



## JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER No 5

26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

A rather belated welcome back to the new term! The Spring term has got off to a great start and we are delighted to welcome Miss Philippa Moulson (Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Claire Greenway (SENDCo) who have joined us this term. You will have seen them on the playground gates in the morning and they have written a paragraph below, to introduce themselves. I am sure you will all give them a very warm welcome!

We would also like to extend a friendly 'hello' to Clay Attwood and his family who have joined Kestrels class this term. We hope that you quickly settle into the life of the school.



*Miss Philippa Moulson*

Hello families!

I am very excited to have joined the fantastic East Preston Infant School team as the new Deputy Head Teacher. As part of my role I will be working with families to support you as required so please do come and introduce yourselves if I haven't already met you. Most mornings you will be able to find me at the gate or in the playground.



I have been a teacher for more than 20 years, working first in London and Berkshire before relocating in 2016 to Sussex where I grew up. As a parent to a 5-year-old boy, I, just like the staff here, am passionate about ensuring that all children have the opportunity to be the best that they can be, enjoy learning and that their first experiences of school are nurturing and fun. When I am not at school I spend a lot of time reading, being outside (often shivering at sports clubs at this time of year!) and building Lego.

I look forward to getting to know you and your children over the coming weeks and sharing the journey that your child takes through this wonderful school.

## *Mrs Claire Greenway*

'I previously worked at Muntham House School in Horsham, where I worked closely with SEMH and SEND pupils. I am now ready for whatever surprises your mini-adventurers throw my way at East Preston Infant School and am ready to embrace my new role. I am privileged to have the opportunity to work in such an inspiring and nurturing school.



I bring with me a strong passion for fostering an inclusive and supportive environment, allowing everyone to thrive and grow. I am ready to build on the already strong foundations in place, ensuring all pupils are at the forefront of this.

The warm reception from the School community has undoubtedly added to the anticipation, setting a positive tone for this new phase in my career.'

### **Baby News!**

We are delighted to share with you that Mr Lake's son Max was born on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023, weighing in at a 'robust' 9lb! Both Max and his mum Jasmine are doing well and we were pleased to welcome Mr Lake back to school on 16<sup>th</sup> January following his paternity leave.



We are excited to be able to share with you that both Miss Molly Bouch (Wagtails class teacher) and Miss Lily Jee (Starlings class teacher) are expecting babies in the summer term. We look forward to welcoming two more babies to the staff team later this year.

### **Parent Consultation Evenings: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March**



We are holding our Spring Term Parent Consultation evenings on the above dates **from 3.45 – 6.00pm** and these will once again be held online via School Cloud. Bookings will be released after Half Term.

### **Inconsiderate Parking**

We have recently received several complaints regarding inconsiderate and dangerous parking outside the school. Sadly, this continues to be a problem.

The Police have been notified and they ask that parents make a note of registration numbers and report the same to [www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org) or call 01243 642222.



Whilst we understand that parking at drop off and pick up times can be very frustrating the safety of the children is paramount and we once again ask that all parents/carers are considerate. Please also respect local residents by not blocking driveways or disabled access ramps.

## **Are you Struggling Financially?**



We are aware that a number of our families are now feeling the pressures of increased costs of living and that the impact of this is causing a range of issues from not being able to buy food, clothing or cover costs such as childcare. Whilst we cannot solve all these issues, the school is in a position to be able to support families in some aspects as we have access to food vouchers, childcare vouchers and can signpost you to other services who can give more specific support. We recognise that this can be a sensitive issue where families are having difficulty but we would urge you to come and speak with us in confidence so that we can try to give you some additional support during this time.

If you would like to speak in confidence with a member of staff about this you can either approach one of us directly or send an e-mail to the office on [secretary@epinf.co.uk](mailto:secretary@epinf.co.uk) where this will be treated sensitively and someone will make contact with you. Please see below for further information about some of the support we might be able to offer.

- **Pupil Premium FSM eligible families are entitled to a £10.00 food voucher for every week within school holidays totalling £130 (13 weeks per year).**
- **For children who are not Pupil Premium FSM eligible but whose families need urgent support with food there is a Community Hub operating where support can be given.**

The Community Hub can be contacted on **0330 222 7980**, and is open 09:00 – 17:00, seven days a week (except bank holidays, when they are open between 10:00 – 14:00).

Further information can be found via [West Sussex County Council website](#). Should you require any further information or advice about the scheme, please contact [welfarecommunities@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:welfarecommunities@westsussex.gov.uk).

- **Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) is a childcare top-up for working parents. It can be used to help pay for accredited holiday clubs, childminders, or sports activities. TFC enables parents and carers to access childcare during the school holidays, saving them money.** TFC is available for children aged up to 11, or 17 if the child has a disability.

Many parents don't realise that TFC can be saved up on their accounts. Even if childcare is not required throughout the school terms, there is still the option to save up funds which could be used for holiday clubs or out of school care.

Please go to <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> to see if you are eligible. You can also visit <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare> for further information about the scheme.

- **Food Bank – More than Just Food!** The School is registered with the local food bank which means that we are able to issue vouchers to families in urgent need so that they can receive three days' worth of food and household items such as washing powder, toilet roll, toothpaste etc... In addition, the food bank works closely with other agencies who can provide support in other areas such as debt advice, mental health support and benefits guidance. If you are in need of a food bank voucher please speak in confidence with a member of staff.

## Spotlight on Safeguarding

### Online Safety

In February it is Safer Internet Day. This is a time where we talk with the children about staying safe online, so it is an ideal time for families to check that their parental controls are in place at home. A useful starting point is visiting the Internet Matters website where you can get guidance on how to manage your broadband, secure devices and also gives advice about how you can communicate with your child about staying safe online: <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

It is important that we are proactive in keeping our children safe in an increasingly connected world. Simple ways that you can help to keep your child safe online include turning off autoplay (especially on YouTube). making use of Screen Time limits on iOS 12 and above if you have an iPhone and iPad or installing Google Family Link if you use Android (Android 7.0 Nougat or higher). You may wish to make use of <https://www.kiddle.co/> if your child needs to use a search engine.

It is also important that you are aware of current regulations and guidance, not just the PEGI ratings for games. For example, it may be useful to know the following age requirements for holding social media accounts:

- Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, YouTube – **13 years**
- WhatsApp – **16 years**
- Tik Tok requires users to be **at least 13 years old** to access its platform. ([Common Sense Media](#) has recommended that this app is appropriate for those aged at least 16 years old and above due to its mature content and information settings.)

More information about staying safe online can be found [here](#) on our website.

### Governors Corner

#### Calling all parents!

Did you know that the entitlement for free school meals doesn't just start and stop with food? All pupils at EPIS receive free school meals however, this entitlement can go even further and the school can receive extra funding, as much as £1,445, which can be used right the way across school from buying pens and pencils to implementing new reading schemes and even used towards the purchase of outdoor play equipment. The difference this could make to the school and what it can provide is huge!



The governors at EPIS are asking parents, guardians and carers to check if their child is eligible for the additional funding by visiting the website below. This funding is urgently needed as the school currently holds a deficit budget so please do see if you are able to help.

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

*Stuart Simpson*  
*Coopted Governor*





## **School Closure Procedures ...a reminder**

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 or listen to Spirit FM, More Radio or Heart FM who read out lists of school closures regularly between 7.15am and 9.30am and detail local school closures on their websites. In addition, if we have your mobile number then you will receive a text message via Weduc. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Fiona Waller and Mrs Sue Woodcraft who send out the text alerts and update the website in order to inform parents and staff as quickly as possible.

## **Dates for Your Diary**

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

Thank you once again for your continuing support of the school.

*Claire New*

Claire New (Mrs)  
Headteacher





## Diary Dates

### Half Term – Monday 12th to Friday 16th February inclusive

Monday 29th January	-	YR visit to Bengal Restaurant am
Thursday 8th February	-	FEPIS Discos
<b>Monday 19th February</b>	-	<b>INSET day – school closed to pupils</b>
Tuesday 20th February	-	School reopens to pupils
Monday 26th February	-	Rainbow Theatre to visit YR
Monday 4th March	-	World Book week – details to follow
Monday 11th March	-	STEAM week – details to follow
Tuesday 12th March	-	Parent consultations 3.45 – 6.00pm
Wednesday 13th March	-	Parent consultations 3.45 – 6.00pm
Thursday 14th March	-	Parent consultations 3.45 – 6.00pm
Friday 15th March	-	Red Nose day – wear red!
Tuesday 19th March	-	2pm – Wagtails class assembly
Wednesday 20th March	-	2pm – Robins class assembly
Thursday 21st March	-	School Grounds Morning – details to follow
Friday 22nd March	-	2pm - Puffins class assembly
Monday 25th March	-	9.15am - Kestrels class assembly 2pm Blackbirds class assembly
Tuesday 26th March	-	9.15am Falcons class assembly 2pm Woodpeckers class assembly
Wednesday 27th March	-	9.15am Hawks class assembly 2pm Starlings class assembly

### Easter Break – Monday 1st April to Friday 12th April inclusive

