



# East Boldon Infant School Newsletter

December 2020



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Dear Parents/Carers,

Well we are moving in to the final weeks of the term. It without a doubt has been one of the most challenging for us in school, but as always our children and families have been wonderful and a huge support to all of the staff in school who have worked so hard to keep the school routines moving safely and the best possible learning for our children, despite some self isolations taking place across school.



The festivities in school are under way! Our Christmas tree is prepared and ready to go up and staff are putting the finishing touches to our Winter displays around school. Our hall display has taken on a Winter story theme across school. We are looking forward to some of the usual Christmas routines, maybe working in a slightly different way, but creating memories for our children. Please see our diary dates and Christmas activities box for further information

Thank you to all parents who attended parents evening through a telephone call from class teachers. Again working in a different way, but all of the staff were really pleased with how the calls went and the chance to chat with you all and discuss how your child has settled into their classes and year groups. As always if you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher.

Sadly, we have not been able to have our usual Toy Service at St George's Church. However, we are still keen to support our local community in some way. This year we will be supporting Norah's North Pole who provide gifts to children within our local area. We are asking for donations of a selection box to be sent into school on **Thursday 10th December** on drop off and placed in our shelter area similar to the harvest festival collection.

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 Friday 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.

A reminder that a parent mail has been sent regarding milk money for the Spring Term. Please inform us if you would like milk for the Spring Term. Also photograph money is now due in on **Wednesday 2nd December**. This is the final date for the money to be sent into school as it is scheduled to be collected that day. Thank you for your understanding.

Keep your eyes peeled for Christmas fun....I have several Christmas hats and jumpers that will be worn from December 1st...I aim to keep everyone happy and festive for these last few weeks and I'm keeping my ace card for the final week of staggered entries and exits to keep all of our families smiling.....

Best wishes, stay safe  
Miss Holt

## Christmas Performances in school

This year, each year group and class are going to perform a short Christmas "production". Each year group will take on a slightly different theme and the plan is to record this and then share this with you via our website or even potentially Evidence Me (depending on file sizes!) Obviously consent for this to take place is imperative from all families and working in a different way this year, you may have a change in your acknowledgement of consent. Therefore, a new letter will come out to all families and it is important that if it is NOT your wish for your child to appear in our recording, then you must let us know in writing via an email into the school office **no later than Friday 4th December**, so we can ensure this takes place.

## A few Diary Dates coming up...

w/b 30th November—Phonics Screening for Year 2 children

**Christmas is coming.....**

- w/b 7th December—recordings of Christmas performances
- Thursday 10th December—Reception Christmas Lunch
- Friday 11th December—Year 1 and 2 Christmas Lunch
- Monday 14th December—pm Reception parties (in classes)
- Tuesday 15th December— pm Year 1 parties (in classes)
- Wednesday 16th December—pm Year 2 parties (in classes)
- **Thursday 17th December—School finishes for Christmas Holidays!**
- **Friday 18th December—INSET Day—school closed for children**

**HO!HO!HO! Merry Christmas everyone! Stay Safe!**

## Few Reminders....

For the safety of everyone in the yard, could I ask parents to monitor younger children as you wait to collect older siblings.

Although I am happy for the children to access our equipment, this needs to be supervised and monitored.

Once your child is collected, please do exit the yard immediately and please refrain from gathering around the exit point to alleviate congestion. Thank you. The safety of you all is our utmost concern.

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. I must say, I have been so impressed with the level of attendance since our children returned to school—it currently stands at 98.67% for the whole school which is brilliant. Sadly, some classes have needed to isolate and more than once, but this is acknowledged through the coding system for attendance for our children.

“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, I may send out a letter to yourselves, just to notify you of your child's attendance so that we can monitor this together. We understand many of the reasons behind absences and as always, your child's education is a partnership between home and school. Many thanks for your support with this matter.

## Any Donations, roll up, roll up!



Our EYFS team have been having a sort out of resources for the outdoor area. If any families are having a “clear out” prior to our friend Father Christmas arriving, the staff would be very grateful for any donations of small world toys—pirate ships, dolls houses, farms etc. Also, any old pots and pans, large utensils such as whisks and spoons, colanders, sieves etc



## East Boldon Strings update

Sadly our Strings group in school ran by Helen and Ele our violin and cello tutors has not been able to take place across the Autumn Term, in light of the current restrictions. I continue to be in regular contact with Helen and we are forever hopeful that in the Spring Term, we may be able to get back under way once again for our Year 2 children. For our Year 1 and Reception parents, please note this is a fantastic opportunity for our children to learn a stringed instrument, which for our Infant aged children is a very unique opportunity and we hope that you would keep this in mind for your child when the time comes once again and we can finally return back to some “normality” of school routines



## Christmas Jumper Day

Let's get festive!

We have decided that our children can come into school wearing a Christmas jumper on  
**Friday 11th December**



## Parent Teacher Association

Thank you to all our parents who contributed towards the sponsored read for our children. I simply can't believe we have raised nearly £1000!!! Wow—Thank you so so much!



We will be holding a “**Craft day for the PTA**” on **Wednesday 9th** where children will come off timetable for the day and will spend the day crafting for Christmas! Details will be sent by the PTA.

As we are not able to host our Christmas Fair this year, we still have our fabulous raffles including an M and S Hamper filled with lots of Christmas goodies, as well as a bottle hamper, sweetie hamper and a toiletries hamper. Further information will be shared with you all. THANK YOU!

