

# East Boldon Infant School

## Newsletter

November 2018



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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope all of the children and parents had a wonderful, relaxing half term break! I certainly think it was needed after all of the sickness bugs and coughs and colds that were around us all. Hopefully we are all fit and well ready to succeed in the next half term, which is always a busy one as we have the run up to Christmas. Please note all of the diary dates below for all of the festivities!

Can I take this opportunity to thank all parents/carers for their donations and attendance at our Harvest Festival. Jo, from the Key Project was particularly overwhelmed by the generosity of our community and at each event I feel immensely proud. Our Year 1's led the service brilliantly after such a short time in their new year group and the whole school singing was lovely!

We had a busy start to the term with the improvements to the play area, which the children are really enjoying. Please be aware that staff are not around before school starts and after the school ends, so please be mindful in observing children playing on the area at these times. We wish for everyone to enjoy the new equipment, but safe usage is paramount. Our School Council members have worked with myself and Mrs Munslow and have some super suggestions for replacements of the wall mounts around the yard. We are also looking into replacements for the parent noticeboards to make them a little more clear in our efforts to keep all parents/carers up to date with events in school and the community.

Just before half term, we had a visit into school from Kevin McVittie, a maths lead for the Maths Hub for Mastery Programme we are a part of this year. He had the chance to drop into classes and observe Mrs Munslow our maths lead in school. It has been very useful for us as a school and he will continue to work with Mrs Munslow and Mrs Eggerton in the coming months as we embed some new approaches into our existing teaching styles—exciting times!

I would also like to let all our parents know that Mrs O'Donnell has successfully completed her National Accreditation for Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators. This was an intense qualification to achieve over the last academic year and involved many hours out of school time and on behalf of all of the staff and governors, we congratulate her and we are so proud that her knowledge and skills can benefit us and our school. Well Done!

Here's to an exciting term ahead! As always, if I can be of assistance please do not hesitate to pop in and see me or make an appointment.

Best Wishes,  
Miss Holt

### A few Diary Dates coming up...

- Friday November 2nd Tempest Photography in school for individual photographs and siblings in school.
- W/B 5th November –Parents' Evenings in school.
- W/B 12th November —Parents' Evenings in school.
- W/B 12th November—Anti Bullying Week—activities in school all week.
- Monday 12th November 3.30 Reception Starters 2019 meeting in school
- Wednesday 14th November—Year 2 to The Open Zone (Class 3)
- Monday 19th November—Year 2 to The Open Zone (Class 4)
- Friday 23rd November—Non Uniform Day for the PTA (letter to follow)
- Monday 26th November Year 1 to The Open Zone (Class 2)
- Wednesday 28th November Year 1 to Tennis Festival at Boldon School (pm)
- Friday 30th November—Year 1 to The Open Zone (Class 1)

Christmas is coming.....

- Monday 3rd December –Toy Service led by Year 2 children at St George's Church 2.15pm
- Tuesday 4th December—Reception Visit to West Boldon Lodge (pm) (Class 6)
- **Wednesday 5th December—PTA Christmas Fair 3.45–5.45 in school (details to follow)**
- Tuesday 11th December—Reception Visit to West Boldon Lodge (am) (Class 5)
- Tuesday 11th December—Reception and Year 1 Christmas Play 2pm St George's Church
- Wednesday 12th December—Reception and Year 1 Christmas Play 9.30 St George's Church
- Thursday 13th December—Year 2 Christmas Sing-a-long 2.15pm St George's Church.
- Tuesday 18th December— Christmas Dinner in school
- Wednesday 19th December—Children's Christmas Parties pm in school
- **Thursday 20th December—School finishes for Christmas Holidays!**
- **Friday 21st December—INSET Day—school closed for children**

Miss Holt loves a quote!

“Why fit in when you were born to stand out!”  
Dr Suess



### Parent Teacher Association

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, our PTA have raised an amazing £6,600 for our school.

I really feel it is important to share with you all exactly where this money will be spent as you have all contributed to its amount. So....Mrs Verity and I have met with Oxford University Press and looked into some new home readers. I have been aware that some of our home readers are a little past their best, therefore this money will certainly make a start in replacing these. We were also interested in the e-books we were shown (not to replace the joy of books I may add that we feel very passionate about!) however as the electronic world is developing, this brand new package is something that caught our eye too! Once our order has been decided we will keep you updated.

We have also booked a pantomime into school for the first week back after Christmas which will be funded from the PTA money too! Thank you, this money is so special to us to enable us to purchase items or 'do things' that we may often need to budget and wait a little time before being able to afford!



### Year Group Fund Pot

Each year group has a 'fund pot' which we welcome donations from parents for. This fund pot is used to supplement resources/consumables for the classroom. Any small donation is welcome and can be handed into class/office in a marked envelope. Many Thanks.

### Information Sharing at Parents Evenings

As always, the education of your child/children is a partnership between home and school and we want to work together with yourselves to achieve the best for your child. On our last parents questionnaire, the percentage of parents who felt they were given up-to-date information about their child's progress was not as high as some of the others (although I may add were all in the strongly agree/agree section!) As a way to support this further, at parent's evenings this year you will receive a short target slip to take away with you which will just give a few helpful pointers to help your child improve in Reading, Writing and Maths across the rest of the term. Parent's Evening are informative and supportive, but parents explained they wanted to know how they can best help their child—we felt that this would be useful to parents as something to work towards and what staff would be working towards in school too. We hope you find them useful.

### Highlights....

Thank you to all parents who attended our Parent Workshops this half term. We hope they were informative and gave you an insight into the learning this term. At our next Parent Workshops in the Spring Term, we aim for these to be a little more practical and hands on to help parents understand a little more about the learning taking place in class.

We celebrated a successful Harvest, with some very kind donations all of which will benefit homeless and disadvantaged youngsters in our local community.

Paddington Bear was 60 this year and we celebrated in style with lots of activities in school, a fantastic homework competition and a Paddington Picnic to top the week off!



Well Done to Class 4 who enjoyed a celebration breakfast on the last day of term for the highest attendance across the term! A piece of toast... a drink of juice to say well done! Mrs O'Donnell was very happy!

### Remembrance Day 2018

We feel it is really important to share with the children the importance of 'Poppy Day'. It is certainly a big part of our 'British Values' and we will be talking with the children about this in simple terms they understand. We will also hold a one minute silence on Friday 9th November in assembly with the children.

**Poppies will be on sale in school from Monday** and school council members will help to share these with classes if children wish to donate a small amount of money for a poppy. We also plan a beautiful display in the school entrances...so keep your eyes peeled! Thank you.

Friends of East Boldon Parks are also planning a beautiful display in our community. We have agreed to house a silhouette in our shelter area.



For anyone who doesn't mind a short journey to Seaham...there is also a beautiful display of poppies along the seafront with names of service-men/women inscribed. A visit to Seaham is not complete without seeing Tommy too! Lovely discussion points for the children too!