



## DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER No 4

18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It seems incredible that the end of term has already arrived! Looking back to September it has been a whirlwind of changes and different ways of working that we have all had to adapt to, but it feels like the whole school community has pulled together and remained positive (or should I say, 'mostly negative').

We now find ourselves a third of the way through the school year and with a glimmer of hope on the horizon that by next September we can pack the barriers and one way system away (fingers crossed!) and go back to our 'old normal'.

I would like to once again thank you for all the support you give to your children and to the school. Your patience and understanding during this last term has made the world of difference!

### **FEPIS Christmas Fundraisers**

A big thank you goes out to the FEPIS team, who despite the barrier of not being able to run the traditional autumn term events, have found new ways of continuing to raise much needed funds for the school, whilst keeping the bubbles secure.



We would like to say a special thank you to Alexa Gardner and Tamsyn Balchin who have coordinated the FEPIS team and paved the way for the Class Fundraising Christmas cards and gifts, Christmas 100 squares, Jolly Jam Jars and Elf workshops. It's so lovely that we have still been able to have some Christmas events for the children at this very special time of year!

### **East Preston Infant School X-mas Factor Video**



I hope you all enjoyed the children's Christmas performance of 'The X-mas Factor'. It was lovely to see the children dancing and having fun, and to be able to still have an end of term show, drawing the school community together. Thank you to Mrs London, Mrs Lilley and Mrs Rickard who wrote the script and cheesy jokes and to Mrs Goodens (our resident producer) who put together the final video.

## Spotlight on Safeguarding

As part of our Personal and Social Education and through our Right to be Safe we discuss, in an age appropriate way, with the children a variety of ways to help keep them safe, including road safety, stranger danger and the PANTS message to help stay safe from abuse. For this month's spotlight, as children are spending more time at home you may be interested in looking at the resources that are on the NSPCC website which offers parent support when having conversations at home with their children.



<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/underwear-rule/>

*Lucy Owens*  
*Designated Safeguarding Leader*

## Reminders:

### Junior School Transfer/ Reception 2022

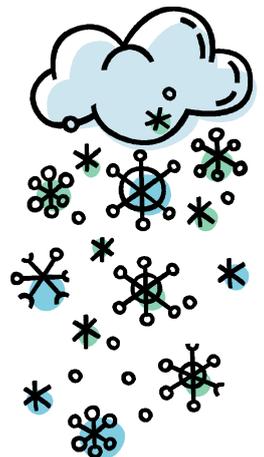


Please note that the **deadline for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. For those of you who have younger children due to start school in September 2020 please make sure that you apply for your place by the closing date of **15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. These deadlines are extremely important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

## School Closure Procedures

We can assure you that we do not take the decision to close the school lightly and only do so when deemed absolutely necessary.

If the situation does arise, please check the school website. If we have your mobile number then you will receive a text message via the 'Call Parents' alert system. 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

Such unusual times, but the show must go on! What amazingly creative staff and children we have to put on an unforgettable Xmas Factor performance this week. Thank you from the governors to all the children for being their wonderful selves, entering into the festive spirit and having fun. Despite the strange circumstances this year, they continue to enjoy learning and thrive. On behalf of us all, a massive thank you to all the staff for their hard work and making this term as normal as possible for the children.

The governors would also like to express our special thanks to Roberto and Sam at Ristorante Al Mare, who generously donated pizzas for staff on Tuesday lunchtime. Governors have been keen to support the well-being of our very hard-working staff, and approached Al Mare, which is just around the corner from school, with an idea. Roberto and his team were delighted to make the idea a reality and provided the pizzas, which Jill Hooton then delivered to school. Thank you!!

My final thanks are to you, the parents and carers, for your unstinting support this term. May I wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Stay safe and well and have fun over the Christmas break.

*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.

On behalf of the staff and myself, we would like to thank you for all your cards, gifts and kind words and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Claire New*

Claire New (Mrs)  
Headteacher





## **Diary Dates**

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January - INSET DAY – school closed to pupils  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January - INSET DAY – school closed to pupils

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

- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January - YR Wow 'Flight Experience'  
Y2 Wow 'Builders Day'  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January - Y1 Computing Workshop 'Stop Motion Animation'  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January - Y2 School Council leaders lunchtime tasting  
(details to follow)  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January - YR Computing Workshop 'Codapillar'  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January - Y2 Computing Workshop 'Scratch'  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February - YR Fairy Tale Workshop (details to follow)  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February - Y1 Fab Finish Royal Ball (details to follow)  
- Break up for half term

**Half term: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February inclusive**

- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - School restarts for pupils  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March - 3.45-6.00pm Parent Consultations  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March - 3.45-6.00pm Parent Consultations  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March - 3.45-6.00pm Parent Consultations  
Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March - JustDifferent virtual workshops for Y2  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April - Break up for Easter holiday

**Easter break Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April inclusive**

**Term restarts for pupils on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

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



### Friends of East Preston Infant School

Dear Parents/Carers

We wanted to say the BIGGEST thank you to everyone for your support this term. We have a lovely school community and during difficult times it seems extra special.



While it hasn't been our usual pattern of activities this term we have been so grateful for the support shown to all the projects we have been able to achieve including Bags of Support, Christmas Cards and Products, Jolly Jars, the Elf Festive Fun Day and the 100 Square's. The best bit has been seeing the children enjoy themselves so much – they loved 'being designers' of their own Christmas cards and had so much fun at the in-school events such as the Musical Workshops and craft activities. We are pleased to advise that we have raised the combined total of **£1,037.00** from all the Christmas events.

There has been an extremely kind small group of parents helping to deliver each project and none of it would have been possible without them – thank you to you all!

We wanted to say a huge thank you to the staff who have had to do so many things differently this year but have done it all smiling. The completely brilliant Mrs Waller and Mrs Woodcraft in the office have been incredibly helpful.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year – we hope you all have a happy and healthy holiday.

Best wishes.

**FEPIS Committee**

