

## NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER No 3

27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

With only a few weeks to go until Christmas, the school is now looking very festive and the children are enjoying practising their class Christmas dances for the whole school performance, which will be shared on the Pupil Secure area of the website on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Whilst this can in no way compare to the lovely Christmas Plays that are usually enjoyed at this time of year, we hope that you will still delight in seeing the children giving some sort of performance.

### Zoom Parent Consultations

Thank you to everyone who signed up for a Zoom parent consultation this term and to those of you who have taken the time to respond to our parent feedback survey. As it is highly likely that we will have to continue having consultations in this format for the remainder of the school year, it is important to make them work as well as possible, so your feedback is a very valuable part of this process.



### Children in Need and Poppy Appeal



Thank you to everyone who donated toward these very worthwhile causes - In total we raised a fantastic **£875.64** for Children in Need and an amazing **£419.48** for the Poppy appeal.

### Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December

We are once again supporting Save the Children's 'Christmas Jumper' Campaign. On this day, we would like to invite the children to wear non-uniform and a festive/winter jumper to school, or they can decorate a jumper with a Christmas theme, if they would like. Children do not need to make a contribution to the charity unless they wish to do so – this is entirely voluntary. If you would like to make a donation, please give it to your child's teacher. Thank you.



## Christmas Cards – deadline Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December

We know that many children usually like to send Christmas cards to their friends in school and so we will once again be permitting this, however, in order to minimize Covid risks we will be limiting the sharing of these.



Each class will have a box where cards should be placed – **the envelope must be clearly labelled with the recipient's name (please put the first letter of the surname as well e.g. Billy G) and their class.** The deadline for putting cards in the box is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. These will then be sorted by staff and given out later the following week.

## Whole school Christmas lunch – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

As usual, the children will be having a Christmas Lunch, provided by Chartwells. Usually the whole school sit down to lunch in the hall, however this will not be possible this year. Instead, the current lunchtime arrangements will remain in place and each child will be given a Christmas cracker, and Christmas music will be playing whilst they eat. If you usually provide a lunchbox for your child, you are welcome to decorate this and make their lunch more 'festive' on this day.



A Christmas lunch will be ordered for and offered to, every child in the school, so you do not need to do anything, even if your child does not usually have hot meals.

## FEPIS Christmas making workshops – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December



As you are aware, FEPIS were hoping to run 'Elf workshops' for each year group, after school, in the run up to Christmas. As we are limiting volunteers in school to those supporting learning, these will sadly not be able to take place this year. Instead, FEPIS are inviting the children to come to school in their 'Christmas Clothes' and during the day the children will make Christmas decorations in their classrooms and have Christmas music and stories. Each child will bring home their decorations and a gift bag from FEPIS.

## Christmas Story-telling workshop – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December



This year the Bard & Troubadour Theatre Company will be visiting the school to retell Christmas Stories, instead of their usual pantomime performance. Workshops will be held in year group bubbles and there will be no singing or 'active participation' from the children.

This end of term Christmas celebration is always a lovely event and for this we ask for a donation of **£2.50 per child** towards the cost, payable through Parentmail.

## Spotlight on Safeguarding



E-safety is another part of our safeguarding duty. Due to the pandemic, with lockdown and children having to isolate, there is a growing need for children to use the internet at home for home learning. The internet is a great resource to use in school but it's also important that the children stay safe online.

In school, as part of our computing and PSHE lessons we teach the children how to keep themselves safe online. There are also posters up in all of the classrooms next to the computer areas, reminding the children how to keep themselves safe online (Our E-safety Rules can be viewed on our website) and the teachers give the children reminders when they are using the internet to inform other areas of their learning.

There are a number of websites that can give you more information about e-safety and what you can do at home to keep your child safe. Particular ones to look at are:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>  
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Also with the change in the weather and children spending more time indoors, children may be using their games consoles more often.

Things to be aware of with gaming:

- the recommended age for the games – inappropriate content
- length of screen time
- many games are online and children can interact with other users – cyberbullying/contact with strangers
- in-game purchases

The link below has some good advice for parents on managing and supporting your child in using a games console safely and responsibly

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology/games-consoles>

## Pupil Premium Funding

### **Did you know?**

If you are in receipt of any of the following benefits listed below and you apply for 'Free School Meals' your child's school receives additional funding of £1320 to spend. This is known as **Pupil Premium**. The Pupil Premium Fund must be spent to help eligible pupils reach their full potential as an individual and in their learning. You can find out more about how we spend the money by going to <https://www.eastpreston-inf.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Pupil+Premium&pid=37>

Although every child at the Infant School receives a free school meal through the Universal Free School Meals Initiative set up in 2014 this additional Pupil Premium funding can only be accessed by schools if parents apply. We are very aware that more families are eligible for this funding that apply and the school is missing out on money to support the children. For your child to be eligible for Pupil Premium Funding you need to be in receipt of one or more of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

By applying for Free school meals your benefits will not be affected. A form can be collected from the main office or if you have any questions you can speak to Mrs Owens, Mrs Waller or Mrs Woodcraft.

### Reminders:

#### Junior School Transfer/ Reception 2021



Please note that the **deadline for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. For those of you who have younger children due to start school in September 2020 please make sure that you apply for your place by the closing date of **15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. These deadlines are extremely important and we have had parents in the past miss out on places as their paperwork was not submitted on time.

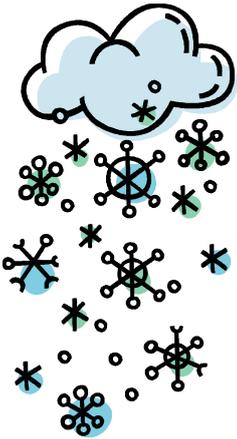
#### Cold Weather Clothing

As the weather is turning colder, please ensure that your child has a **named coat, gloves, scarf and hat in school every day** to keep them warm when they are outside. Thank you.

In particular, on Forest School days please ensure your child has enough adequate layers to keep them warm and dry.



## School Closure Procedures



It's that time of year again when the weather forecast starts to hint at snow falling in our area! It is extremely rare for us to close the school and we can assure you that we do not take the decision lightly, only closing when deemed absolutely necessary.

If the situation does arise you will receive a text message via the 'ParentMail' alert system (please make sure that the office has your up to date numbers). We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Fiona Waller and Mrs Sue Woodcraft who send out the text alerts and update the website in order to inform parents and staff as quickly as possible.

## Governors Corner

Following last months' election, we are delighted to announce that three new parent governors will be joining our Governing Body; Jasmin Austin, Teresa Wilson and Paul Willetts. We are looking forward to welcoming them to the rest of the team at our next meeting on Tuesday.

Our newest two Co-opted governors are already getting involved, with Carolyn Cruz joining our well-being working party and Stuart Simpson lending his safeguarding experience to that highly important role.

On behalf of all the governors, I hope that you keep safe and well.

*Sue Nelson*  
*Chair of Governors*

## Dates for Your Diary

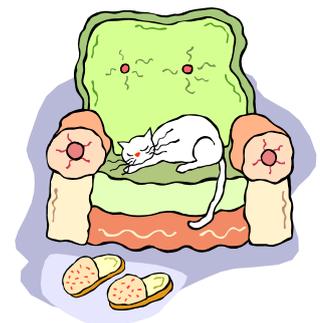
Attached are some dates for you to note on your calendar. Please check each newsletter for any updates or amendments.

## And Finally ...

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for your support of the school, the staff and your children during what has been a very different term for us all.

*Claire New*

Claire New (Mrs)  
Headteacher



## Diary Dates



Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	-	Y2 Drumming workshop – funded by FEPIS
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Christmas jumper day
	-	Christmas Performance uploaded to Pupil Secure Area
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Christmas lunch in school for pupils
	-	FEPIS Jolly Jar Stall (after school)
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Non uniform Christmas Workshop Day – FEPIS donation
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Christmas Story Telling Workshop £3 donation
	-	9.30am 100 Square Prize Draw
	-	Term ends
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	-	<b>INSET DAY – school closed to pupils</b>
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	-	<b>INSET DAY – school closed to pupils</b>

**The term will restart for the children on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Other INSET days:- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021**



We are really looking forward to our school Christmas celebrations this year and are doing everything we can to try and make it extra special for all the children.

### Elf Festive Fun Day - Thursday 17th December



We are going to be making some great Christmas crafts and reading festive stories. The children will be able to wear their own clothes/dress up for the day and each child will bring home a little 'elf' bag to make the day extra memorable for them. We will have a donation bucket out on this day but there is no obligation to contribute. Thank you to everyone for your support on this and especially the small group who are helping with the preparations. We hope all the children will be able to have a really fun day together.

### Jolly Jars - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

We will have a Jolly Jars stall on the last Wednesday of term, the jars will be £1 each and are a little party bag in a jar (if you can picture that!). We will have free-from options available (no nuts, gluten-free and vegan) so that nobody misses out. If you have items you could contribute (wrapped/bagged sweets or party bag items) it would be much appreciated, we have a donation box in the school foyer.



### 100 Square – 7<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

In the last two weeks of term Mrs New and Mrs Owens will be selling numbers on a 100 Square with a top prize of £60 and some smaller prizes such as a free music lesson with the Sussex Academy of Music. It will cost £1 a ticket and the draw will take place at 9.30am on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

### Christmas Cards

We hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas cards and products. Thank you so much for your support! It was lovely to see how much the children enjoyed creating their pictures.

Many thanks.  
**FEPIS Committee**