



EARLHAM *echo*

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back; I hope you had a lovely holiday with your children. Now the children are back they are already hard at work; this is a very important term for their learning, so please ensure they attend school every day and that they complete their homework on time.

The building work is almost complete now; there are many small items to be finished, but there should be minimal disruption from now on. Our younger pupils have only known the school as a building site, so this will be a novelty for them! We have plans to refurbish the rest of the building over the coming months.

I have now seen the national results for end of key stage 2 tests, and am very pleased to tell you that our average score for progress across all subjects puts us in the top 6% of schools in the country. This is result to be proud of. As you know, the tests, standards expected and way of measuring outcomes are all changing this year. I will be holding information sessions for year 2 and 6 parents (and anyone else who is interested) later this term.

Yours sincerely,

L Hewer (Headteacher)

January 2016



And Welcome to Earlham...

We have a new Assistant Head, Mr Jacob. He is a very experienced teacher and school leader, and we are excited that he has joined our staff.

We also welcome Ms Anthony, who is teaching year 3. She is also very experienced and I know the children are already enjoying her lessons.



Christmas concerts

Our concerts were very well attended as usual, the children really do enjoy having such an appreciative audience. Here are a few photos of our wonderful children enjoying their phase shows. The rest of the photos for you to download are now available on our website! Enjoy!

Key Dates

Wednesday 27th January 2.30—Yr 4 parents' assembly

Monday 15th—Friday 19th February—half term break

Thursday 3rd—Thursday 10th March School Book Fair

Tuesday 22nd March— Good Health Day

Wednesday 23rd March - Academic Review Day

Thursday 24th March—Friday 8th April—Spring Break

Monday 11th April—1st day of term

School uniform reminder!

Uniform is available to buy from the office on Wednesdays between 3 and 3.30. If you cannot come at this time, please contact the office staff.



Earlham Primary's Website!

Visit our School website:

www.earlham.newham.sch.uk

Where you can find pictures, important messages, curriculum information and much more...

Maths at Earlham

Although maths results at Earlham are usually very good, I was aware that the children's depth of understanding was limited which meant they sometimes forgot what they had already learned. I wanted to improve this so the children would have solid mathematical skills. Earlier this year I visited Shanghai to find out how maths is taught. Shanghai is a district where pupils consistently achieve amongst the highest results in the world, and I was sure there would be ideas we could apply at Earlham. I went with 20 other head teachers, we visited a variety of schools each and shared what we learned.

The focus of maths in Shanghai is mastery, which means children learning mathematical concepts in depth, and then being able to apply this knowledge in a variety of contexts. This fits with the new UK curriculum and what we know of the expectations for assessment. I was very impressed by the teaching I saw, and although we could not (and would not want to) teach exactly the same way here, there were a number of ideas that I have since put into place at Earlham.

- 1) Lessons start at a basic level and get progressively harder. This means all pupils can access some of the lesson and are more likely to be able to stay with the lesson for longer. The more basic concepts are also revised which helps all children.
- 2) There is one key learning objective for each lesson that we want the children to understand. This objective is covered in a variety of ways (this is called variation) which helps the children to see how it works. E.g. if the objective is about fractions, the lesson might include fractions of shapes, money and measures, so the children can practice the concept and make connections to how it is used.
- 3) The maths lesson is split into two parts. In the first session of 35 mins, the teacher will teach (as I have just described) and the children will complete a few independent questions at the end. The teacher then uses this work to assess each child's understanding before the second session, and decide what work each child should do. In the second session, the teacher deals with any common errors with the whole class before the children start their main activity. The children might work with the teacher in this session (reteach group), need more practise at the same level (practise group) or be ready for more challenging work (mastery group).

The teachers have had a lot of training, and have worked very hard to turn the new ideas into action. The children are enjoying the lessons, as they get the chance to act on anything they have not understood the same day. We are beginning to see a better level of mathematical understanding developing, and I am confident that this will continue. If you would like to find out more, please speak to me or to your child's teacher.

Ms Hewer

