



ELLEN WILKINSON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2 - 14th September 2022



Dear Parents & Carers,

This week's newsletter is a difficult one to write as we observe the period of National Mourning following the sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II last Thursday.

However, as I was trying to think about what to say, one of the staff gave me a copy of the image I have included today. This was drawn by one of our current year 6 pupils last academic year as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. It seems such a short time since the country was celebrating, that to now find ourselves in a time of mourning is difficult for adults to process and even more for children.



That is why this week we have reflected more on the celebration of a life well lived rather than the gap that is left behind when we have talked about this with the children. Looking at this image I recall the noise, chatter, fun and food of a community that came together to celebrate as a school family. It also helps me remember that true families are there during the bad times as well as the good and we look forward to welcoming you to sign the EWPS book of condolence if you wish to do so.

King Charles III when speaking about his memories of the Queen at Holyrood this week paraphrased the words of the poem 'Epitaph On My Own Friend' by Robert Burns saying he felt that Her Majesty was

***"The friend of man, the friend of truth, the friend of age and guide of youth.
Few hearts like hers with virtue warmed, few heads with knowledge so informed."***

It seems a fitting epitaph for an extraordinary woman.

Take care and stay safe.

Sue Ferguson

State Funeral

The Cabinet Office and the DFE have confirmed that the state funeral will be held on Monday 19th September. His Majesty King Charles III has decreed that this should be a Bank Holiday so the nation can grieve together.

Therefore the school and Little Ellies will be closed on Monday 19th September.

Book of Condolence - Ellen Wilkinson

At EWPS we have created our own book of condolence for the school's community.



Pupils

Each class will compose a reflection for this and a pupil representative will then write it into the book.

Staff and Governors

Staff and governors will have the opportunity to add their thoughts if they choose to do so during this week.

Parents, Carers and Families

If you would like to leave a message in the EWPS book of condolence this will be available in the hall from 3 pm until 3.30 pm on Thursday and Friday this week.

Books of Condolence - National & Newham

The online book of condolence on the Royal Families website can be found here:

<https://www.royal.uk/>

Newham has also made available Books of Condolence for residents and visitors to sign in the following locations (usual opening times apply)

- Stratford Library: 3 The Grove, E15 1EL
- East Ham Library: 328 Barking Road, E6 2RT
- Canning Town Library: 18 Rathbone Market, Barking Road, E16 1EH
- Beckton Globe Library: 1 Kingsford Way, E6 5JQ
- Forest Gate Library: 6-8 Woodgrange Road, E7 0QH
- North Woolwich Library: 5 Pier Parade, E16 2LJ
- Manor Park Library: 685-693 Romford Road, E12 5AD
- Katherine Road Community Centre: 254 Katherine Road, E7 8PN

Floral Tributes



In Central London a memorial flower garden has been created in Green Park and is the main place for laying flowers near Buckingham Palace.

The Council has also arranged two locations for councillors and residents to lay flowers and wreaths if they wish to do so. These are:

- The War Memorial, located in Central Park, Central Park Road, E6 3HW
- The Stratford Martyrs Memorial, St. John's Church, Stratford Broadway, E15 1NG

Support

We realise that this sad news may affect many of you and therefore I have put the details about bereavement support organisations below again or if you prefer please contact Julie Baker, our Senior Learning Mentor who will be happy to talk with you.

<https://www.winstonswish.org/> (children focus)

<https://www.childbereavementuk.org/supporting-bereaved-children-and-young-people> (children focus)

<https://www.cruse.org.uk/> (bereavement)