

East Boldon Infant School

Newsletter

June 2019



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Dear Parents/Carers,

This last half term has just whizzed by us and we will soon be into our final half term of the year! Wow!

As we enter into our final half term we will be happily welcoming Mrs Davies back to school from her Maternity Leave. Sadly, this means we will soon be saying farewell to Miss Rutherford in Class 1 who has covered this time in school. Miss Rutherford has fitted so well into our staff team and made a super start to her teaching career which will only continue to flourish as she moves to pastures new. We all wish her well in her future career and I'm sure she'll keep in touch. Mrs Davies will work closely with Miss Rutherford over the coming weeks and Miss Rutherford will still be around school until after the Phonics Screening checks have taken place in June (10th –14th).

Our Year 2's have made us proud with their efforts throughout May with their end of key stage assessments. They have managed the change in routines very well and both Mrs O'Donnell and Mrs Munslow have commented on their perseverance and resilience across this time—well done Year 2!

Year 1's have also been working hard moving through some practises of the Phonics Screening Test which will take place in June. This is the Government's check of the children's ability to decode using phonics skills and the children are asked to read real and nonsense words. I know Miss Rutherford and Mrs Sangray will be sending some extra practise bits for across the May half term for the children to dip into and keep their skills sharp—so any practise will be useful –thank you! They also had an amazing time at Newcastle Keep this week which has consolidated their History work in class and has been a lovely end to their topic.

Reception have been super busy finding out about Spring and signs of Spring and have used texts to help develop writing skills and enjoyed a walk around our area to look for signs of Spring. They have also accessed our garden to search for mini beasts!

Our final term will include a selection of activity weeks. We have planned our annual Health and Fitness Fortnight on w/b 1st July. Weather permitting...our Sports Day will be on Wednesday 10th July at 1.30. The children will also showcase their dances they have been working on as part of their PE sessions as part of this fun afternoon. Mrs Sangray has also organised some special sports coaches to work with our children across the fortnight too. We can't wait! Balance bike training will also begin for our Reception children and Year 1 children. We also have Science Week to look forward to. Mrs Eggerton has liaised with teaching staff from Harton and we are looking forward to welcoming them into school to work with the children on some exciting experiments.

Our Reception children have enjoyed their music taster classes with Helen across the term—I hope they have shared these sessions with you! There will be a short concert for Reception parents with our Year 2 children on Friday 7th June at 4pm. I really would encourage all Reception parents of children interested in taking up either the violin or cello to pop along to this concert to showcase what the programme is all about. There will be a short chat with Helen and myself to talk through the process and expectations first before a chance to watch our current musicians in full flow! This really is a wonderful opportunity for our young children and I hope to see you there. If you are interested, but are maybe unable to make this session, please come and see me and I can share information about the programme with you and any questions.

As we have entered into the Summer Term, there have been a number of Leave of Absence request forms completed. Please be aware that holidays in term time will not be authorised and this could result in a Penalty Notice Warning from the Local Authority for both parents. I have also been aware of a number of children entering school after 9.00am and the doors have closed. We are incredibly lucky that we open our doors from 8.45am on a morning and this allows for 15 minutes for the children to calmly enter school and be ready for learning to take place from 9.00am. Attendance and punctuality to school is important and I really do appreciate your support in ensuring your child is in school regularly and on time.

We've been blessed with some wonderful weather this half term (as well as a bit of cloud/rain!) It is lovely for our children to access the outdoors and our equipment is in full flow for all of the children to access across lunchtimes. Please ensure that sunscreen is applied and hats are on for the sunnier days, but that a light coat is sent in, just in case the weather changes across the day! I look forward to seeing you all at some of the upcoming events across the term.

Best Wishes,
Miss Holt

A few Diary Dates coming up...

Friday 24th May - School Finishes for half term
Return to School—Monday 4th June

- Monday 10th June—Friday 14th June—Phonics Screening Week for Year 1's and Y2 retakes
- Monday 17th June—Road Safety session for Year 2's (pm)
- Tuesday 18th June—Road safety session for Year 2's (pm)
- Wednesday 19th June 4pm and 5.15pm—New Reception Parents' Meeting in school
- W/B 24th June—Science Week in school
- W/B 1st July—Start of Health and Fitness fortnight in school (more details on this will be sent after half term)
- Weather permitting....Sports Day/Dance showcase—Wednesday 10th July 1.30pm.
- Friday 12th July— Moving up afternoon—Year 2's to the Junior school this afternoon—more details to follow.

Miss Holt loves a quote!

'Today is your day. Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way'

Dr Seuss



Transition updates

To keep parents fully informed of arrangements for transitions in the last half term I have included all the key dates we have planned in for our children in school.

For our Year 2 children transferring to the Junior school...

We have planned in lots of visits to support our Year 2's as they transfer to the Junior school

Wednesday 5th June—Class 3 and 4 to attend for a walk around school and complete a short activity with Mr Shenton.

Monday 17th June—Class 3 and 4 to attend an Assembly and playtime

Friday 28th June—Class 3 and 4 to attend for lunch.

I have also arranged with Mr Shenton for some additional visits across to school from Class 3 and 4's new class teachers, once they have been decided. They will spend time with their class alongside Mrs O'Donnell and Mrs Munslow. Time will be given for Mrs O'Donnell and Mrs Munslow to chat with the new teachers too. This will be before the move up afternoon.

In school transition...

We have two sessions in place for the children to spend time with their new class teachers and in their classrooms:

Wednesday 26th June 11.30-12.00 and Wednesday 3rd July 11.30-12.00. This will allow a little getting to know each other time!

Moving up afternoon will be **Friday 12th July**. On this afternoon, Year 2 children will spend the afternoon at the juniors with their new teachers. Parents of the Year 2 children will be invited to attend a meeting and will collect the children from their classes on this afternoon.

Further details will follow from the Junior school after half term.

Infant children in Reception and Year 1 *presently* will spend the afternoon with their new teachers in Year 1 and 2. They will complete some fun activities—artwork/drawings, maybe a little writing. Parents will be asked to collect their children from their new classes on this afternoon.

Details of all class changes and new teachers will be given after half term, with a recap of all transition plans. Many thanks!

A few reminders for everyone's safety...

Could I please remind parents to ensure we have an up to date telephone number for parents and emergency contact details in the school office. I am aware that sometimes numbers can change when phones are updated, so please ensure we have notification of the new number. This is incredibly important so we can always have a point of call in case of an emergency. Please also be aware that if you move house then we need notification of your new address for our records too. Many Thanks.

Just a reminder that it is important that parents/carers see their child into the school entrances safely on a morning. Each door is supervised by members of staff, but the yard is not and it is parents' responsibility to ensure the children are seen into school safely. On an evening, please ensure that you make yourself clearly visible to your child. This may mean moving a little closer once your child's class is exiting to ensure your child and class teacher can clearly see you. As you can appreciate the yard is a busy area and safeguarding of all our children is paramount. Many Thanks.

Highlights....

Mr Orr has begun to plant into our boxes and hanging baskets. We held off a little as the weather has been a little up and down! I can't wait to see our yard in full bloom. Any donations will be greatly appreciated—just please pop them into school. He has finished painting our seats and is now on to the shelter!



The second phase of our yard will continue in the May half term. The area where the coloured soft pore was will be smoothed out and refreshed with a covering (weather permitting!)

The EYFS team have been organising the new outdoor area. The newly created space is wonderful! Mr Orr has some great ideas for the sensory garden at the top and he is ready to work his magic...but this is a busy time for him as he completes all his outdoor work.

We had a lovely afternoon with the residents of Bryony Park. The children each made a little card from each class for the residents to take back to the home. Residents enjoyed a cup of tea and a chat with some of our children, who really made me proud with their kindness, consideration of others and politeness.

Parent Teacher Association Shorts and Shades Summer Discos in School!

Reception—Monday 15th July

Year 1—Tuesday 16th July

Year 2—Wednesday 17th July

All discos are from 4pm—5pm in the school hall. There will be music/games/drinks and a cake/biscuit.

Further details and information about tickets will follow after half term—keep the dates in your diary!

