

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year to you all! We welcomed back our young people on Tuesday 9 January, it was great to see everyone return to school safely.

On Monday we had an INSET day where staff came together for training. A number of staff were introduced to the Rights Respecting Schools Framework which we are keen to embed within our work at the Federation. Before Christmas we introduced the rights of the child to the School Council and Junior Leadership Team and they were very keen to carry out the Shoe Share Appeal which had a very positive response from both Penrose and Elmwood. We also worked with Robert Blake Science College and Andy our Premises Manager very kindly took the boxes of shoes collected to Clarks in Taunton to donate to Unicef. On behalf of Unicef, I would like to thank you all for your generous contribution to this appeal.

This is just one of the many activities we will be doing to teach and learn about the rights of the child. As part of this work we will be working on our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and ensuring that we embed the Rights Respecting Schools agenda into everything we do at the Federation.

I am very proud of the confidence and enthusiasm our Junior Leadership Team have shown. They speak very positively about the school and are great ambassadors for what the Federation is all about. Over the next 2 terms, they will be leading the School Councils, getting involved in charity work and meeting the Senior Leadership Team to talk about how we can continue to improve the schools.

A few things which are taking place later in the year:

Spring Term Enrichment Week - February 2018 - focusing on The Arts, students across the Federation will be off timetable for part or all of the week to be immersed in Music, Art and Drama. Exploring new media and taking part in group activities. Summer Term Enrichment Week - June 2018 - focusing on Diversity and giving pupils opportunities to explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural learning. Activities Weeks in July - we are currently planning a range of activities for students to explore, these will include trampolining and rebound therapy, Clunkerboard, Music and arts workshops alongside a range of outdoor and adventurous activities and off-site trips. We are currently looking at funding to support these activities, however there will be a parental contribution requested, please look out for information coming home soon.

Internet Safety Day takes place on 6 February this year and our teaching staff are working hard to plan an exciting but informative day to help our young people learn to stay safe online. If you require any support at home with settings and safety information please contact the school office and ask for the Family Team who will be more than happy to help.



We will soon be launching Twitter accounts and Facebook pages for both Penrose and Elmwood. Both schools have their own pages and feeds and we will welcome parents and carers following us. We will write to you with specific information about these once all the settings have been put in place.

Our PTFA (Parent, Teacher and Friends Association) has been inactive for some time and we are very keen to re-launch this group. We are looking for willing parents, carers and friends of both Penrose and Elmwood Schools to join our group and help the schools raise money, run events and support other families. The AGM (Annual General Meeting) took place on Monday 22 January at Penrose School. If you were unable to attend, it would be great to see you at the next meeting, details will be shared soon.

It was great to see so many of you at events before Christmas; the Christmas Fayre, Christmas events at Penrose, Elmwood and The Jean Rees Centre and also the well attended Parents Evenings. We are busy planning for this term and you will receive a letter home soon to book your meeting with Teaching staff. These meetings are important and ensure that you are up to date with your child's progress at school. These events also provide an opportunity to meet staff working with your child and talk about other areas of either celebration or concern.

I look forward to seeing you at events this term.

Helen Farnell  
Executive Head Teacher

## Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA)



RIGHTS  
RESPECTING  
SCHOOLS



BECAUSE  
**EVERY CHILD**  
IN THE WORLD  
HAS ONE THING  
IN COMMON.  
**THEIR RIGHTS.**

The Elmwood & Penrose Federation is a proud Rights Respecting School (RSS). UNICEF is the world's leading organisation for children and their rights. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is a universally agreed set of non-negotiable standards and obligations. Also known as human rights it sets minimum entitlements and freedoms. It is founded on respect for the dignity and the worth of each individual regardless of ethnicity, gender, language, religion, opinions, wealth, ability or any other status.

Being a Rights Respecting School (RRS) emphasises pupil well-being, relationships, global citizenship and preparation for life. RRS is about school ethos and culture. It drives our existing vision and values. RRS is a mind-set. We model the language of rights and respect around the schools.

We are building this explicitly into school policies and new schemes of work at Elmwood & Penrose and have the children at the core of all that the Federation is doing.

## Learning Support Centre

From Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2018 the Learning Support Centre will be closed for school holidays. We will re-open on Tuesday 20th February 2018.

The Learning Support Centre welcomes new members, please visit us at the Elmwood School site during term time or call Jeanette on 01278 411211 to find out what we offer.



Penrose News



Elmwood News



Jean Rees News

## INSET Days

Term 4 - Friday 2nd March 2018  
Term 6 - Monday 23rd July 2018

Term 6 - Monday 4th June 2018  
Term 6 - Tuesday 24th July 2018

Inset days give our staff opportunities to access high quality training which supports and improves teaching and learning for all learners.

## Term Dates 2017/2018

Term 3 - 8th January 2018 - 9th February 2018  
Term 5 - 9th April - 25th May

Term 4 - 19th February - 23rd March  
Term 6 - 4th June - 24th July

Please remember that term time holiday will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. Attendance at school is very important for progress and development.



Penrose  
School



Elmwood School



The  
Jean Rees  
Centre