



## NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER No 3

25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

With only a few weeks to go until Christmas, the children are enjoying practising for their year group Christmas performances, and this week we put the decorations up in readiness for our end of term celebrations. We do hope that you will be able to attend one of the performances and also come along at any time between 9 – 10am to the Open Morning on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, where you will be able to look at your child's work with them and walk around the school together.

### **East Preston Infant School is 'Gold'**

As you all know we hold the 'gold level' for our Rights Respecting School status. This is something we are extremely proud of. Working with UNICEF and upholding the Rights of the Child offer the school so many benefits. Children understand their rights and learn that these rights are universal and belong to everyone.



Being a 'Gold' school does not mean we have the award forever and we recently had our reaccreditation visit from UNICEF. We are delighted to let you know that we maintained our 'Gold' status with the assessor noting many strengths during her three-hour visit. Highlights from the report include- 'a nurturing family atmosphere with strong relationships' and 'children confidently discussed a range of rights and why they are important and relevant to their lives'.

A massive well done to the whole school and the children who chatted so eloquently to the assessor on the day.

***Lorna Payne RRS Lead***

### **Parent Consultations**



Thank you to everyone who attended the recent online parent consultations. If you missed your appointment, the teachers will be in touch shortly as it is important that they have the opportunity to talk with you about your child's progress and next steps.

## Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who donated toward this very worthwhile cause - in total we raised a fantastic **£387.03**.



## Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December



We are once again supporting Save the Children's 'Christmas Jumper' Campaign. On this day, we would like to invite the children to wear non-uniform and a festive/winter jumper to school, or they can decorate a jumper with a Christmas theme, if they would like. You do not need to contribute to the charity in order for your child to wear non-uniform, unless you wish to do so – this is entirely voluntary. If you would like to make a donation, please give it to your child's teacher. Thank you.

## Christmas Cards – deadline Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December

We know that many children usually like to send Christmas cards to their friends in school. Each class will have a box where cards should be placed – **the envelope must be clearly labelled with the recipient's name (please put the first letter of the surname as well e.g. Billy G) and their class.** The deadline for putting cards in the box is Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December. These will then be sorted by the staff and children and given out later the following week.



## School Christmas Lunch – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December



As usual, the children will be having a Christmas Lunch provided by Innovate. The children will sit down to lunch in the hall and each child will be given a Christmas cracker. The staff will serve the children their meal at their table and Christmas music will be playing whilst they eat. If you usually provide a lunchbox for your child, you are welcome to decorate this and make their lunch more 'festive' on this day.

## Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme – Winter 2022

There are a limited number of free places at holiday clubs for children and young people in receipt of benefit related free school meals. They can take part in enjoyable activities and have a nutritious meal. There are a variety of fun activities, like sports, drama, arts and crafts and other exciting opportunities to learn and develop skills.

Places are at no cost to you if your child receives benefit related free school meals.

To find out what is available in your area visit [www.westsussex.gov.uk/HAF](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/HAF) and follow the links to the Family Information Service website.

## Spotlight on Safeguarding

This month we are focusing on attendance and the part it plays in safeguarding children.

Good attendance at school is, of course, crucial for children, as research has shown that regular attendance has a positive impact on children's achievement. Setting good attendance patterns from an early age, from nursery through primary school will also help your child later on in their life.



Reasons for having a good attendance:

- ways of protecting a child's mental and physical health and laying down strong foundations for their long-term wellbeing
- Higher motivation to learn and attend school
- More confidence in themselves and their learning
- The ability to make and maintain strong friendships

However, we also monitor attendance closely for safeguarding purposes. Unreported absence from school can be a warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities. The statutory DfE document "**Keeping Children Safe in Education**" states that:

*"Children going missing, particularly repeatedly, can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities. This may include abuse and neglect, which may include sexual abuse or exploitation and child criminal exploitation. It may indicate mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, risk of female genital mutilation or risk of forced marriage. Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risks of a child going missing in future."* (page 16)

There have been a number of past Serious Case Reviews where absence from school and a lack of follow-up from the staff has led to children being put in serious harm's way. The statutory guidance sets out our role to follow "*a process of reasonable enquiry*".

At East Preston Infant School if a child is not in school and the parents have not made contact we follow the procedures set out in our attendance policy which can be found on the website.

1. We contact the first main contact person for the child by telephone to find out why the child was absent. If contact is made and we are satisfied with reason we would update attendance records with the appropriate code. If the member of staff has concerns about the child's absence they will speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
2. If contact couldn't be made we would move to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and further contact persons. If contact is made and we are satisfied with reason we would update attendance records with the appropriate code. If the member of staff has concerns about the child's absence they will speak to the DSL.
3. If no contact can be made over the phone after 24 hours then the DSLs will visit the home to ensure the welfare of the child and their family. Appropriate action can then be taken based upon what the concern is.
4. If we were not satisfied with the reason given for the absence then it would be recorded as unauthorised on the registers.

Possible outcomes/ actions we may take as DSLs are:

- To work with the family to improve their child's attendance.
- To get external agencies involved to help support the family for a short period of time or there maybe a requirement for more long-term assistance.
- To make a referral to MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub)

## Pupil Premium Funding

### **Did you know?**

If you are in receipt of any of the following benefits listed below and you apply for 'Free School Meals' your child's school receives additional funding of £1,345 to spend. This is known as **Pupil Premium**. The Pupil Premium Fund must be spent to help eligible pupils reach their full potential as an individual and in their learning. You can find out more about how we spend the money by going to:-

<https://www.eastpreston-inf.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Pupil+Premium&pid=37>

Although every child at the Infant School receives a free school meal through the Universal Free School Meals Initiative set up in 2014 this additional Pupil Premium funding can only be accessed by schools if parents apply. We are very aware that more families are eligible for this funding than apply and the school is missing out on money to support the children. For your child to be eligible for Pupil Premium Funding you need to be in receipt of one or more of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

By applying for Free school meals your benefits will not be affected. A form can be collected from the main office or if you have any questions you can speak to Mrs Owens, Mrs Waller or Mrs Woodcraft.

### Reminders:

#### Junior School Transfer/ Reception 2023



Please note that the **deadline for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023**. For those of you who have younger children due to start school in September 2023 please make sure that you apply for your place by the closing date of **15<sup>th</sup> January 2023**. These deadlines are extremely important and we have had parents in the past miss out on places as their paperwork was not submitted on time.

## Cold Weather Clothing

As the weather is turning colder, please ensure that your child has a **named coat, gloves, scarf and hat in school every day** to keep them warm when they are outside. Thank you.



In particular, on Forest School days please ensure your child has enough adequate layers to keep them warm and dry.

## Governors Corner

It's hard to believe that we are already approaching the end of term! The governors have met 3 times as a full Board so far this year, with packed agendas focussing on areas such as a self-review of how we are performing as a Board, updates on how the Therapeutic Thinking approach is developing in the school, and also ensuring that all relevant governor training is up to date (we are one of the few schools in the county to have governors complete training in the four 'lead governor' focus areas).

We would like to give our thanks for the teaching and support staff who have provided presentations to us and facilitated any visits we have made, plus also to FEPIS for their fundraising efforts.

*Paul Willetts*  
*Chair of Governors*

## Dates for Your Diary

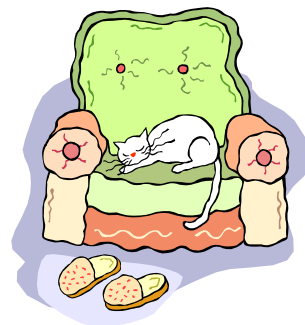
Attached are some dates for you to note on your calendar. Please check each newsletter for any updates or amendments.

## And finally...

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for your support of the school, the staff and your children. The partnership between home and school is of vital importance and really does make a difference to the progress the children make.

*Claire New*

Claire New (Mrs)  
Headteacher







### **Diary Dates**

|                                    |   |  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November  | - | FEPIS Pre-Loved Uniform sale – 3pm                         |
| Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December   | - | Am Y2 Christmas Play<br>Pm Y1 Christmas Play               |
| Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December | - | Am Y1 Christmas Play<br>Pm YR Christmas Play               |
| Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December  | - | Am YR Christmas Play<br>Pm Y2 Christmas Play               |
| Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December    | - | Christmas Jumper Day                                       |
| Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December  | - | 9-10am Open Morning for current parents                    |
| Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December | - | Whole school Christmas lunch<br>Pm Class Christmas Parties |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December   | - | Pantomime in School  |

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 INSET Day – school closed to pupils**  
**Term restarts for pupils on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Other INSET Days:**  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023**  
**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023**