

NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER No 3

26th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

With only a few weeks to go until Christmas, the children are enjoying practising their Christmas dances for their year group performances, and we will soon be putting the Christmas decorations up! We understand that you will have been very disappointed by the news that the Christmas performances are not able to be face-to-face again this year, however, I am sure you will agree that it is better that we try to keep our school community as safe as possible. We do hope that you enjoy watching the filmed performances which will be uploaded to Google Classroom in the week beginning 13th December.

Parent Consultations

Thank you to everyone who attended the recent online parent consultations. If you missed your appointment, the teachers will be in touch shortly as it is important that they have the opportunity to talk with you about your child's progress and next steps.



Children in Need



Thank you to everyone who donated toward this very worthwhile cause - In total we raised a fantastic **£428.00**.

Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 10th 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 10th December

We know that many children usually like to send Christmas cards to their friends in school however, in order to minimize Covid transmission we will again 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 10th December. These will then be sorted by staff and given out later the following week.

Whole School Christmas Lunch – Thursday 16th December



As usual, the children will be having a Christmas Lunch, this year, provided by Innovate. In pre-Covid years the whole school have sat down to lunch in the hall, however this year 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.

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme – Winter 2021

West Sussex County Council will be working with a number of organisations to offer provision during Christmas holidays for children eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals.

Full details can be found using the following link:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/campaigns/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/>.

We hope your children enjoy participating in the activities.

Spotlight on Safeguarding

Volunteers

We are very pleased to welcome volunteers into school to support with children's learning or to enable us to give them positive first hand learning experiences. As part of our safeguarding duty at school we ensure that all regular volunteers have undertaken a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check and have attended one of our Safeguarding briefings. The safeguarding briefings are to support volunteers (including parents, teaching students and teaching assistant trainees) in knowing how to identify safeguarding concerns, such as, neglect and abuse; knowing the schools protocols for reporting concerns; keeping themselves safe in school, as well as, understanding how we approach things such as managing children's behaviour; routines in school, or what to do in a fire drill. Volunteers must attend these briefings so that we can comply with the legal requirements in keeping our pupils safe in school.



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 £1,320 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 than 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.

Idling Vehicles

A parent has expressed concerns about vehicles that are arriving early and are parked up close to the school, with the engine running. Most people are not aware that this is offence in law under the Section 42 of the Road Traffic Act 1988. In addition, as an Eco school we would like to encourage you to switch off your engine and help prevent air pollution. We have included some myths and truths below. Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation.

Idling: the myths and the truth

Idling creates pollution and is usually unnecessary for all sorts of reasons, yet many of us still do it. So, our myth-buster is here to give you the truth.

Myth: Starting and stopping my engine frequently will cause more pollution than just letting it run.

Actually, turning off an engine and then restarting after a minute will cause less pollution than letting it run and also uses less fuel.

Myth: But I need to keep my battery fully charged, so I have to keep the engine running!

Modern car batteries need less engine running time to stay charged.

Myth: If it's cold outside I need to keep my engine running for it to stay warm.

Your engine will stay warm for 30-60 minutes after switching the engine off.

Myth: If I'm parked on a yellow line, keeping my engine running means I won't get a fine.

Traffic wardens can fine you if you are parked somewhere you shouldn't be, whether your engine is running or not. But surely it's better to idle because stopping and starting will wear out the engine? This is no longer a problem with modern engines.

But, but, but..... no ifs, no buts, no idling!

Reminders:

Junior School Transfer/ Reception 2022



Please note that the **deadline for applications is 15th January 2022.** For those of you who have younger children due to start school in September 2022 please make sure that you apply for your place by the closing date of **15th January 2022.** 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.

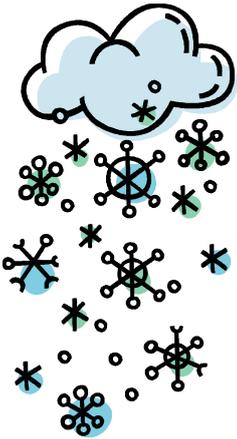
Cold Weather Clothing

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! 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

As we approach the last few weeks of what has been a very busy term so far, the Governors would like to express our thanks to you, the parents and carers, for your ongoing support for the school, and to all the staff for their hard work, relentless enthusiasm and unstinting care for the children.

Sue Nelson
Chair of Governors

Dates for Your Diary

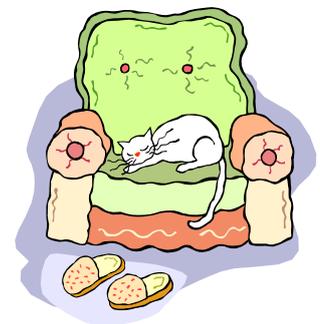
Attached are some dates for you to note on your calendar. Please check each newsletter for any updates or amendments.

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. The partnership between home and school is of vital importance and really does make a difference to the progress the children make.

Claire New

Claire New (Mrs)
Headteacher





Diary Dates

Friday 10 th December	-	Christmas Jumper Day
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 – Thumbelina

The term will restart for the children on Wednesday 5th January 2022

Tuesday 4th January	-	Inset Day
Other INSET days:-	-	Monday 28th February 2022 Monday 20th June 2022