



DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER No 4

16th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As the autumn term draws to a close, we cannot help but reflect on the events of the last week or so. The very sad loss of our much-loved friend and colleague Mr Paul Andrews, has been a terrible shock to us all and his absence leaves a huge hole in our school community. The staff have really appreciated you giving us the space to begin to come to terms with our feelings and we also thank you for your very kind messages, flowers and biscuits. In time we will liaise with Paul's family to plan a fitting memorial for him.

The children have once again proved to be the best tonic and their wonderful Christmas performances, and never-ending enthusiasm and excitement, have made us all smile. Looking back, it has been lovely to finally have a 'normal' term where face to face events have been able to take place once again – it was great to see so many of you at the Christmas Fair, the Christmas performances and at our Open Morning. Thank you so much for your ongoing support, it makes our school community a very special place for our children.

Some lovely news!



We are excited to be able to share with you that Mrs Rachel Bean (Y1 leader and Starlings class teacher) and her husband Josh are expecting a baby in May. Something lovely to look forward to in the new year!

FEPIs and FEPS

The Friends of East Preston Schools (FEPS) team worked extremely hard to put together a really wonderful Christmas Fayre which was packed to almost bursting point! The event raised an amazing net profit of approximately £4,000.00 which will benefit both the Infant and Junior Schools.



Our own Infant School team (FEPIS) have also been very busy this term, raising money through discos, uniform sales and Christmas Class Fundraising. We would like to say a massive thank you to this small but very dedicated team, who give up their own time to plan and run the events for us. This term we were delighted to accept a cheque from them for £4000.00, which will go towards paying for our new outdoor play equipment.

Open Mornings & Class Assemblies



Next term we will once again be holding class assemblies and combining these with class Open Mornings, where you will have the opportunity to look at your child's work and share this with them. Please see the diary dates section of the newsletter for the date and time for your child's class.

'Stay and Play' sessions



This term we will be restarting 'Stay and Play' sessions for each class. These sessions will take place at drop-off time and will be an opportunity for you to learn alongside your child and find out about key areas of the curriculum. Next term we will be focussing on "The Write Stuff", our approach to teaching writing. In the session, you will be able to watch the class teacher teach the children for a short period and then work alongside your child in their task. Previous 'Stay and Play' sessions prior to covid restrictions were very popular with parents as they gave an opportunity to see the learning in context and the expectations for each year group. Please see the diary dates section of the newsletter and your weekly home-learning letters for further details about the events for your year group. You only need to attend one session for your child's year group as both sessions will be identical in order to enable us to manage the number of adults in the classroom. Sign up sheets will be available nearer the time.

Request from Sam & Chloe, Forest School Leaders



Sam and Chloe, our Forest School Leaders, have been busy over the last couple of weeks tidying up the Forest School area and cleaning the solar dome. They have a shortage of the following items if you are able to donate.

- Towels - any old tea towels, hand or bath towels
- Hand Tools - hammers, especially the smaller ones such as pin hammers, screw drivers, brace and bit, small spirit levels, spanners, nails, screws, nuts, bolts etc...
- Wood - firewood and small carpenters offcuts
- Decking boards – any lengths to replace some of the rotten ones that the children use for construction
- Wood Chip - Forest School has been quite wet this term, and therefore, wood chippings are very useful. We would be very grateful if you have a source of woodchip from non-toxic trees

Many thanks in advance.

Sam and Chloe

Spotlight on Safeguarding



As part of our Personal and Social Health Education and through our Right to be Safe we discuss, in an age appropriate way, with the children a variety of ways to help keep them safe, including road safety, stranger danger and the PANTS message to help stay safe from abuse. For this month's spotlight, as children are spending more time at home you may be interested in looking at the resources that are on the NSPCC website which offers parent support when having conversations at home with their children.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/underwear-rule/>

Lucy Owens

Designated Safeguarding Leader

Reminders:

Junior School Transfer/ Reception 2023

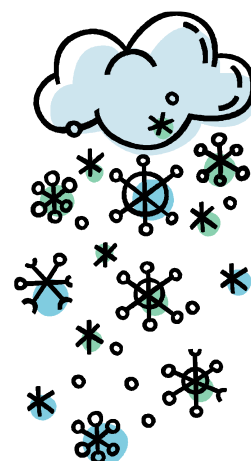


Please note that the **deadline for applications is 15th January 2023**. For those of you who have younger children due to start school in September 2023 please make sure that you apply for your place by the closing date of **15th January 2023**. These deadlines are extremely important and we have had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

School Closure Procedures

We can assure you that we do not take the decision to close the school lightly and only do so when deemed absolutely necessary.

If the situation does arise, please check the school website. If we have your mobile number then you will receive a text message via the 'WeDuc' alert system. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Fiona Waller and Mrs Sue Woodcraft who send out the alerts and update the website in order to inform parents and staff as quickly as possible.



Governors' Corner

On behalf of the governors, I wanted to take this opportunity to say a huge well done to all the children for their Nativity performances as well as a massive thank you to all the staff for their hard work, not only for producing such amazing plays, but throughout the term. Can I also thank you, parents, for all your support for the school and wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Paul Willetts

Chair of Governors

Dates for your Diary

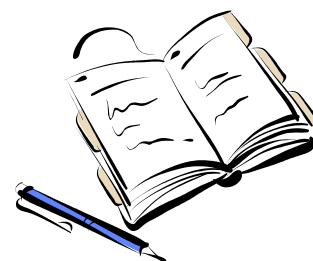
Attached are some dates for you to note on your calendar, please check each newsletter for any updates or amendments.

On behalf of the staff and myself, we would like to thank you for all your cards, gifts and kind words and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Claire New

Claire New (Mrs)
Headteacher





Diary Dates

The term will restart for the children on Wednesday 4th January 2023

Tuesday 3rd January	- INSET DAY – School closed to pupils
Wednesday 4 th January	- School reopens to pupils
Tuesday 7 th February	- 9.15am – Puffins Class Assembly
Wednesday 8 th February	- 2.30pm – Robins Class Assembly
Friday 10 th February	- 9.15am – Wagtails Class Assembly
Friday 10 th February	- Half Term starts at 3.15pm

Half Term – Monday 13th to Friday 17th February inclusive

Monday 20th February	- INSET DAY – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 21 st February	- School reopens to pupils
Wednesday 22 nd February	- Y1 Three Little Pigs Workshop
Monday 27 th February	- 9.15am Kestrels Class Assembly
Tuesday 28 th February	- 9.15am Hawks Class Assembly
Wednesday 1 st March	- 9.15am Falcons Class Assembly
Thursday 2 nd March	- World Book Day – details to follow
Monday 6 th March	- 9.10am – 9.40am Y2 & Y1 Stay & Play
Tuesday 7 th March	- 9.10am – 9.40am Y2 & YR Stay & Play
Thursday 9 th March	- 9.10am – 9.40am Y1 & YR Stay & Play
Tuesday 14 th March	- 3.45pm – 6pm Parent Consultations
Wednesday 15 th March	- 3.45pm – 6pm Parent Consultations
Thursday 16 th March	- 3.45pm – 6pm Parent Consultations
Friday 17 th March	- Red Nose Day – details to follow
Thursday 23 rd March	- School Grounds Morning – details to follow
Monday 27 th March	- 2.30pm – Starlings Class Assembly
Tuesday 28 th March	- 2.30pm – Blackbirds Class Assembly
Wednesday 29 th March	- 2.30pm – Woodpeckers Class Assembly
Thursday 30 th March	- FEPIs Discos – details to follow
Friday 31 st March	- Term ends at 3.15pm

Easter Break – Monday 3rd April to Friday 14th April inclusive