

# Ellwood School Updates

www.ellwoodschool.co.uk

Friday 17th January 2020



## Spring Term



### Diary Dates

- ⇒ **Tuesday 21st Jan** - Swimming Years 5 & 6.
- ⇒ **Tuesday 21st Jan** - Fizz pop Science club. Years 1-6.
- ⇒ **Tuesday 21st Jan** - Gym (**Beech Class**)
  
- ⇒ **Thursday 23rd Jan** - K'Nex Challenge - Years 5 & 6 in school time.
  
- ⇒ **Tuesday 28th Jan** - Fizz pop Science club. Years 1-6.
- ⇒ **Tuesday 28th Jan** - Gym (**Beech Class**)
  
- ⇒ **Tuesday 4th Feb** - Swimming Years 5 & 6.
- ⇒ **Tuesday 4th Feb** - Fizz pop Science club. Years 1-6.
- ⇒ **Tuesday 4th Feb** - Gym (**Beech**)
  
- ⇒ **Tuesday 11th Feb** - Fizz pop Science club. Years 1-6.
- ⇒ **Tuesday 11th Feb** - Gym (**Beech Class**)
  
- ⇒ **Friday 14th Feb** - Last day of term. (**Half term Mon 17th Feb - Fri 21st Feb**)
  
- ⇒ **Tuesday 25th Feb** - Swimming Years 5 & 6.
  
- ⇒ **Tuesday 3rd March** - Gym (**Chestnut Class**)
  
- ⇒ **Thursday 5th March** - Provisional date for French pupils to visit (Pen pals).
  
- ⇒ **Tuesday 10th March** - Swimming Years 5 & 6.
- ⇒ **Tuesday 17th March** - Gym (**Chestnut Class**)
  
- ⇒ **Saturday 14th March** - Gym Competition (Selected children only). More info to follow.
  
- ⇒ **Monday 16th March** - Provisional date for parents in school week.
  
- ⇒ **Friday 20th March** - After school clubs finish.
  
- ⇒ **Monday 23rd March** - No clubs this week.
  
- ⇒ **Tuesday 24th March** - Swimming Years 5 & 6.
- ⇒ **Tuesday 24th March** - Gym (**Chestnut Class**)
  
- ⇒ **Tuesday 31st March & Thursday 2nd April** - Provisional dates for parents evening.
- ⇒ **Tuesday 31st March** - Gym (**Chestnut Class**)

Continued on next page.....

## Important Information

**Garden Update** - Garden Club will return after the February half term and children on the waiting list will be given a letter shortly. Last term we were busy preparing for our new butterfly and bee border which will be completed in the Spring/Summer. Many thanks to Coleford Garden Centre for giving us a discount on a beautiful arch, which will mark the entrance to the area. We used our plant sales and Bream Show prize money to pay for it. Also, thanks to Mr Blackburn for his help with pruning the fruit espalier and providing pallets for play. Thank you, again for the bulbs and wood that appeared in the shed, the bulbs have been planted and are growing nicely. If you have access to patio slabs or well rotten manure please let Mrs Rees know. Finally, do remember that you are very welcome to accompany your children in the garden after school to take a good look.

**Behaviour** - We have noticed an increase in children answering back and having a general lack of respect towards adults in school. This will not be tolerated and children will receive red slips if this occurs. Please reinforce this at home and ensure they are reminded of this if they speak to parents in this way.

**Fortnite and Online Gaming** - We have been having a number of children recently arguing in school over online games they have been playing with each other at home. Some have also been very tired as they have been playing games late in the evenings, watching you tube and have been on devices, some children have also used rude language. The children have said the phrases come from some of the games they play. As you can appreciate, this is not good for the children's well-being and is time consuming for staff to try and sort out problems relating to this in school. It also distracts the children from their learning and impacts on their friendships. These things are happening outside of school and therefore we need parents help to supervise their children and monitor their gaming and technology usage. Thanks for your support.

### Some information about Fortnite

At the barest minimum, the PEGI rating's recommended age should be followed, which means that a child should be at least 12 years of age before they can play *Fortnite*. This age limit may be scaled upwards if you feel that your child is susceptible to addictive behaviour, or can't respect the boundaries that you set. It should never go below 12 years old.

*"Fortnite has some addictive elements that give players a rewarding sense of achievement which encourages longer play. For example, players earn experience, or 'XP', whenever they complete a match. The better their performance in a match, the more XP they earn. Earning certain amounts of XP allows them to level up, which unlocks various rewards such as cosmetic customisation options and dance emotes.*

*This kind of gameplay loop encourages children to keep playing as they seek out greater rewards. What's more, some of these rewards can only be earned for a limited time, further encouraging a race to keep playing. Some of these rewards may also be purchased with real money, which can encourage compulsive spending behaviour even at an early age. Make sure that your children always ask for permission before spending."*

Taken from <https://www.newidea.com.au/fortnite-age-rating-a-guide-for-parents>

## Thank You....

- ◇ Thank you for encouraging your child/ren to have a hot meal on census day, we had a great uptake!
- ◇ Thank you to Year 5 parents for supporting the Gamelan trip, it was a brilliant experience and the children all thoroughly enjoyed it. The sessions will continue on a Wednesday for several weeks.
- ◇ The first Year 4 brass session was good fun, they have learnt about simple notation, how to read music, played the instruments and learnt about composing music, it's a great opportunity for them and will continue until after half term every Wednesday.

## Reminders

**Hair Bows** - Please remember that hair bows need to be as close to school colours as possible and a sensible size.

**Dinner Debts** - Please log on to parent pay and clear any outstanding dinner debts, please ensure your account is always in credit.

**Reading**- Thanks for supporting your child with reading at home, it is an important life skill and impacts on all areas of the curriculum. It was lovely to see children winning books in assembly this week but we would like to have seen a few more raffle tickets in each class. Remember to try and read with your child/ren four times a week.

**Chewing Gum** - Chewing gum is not allowed in school.

**Coleford Twinning Association invite you to enjoy a special French dinner by a top chef from St Hilaire de Riez, at the Speech House Hotel Friday 27th March 2020. Tickets are £35 and can be purchased from Coleford Tourist Information Centre.**

*Coleford Twinning Association  
Invite you to enjoy a  
Special French Dinner  
by a top chef from St Hilaire de Riez  
at the Speech House Hotel  
Friday 27th March 2020*



*Five courses from  
Vincent  
Tickets for this special dinner are £35 and can be purchased from the Coleford Tourist Information Centre. There are limited places, so don't delay. The full menu can be viewed on the website: [www.colefordtwinning.org](http://www.colefordtwinning.org)  
All the proceeds raised will go towards supporting our many twinning projects.*