



OCTOBER 2023 - NEWSLETTER 2

20th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

It seems only a short while ago that we returned to school in September and yet here we are already at the half term break! As usual, the start of the school year has been a busy one but the children are now settled into their new routines, their attitudes to learning are positive and they are engaged in their learning. Please do sign up for the Parent Consultation evenings next half term when teachers will be able to update you on your individual child's progress and next steps in learning.

School Grounds Day – Thank You

Thank you to all those parents and grandparents who very kindly helped on School Grounds Morning. It was amazing how much we achieved in one morning. An extra thank you to those parents who assisted in disposing of leaves, weeds and general garden waste.



Harvest Donation – Thank You

“To everyone at East Preston Infants School

We would like to say a GREAT BIG THANK YOU for all the donations for Ukraine.

The generous amount of items collected at your school have been sorted and boxed up ready to be delivered on the next two van loads leaving from our sorting hub in Petworth in the next few weeks. We'll keep you posted on their arrival in Kyiv, where our trusted partners and community volunteers distribute the aid to displaced families and outlying villages that have been cut off by the terrible war.

The people of Ukraine are eternally grateful for our kindness and help.

Sending love and peace to you all.

from Jon, Adele & the team at JW Sports and all at Petworth Ukraine Relief”



Reminder: Junior School Transfer/ Reception 2024



All Year 2 children will by now have received their Junior School transfer instructions via WeDuc. Please note that the **deadline for applications is 15th January 2024.**

For those of you who have younger children due to start school in September 2024 please make sure that you apply for your place by the closing date of **15th January 2024.** 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.

FEPIS

Thank you to those who attended the meeting at the Infant School.

The team are now busy organising a joint Christmas Fayre with East Preston Junior School and there are lots of jobs that need doing! If you are wanting to show support but only have a small amount of time to contribute, there are still tasks that you can take on, so please contact fepis@epinf.co.uk.



Please look out for posters advertising the event shortly.

Armistice Day 11th November - Poppies for Sale

The school will be selling Poppies via the school office from **Tuesday 31st October** for a donation. The children will be able to wear Poppies in school up to and including Friday 10th November, however we will not be selling other products such as wristbands and pencils and we ask that children do not bring these into school if you have purchased them elsewhere.



Thank you in anticipation of your support for this very worthwhile charity.

Parent Consultation Evenings: Tuesday 7th, Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th November

Parent Consultations will be held online on the above dates and are now available to book online.

In line with other schools, parent consultations are a short 12-minute appointment to inform you about your child's current progress and attainment. We understand that sometimes parents have issues they would like to discuss which may take more time than this, and so in these instances we would ask you to contact the class teacher to make an appointment for a face to face meeting outside of these times.

Teachers are happy to talk with parents at any point during the school year, you do not need to wait for consultation evenings to discuss concerns. Your child's work is available for you to look at following their year group assemblies, but again, if you wish to look at this at a time other than this, then please speak to your child's class teacher.

Children in Need: Friday 17th November

This year we will again be supporting Children in Need, culminating in a **non-uniform day (in return for a donation) on Friday 17th November.**

We will be running a colouring competition and so your child will be bringing home a Pudsey Bear to colour in after half term – there will be prizes for each year group and the entry fee is 50p. Please return your entries to the school office by Wednesday 15th November if you wish to participate. There will also be various other activities going on in school – details to follow. Thank you.



Odd Socks Day: Monday 20th November



As part of our Anti-Bullying week focus we will be inviting children to come in to school on Monday 13th November in uniform but wearing odd socks. These can be ones already in your drawer or more decorated versions. This supports our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (P.S.H.E) curriculum learning in valuing ourselves and celebrating diversity.

Can you help?

Our midday meals team are working hard to increase the provision during lunchtime play and would be grateful if you are able to donate any of the following:

- Blankets/ picnic blankets
- Jigsaw puzzles age 4-7
- Board games age 4-7
- Dressing up/ role play clothes
- Play food and play money
- Hula hoops
- Small balls
- Lego



Reminder: Passing messages to school staff



With the classroom doors opening at 8.50am and registers being taken at 8.55am the teachers do not have time to talk with parents on the door in the morning. The support staff are there to support specific children with entering the classrooms so please could we politely remind you to pass any important messages through the main office (secretary@epinf.co.uk) or contact the teachers through the year group email.

Teachers are available to talk at the end of the school day or you can email them to make an appointment if you wish to spend longer talking with them. Thank you in advance for your support.

Spotlight on Safeguarding

This month we are focusing on attendance and the part it plays in safeguarding children.



Good attendance at school is, of course, crucial for children as research has shown that regular attendance has a positive impact on children's achievement. Setting good attendance patterns from an early age, from nursery through primary school will also help your child later on in their life.

However, we also monitor attendance closely for safeguarding purposes. Unreported absence from school can be a warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities. The statutory DfE document "**Keeping Children Safe in Education**" states that:-

"Children going missing, particularly repeatedly, can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities. This may include abuse and neglect, which may include sexual abuse or exploitation and child criminal exploitation. It may indicate mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, risk of female genital mutilation or risk of forced marriage. Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risks of a child going missing in future." (page 16)

There have been a number of past Serious Case Reviews where absence from school and a lack of follow-up from the staff has led to children being put in serious harm's way. The statutory guidance sets out our role to follow "*a process of reasonable enquiry*".

At East Preston Infant School if a child is not in school and the parents have not made contact we follow the procedures set out in our attendance policy which can be found on the website.

1. We contact the first main contact person for the child by telephone to find out why the child was absent. If contact is made and we are satisfied with the reason we would update attendance records with the appropriate code. If the member of staff has concerns about the child's absence they will speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
2. If contact couldn't be made we would move to the 2nd and further contact persons. If contact is made and we are satisfied with the reason we would update attendance records with the appropriate code. If the member of staff has concerns about the child's absence they will speak to the DSL.
3. If no contact can be made over the phone after 24 hours then the DSLs will visit the home to ensure the welfare of the child and their family. Appropriate action can then be taken based upon what the concern is.
4. If we were not satisfied with the reason given for the absence then it would be recorded as unauthorised on the registers.

Possible outcomes/actions we may take as DSLs are:-

- To work with the family to improve their child's attendance.
- To get external agencies involved to help support the family for a short period of time or there maybe a requirement for more long-term assistance.
- To make a referral to MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub)

Lucy Owens (Deputy Headteacher)

Governors Corner

On behalf of the governors, I have been asked to tell you about one aspect of our work - Safeguarding. You will be aware from the media recently, how safeguarding is of such vital importance, that it can literally make or break the outcome of an Ofsted inspection. As governors, keeping children safe at school is a top priority and we endeavour to be vigilant in monitoring all areas that come under the wide umbrella of 'Safeguarding'. We carry out regular visits to check that systems are in place, procedures effective and that children feel both safe at school and know what to do if they are concerned.

In order to be as rigorous as possible, the school recently commissioned an external Safeguarding audit by the County's specialist team. Three inspectors spent a day in school reviewing all aspects of safeguarding. As well as staff, the children were involved and three governors were questioned at length. I am pleased to say that the outcomes were successful and feedback was good, with no major surprises to report. The governors were complimented on their strength and depth as a team, the level of support given, knowledge of the school and its processes, compliance and monitoring. While external validation is good, the governors and senior management are in no way complacent and strive to ensure that safeguarding remains robust in order to achieve the best outcomes for the children.

With that in mind, I'd like to use this opportunity to ask if you, or someone you know, is interested in finding out how you can play a strategic role in the successful life of the school by becoming a governor. As a governance team we are keen to bring on board new governors, both parents and from the community. To find out more, please do contact us via the Chair, Miss Jane Jones, at the School Office.

Mrs Sue Nelson
Safeguarding

Communication

We appreciate that it can sometimes be confusing knowing the best way to communicate with us and how you can expect us to communicate with you and so we hope that the following helps to provide some clarification:



- **WeDuc:**

This is the main method of communication from the office. It enables us to send out both short message reminders, as well as attachments such as newsletters, flyers and important updates, which need to be shared with the whole school. **You do not need to log in to access a message as it arrives in your email box** – in this way we are able to ensure that all families receive important information. We are also able to view which families have received messages.

You can pay for a trip, FEPIS disco ticket etc... as well as complete consent/permission forms which the school may send out for example relating to a sporting event or a survey.

If you have installed the WeDuc app, messages will also appear within this; however, you will still receive an email in your mail box.

- **Marvellous Me:**

This app is used by teachers to give virtual badges, stickers and awards to children and to share your child's achievements with you. You will need to have signed up to the app in order to receive these, however once this is done you will be sent a notification if your child has been given an award. Within this app, there is also a communication facility, which teachers sometimes use to send short messages out to their year group or individual class. Again, you will receive a notification via the app if a message has been sent to you. **The school will have given you a joining code for this.**

- **Google Classroom:**

Google classroom is the tool through which home learning is shared. Teachers upload homework and home learning letters onto this each week and children can upload work back for the teacher to see. You will receive a notification when a new home learning letter is uploaded. Teachers do not send out messages via google classroom. **You need to log in to this website/app every week in order to see the home learning and to access the home learning letters. The school will have given you a log in and a class code.**

- **Tapestry (YR only):**

Tapestry is a secure online Learning Journal to record photos, observations and comments, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, to build up a record of your child's experiences during their time with us.

Dates for your Diary

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

As this will be the last newsletter before half term I would like to wish you all a great half term break! Please remember that there is an INSET day Monday 30th October and so the children return to school on Tuesday 31st October. See you then!

Claire New

Claire New (Mrs)
Headteacher





Diary Dates

Half Term Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October inclusive

Monday 30th October	-	INSET day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 31st October	-	Term restarts for all pupils
Wednesday 1 st November	-	Y2 Stay and Play 9 - 9.20am
	-	Y1 Stay and Play 9 – 9.20am
Thursday 2 nd November	-	Y1 Stay and Play 9 – 9.20am
Friday 3 rd November	-	Y2 Stay and Play 9 – 9.20am
Tuesday 7 th November	-	Open Morning for prospective parents
	-	Parent Consultations via school icloud 3.45 – 6pm
Wednesday 8 th November	-	Parent Consultations via school icloud 3.45 – 6pm
Thursday 9 th November	-	Parent Consultations via school icloud 3.45 – 6pm
Friday 10 th November	-	Y2 Hewson Enterprise Workshop
Friday 1 st December	-	Christmas Fair at East Preston Infants
Tuesday 5 th December	-	AM Y2 Christmas Play
	-	PM YR Christmas Play
Wednesday 6 th December	-	AM Y1 Christmas Play
	-	PM Y2 Christmas Play
Thursday 7 th December	-	AM YR Christmas Play
	-	PM Y1 Christmas Play
Friday 8 th December	-	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 11th December	-	9am – 9.45am Open Morning for current parents *
Tuesday 12 th December	-	Church Visits – details to follow
Thursday 14 th December	-	Whole school Christmas lunch
	-	PM Christmas parties
Friday 15 th December	-	Pantomime in school

Tuesday 2nd January 2024 INSET day – school closed to pupils
Term restarts for pupils on Wednesday 3rd January 2024

Other INSET days:
Monday 19th February
Monday 3rd June

Please note amended date *