



NEWSLETTER 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

8th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

A very warm (literally!) welcome back to you all. It has been lovely to see our Year 1 and 2 children back in school this week and also to have our new YR children joining us in Robins, Wagtails and Puffins classes for their part-time visits. We would also like to extend a friendly welcome to Nellie (Blackbirds) and Leeland and Thea (Kestrels) and their families who have joined us this term - we hope that you will quickly settle into the life of the school and that you will be very happy here with us.



Staffing News



We are delighted to be able to share with you that Mr Michael Lake (Falcons class teacher) and his wife Jasmine are expecting their first baby at the end of December.

Over the summer break Mrs Beth Henton secured a permanent HLTA position and Mrs Justine Veit also secured a Teaching Assistant post at East Preston Junior school where her children attend. We wish them both well in their new roles.

We are delighted that Mrs Leanne Wallace (mum to Toby in Woodpeckers) has taken up the post of Teaching and Learning Assistant in YR. Leanne has been working with us over the last year as a Midday Meals supervisor and as an assistant in the Year 1 classes so she is very familiar with the school and staff.

Midday Meals Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for various midday meals roles, with a range of flexibilities. If you feel you might be interested in any of the following then please speak with the Mr Hill (School Business Manager) for further details:

- Casual hours – sometimes at quite short notice, to cover staff absence. This is usually for 1 hour per day and involves supervising play on the playground and supporting the children in the hall while they eat.



- Regular hours - 5 days per week from between 30 – 120 minutes per day, either supervising play, the lunch hall and setting up/clearing away tables.
- Part-time hours – we can offer a range of flexibilities to suit you, from 1-5 days per week, between 30 – 120 minutes per day.

Classes

For your information just a reminder of the classes, teachers and support staff in each year group. Year group leaders are in bold.



Year group	Class Name	Teacher	Support staff
R	Puffins	Mr James Jones (YR)	Mrs Dawn Boulton
R	Wagtails	Miss Molly Bouch	Mrs Jessica Tapping
R	Robins	Mrs Jo Rickard	Mrs Leanne Wallace Mrs Sadie Watson
1	Blackbirds	Miss Anna Woodiwiss (Y1)	Miss Laura Brooks
1	Woodpeckers	Mrs Clair Lovell	Mrs Elita Finn
1	Starlings	Miss Lily Jee	Mrs Gemma O'Keefe Miss Kristina Loosemore
2	Kestrels	Mrs Helena Lilley (Y2) & Mrs Stephanie Vinicombe	Mrs Carol Chilvers Mrs Helen Gingell
2	Falcons	Mr Michael Lake	Mrs Louisa Houghton
2	Hawks	Mrs Vanessa Smith Mrs Rachel Bean (maternity)	Mrs Sally West Mrs Sue Buchannan (3 days) Miss Rebecca Winstone (2 days)

School Council

Mr Lake is taking over the School Council this year and he is currently preparing to set up the School Council for this academic year.



Elections will take place in Year 2 on Friday 22nd September for the four Council Leader posts. Letters will be sent home shortly to those who wish to apply. Those children who submit an application will get an opportunity to speak to the year group explaining why they think they would make a good Council Leader.

There will also be elections for the Council Representatives posts for Year 1 and Year 2 classes. One boy and one girl from each class will be elected by their classmates. Classes will be notified of their representatives via Marvellous Me on Friday 29th September. Good luck to all those who want to take part.

The School Council raise money by allowing children to come into school in their own clothes on their birthday in return for a donation of £1. If your child has already had their birthday this term they may still do this, on a day of their choosing in return for a donation. If your child's birthday falls at the weekend or during a school holiday, they may wear their own clothes on the Friday before or Monday following, but don't forget the £1 donation! Thank you for supporting them in this way.

FEPIS (Friends of East Preston Infant School)



Welcome to all our new Reception children, parents and carers. We hope you will be able to join us for Tea and Tissues on Monday 11th September after you have dropped off your little ones. We would also love to see you at our first PTA meeting on Friday 15th September at 9.10am. We are always looking for volunteers or just some new fundraising ideas so please come along!

Spotlight on Safeguarding

With a number of new staff having joined us this term we thought we would share how safeguarding is part of the recruitment process. It's a vital part of creating a safe and positive environment and making a commitment to keep children safe from harm.



Recruiting staff can be a lengthy and complex process. Having a safer recruitment policy statement in place is a vital first step towards keeping the children and young people who have contact with staff and volunteers safe. These will ensure that staff and volunteers are recruited safely and fairly, and that children's safety is being considered at every stage of the process.

Things we take into consideration:

Every advert for a role that includes work with children includes a statement about your commitment to keeping children safe.

We include an overview in our application pack as part of our safer recruitment process so that candidates understand what information will be sought from them and why, and what will be expected of them at each stage of the process.

Applicants should complete a self-disclosure form before the interview and bring it along with them in a sealed envelope.

Identity checks are carried out and we check at least two references per candidate

We explore gaps in CVs

We carry out DBS checks

We ask safeguarding questions in the interview

Where possible we visit candidates in their current school and talk to their headteacher.

Locality Code of Conduct

We are fortunate to have very positive and respectful relationships with the vast majority of our parents and carers, however sadly this is not always the case across our neighbouring schools. Therefore, as a Locality group of schools, we have adopted a 'Code of Conduct' which sets out behaviour which will not be tolerated by staff in our schools and actions that may be taken if the code is broken. This is attached for your information and a copy is also available on the website.

Our staff work extremely hard and are very dedicated to their work, going well above and beyond that which is expected of them. We know that from time to time, things go wrong and we ask that you continue to work together with us, through mutual trust and understanding, in order that we can resolve concerns and continue our good relationships with you.

School Development Priorities

At our INSET day in the summer term, staff and governors met to identify school priorities for 2023-2024. Each year the school is required to identify areas that need to be developed and possibly improved. These become the basis of the School's Improvement Plan and throughout the year staff, governors and children work together to achieve these targets. By sharing our priorities with you the parents, you will be able to work with us to ensure that this very successful school becomes even more successful!



Priority 1: Develop our Teaching and Learning policy based on research evidence, in order to ensure a consistent approach across the school.

Priority 2: Raising Standards through further developing Core subjects

Priority 3: Further developing and enriching our Behaviour Curriculum

Priority 4: Governors will provide effective governance including challenge/support, knowledge of impact and holding the Headteacher to account.

If you have any questions about any of our priorities or would like to discuss them, please speak to either myself or one of the governors.

Governors Corner

On behalf of the governors, at the start of this school year, I would like to say a huge 'Welcome' to all the new children and parents, and 'Welcome Back' to all those returnees. We hope everyone settles in quickly and wish all of them a really exciting and memorable term.



Our governing body is once again on the lookout for new recruits! We need both a new co-opted (i.e. someone from the community) and a new parent governor. If you are interested in, or know someone who would be suitable for either of these roles or want further information, please contact me through the school office.

Jane Jones
Interim Chair of Governors

A Few Reminders!



- Medication

If your child uses an asthma inhaler or requires medication during the school day, please ensure that the office has up to date details of the treatments required and that you have completed the relevant paperwork.



- Emergency Contact Numbers and Collection During the School Day



It is important that we have the correct contact numbers on which to reach you in case of emergency. If you have recently changed your telephone numbers, please inform the office as soon as possible. If you need to collect your child from school during the school day, please go to the main entrance/office.

- Play/Climbing Equipment

Children are not permitted to use the play equipment or Early Years equipment before or after school. This also applies to younger/older siblings. Please ensure that your children stay on the playground with you during these times.



- Jewellery



For safety reasons, children should not wear jewellery in school. Children with pierced ears should wear studs only please. Plain, dark colour watches, but not the game-type, are permitted. In accordance with advice from West Sussex County Council, jewellery may not be worn for any physical activity. All earrings should be taken out by the children for their PE lessons, watches removed and long hair tied back.

- Dogs on Site

Dogs are not permitted on school grounds. If necessary, they can be tied to the perimeter fence while dropping off or collecting your child/ren.

- Parking on Site



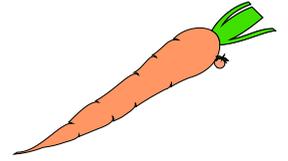
Parking is not permitted on the school grounds unless prior arrangement has been agreed with the school office.

- Snacks and Drinks Policy

The children have one break time each day (morning) when they are permitted to eat their healthy snacks. Children are encouraged to bring in a healthy snack to eat during their break, which are listed in the school healthy snacks policy, as shown below. **No other snack is permitted.**



- **Mild Cheese** (*not* processed products such as Cheese Strings and Dairy Dunkers)
- **Breadsticks**
- **Plain Rice Cakes**
- **Wholemeal Pitta Bread**
- **Fresh Vegetables**
- **Fresh Fruits** (not fruit winders/yoyos/fruit flakes etc...)
- **Plain Raisins** (not yoghurt coated)



In addition, all the children will receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable every day, usually at mid-morning, as part of a government scheme to encourage children to eat their daily 5 portions of fruit and vegetables.

If your child has any allergies or medical reasons why these snacks are not appropriate, then please come and talk to us.

Water

Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school to keep in class. **Children are only permitted to have plain water in their drink bottles.** They are able to take drinks of water from this throughout the day. Juice, squash or flavoured water are not permitted.



Dates for your Diary

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



The autumn term is always a very busy one, with lots of events taking place both during and after the school day. Please look carefully at the diary dates section and make a note of the dates so that you are able to come along and join in the fun! Thank you in anticipation of your support over the coming weeks.

Claire New

Claire New (Mrs)
Head teacher



Diary Dates

Monday 11 th September	-	'Tea & Tissues' Event for new YR parents/carers in the school library
Friday 15 th September	-	FEPIS meeting
Wednesday 20 th September	-	Christmas Fayre meeting (all welcome)
Thursday 21 st September	-	9am workshop for new YR parents/carers (details to follow)
Wednesday 4 th October	-	9am – 10am Phonics workshop Y1 (details to follow)
Tuesday 10 th October	-	Flu vaccinations (details to follow)
Friday 13 th October	-	School Grounds Morning (details to follow)
Tuesday 17 th October	-	Individual school photos
Thursday 19 th October	-	Open Morning for prospective parents
Friday 20th October	-	Half Term starts 3.15pm

Half Term Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October inclusive

Monday 30th October	-	INSET day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 31st October	-	Term restarts for all pupils
Wednesday 1 st November	-	Y2 Stay and Play 9 - 9.20am Y1 Stay and Play 9 – 9.20am
Thursday 2 nd November	-	Y1 Stay and Play 9 – 9.20am
Friday 3 rd November	-	Y2 Stay and Play 9 – 9.20am
Tuesday 7 th November	-	Open Morning for prospective parents Parent Consultations via school icloud 3.45 – 6pm
Wednesday 8 th November	-	Parent Consultations via school icloud 3.45 – 6pm
Thursday 9 th November	-	Parent Consultations via school icloud 3.45 – 6pm
Friday 10 th November	-	Y2 Hewson Enterprise Workshop
Friday 1 st December	-	Christmas Fair at East Preston Infants
Tuesday 5 th December	-	AM Y2 Christmas Play PM YR Christmas Play
Wednesday 6 th December	-	AM Y1 Christmas Play PM Y2 Christmas Play
Thursday 7 th December	-	AM YR Christmas Play PM Y1 Christmas Play
Friday 8 th December	-	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 12 th December	-	9am – 9.45am Open Morning for current parents
Thursday 14 th December	-	Whole school Christmas lunch PM Christmas parties
Friday 15 th December	-	Pantomime in school

**Tuesday 2nd January 2024 INSET day – school closed to pupils
Term restarts for pupils on Wednesday 3rd January 2024**

**Other INSET days:
Monday 19th February
One additional Inset Day to be confirmed**