

Thursday 20th December 2023

Dear parents and carers,

As we reach the end of the first term of the academic year, I wanted to wish you all a very relaxing break over the Christmas period, and thank you for your continued support for the school. Our home-school partnership is such an asset, with parents supporting with their children's learning at home, through encouraging good attendance, reading with children in school, cooking, taking part in PTA events and celebrating with us their children's progress in curriculum evenings, parent consultations and events such as class assemblies and Christmas productions.

It has been an exciting term at ESPS, with the completion of the Hertford Building project. Over the last two weeks, the planting around the school site has been finished, and we look forward to developing the vegetable garden and wellbeing area in that part of the school. The PTA has also helped to renovate the sandpits and mud-kitchen, which the children will enjoy using from January.

We are delighted to be offering 49 extracurricular clubs next term, which we know support the children in their personal, social and academic development. We encourage the children to use their habit of mind, 'Taking Good Risks', to try something new and explore a new passion.

Our 2023 academic results show that children at ESPS continue to perform above the national average in all KS2 measures, and we were particularly impressed with being in the top 1% of schools for the percentage of pupils meeting the highest standard in mathematics. Our very positive progress measures also celebrate how well pupils have worked to achieve their best during their time in school. I look forward to welcoming parents to an assessment information evening in February to talk more about the stories behind the impressive data, and to share the benefits of being such an inclusive and richly diverse school.

We have welcomed many new families to the school this term, and it has been unsurprising to see how welcoming the East Sheen community has been. Now is a good opportunity to remind all in our community that the school offers support for any families that need it. Just this week, we were able to source over 40 meal kits to share with families, and we continue to work with our enrichment partners to offer support where needed.

Our new staff have settled brilliantly and are enjoying working in such a special school. In February, we will wish Victoria Strang, Assistant Headteacher, well as she begins her maternity leave, and I am pleased to share that Helena Vardy, previously a teacher and Key Stage Senior Leader at the school, will be returning to ESPS to offer teaching support for pupils during Victoria's absence. We also say goodbye to Anne Haywood, who retires from her position as Finance Assistant at the end of December. We thank her and wish her very well, knowing she will remain a part of the ESPS community.

Once again, I wish you a very peaceful holiday and look forward to welcoming our wonderful pupils back to school on 8th January 2024.

Best wishes,

Harry Page

Headteacher

East Sheen Primary School

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