



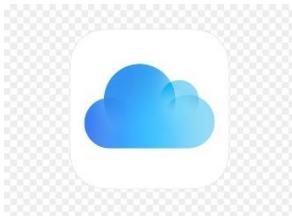
NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER No 3

24th November 2023

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 – 9.45am to the Open Morning on Monday 11th December, where you will be able to look at your child's work with them and walk around the school together.

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.

Monster Phonics

As we come towards the end of our first term of using the Monster Phonics scheme, we are delighted with how well the children have responded to it and how confident they are becoming in decoding and blending. We hope that you found the recent 'Stay and Play' sessions useful in giving you a deeper understanding of what the lessons looks like in practice and also in how you can continue to support your child at home. We will be running more sessions throughout the year, focusing on other aspects, such as guided reading.



When your child brings home a 'Monster Phonics' reading book they are given a clear storage wallet to keep this in and to protect the book. Please could we ask that as far as possible you ensure that your child keeps the book in the wallet as we only have a limited number of each set to use in guided reading sessions at school and we are not easily able to replace damaged books, as these only come in sets of 10 at a cost of £49.00 per set.

Thank you also for all the support you have been giving your children in sharing the stories that they choose from the classroom book boxes. The 'reading for pleasure' aspect is a vitally important part of developing your child's reading skills, so please do continue to do this.

Staffing Update



After 11 years at the school, Mrs Lucy Owens will sadly be leaving us at the end of term. We have been very lucky to keep hold of Lucy for as long as we have and during her time with us she has transformed our SEND provision and supported the school in moving forward in many areas. We will really miss her but wish her every success as she now moves on to work for the Local Authority, where she will be able to share her vast expertise more widely.

With Mrs Owens leaving, the Governors have taken the decision to restructure the staffing and to separate the Deputy Headteacher and SENDCo roles, as these have both grown significantly in recent years.

We are delighted to inform you that we have successfully recruited to both roles as follows:

Miss Philippa Moulson has been appointed as Deputy Headteacher and Mrs Claire Greenway as SENDCo. Philippa is an experienced Deputy who is currently working at Stanford Infant School in Brighton; Claire is currently a special needs teacher at Muntham House School, specialising in SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health). Both Philippa and Claire will be spending time in school over the coming weeks, getting to know the children and having handover meetings with Mrs Owens. I am sure you will join us in welcoming them both to the team at the start of the Spring term.

Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who donated toward this very worthwhile cause - in total we raised a fantastic **£292.97**.



Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 8th 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 8th 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 8th December. These will then be sorted by the staff and children and given out later the following week.



School Christmas Lunch – Thursday 14th 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 2023

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 our area visit-

[Home | Angmering Holiday Ch \(angmeringchildcare.com\)](http://angmeringchildcare.com)

Spotlight on Safeguarding

We are very pleased to welcome volunteers into school to support with children's learning or to enable us to give them positive first hand learning experiences. As part of our safeguarding duty at school we ensure that all regular volunteers have undertaken a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check and have attended one of our Safeguarding briefings. The safeguarding briefings are to support volunteers (including parents, teaching students and teaching assistant trainees) in knowing how to identify safeguarding concerns, such as, neglect and abuse; knowing the schools protocols for reporting concerns; keeping themselves safe in school, as well as, understanding how we approach things such as managing children's behaviour; routines in school, or what to do in a fire drill. Volunteers must attend these briefings so that we can comply with the legal requirements in keeping our pupils safe in school.



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 completed online. Please contact the office if you require any help completing the form. Please see link below:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/>

Reminders:

Junior School Transfer/ Reception 2024



Please note that the **deadline for applications is 15th January 2024**. 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 2024**. 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.

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

Monday 27 th November	-	YR Library visits
Friday 1 st December	-	Non-uniform day & donation day 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
Monday 11 th December	-	9am – 9.45am Open Morning for current parents
Tuesday 12 th December	-	Church Visits – details to follow
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
Monday 3rd June**