

East Boldon Infant School

Newsletter



February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are well in the swing of this busy Spring Term now and the hard work is very clear to see around school. Reception have really enjoyed their Dinosaur theme so far and have produced some wonderful work. Role play areas have been linked to children's interests....we have a hairdressers and a dinosaur kingdom and the children have thoroughly enjoyed putting their learning an experiences into action. Year 1 and 2 are focussing in on countries with Africa and China being the starting points to their learning.

Spelling and Grammar have taken a focus this half term. We have had staff meetings to look at and review our teaching of spelling and are trying out some new techniques with the children...watch this space as anything we introduce we will share with yourselves! I have also dipped into lessons to see some of the new ideas and practise in action and have been really impressed with the staff innovative ideas and of course, the children's enthusiasm!!

We are beginning to look into a few different designs to update our timber play equipment in the school yard. They have been in position for a number of years now, so we are working with a few different companies to come up with different ideas and suggestions. I will keep parents up-to-date with any developments.

This week in school we are having an 'Author' themed week. The chosen author is Julia Donaldson and each year group has chosen a text which they will be working on across Literacy, but also linked to themes in class too. Our hall displays will be changed to show the work produced. Reading for Pleasure is so important and important for the children to experience the joy of books...stories, poems, information texts. It really supports the children with their writing skills too!

We have also planned in two days before the end of half term with special importance. Time to Talk day focuses on the importance of allowing our children time to TALK. Talking about their feelings, sharing experiences...what they like/don't like. As mental health is particularly high on the Government's agenda at present, I think allowing our young children just time to talk is important and our day will be centred around just that with fun activities and laughter included too! Safer Internet Day next week, will also be focussed around the children knowing how to stay safe using a computer/iPad. Being aware and knowing the steps to take to keep themselves safe is key.

Thank you to all parents who attended the Workshops this term. I sent out a feedback form just to look at any further ways we can ensure as many parents attend as possible and will be analysing these closely over the next few days.

Parents' Evenings will begin after the half term break and I hope to see all parents in attendance. It is a great opportunity for you to view your children's work and to speak with their class teacher about how they are doing and how you can best support your child.

Wishing you all a lovely, safe upcoming half term break.

Many Thanks for your continued support,
Miss Holt

A few Diary Dates coming up...

- Monday 5th February—Class 3 to the Open Zone for an animation day
- Tuesday 6th February—Safer Internet Day
- Wednesday 7th February—Class 4 to Open Zone for an animation day
- Friday 9th February—Height and Weight check in school for Reception children (letters sent out)

Friday 9th February—Break up for half term

Return to school—Monday 19th February

Upcoming event....Thursday 1st March –World Book Day in school—details to follow!

Miss Holt loves a quote!

'It's important to remember that we all have magic inside us'
JK Rowling



Attendance

Our whole school attendance for the Autumn Term was 97% This is amazing, despite lots of illnesses being around! Please note that for any Leave of Absence in term time, a Leave of Absence form needs to be completed. Holidays in term time will not be approved and only leave of absence under exceptional circumstances will be approved. Time in school is precious and ensure the children are learning to the max! Thank you, as always for your continued support.

PTA News!

The PTA raised an amazing amount of money for our schools this year. A total of over £4000 was given to our school and as always we aim to use this in the best way for our children.

We have ordered another 16 iPads for our children to access. This means that we can use the iPads more effectively across school. With the 16 we had, it meant a strict timetable and a lot of sharing! This now means year groups can use the iPads to support Teaching and Learning. Mrs Davies is also working with our technician to place APPs on that are year group specific and again that can best support the learning taking place in class.

We have also purchased I pads for the staff. We have begun trialling a new system for observing and assessing the children in Reception and also KS1. This will enable the staff to capture experiences immediately and to record and assess more efficiently. **Huge thanks to the PTA! We really do appreciate all of your support!**



School Bags—Just a little reminder....

We do not specify any particular type of bag to be brought into school. However, we do encourage the school logo book bags to be brought into school (without the straps) as these fit more comfortably into trays. Any other bag has to be hung onto coat pegs, which can result in the coat areas being crowded or they may fall off onto the floor! Please be mindful of the bags sent into school with your child and that they are appropriate for the children to easily access for their books/letters across the day! Many thanks!



Highlights....

Our Year 2 swimming groups have begun and Mrs O'Donnell has been really impressed with their confidence and skills! They will continue to attend in groups until May and is a great supplement to their PE curriculum.

Father Raymond from St George's Church is coming into school regularly to share assemblies with the children. It is lovely for the children to have visitors into school.

Parent Workshops enabled parents to find out about the specific teaching taking place across this term and specifically about the end of key stage assessments for our Year 2 children and Year 1 phonics screening.

If you didn't already know there have been some visitors in Reception....DINOSAURS!! The children have been very excited about this topic and have been very keen to share their knowledge!!



Parents Evenings

Class 1 Thurs 22nd Feb, Thur 1st March 2.30-5.30

Class 2 Monday 19th Feb, Wed 28th Feb 2.30-5.30

Class 3 Wed 21st Feb, Tues 27th Feb 2.30-5.30

Class 4 Tues 20th Feb, Mon 26th Feb 2.30-5.30

Class 5 Tues 20th Feb, Wed 28th Feb 2.30-5.30

Class 6 Mon 19th Feb, Wed 21st Feb 2.30-5.30

Parent Teacher Association
Upcoming events...

PTA Non Uniform Day in school Friday 23rd February

Saturday 10th March Spring Fair at the Junior School (across the morning)

