



MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER No 9

21st May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Although the weather is still unsettled, the recent glimpses of sunshine have brought a more 'summer like' feel to the school and it is lovely for the children (and staff!) to be able to spend time outdoors without coats on! We hope that the sun will continue to shine as we move through the summer term so that we can all enjoy a much-needed rise in temperature!

Staffing update:



After 11 years at the school, Mrs Jo Rickard (Reception class teacher) will be leaving us at the end of the summer term, to relocate to Royal Tunbridge Wells. Mrs Rickard is a highly valued member of staff and whilst we are very sad to be saying goodbye to her, we all wish her well on this exciting new change.

We are delighted to be welcoming Miss Esmee Cameron as a class teacher from September. Miss Cameron will be joining the Year 1 team and spending time with her new class during early transition.

Year 1 Phonic Screening and Year 2 re-checks – week beginning 9th June

Year 1 Phonic Screening and Y2 Phonic re-checks will run throughout the week of 8th June. Please ensure that your children have a good night's sleep and breakfast each morning so that they are able to do their best during this period. Thank you.



Sports Day – Wednesday 17th June

Our annual sports day will be held on the morning of Wednesday 17th June. Parents and Carers are invited to attend however space is limited on the field so it really is 'standing room only'.



The children participate in teams made up from children in every year group. They move around a variety of activities where they can all compete at their own level and pace and win points for their team. **All children will need to wear their PE kit to school on this day.**

The events will start as soon as the children are registered and put into their teams, so this is usually at about 9.30am. We anticipate that we will be finished by 11.15am. If the weather is poor, the event will sadly have to be cancelled as there are no alternative dates available in the diary. Our thanks, in advance, go to Mr Lake-Bromley who organises and coordinates this event.

Early Transition Reminder – Monday 13th July

Please refer to the previous newsletter for details of the Early Transition, which will take place from **Monday 13th July**. Prior to this, the children will visit their new classes on Wednesday 1st July for the morning.



Open Evening / ‘Meet the Teacher’– Wednesday 15th July 3.30 – 6.00pm



This year we will once again be holding our open evening where parents are able to view their child’s work and meet their new class teacher.

At 3.45pm and 5.00pm there will be short (15 min) presentations to parents in the children’s new classes.

This is an opportunity for you to meet your child’s new class teacher, see their classroom and find out about expectations for the year group. Please do try to make one of these meetings, as they will help prepare you for the coming year.

Year 2 Leavers Assembly – Tuesday 21st July

This will take place on the morning of Tuesday 21st July and Y2 families are invited to join us for this celebration. The assembly will begin at approximately 9.15am and will last for about an hour.



FEPIS end of term Discos – Tuesday 21st July

FEPIS are currently organising the end of year discos, which include a special ‘leavers’ event for our Y2 children. Details of this will follow shortly, but please make a note of the date in your diary.

Complaints About Children Using the Playtrail & Equipment

We have had complaints from some parents about the number of children who are using the playtrail and field before and after school despite our regular reminders that this is not permitted. Understandably, those families who are complying with this rule are frustrated as their children are becoming upset that they cannot also do this.

Please could we remind parents that children are not permitted on the playtrail or field before or after school and parents should ensure that their children stay close to them on the playground until classroom doors open.

After the half term break, teachers will be talking to their classes about this and we will be closely monitoring these areas and speaking with any families who are struggling to adhere to the rule. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Spotlight on Safeguarding: Attendance

We have recently seen an increase in children being absent from school due to holidays and days out taken during term time—some of which the absence request form was not completed in advance. We would like to take this opportunity to remind all families of the importance of regular school attendance and procedures we have in place.



Our curriculum is carefully planned to ensure progression across all subjects. Children are introduced to **new words and sounds each week** as part of our Monster Phonics programme. When children are absent, especially for extended periods such as holidays, it becomes challenging for them to catch up on missed learning while also keeping up with new content.

If you are planning to take your child out of school, **you must complete an absence request form in advance**. This form is available [here](#) or can be collected from the school office. When absences are taken without prior notice, our office staff have to spend time contacting families to locate children, which places additional strain on the team.

Please be aware that, in line with government guidance, **holidays during term time are not permitted and are very unlikely to be authorised**, as they are not considered exceptional circumstances.

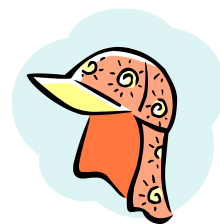
Our Attendance Policy, which can be found [here](#), is designed to support your child's learning and wellbeing, and we kindly ask for your honesty and cooperation in ensuring your child attends school regularly.

Thank you for your continued support.

Philippa Moulson, Senior Attendance Champion

Sunny Days!

As the weather begins to turn warmer the children will be spending more time outdoors, so please ensure that your child has a **named sunhat in school every day** – even if it appears cloudy in the morning! In addition, we would suggest that, if possible, you apply sunscreen at home each day.



Sadly, we are not able to apply sunscreen to the children and although some are capable of doing this themselves, more often than not they end up in a terrible mess and, therefore, we prefer children not to bring sunscreen into school. Thank you.

Governors Corner

Just a quick reminder to complete the Governors' Parent and Carer Questionnaire if you haven't already done so. Your feedback is incredibly valuable in helping us understand what is working well at East Preston Infant School and where we can continue to improve.

The questionnaire is completely confidential, contains just 10 questions, and only takes a few minutes to complete.



[East Preston Infant School Parent and Carer Questionnaire 2026 – Fill out form](#)

We would be very grateful if you could complete it by Friday 5th June. Thank you to everyone who has already taken the time to share their views.

Finally with half term fast approaching we would also like to wish all of our families a sunny and enjoyable break when it arrives.

Best wishes.

Amy Kimber-Roberts
School Governor

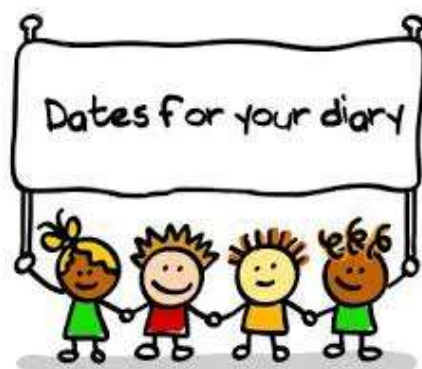
On behalf of all the staff, we wish you lovely half term break and we will see you back at school on **Monday 1st June** for the final run up to the summer holidays!

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

Claire New

Claire New (Mrs)
Headteacher





Friday 22nd May – INSET DAY	
Half Term Monday 25th to Friday 29th May	
Monday 1 st June	School restarts for pupils
Wednesday 3 rd June	9.30am/1.30pm – New YR Sing-a-Long sessions – details to follow
W/C Monday 8 th June	Y1 & Y2 (retakes) Phonics Screening week
Friday 12 th June	Y2 Reptylers Visit
Tuesday 16 th June	9.30am/1.30pm – New YR Sing-a-Long sessions – details to follow
Wednesday 17 th June	Sports Day – 9.30am – 11.30am
Thursday 18 th June	9.30am/1.30pm – New YR Sing-a-Long sessions – details to follow
Friday 19 th June	FEPIS Colour Run 3.15pm
W/C Monday 22 nd June	Annual Reports home to parents
Wednesday 1 st July	Transition Morning – children visit new classes
Friday 3 rd July	Y1 Dinosaur Workshop
Tuesday 7 th July	9.15am – Puffins Class Assembly 2.30pm – Starlings Class Assembly
Wednesday 8 th July	9.15am – Wagtails Class Assembly 2.30pm – Blackbirds Class Assembly
Thursday 9 th July	9.15am – Robins Class Assembly
Monday 13 th July	Early Transition – children move into new classes until end of term (details to follow)
Wednesday 15 th July	Open Evening – Meet the Teacher for new Y1 & Y2 - presentations at 3.45pm and 5pm
Tuesday 21 st July	9.15am – Y2 Leavers Assembly FEPIS Discos – details to follow
Wednesday 22nd July	Term Ends for Pupils at 3.15pm

INSET DAYS 2026/27

Tuesday 1st September 2026
 Monday 2nd November 2026
 Monday 4th January 2027
 Monday 12th April 2027
 Friday 28th May 2027