

East Boldon Infant School

Newsletter

January 2020



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Dear Parents/Carers,

A very Happy New Year to you all—2020 begins and so does a new decade! Here's hoping it's filled with lots of wonderful things! I hope everyone had a restful Christmas. The last half term in school is always such a busy one in the run up to Christmas and I think we all welcomed the rest and time with family and friends.

Hopefully the After School Clubs will be just as popular as last term and children will be allocated their places and letters sent out soon. I would like to thank parents for their patience and understanding as we set up the new routines for the children at the beginning of the term. Mrs Verity is beginning a drama club for Key Stage 1 children which we are very excited about introducing! I know parents will have received their information with regards to Parent Pay, which we are really pleased about implementing. As explained this will be done gradually, but please be assured we aim to get this in place for all parents as soon as we can. Mrs O'Brien is working very hard to ensure all arrangements are in place for this to happen as smoothly as possible.

As we bid farewell to Mrs Atkinson in our school office, we will begin arrangements for her replacement this half term. Obviously this will mean only Mrs O'Brien in the school office (as well as myself) so I would ask parents to be understanding and patient, particularly at the busiest of times—drop off and pick up times.

Can I once again just remind parents about collection arrangements for your child. It is important that your child knows who is collecting them and that any changes to collection are notified by a letter to the class teacher or a verbal note to the adult on the door on a morning. Only in exceptional circumstances should a phone call to the office be made.

Can I also ask parents to make themselves clearly visible to the class teacher and your child at home time. The yard can get extremely busy and I would ask parents to move closer to your child's class teacher at collection time. The safeguarding of all children is our priority and children will not be released until a clear pathway and sight of the collecting adult can be seen. Also, when dropping off your child, ensure they are seen safely through the doors. We have staff manning each doorway, but not in the school yard so it is important that they are seen safely through the doors.

We have begun organising Parent Workshops and Parents' Evenings for this term and will inform parents of all dates in a separate letter to allow parents a time slot to sign up for very soon. Parents' attendance at these are very much appreciated. Workshops this term will be more hands on and will allow parents to work alongside their child and find out about the learning taking place in your child's year group and how specific teaching happens as well as how you can best support your child at home. Please note that for these hands on workshops, we welcome other family members to work alongside your child, if it is difficult for parents to attend. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher.

We have a few exciting events coming up this term. We have a STEM workshop for our Key Stage 1 children, allowing a taster session in Science. It is World Child's Mental Health Week beginning on February 3rd, with the theme 'Find Your Brave', as well as Computing Week in school, linked well into Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 11th February.

We are all excited to get the term started and to see lots more wonderful learning taking place! As always, your child's education is a partnership between home and school to achieve the best outcomes for our children and if we can help/support you in any way, please don't hesitate to speak to your class teacher or make an appointment with myself.

Many Thanks,
Miss Holt

A few Diary Dates coming up...

- Monday 13th January pm Road Safety in school for Reception/Year 1 in school
- Wednesday 15th January pm Year 2 Road Safety Training in school
- W/B Monday 20th January—all After School Clubs begin for 8 weeks
- Monday 20th January pm Lifeguards in school to talk about Water Safety with Key Stage 1
- Wednesday 22nd January NSPCC Speak Out talk with all children
- Monday 27th January—STEM workshops with Key Stage 1 all day in school
- W/B 3rd February—World Child's Mental Health Week 'Find Your Brave'
- W/B 10th February—Computing Week in school—Tuesday 11th February—Safer Internet Day in school.
- Thursday 13th February—Year 2 Parents –End of Key Stage 1 Information for parents 5pm-6pm in school

Friday 14th February—Break up for half term

Miss Holt loves a New Year quote!

“To improve is to change, to be perfect is to change often”
Winston Churchill



Chinese New Year 2020—Saturday 25th January –It's the Year of the Rat!

In school across the week beginning 20th January, we will be looking closely at Chinese New Year and how this is celebrated. As part of our British Values, it is important for our children to be aware of many different cultures and beliefs. We will be looking at artefacts and videos of celebrations in assembly and I know in classes many things are planned too!

'Kung Hey Fat Choy!'

Time to Talk Day—Thursday 6th February



In school we will be using this day just to TALK! We will arrange activities and circle times and encourage children about the power of speaking and listening to one another and sharing our thoughts in a empathetic and understanding way.

Safer Internet Day—Tuesday 11th February

Each year we recognise the importance of being safe citizens of computers and the internet on Safer Internet Day. This compliments our Computing curriculum and the work we do through Kidsafe. We will be sending some information to yourselves as well as posting key information on Twitter to keep everyone up to date!



Community Links

Just before the Christmas break, we invited members of our community into school. This is part of our ongoing efforts to ensure our school is involved within the community and our young children are aware of the wider village they are so much a part of. It was a lovely afternoon and it was lovely to know that our community businesses and links are also keen to be involved with us. So watch this space!

Thank you to our brilliant school council who shared with our guests what they think is special about our school as well as our Y2's who entertained with a few festive songs. Thank you to our parent governor Mrs O'Grady who was instrumental in bringing it all together...with a mince pie or two, as well

Developing our Website...

As we are driving forward with Parent Pay and aiming to become as paperless as we possibly can in a climate of environmental awareness...it has also made us think about our website and our communication with yourselves. We are keen to update our website, and will be inviting comments from yourselves in order to establish how best it can be used, linking it with Twitter and then of course Parent Pay...to ensure it is the best we can possibly make it. As my new year quote says...a change is good and we're always striving to be even better! Many thanks for your support.

Highlights...



All of the Christmas concerts were well attended by parents/carers at St George's Church this year and the children's performances were simply amazing!

Reception and Year 1 were entertained by the Performance of the Christmas Elf in school!

The school lunches team provided us with a fabulous Christmas dinner this year—Thank you! It was lovely that some of the school Governors were able to attend this event too and spoke highly of the organisation and behaviour of the children during lunch!

Thank you to Mrs O'Donnell and Mrs O'Brien for organising our family craft event with Katie's Garden. It was a lovely event and nice to get families together for a bit of festive crafting before Santa arrived! Thank you to all that attended, we hoped you enjoyed it as much as we did.

We had another successful visit to Bryony Park Care Home. The 12 children who joined myself, Mrs Chandler and Mrs Carr and were impeccably behaved and the residents were so happy the children joined them in crafts and even a sing song—thank you Rhys who started our sing song off brilliantly!

Spring Term Parents Workshops

Please note a separate letter will follow.

Reception

Stay and Play—a chance to play and learn alongside your child in school and share learning journeys.

Monday 3rd Feb and Thurs 6th Feb from 2.15 –3pm

Slots will be given to parents to enable a balanced set of parents.

Year 1

Class 1 Monday 3rd February 9.15-10.00am
Class 2 Tuesday 4th February 9.15 –10.00am

Year 2

Class 3 Wednesday 5th February 9.15-10.00am
Class 4 Thursday 6th February 9.15 –10.00am

Parent Teacher Association

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fair in school. There was a fantastic, festive atmosphere in school and we managed to raise lots of money for our two schools!

Great work!

Next Meeting 6.15 on 21st January at the Grey Horse. Please join us!

