

# East Boldon Infant School

## Newsletter



May 2019

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope everyone is well rested after the Easter Break. We had some fantastic weather so I hope all families managed to enjoy time together and lots of Easter treats!

The Summer term is a busy one with lots of events planned in school. This first half term is quite an important one for our Year 2's as they carry out their end of key stage assessments in class. Mrs O'Donnell and Mrs Munslow have planned out the month very carefully to ensure as much normality as possible and the children will work in small groups to complete the assessments. It is important that the children are in school for these assessments.

Year 1's are working hard towards their Phonics Screening Testing in June and of course, your support with practise at home with this is really useful—just a few minutes revising sounds and practising blending a few times a week will really help your child and consolidate the work happening in class—please do not hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher if you have any questions.

Over the Easter break we began some of our planned work to the yard and Reception garden. The coloured soft pore in the yard was deteriorating and large parts were coming away. It was decided to lift the pore back to the original yard, due to this area being the main area for access by people and vehicles. The next stage will be to smooth out the surface and look at markings to brighten up this area and we are hoping the School Council will help with this! Reception garden has also been improved in the first stage with the soft pore being replaced with artificial grass. This has created a fantastic space for our EYFS staff to plan with. The second stage of this will involve the bottom area of the garden becoming a sensory garden which Mr Orr is going to complete. This is a really exciting time for developments and we are hopeful to have all elements complete by the beginning of the new academic year.

Mr Orr is also busy putting in our new notice board at the entrance. This replaces the 2 small noticeboards we had previously. I hope parents will find it a useful point of reference for some key information.

Thank you to all parents and children who contributed to the Questionnaire. I have totalled up all of the responses and am busy analysing the results. It is so lovely to read all your positive comments and of course the constructive feedback comments will be addressed where possible. I will send this out to parents once this is complete.

Helen, our violin tutor will be working with Reception children across this next half term giving some short music lessons. This will hopefully inspire some further musical talent for our violins and cellos in Year 1 and 2. Reception parents will be given further information soon about a session they can attend to find out more about the programme and to observe some of our Year 2 musicians who have followed two years of the programme.

Here's to a fun, productive (and busy!) term ahead! Of course any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher or make an appointment to see me.

Best Wishes,  
Miss Holt

*A drop of rain, a ray of sunshine...*

As the weather continues to improve, could I ask parents to be mindful of applying sunscreen on warmer days and provide your child with a sunhat. Please ensure your child has a light rain jacket, just in case of rain showers too (the weather can be very variable as we know!)



*A few Diary Dates coming up...*

- Wednesday 1st May –Friday 24th May –End of Key Stage assessments taking place in school for our Year 2's across this period
- Thursday 2nd May—Reception and Year 1 to Multiskills festival at Boldon School (pm)
- Thursday 2nd May—Kidsafe Meeting for Reception parents 4.30pm
- **Monday 6th May—May Day—off school this day!**
- Tuesday 21st May—Class Photographs in school
- Wednesday 22nd May—Year 1 to Newcastle Keep—**more details to follow!**
- **Friday 24th May - School Finishes for half term**  
**Return to School—Monday 3rd June**
- Monday 10th June—Friday 14th June—Phonics Screening Week for Year 1's and Y2 retakes

Miss Holt loves a quote!

“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but building the new” *Socrates*



### Parent and Pupil Questionnaire

Many Thanks for all of the completed questionnaires on Google Drive and for the children's questionnaires. I am busy collating all of the results and will send these out to parents and pupils as soon as I can!

### Welcome Back Mrs Davies!

Mrs Davies will be returning from her Maternity Leave after half term. Miss Rutherford will continue to work in Class 1 with Mrs Davies up until the Phonics Screening Check, but full information will be given to Class 1 parents in due course.

### Links with a local care home!

As discussed in my last newsletter we have secured links with Bryony Park Nursing Home. Mrs Verity has liaised with Gill the manager and she has been into school to complete an assembly to tell the children a little about the care home and the work it does as well as talking about some of the lovely residents.

We will then plan a visit into school from some of the residents for a cup of tea and some of the children may wish to share some of the work they have been doing in class, or maybe a little activity. In time, we will also make a visit across to the nursing home. We think it is really important for the children to have these links and we look forward to working in partnership with Bryony Park.

### Bikeability

We have been really lucky to secure bike training for our Reception and Year 1 children called 'Bikeability'. For those families who maybe have older children, Y5's complete a Bikeability plus which they complete using their own bikes. This training will be completed in school, using balance bikes provided by the local authority.

Coaches will come into school and work across the day with small groups at a time, supporting them with balance, co-ordination and movement.

Dates will begin after May half term for Reception and Year 1, with all classes complete before the summer break. Hopefully for any child unable to ride a bike presently, this training will help give them lots of confidence so they will be zooming on their bikes in no time!



### CAN YOU HELP?

Mr Orr is in the process of updating our Spring hanging baskets in the school yard. If any parents have purchased any bedding plants and have any spare or left over...we would really appreciate your donations. Please send any donations into school in a carrier bag. THANK YOU!

### Highlights....

Reception enjoyed a fabulous day at Beamish just before our holidays. Although the weather was a mixed bag, it didn't spoil the day. The traditional tales aspect was great and really supported the work they have completed in class.

Our Reception children also led a fantastic Easter Service at St George's Church. It was a wonderful afternoon and again such a fantastic support from parents and relatives who attended—thank you!

Our Reception garden is in the process of development but the results currently look wonderful and have provided a much larger area for the children. The staff are now planning out carefully the set up to the area, but it is much more versatile and can change to the interests and needs of the children!

### Come and join us for our Book Fair!

Don't forget we have our book fair in school from Monday 29th April to Thursday 2nd May. School receives 100% commission on all of the amount spent so this really is a great event to purchase lovely books but to help school too.

The fair will be open from 3.30 until around 4.15pm. Please pop along to view some of the lovely books.

