



# Autumn Term 1 Newsletter

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## A Message from Miss Burns



Dear Parents,

We have had a wonderful start to our school year with much to celebrate. Year 3 have settled in wonderfully and are working hard in their lessons. Most of Year 6 have survived their Manor Adventure activity week as have the staff who accompanied them, just about! You will all have seen the standards of learning in your child's books when you came for parents' consultation evening this week.

World Mental Health day saw each child make a worry doll – what was delightful was to learn that two children in Year 4 used their initiative to make one for an absent friend.

Our 50th celebrations were a culmination of lots of preparation and research from pupils and staff so thank you to all. Many of our visitors were former pupils and we were fortunate to have Mrs Anne Hayes, who was the headteacher when Elangeni celebrated its 25th anniversary. The children will have shared some of the stories from yesteryear and much was about 'punishments' one of which seemed to

be walking around the quad area carrying a chair at chest height! Thank you all for helping us celebrate this momentous milestone.

My thanks to all the staff for their efforts in an incredibly busy half term. I am sure the children are in need of a rest and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 31st October for the second half of the term.

Kind regards,

Miss Burns

## Dates For Your Diary

**Tuesday 31st October- First day back to school, after school clubs recommence**

**Friday 10th November- 6S class assembly**

**Saturday 11th November- Cross Country at Hervines**

**Tuesday 14th November- Pupil flu vaccines**

**Friday 24th November- 6R class assembly**

**Monday 27th November- NFER testing week**

**Thursday 30th November- Last day of After School clubs**

**Tuesday 5th December- Year 3 Christmas production**

**Tuesday 19th December- Last day of Autumn term**

## Some reminders

**Parking –**

We continue to have issues with parking and our neighbour closest to the bungalow on the left of the school entrance is becoming increasingly fed up, rightly so, with those who block their drive. Please desist so we can remain on cordial terms.

We have our parking enforcement officer present when he is available but clearly this is not working long term. We always advise residents to note down registration numbers and report these to Thames Valley Police using their website.

There is no reason why any of our parents should ever need to block a resident's driveway at the beginning or end of the school day.

Your appreciation and consideration of others would be appreciated.

#### **Uniform-**

Can we make sure that on our return to school after half term, on Tuesday 31st October we are wearing the correct uniform including neutral coloured trainers on PE days and neutral coloured hair accessories (if necessary) and no earrings other than studs. We have seen a decline in pupils wearing the correct items and will be taking a firm stance on this moving forward.

#### **After school club collection-**

Please remember that after October half term no pupil may walk home alone unaccompanied and must be collected from the front gate of Elangeni School by a trusted adult or responsible secondary school sibling. This procedure remains in place up to February half term and there are no exceptions made.

## A Message From David Walker, One of Our Governors



### **David Walker - Governor for History and Health & Safety**

I joined the Elangeni board of governors in June 2021. I was immediately impressed by the positive changes that had taken place in school environments during that time and this motivated me to become more involved and apply for the position of governor at Elangeni School. Joining during the Covid pandemic made initial contact with staff and pupils quite challenging but, I was given fantastic support by the other governors and school staff. There are also good IT systems in place that help governors with training, meetings and documentation.

My two areas of responsibility are history and health and safety. Having studied history at university this was a particular bonus for me and I have enjoyed many entertaining discussions with Miss Mallard on a range of topics...all the way from Vikings to Shirley Bassey! I am also fortunate to work closely with Mr Sifleet, the site manager. We conduct termly inspections of the school to ensure the fabric of the building is sound and that the school environment is as safe as possible. Mrs Sifleet's dedication to this is very reassuring.

On my recent visit to the school for the 50th anniversary I was lucky enough to be given a tour by two members of year 6. Part of the role of a governor is to review the strategic direction of the school and the attainment and progress of pupils. The 45 minutes I spent in the company of my guides gives me confidence that this is in very good hands. The children are not only bright, enthusiastic and confident but also display an intelligent sense of humour that is testament to a warm and welcoming school environment. Walking between classes it is also evident that standards of behaviour are very high.

The many challenges facing modern education are well known and regularly fill the pages of the national press. I feel this often detracts from the hugely positive steps and inspirational moments that are part and parcel of daily school life. The Year 3 Christmas Extravaganza in 2022 would be just one example of this at Elangeni and it remains a particular favourite of mine. Volunteering as a governor brings its challenges but it is also hugely rewarding. The fact that my introduction to this was at a school like Elangeni has only improved that experience.