



NEWSLETTER 1 SEPTEMBER 2021

10th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to our Year 1 and Year 2 children and their families. We hope you had an enjoyable summer holiday and are now feeling refreshed and ready to start the new school year.



We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Pablo and Sofia Bonomelli-Benitez (Falcons and Kestrels) and Isaac Mather (Hawks) and their families who have recently joined us.

We also warmly welcome our new children in Robins, Wagtails and Puffins classes and their families. We hope that you will quickly settle into the life of the school and that you will be very happy here with us.

Staffing News



Mrs Sue Buchanan (TLA in Y2) has decided to step down from her permanent role at the end of September. I am sure you will join us in thanking Sue for all her hard work and contribution to the school over the last five years. Sue has offered to do some casual work for us and so you may still see her around the school from time to time.

We are delighted to welcome Mr Pedro Teles to the school team. Pedro is an experienced teacher from Portugal who will be joining the Y2 team this year, supporting in class and covering the teacher release time and absence, as well as their PPA after Christmas when Mrs Vinicombe has her second baby.

You may also still see Mrs Ali Lake around school for a few weeks. As Ali has not yet set off on her travels, she is supporting the children in Y1 each morning until it is time for her to go. We are very pleased to be able to welcome her back, if only for a short while, this term.

Site Fencing

In my last letter, I mentioned that the perimeter fencing and gates around the school site were being replaced during the summer break. Unfortunately, there were some delays due to complications at the Junior School end, however we hope that this work will be able to start later this term.

Covid-19

Whilst it has been lovely to be able to start the term without all the barriers and face masks that were in place at the end of last term, we are all mindful that the Pandemic has not just disappeared. New guidance has been issued to schools and we have completed a risk assessment, which is accessible to parents on the website under the **Parents** → **Covid** section. Please note that if there is a significant increase in numbers locally or nationally we may be asked to temporarily reinstate some of the measures previously in place.

Whilst the children are no longer being taught in bubbles, we are still trying to keep some distance between the year groups in order to reduce transmission. As such, we will be having separate assemblies and playtimes for each year group and if the children do all come together, we will keep space between them and ensure that the room is well ventilated. The risk assessment sets out in more detail what other measures have been put in place.



Finally, thank you for adhering to the one-way entry and exit system. As you know, the school site is an extremely busy place at pick up and drop off and this is one small way in which we can all help to ease the congestion.

FEPIS (Friends of East Preston Infant School)



I am delighted to inform you that we have had several parents who have put themselves forward to join the FEPIS team this year. At the end of last term, our FEPIS committee all moved up to the junior school and so this term marks the start of a new committee.

The FEPIS team will be in touch shortly to announce meeting dates so please do look out for this if you think you might be interested in supporting them. **All help and new ideas for fundraising are very welcome**, so please do not be shy in putting yourself forward!

School Council

Elections



Mrs Owens is preparing to set up the School Council for this academic year. Elections will take place in Year 2 on Tuesday 21st September for the four Council Leader posts. Letters will be sent home shortly to those who wish to apply. Those children who submit an application will get an opportunity to speak to the year group explaining why they think they would make a good Council Leader.

There will also be elections for the eight Council Representatives posts for Year 1 and Year 2 classes. One boy and one girl from each class will be elected by their classmates. Classes will be notified of their representatives via Marvellous Me on Friday 24th September. Good luck to all those who want to take part.

The School Council raise money by allowing children to come into school in their own clothes on their birthday in return for a donation of £1. If your child has already had their birthday this term they may still do this, on a day of their choosing in return for a donation. If your child's birthday falls at the weekend or during a school holiday, they may wear their own clothes on the Friday before or Monday following, but don't forget the £1 donation!

Mrs Lucy Owens, Deputy Headteacher

Classes

For your information, below is a copy of the classes, teachers and support staff in each year group. Year group leaders are in bold.



Year group	Class Name	Teacher	Support staff
R	Puffins	Mrs Lorna Payne (YR)	Mr Paul Andrews (HLTA) Mrs Dawn Boulton Mrs Louisa Houghton Mrs Sadie Watson
R	Wagtails	Mrs Emma London	
R	Robins	Mrs Jo Rickard	
1	Starlings	Miss Rachel Skillern (Y1)	Mrs Allyson Lean (HLTA) Mrs Carol Chilvers Mrs Gemma O'Keefe Mrs Annette Wakeling (Mrs Alison Lake)
1	Woodpeckers	Mrs Maria Goodens	
1	Blackbirds	Mrs Cath Caldwell (covering Mrs Justine Paterson's maternity leave)	
2	Kestrels	Mrs Helena Lilley (Y2)	Mrs Helen Gingell Mrs Kristina Loosemore Miss Roxii Williams Mr Pedro Teles Mrs Sally West
2	Falcons	Mr Michael Lake	
2	Hawks	Miss Anna Woodiwiss	

School Improvement Priorities

At our INSET day in the summer term, staff and governors met to identify school priorities for 2021-2022. Each year the school is required to identify areas that need to be developed and possibly improved. These become the basis of the School's Improvement Plan and throughout the year staff, governors and children work together to achieve these targets. By sharing our priorities with you the parents, you will be able to work with us to ensure that this very successful school becomes even more successful!



Priority 1: Provide all pupils with the opportunity to 'catch-up' with lost learning due to Covid-19.

Priority 2: Diminish the difference for SEND and Pupil Premium pupils

Priority 3: Develop a whole school Therapeutic Thinking approach

Priority 4: Following Covid-19, staff and pupil wellbeing needs are addressed after periods of isolation in bubbles

Priority 5: To enrich the curriculum provision in order to address the gaps in children's cultural capital

Priority 6: Governors will provide effective Governance including challenge/support, knowledge of impact and holding the Headteacher to account

If you have any questions about any of our priorities or would like to discuss them, please speak to either myself or one of the governors.

Governors Corner

The governors would like to say hello and welcome to all the new children, parents and staff joining the school, as well as welcoming back everyone else.

If you would like to know more about the governors and what they do, there is information on the website (under All About Us). If you have any questions or think you may like to be involved in the governing body please get in touch with me via the school office.

Sue Nelson
Chair of Governors

A Few Reminders!



- Medication

If your child uses an asthma inhaler or requires medication during the school day, please ensure that the office has up to date details of the treatments required and that you have completed the relevant paperwork.



- Emergency Contact Numbers and Collection During the School Day



It is important that we have the correct contact numbers on which to reach you in case of emergency. If you have recently changed your telephone numbers, please inform the office as soon as possible. If you need to collect your child from school during the school day, please go to the main entrance/office.

- Play Trail/Climbing Equipment

Children are not permitted to use the play trail, music garden or Early Years equipment before or after school. This also applies to younger/older siblings. Please ensure that your children stay on the playground with you during these times.



- Jewellery



For safety reasons, children should not wear jewellery in school. Children with pierced ears should wear studs only please. Plain, dark colour watches, but not the game-type, are permitted. In accordance with advice from West Sussex County Council, jewellery may not be worn for any physical activity. All earrings should be taken out by the children for their PE lessons, watches removed and long hair tied back.

- Dogs Onsite

Dogs are not permitted on school grounds. If necessary, they can be tied to the perimeter fence while dropping off or collecting your child/ren.

- Parking Onsite

Parking is not permitted on the school grounds unless prior arrangement has been agreed with the school office.

Classes have PE on the following days:

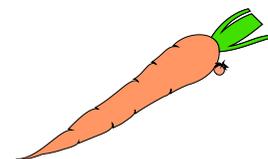
<u>Class</u>	<u>PE Lessons</u>
Year R	
Robins	Monday
Puffins	Wednesday
Wagtails	Thursday
Year 1	
Starlings	Tuesday and Thursday
Blackbirds	Monday and Tuesday
Woodpeckers	Monday and Tuesday
Year 2	
Hawks	Monday and Thursday
Falcons	Monday and Thursday
Kestrels	Tuesday and Wednesday

- Snacks and Drinks Policy

The children have one break time each day (morning) when they are permitted to eat their healthy snacks. Children are encouraged to bring in a healthy snack to eat during their break, which are listed in the school healthy snacks policy, as shown below. **No other snack is permitted.**



- **Mild Cheese** (not processed products such as Cheese Strings and Dairy Dunkers)
- **Breadsticks**
- **Plain Rice Cakes**
- **Wholemeal Pitta Bread**
- **Fresh Vegetables**
- **Fresh Fruits (not fruit winders/yoyos/fruit flakes etc...)**
- **Plain Raisins (not yoghurt coated)**



In addition all the children will receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable every day, usually at mid-morning, as part of a government scheme to encourage children to eat their daily 5 portions of fruit and vegetables.

If your child has any allergies or medical reasons why these snacks are not appropriate, then please come and talk to us.

Water

Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school to keep in class. **Children are only permitted to have plain water in their drinks bottles.** They are able to take drinks of water from this throughout the day. Juice, squash or flavoured water are not permitted.



Dates for your Diary

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



The autumn term is always a very busy one, with lots of events taking place both during and after the school day. Please look carefully at the diary dates section and make a note of the dates so that you are able to come along and join in the fun! Thank you in anticipation of your support over the coming weeks.

Claire New

Claire New (Mrs)
Head teacher

IMPORTANT NOTE TO YEAR R PARENTS

*Would parents of Year R children please note that this newsletter is also being sent by email. If you do **not** receive an electronic copy of this newsletter, please let the office know, as all future newsletters will be sent by email only.*



Diary Dates

Wednesday 6 th October	-	Y1 Phonics Workshop 9am
Tuesday 19 th October	-	Individual Photographs
Wednesday 20 th October	-	Open Morning for Prospective Parents
Friday 22 nd October	-	School Grounds Morning Half Term starts 3.15pm

Half Term Monday 25th to Friday 29th October inclusive

Monday 1 st November	-	Term restarts for all pupils
Tuesday 9 th November	-	3.45 – 6pm Parent Consultations by zoom
Wednesday 10 th November	-	Open Morning for Prospective Parents 3.45 – 6pm Parent Consultations by zoom
Thursday 11 th November	-	3.45 – 6pm Parent Consultations by zoom
Tuesday 16 th November	-	Flu Vaccinations
Tuesday 14 th December	-	9-9.30am YR Open Morning 1pm YR Christmas Party
Wednesday 15 th December	-	9-9.30am Y1 Open Morning 1pm Y1 Christmas Party
Thursday 16 th December	-	9-9.30am Y2 Open Morning Whole school Christmas lunch 1pm Y2 Christmas Party
Friday 17 th December	-	Pantomime in School