

East Boldon Infant School

Newsletter



July 2020

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope everyone is safe and well. I hope to bring a touch of 'normality' with my Newsletter to you all. As restrictions are reducing a little, I hope this has allowed you all to be able to see more of family members, that maybe you haven't seen in a while and hopefully that our children have been able to meet up with some others—friends or relatives as we know just how much that social interaction is important (for us all).

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all once again. This period has been challenging for us all. Each one of us has had very different circumstances to tackle and we have all done so, as positively as we can and with a smile! Well Done! But we are coming through it and there is light at the end of the tunnel. Hopefully we will get back to some sort of normality in school in September. We do however have to continue to look into the finer logistics of this as per the guidelines. I know I have spoken before, but our beautiful school does present with some difficulties. Please be assured, I will always update you once I am clear with the planning and how things will work.

Staffing for September has been shared with you all and I have kept transition in mind with some small staff movements. The 'Catch Up' curriculum is going to be important for our children in September and staff are beginning to work together to look at how this will be organised. Your support with this in September will also be important, as a full team approach to supporting our children will be key. The social, emotional well being and mental health of our children is at the forefront of our minds and ensuring our children are happy and settled when they arrive back to school will inevitably ensure they are one step forward in terms of positive learning. As our returning children have shown us however, our children are amazing and resilient and we will all work together to ensure the best for them all.

As a Leadership Team, we have also been discussing a contingency plan just in case there is a second lockdown imposed on us. As much as we hope this will not happen, a plan just in case is forward thinking.

For our Year 2 children, Mr Shenton has organised some visits across to the Juniors over the past few weeks and I am so thrilled this was able to be achieved. I have spoken to some of our Key Worker children who visited and I know it has been a success and just great for them to be able to see the environment.

Our new Reception cohort have all had their packs delivered and we look forward to welcoming our new children in September. Photographs of the environment have been placed on the website, so please signpost anyone who may not know as we do not have everyone's new details so we have put out information via Nurseries. I know our school community will welcome our new families as they start in September too.

I have placed a few dates on the Newsletter. Staff have organised small gifts for each of our children. They will set up socially distanced collection points in the school yard on the dates, which will allow you the opportunity to see staff before the Summer break. Of course if the children are in school, they can be passed to them in the way we would normally. A few parents have asked if staff can receive gifts. Yes, we are still happy to receive gifts from yourselves, if you feel you wish to show your appreciation. However, I know many parents form groups for collections and I just want to reiterate that any small token of appreciation is always gratefully received. Sometimes it's even just the hug that makes all the difference and at this moment, this is certainly what I will miss the most! I would also like to extend my thanks to all staff across this period too. Each staff member has played their part across this period and I am grateful to them for the support they have offered our families under challenging circumstances.

I will be around, in school until the end of term. If I don't get to see you personally, I wish you all a wonderful Summer break with families and now extended families too which is a bonus. Please continue to listen to the advice and take care and stay safe and I look forward to welcoming you all safely back in September. Once again, I will keep you updated with how that will be organised once it is secured and agreed.

Best Wishes,
Miss Holt

Dates for collection of gifts

if you are unable to attend these dates, please email your child's class teacher.

Reception

Thursday 9th July 3.30-4.30pm Mrs Verity, Mrs Totton, Mrs Eggerton, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Samuels

Year 1

Wednesday 15th July 3.30-4.30pm Mrs Sangray, Mrs Davies, Mrs Charlton Mrs Hudson

Year 2

Thursday 16th July 3.30-4.30pm Mrs O'Donnell, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Munslow, Mrs Hunter

Friday 17th July 2020– Break up for Summer Holidays

School Returns Tuesday 8th September 2020

Miss Holt loves a quote!

“Learn from yesterday, live for today and hope for tomorrow”
Albert Einstein



School Uniform



Our school uniform can be purchased online from **Initial Images in South Shields**. Can I ask all parents to ensure that their child has a full PE kit in school with shorts (blue/red) plus a plain white t-shirt and plimsolls. These can be purchased from Initial Images, but it is not essential. It would be helpful for a pair of leggings/joggers (dark in colour preferred) to be included as we will be accessing the outdoors at times and it is useful to have these, just in case it's a little cooler!

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs O'Brien or Miss Giles in the school

Reading Buddy

Although the beauty of books and reading for pleasure is a one we promote in school, Reading Buddy has been particularly useful across this period. You may wish to keep this going over the holidays (please do keep up reading in whatever form!) Please contact your child's class teacher for any assistance. They are able to uplevel the levels on the system too and it will give an opportunity to help your child progress with their reading a little more before September.

Please continue to keep up reading skills across the break. Reading is so important for all learning. If you have any questions before September, please do get in touch with your child's class teacher.

School Bags for the next academic year



I know across the holidays, our children will be choosing items for returning to school. Last year we saw an increase in a variety of school bags being used. I have always been of the opinion that any bag is better than no bag. The large back packs however, that the children have been bringing into school (Smiggle in particular) are often too large to fit on pegs. They often cause coats to fall on to the floor and can make our coat peg areas quite messy.

Obviously in a school without a lot of space, we need to keep areas clear. School book bags can be purchased from Initial Images too. These can fit into trays into classrooms and keep the cloakrooms free. If you would prefer a different bag, then please choose a bag that is small enough to fit into your child's tray or onto a peg hook without causing problems! Your support with this is much appreciated! Thank you!

Our Sensory Garden

Our sensory garden has been kept on hold due to the lockdown period. Obviously after the sudden loss of our lovely Lollipop Man Alan, we have been thinking of ways we can remember him in school. One of the things we have thought about was to name our garden the "Alan Pyle Sensory Garden". Although it will be accessed by our Reception children, other children in school can use it too and we thought the purpose behind our garden as a calm and reflective space is just perfect to remember Alan too. Watch this space!



Safeguarding Reminder...

It is really important that we hold up to date contact information for all parents/carers in our school office. This includes addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses. It is also important that we have emergency contacts that can also be contactable. Particularly in the current climate, we need to get in touch with contacts quickly. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs O'Brien or Miss Giles in our school office who would be happy to check your details for you.