



DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER No 4

15th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

It seems incredible that the end of term has already arrived! Looking back to September, I am once again amazed the wide range of events that have taken place this term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support you give to your children and to the school. The teachers work incredibly hard throughout the year, going above and beyond what is required of them, and working positively together makes a world of difference!

A Goodbye Message from Mrs Owens

I would like to express how proud I am of everything that we have achieved together over the last eleven years. During my time at East Preston Infants, I have loved working with the children and getting to know the families and I am sure I will see some of you out and about in the local community.

I will be taking away with me so many lovely memories but I am excited for my next challenge as an Advisory Teacher for West Sussex supporting many schools across the County with their SEND provision.

I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

FEPIS and FEPS

The Friends of East Preston Schools (FEPS) team worked extremely hard to put together a really wonderful Christmas Fayre which was packed to almost bursting point! The event raised an amazing net profit of approximately £4,221.18 which will benefit both the Infant and Junior Schools.



Our own Infant School team (FEPIS) have also been very busy this term, raising money through discos, uniform sales and Christmas Class Fundraising. We would like to say a massive thank you to this small but very dedicated team, who give up their own time to plan and run the events for us. This term we have been delighted to accept cheques from them to support the purchase of new resources for topics and equipment to enhance the quality of lunchtime play.

Open Mornings & Class Assemblies



Next term we will once again be holding class assemblies and combining these with class Open Mornings, where you will have the opportunity to look at your child's work and share this with them. Please see the diary dates section of the newsletter for the date and time for your child's class.

'Stay and Play' sessions

Next term we will again be running 'Stay and Play' sessions for each class. These sessions will take place at drop-off time and will be an opportunity for you to see teaching and learning in context and develop more understanding about key areas of the curriculum. This time we will be focussing on Guided Reading using the Monster Phonics programme. The sessions will take place during book week and dates will be confirmed nearer the time.



Year 1 and Reception self-portraits in East Preston Village Library

A collection of self-portraits from East Preston Infant School Reception classes and Year 1 classes 2023-2024 are currently on display in the village library.

Reception children focused on colour mixing by using paint to match their own skin tone. Year 1 were inspired by Pop Art to create these bright representations of themselves.

This showcase represents how unique we all are and how we all should be celebrated!



Spotlight on Safeguarding



Site security is another part of safeguarding. Our safeguarding procedures ensure that only authorised persons are able to gain access to the school and grounds during the school day.

We ensure that the school site is secure, that playground gates are locked once the children have arrived at school and fences are well maintained.

Visitors to the school can only then enter the school site by the pedestrian gates and have to report to the main office. Each visitor has to sign in and is given a visitor badge. Staff would then be alerted if they saw a visitor without a badge and would raise awareness.

Regular volunteers and college/ university students that work in the school have undertaken a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check and have had safeguarding training with one of the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead).

BIG Award for Excellence in Challenging Bullying

We are proud to have recently been re-accredited with the 'BIG Award for Excellence in Challenging Bullying'.

This annual assessment ensures that:

- We have a consistent approach towards anti-bullying across the school
- We include the views of all children
- We tailor our provision to match the needs of our school community
- We ensure that children feel safe and know how to share a concern if they have one.



This award reflects our school ethos and links closely with our Rights Respecting Schools work. Thank you to all of those involved in this work.

Learning Outside of the Classroom Silver Re-accreditation



We recently re-applied for the Learning Outside of the Classroom Award (LOtC). The application reflected our daily curriculum and how quality learning beyond the classroom can benefit children's attainment and personal development. By offering these opportunities it allows children to be exposed to the world around them and develop into well rounded citizens.

Following our on-line application, the school was re-awarded 'Silver' Learning Outside the Classroom. The assessor complimented the school on the progress from the last application, with many aspects being graded at 'gold' level.

Thank you to all of our school community who have helped in the work to develop these aspects of our curriculum and we look forward to continuing on our journey in these areas.

Governors' Corner

The most rewarding part of the Governor role is to be able to see the school in action and attend the events that enhance the school day and the children's learning.

Such an event was on Tuesday morning this week (5th December) when I was in the audience of the Year Two Nativity – The Big Little Nativity.

It was delightful from start to finish! All the children knew their words, their dance steps and all the actions to the Christmas songs. It was clear that a great deal of work had gone into this performance and the children rose to the occasion.

I know that all these events are a joint effort and I am sure that the teachers, who put in such a lot of hard work to produce the brilliant performance that I saw on Tuesday, are proud of all the children in Year Two. Likewise all the parents who helped with costumes, learning words etc. It was wonderful.

I know that I am a bit biased, as I'm on the Governing Body, but I'm sure you will agree that East Preston Infants is a terrific school with wonderful teachers and brilliant children.

Merry Christmas to you all and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Jane Jones
Chair of Governors

Reminders:

Junior School Transfer/ Reception 2024

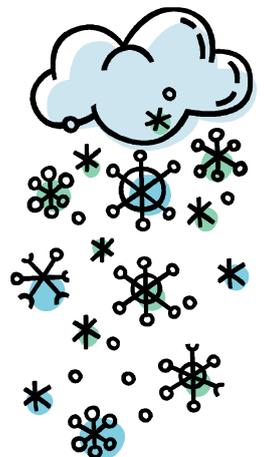


Please note that the **deadline for applications is 15th January 2024**. For those of you who have younger children due to start school in September 2024 please make sure that you apply for your place by the closing date of **15th January 2024**. These deadlines are extremely important and we have had parents in the past miss out on places as their paperwork was not submitted on time.

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 'WeDuc Reach More Parents' alert system. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Fiona Waller and Mrs Sue Woodcraft who send out the alerts and update the website in order to inform parents and staff as quickly as possible.



Dates for your Diary

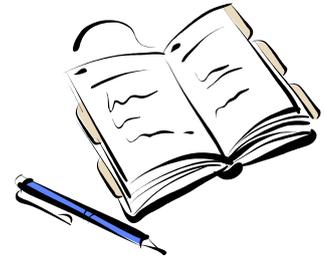
Attached are some dates for you to note on your calendar, please check each newsletter for any updates or amendments.

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

The term will restart for the children on Wednesday 3rd January 2024

Tuesday 2nd January	-	INSET DAY – School closed to pupils
Wednesday 3 rd January	-	School reopens to pupils
Wednesday 10 th January	-	Open morning for prospective parents
Tuesday 23 rd January	-	9am FEPIS meeting

Half Term – Monday 12th to Friday 16th February inclusive

Monday 19th February	-	INSET day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 20 th February	-	School reopens to pupils
Monday 4 th March	-	World Book week – details to follow
Monday 11 th March	-	STEAM week – details to follow
Tuesday 12 th March	-	Parent consultations 3.45 – 6.00pm
Wednesday 13 th March	-	Parent consultations 3.45 – 6.00pm
Thursday 14 th March	-	Parent consultations 3.45 – 6.00pm
Friday 15 th March	-	Red Nose day – wear red!
Tuesday 19 th March	-	2pm – Wagtails class assembly
Wednesday 20 th March	-	2pm – Robins class assembly
Thursday 21 st March	-	School Grounds Morning – details to follow
Friday 22 nd March	-	2pm - Puffins class assembly
Monday 25 th March	-	9.15am - Kestrels class assembly 2pm Blackbirds class assembly
Tuesday 26 th March	-	9.15am Falcons class assembly 2pm Woodpeckers class assembly
Wednesday 27 th March	-	9.15am Hawks class assembly 2pm Starlings class assembly

Easter Break – Monday 1st April to Friday 12th April inclusive