



March 2021 NEWSLETTER No 7

26th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Unbelievably we are almost at the end of the spring term already! It has been lovely to have all the children in school these last three weeks and they are gradually settling back into routines and adjusting to the noise and busyness of being surrounded by all of their peers. Fingers crossed for a positive summer term when we can begin to enjoy a little more normality.

Easter Holiday Activities

We have been asked to share the following information with you regarding provision over the Easter Break:-

Library Service

With the children spending a lot more time at home over the past year, parents may have exhausted all possible forms of entertainment and be struggling for ideas to keep them amused over the Easter holidays. But fear not, as West Sussex Libraries has a wealth of activities planned to help children have fun (and learn) at the same time.

Over the holiday, the library service will be providing kids (and their families) with a new and exciting blend of virtual and face-to-face activities which will be available online each Tuesday and Thursday covering the following themes:

- Growing - Tuesday 6 April
- Fun with food - Thursday 8 April
- Fit & Strong - Tuesday 13 April
- Cooking and ingredients - Thursday 15 April

There are competitions and challenges based on some favourite stories about food and growing, as well as 'science in your kitchen' experiments to try at home.

For anyone not online, local libraries will have all the activities available bagged up and ready to collect from the door. More information on locations will be posted on the [UK Harvest website](#) or on the library social media accounts closer to the time via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The holiday activities are open to all whether or not you are a member, but joining the library is free for everyone.

For more information on the Easter holidays programme at West Sussex Libraries, [visit their dedicate webpage](#) for more details.

SAM's online Music Lessons

We have been asked to share the following information with you regarding online Music lessons:

Online weekly 30 minute one-to-one music lessons from home - learn to play the guitar, drum kit, piano / keyboard or to sing - Ofsted registered - Childcare Vouchers accepted - sammusicservice.com to enquire - Half-price taster lesson for £8.25!

[Watch this video about SAM's online instrument lessons](#)

SAM Music Service provides **30 minute one-to-one online music lessons**, allowing your child the opportunity of learning to play the guitar, drum kit, piano / keyboard or to sing.

Lessons are on a weekly basis, and available **until 8pm on weekdays, and 9am to 5pm on weekends**, there are plenty of times to choose from to suit your weekly diary.

You are welcome to book a **half-price one-off taster lesson for £8.25**, to be sure your child enjoyed the experience and is keen to continue.

Tax-Free Childcare - SAM is Ofsted registered and accepts payment through the government's **childcare voucher scheme**, along with other childcare voucher providers, a great way to help reduce the price of lessons.

Lessons are affordable at £16.50 per **30 minute individual lesson**, suitable for both **children and adults**.

To enquire, complete the short contact form on [SAM's website](#), and they'll be in touch soon, or you can email lessons@sammusicservice.com, or call **0800 756 9411** to speak to one of their friendly team.

Reminder - Parent Consultations

Just a reminder that the new dates for parent consultations are Tuesday 4th May, Wednesday 5th May and Thursday 6th May, all from 3.45 – 6.00pm and that they will be held via Google Meet. Information for booking these will be sent out after the Easter break.



Staffing Update



We are pleased to tell you that Mrs Justine Paterson (Wagtails class teacher) is expecting a baby later this year. I am sure you will join us in wishing Justine and her husband JJ, best wishes for their forthcoming bundle of joy!

Recycled School Uniform



We have a large stock of good quality recycled uniform. We are proposing, weather permitting, to hold a table top sale on Monday 29th March and Thursday 1st April after school. The tables will be located opposite the bike shed and there will be an honesty box for donations. Suggested donations are 50p per item and £1 for logo sweatshirts/cardigans. All monies will go into FEPIS funds.

INSET Days 2021/22

As you are aware there are five INSET days each year where the school is closed to the children. INSET days are **extra** days that teachers have to work each year in addition to the 190 pupil days. We have not yet finalised all five INSET dates for next year but we have agreed the first two which are as follows:

Thursday 2nd September 2021

Friday 3rd September 2021

This advance warning maybe useful to you in making childcare arrangements. We will inform you of the other three dates once these have been agreed.

Spotlight on Safeguarding

We know, for some children and families, home might not be a safe place. The media have reported there has been an increase in domestic abuse incidents during the pandemic.

Our school is part of a project which has been designed to provide early reporting of any domestic abuse incidents that occur outside school, which might have an impact on a child in school. Following an incident, where the police have attended an email is sent to the school to notify them of this.

The project ensures that at least one member of the school staff, known as the Key Adult, is trained to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, **in confidence**.

In this way, we aim to support each child who has been involved in, or witnessed, a domestic abuse incident. The key adults at East Preston Infant School are Mrs New and Mrs Owens. If they receive an Encompass email they will make sure that, a person the child trusts, is available to help – should the child need this. In addition, a member of staff may approach a parent to see if any further support is needed. In most cases, the staff in school do nothing, except keep a careful eye on the child and make sure that appropriate action is taken should there be any concerns. The confidential information will only be shared with staff who need to be updated; other staff at the school will not be informed of any details but will be asked to provide support as appropriate.



All schools have a duty to share any information with other organisations if they feel a child is at risk of being hurt. The Key Adults may contact other organisations.

The sharing of Encompass information from the police is not usually child protection. It allows the school to be ready to help your child straight away, **and** it means that parents know the Key Adults are aware that something has happened. Parents are actively encouraged to come and talk to the Key Adults. We are here to support you and your children.

We are keen to offer the best support possible for our children and Operation Encompass has already been extremely beneficial for all those involved.

Governors' Corner

It is amazing to be writing this to you with the school now fully reopen. Hooray! There has been much reflected upon about the last year, but it is truly wonderful to have all the children back in class with their friends and teachers. Unbelievably, we are rapidly approaching the end of the Spring term and as we prepare for the Easter break, I hope that you are all able to have some relaxing and fun times with your children – no remote learning required!

We are extremely grateful to all the staff for their tremendous effort to reintegrate the children over the last couple of weeks and keep their learning moving forward. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them some well-earned downtime over the coming break.

With my very best to you and your families at this time,

Happy Easter!

Sue Nelson
Chair of Governors

Diary Dates

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 I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter and thank you for your continuing support.

Claire New

Claire New (Mrs)
Headteacher





Diary Dates

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| Wednesday 31 st March | - | JustDifferent virtual workshops for Y2 |
| Thursday 1 st April | - | Year 1 Fab Finish – Gardening event |
| | - | Year 2 Fab Finish – Little Red Riding Hood |
| | - | Dress Up Day |
| | - | Break up for Easter holiday |

Easter break Friday 2nd - Friday 16th April inclusive Term restarts for pupils on Monday 19th April 2021

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| Week commencing 19 th April | - | YR Coding Caterpillar Workshop |
| Tuesday 20 th April | - | Y2 Fire Service Virtual Workshop |
| Wednesday 21 st April | - | Y2 Wow start – Reptylers visiting |
| | - | Y1 Wow start – Alien Dress Up Day |
| Friday 23 rd April | - | YR Wow start – Dress like a pirate day |
| Tuesday 4 th May | - | 3.45 – 6.00pm Parent Consultations |
| Wednesday 5 th May | - | 3.45 – 6.00pm Parent Consultations |
| Thursday 6 th May | - | 3.45 – 6.00pm Parent Consultations |
| Monday 10 th May | - | Class photographs by Yellow |
| | - | Y2 Computer Workshop |

Half term Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June inclusive

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| Monday 7 th June | - | School reopens to all pupils |
| Week commencing 14 th June | - | Maths Week |
| Monday 21st June | - | INSET day – school closed to all pupils |
| Wednesday 30 th June | - | JustDifferent workshops for Y1 |
| Monday 19 th July | - | Early transition week – children in new class |
| Friday 23 rd July | - | End of summer term |

Learning, Playing and Laughing Together