

# East Boldon Infant School

## Newsletter

December 2019



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Dear Parents/Carers,

Well we are in the final weeks of this very busy term! As always this is a lovely time for school and with our children, however it does take a lot of time to pull together all of the final concerts and the preparation for parties and celebrations continue. Alongside keeping as much of a routine going as possible! Huge thanks to the staff who make this possible for all of our children in school at this special time of year!



Our Christmas tree has been delivered and all of the decorations and Winter displays are up around school. Our hall display has taken on a Winter writing theme across the year groups, so please take a look the next time you are in school.

Thank you to all parents who attended parents evenings with their child's teacher. I hope you enjoyed the chance to look at work and speak with staff about how well your child has settled. Once again, we sent home short target slips after these meetings, just to give parents little pointers of how we would be supporting your child to improve in the core areas. We really hope you found them useful and gave you an understanding of how you could also support at home. As always, if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher or make an appointment with myself.

Our Spring Term Parent Workshops, will take a more hands on approach and we will invite yourselves or a family member into school to work alongside your child on some small learning tasks. This will hopefully help to give you more of an understanding of the learning taking place as well as how you can support your child at home. This will be sent out to you early on in January.

It has been an action packed half term, with visits to the Word for Years 1 and 2 and the Tennis Festival for our Year 1's. Reception enjoyed a fun morning at The Beacon of Light all centred around Nursery Rhymes. As part of Anti Bullying Week, we spent time discussing friendship and kindness with the children and our Kindness Group went on a walk around East Boldon with myself to deliver some Kindness messages around our community. At the end of the week Kalma Yoga came into school and worked with all children to develop core movement skills as well as breathing and relaxing. It was a lovely session for our children. As always these experiences support the curriculum work taking place in school.

Mrs O'Donnell has arranged a family craft event, working with Katie's Garden over two nights, in the last week of term. Thank you for the initial interest in these events. We are continuing to look at ways to engage with our local community and involve yourselves too. We will keep you updated with any further events we have planned.

Just a reminder for all our Year 2 parents. Admission forms for the Junior School are to be completed and the deadline for applications is Wednesday 15th January. I believe all parents have been written to, if you have any questions please contact the Schools Admissions Team on 0191 424 7706.

In the New Year I am pleased to let parents know we are moving forward towards a cashless system! We have registered with Parent Pay and Mrs O'Brien has been busy sorting all of the necessary arrangements for putting this into practise.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. I hope the holiday is a relaxing one for the children (and staff!) shared with family and friends! I look forward to seeing you all in 2020!

Best wishes

Miss Holt

### A few Diary Dates coming up...

#### Christmas is coming.....

- Monday 9th December Reception and Year 1 Christmas Play 2.15pm St George's Church
- Tuesday 10th December—Reception and Year 1 Christmas Play 2.15pm St George's Church
- Wednesday 11th December— Y2 Gymnastics Competition at Temple Park (pupils attending notified)
- Monday 16th December—Year 2 Christmas Sing-a-long 2.15pm St George's Church
- Monday 16th December—Reception and Year 1 entertained by 'The clumsiest Christmas Elf!' (in school)
- Tuesday 17th December— Christmas Dinner in school
- Wednesday 18th December—Children's Christmas Parties pm in school
- **Thursday 19th December—School finishes for Christmas Holidays!**
- **Friday 20th December—INSET Day—school closed for children**  
**HO!HO!HO! Merry Christmas everyone!**

**School re-opens Monday 6th January 2020 for children**

### Farewell Mrs Atkinson...

On Thursday 19th December, we will be saying a sad farewell to Mrs Atkinson as she retires from school. She has worked in school for over 33 years and really will be missed by us all. I know many families will remember Mrs Atkinson from across her time in school and will join us in wishing her a happy, relaxing retirement.

Miss Holt loves a quote!

"Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give"

Unknown



## Attendance Update

As I regularly inform parents, Attendance is a very high focus for all schools and for Ofsted when they inspect schools. We are fully aware that as an Infant school, our children do suffer from the childhood illnesses that we regularly see. However, there has also been an increase in the number of Leave of Absence requests for holidays /events in term time. Please be aware that Leave of Absences will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. This could result in a penalty notice warning from the Local Authority for both parents.

"Good" Attendance is now classed as above 96% by Ofsted. A child whose attendance falls below 90%, becomes a concern for us and for children whose attendance is below 85% this is classed as a persistent absence. Your child's attendance is monitored regularly by myself and the Office Manager as well as from the Local Authority.

Following our termly monitoring, you may be asked to pop in just for a short, informal chat with myself around your child's attendance and to look at any ways in which we could support attendance into school. As always, your child's education is a partnership between home and school. Many thanks for your support with this matter.



## Word of the Day!

Your children may have been coming home and using some remarkable, amazing, spectacular words recently!

We have begun word of the day in school which has seen the children being introduced to a new, powerful word each day. Sometimes this is linked directly to the English focus or curriculum focus, sometimes it's just for pure fun! We hope that the wider the vocabulary your child is introduced to, will encourage them to begin to use it in their work!

## Our Care Home Friends...Our Kindness mission

On World Kindness Day, our Kindness team went on a mission around East Boldon delivering kindness messages to our community. We even received some tweeted messages back which was great. On Thursday 12th December, we are heading across to Bryony Park once again to spend time with our care home friends and complete some Christmas activities alongside them. We will be taking some kindness tree decorations with us that they can hang up and think of us!

On Monday 16th December we have also invited our care home friends along to our Y2 Christmas sing a long! I know they are very excited!



## Highlights...

We celebrated a successful Toy Service last week. All of the donations were collected by The Salvation Army and will be distributed amongst families locally. Thank you. At a time when we are discussing kindness in school, it is these events which really bring our community spirit together.!

12 of our Y2 Gymnasts, will represent the school at a Gymnastics competition on Wednesday 11th December. We will keep our fingers crossed..they have been practising very hard and we know they will make us proud!

Thank you for all donations to Children in Need...

**We raised a grand total of £169.76!**



Our East Boldon Strings group showcased their talents at their end of term performance. Once again, I was completely overwhelmed by their progress in a term. Well done boys and girls and thank you to Helen and Ele, our tutors!

On Tuesday 17th December we are hosting our first community event in school. We have invited some members of local businesses in our village to join us for a cuppa and mince pie and look at ways they can support us in our

## Christmas Jumper Day

We know that the annual Save the Children Christmas jumper day is held in December.

We have decided that as a lovely way to end for our Christmas Holidays, the children will be able to come to school in their Christmas Jumpers on our last day

**Thursday 19th December.**

Children do not need to make a donation for this as we have collected for a range of charities/events across the term but just wish for the children (and staff!) to enjoy!



## Parent Teacher Association

Thank you to all parents/carers and friends who joined us at our Christmas Fair. It was a lovely occasion and raised funds for both the Infant and Junior School. Thank you to the PTA members for their assistance and hard work too.

