

East Boldon Infant School

Newsletter

September 2020



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Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome to the new term and I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer break! It was lovely to see all of the children happily enter school with huge smiles and looking very smart in their new uniforms and shiny shoes on Tuesday and Thursday for our Reception children. As I have said across this whole strange period, a school is just not a school without the children and we can honestly say that having the children back has been wonderful.

The children have all returned into school and settled so well. I am so proud of each and every one of them, they are a credit to you as their families too. Routines are a little different and even our youngest children have made that adaptation well. Thank you to all of our families too, who have adjusted to the staggered times and one way entry and exit into school. Your patience and support with this has helped enormously.

As a staff, on INSET day, we spent a large part of our time discussing our children's return and the curriculum in action. Next week I will send out further information about the curriculum for across this Autumn Term and how you can help with this. Obviously we are very aware of the period of time lost from school and the varying circumstances at home and how home learning has taken place. Therefore we have placed our children's social and emotional development and well being high on the agenda of our curriculum. We know that happy children are the best learners and that is our aim. Our curriculum will then follow on from this and thorough assessments will take place to identify any gaps in learning that we can work on.

Obviously routines are looking a little different this year. After School Clubs will not be taking place for this first half term in the interim. Obviously our Year 2 music tuition will begin again for our children who have signed up for this and I will be in touch with these parents to explain the finer details and logistics of this. We are hoping to begin this for our Year 1 children in the Spring Term as it is such a wonderful opportunity for our children and sadly with the school closure we have not been able to have the introduction and opportunities for our children to sample the instruments and work with Helen and Ele, but we are hopeful to begin this if we can—so to our Year 1 parents, please begin having a think if this is something you would like your child to begin—we would love you to be a part of this experience.

Across the holidays Mr Orr has been busily back working on our sensory garden in Reception's play area. Sadly school closure put a stop to the work but Mr Orr has made up for lost time and it is taking shape! You may have noticed that the render in the yard has been removed and is scheduled for replacement over the coming weeks. The plaster was starting to crack, so we took the decision to remove it and replace it for the safety of the children.

We are thinking ahead about our parent workshops/parents evenings and how we can work these in a safe manner, perhaps virtually, but at the current time our key focus is on getting the children settled into school with their friends and happy with their learning once again. As always I will keep in touch with you all with any developments.

Just a little gentle reminder about what the children bring into school. Please ensure no large backpacks are brought into school. Ideally a book bag that can fit into trays would be perfect to reduce the movement to and from the cloakroom.. Please ensure that no plastic containers for fruit are brought into school—only a single piece of fruit if you choose to send in something additional. We know some of our children like to put additional items in their bags, but please, at this time, we are keeping everything as slimmed back as we can and only bringing in what is essential for the school day. Also please ensure you keep a safe distance to each other when entering and exiting school and only one parent/carer enters/exits the yard with your child.

Once again, if you have any queries/questions please aim to do this via telephone or email into the school office. Mrs O'Brien and Miss Giles will happily assist in any way they can. As always if I can be of any assistance or support to families, please don't hesitate to get in touch or catch me (from a safe distance!) in the school yard. I will be around over the coming weeks as we settle into the routines. Here's to a wonderful new school year!

Many Thanks,
Miss Holt

Miss Holt loves a quote!

"You're off to great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting so get on your way! **Dr Suess**"