way of raising attainment and so far results look positive. If impact is good I will ask the other teachers to also implement a short daily writing activity. After the upcoming Inset days, all teachers will begin to use a resource called Talk 4 Writing.

On Sunday past Miss Murray took our gymnastics team to DG One for the regional competition. Neve McGoldrick won a bronze medal in the individual category and the children all looked amazing in their new leotards, shorts & t-shirts!

In this month’s newsletter, I will ask for volunteers to join a School Improvement Plan working group which will meet towards the end of March and then again mid April as we consider the improvement priorities for next session.

Our Pupil Equity Fund continues to support Closing the Literacy Gap intervention, Closing the Numeracy Gap intervention and the breakfast club. In the coming weeks I plan to employ another LA to support several groups through a food based nurture/resilience programme.