



NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER No 3

28th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

It is so lovely to be back in school this half term and I would like to thank you all for your kind words of support and good wishes during my absence and following my return to school. I have spent this month being back in the classrooms with the children, getting to know the new faces and seeing all the good work that has been going on since September. Sometimes a bit of distance enables you to reflect and I am certainly able to appreciate what a wonderful school community we have at East Preston Infant school.

With only a few weeks to go until Christmas, the children are enjoying practising for their 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 Wednesday 17th December, where you will be able to look at your child's work with them and walk around the school together.

Firework Extravaganza

We would like to say a huge thank you to the FEPIS team who organised our Firework Extravaganza, and in particular to Emma McNair, Claire Cox, Angela Price, Charlotte Matthews, Richard Argent, Toby Neal, Abi White and Laura Wheatley, who put in so much planning and work behind the scenes in order to enable this event to go ahead. Our thanks also go to all the staff and volunteers who gave their time to help the evening run smoothly and to all of you who came along to show your support. I think you will agree that the event was a huge success and that the Firework display was spectacular despite the downpour! Over £7,000 was raised which will be split between the 2 schools – an amazing amount!



Staffing Update

We are delighted to be able to share with you the news that Mrs Rachel Bean (Starlings Class Teacher) gave birth to Percy Patrick Bean on 23rd October weighing in at a healthy 8lb 3oz. Mum and baby are doing well and we look forward to them visiting us soon for baby cuddles.

We have some new faces who you may be spotting in classes this term. We are delighted to welcome three trainee teachers to our school.

In Blackbirds, Miss Niamh Oswald is working with the class until 23rd February.

In Falcons, Miss Elizabeth Ball is working with the class until 22nd January.

In Kestrels, we will be welcoming Miss Amy Nerantzidis who will be with us until 20th March.

Parent Consultations



Thank you to everyone who attended the recent 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.

LOtC Gold

Our school has been awarded the prestigious Gold Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Mark, a national recognition of our commitment to providing exceptional learning experiences beyond the classroom. From Forest and Beach School sessions to creative use of our local area and strong community partnerships, we ensure every child has access to inspiring opportunities that build confidence, resilience, and curiosity.



This award reflects our belief that outdoor learning is an essential part of helping every child thrive, and we're excited to continue offering rich, memorable experiences that connect children with nature, their community, and the wider world.

Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 12th 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 12th 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 12th December. These will then be sorted by the staff and children and given out later the following week.



School Christmas Lunch – Thursday 18th 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.

Spotlight on Safeguarding

Spotlight on: Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people who are or have been in a relationship. It can also happen between adults related to one another. It can seriously harm children and young people, and experiencing domestic abuse is child abuse.



It's important to remember that domestic abuse:

- can happen inside and outside the home;
- can happen over the phone, on the internet and on social networking sites;
- can happen in any relationship and can continue even after the relationship has ended;
- both men and women can be abused or abusers.

Around 1 in 5 children have been exposed to domestic abuse. Living in a home where domestic abuse happens can have a serious impact on a child's mental and physical well-being, as well as their behaviour. The impact can last into adulthood.

If you are experiencing domestic abuse, or know of someone who may be, you can speak to any of the Designated Safeguarding Leads at school (Miss Moulson, Mrs New or Mrs Greenway) or contact the following for advice and support:

National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247

A 24-hour free helpline run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge.
<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/>

My Sister's House (local hub is in Bognor): 01243697800 <https://www.mysistershouse.info/>

Safe in Sussex: <https://www.safeinsussex.co.uk/>

Men's Advice Line: 0808 801 0327 <https://mensadviceline.org.uk/>

National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0800 999 5428 <https://galop.org.uk/get-help/helplines/>

Useful contacts:

Young Minds: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

Mind: Adult mental health support: <https://www.mind.org.uk/> Support Line 0300 102 1234

Help if you're worried about your behaviour

If you are, or think you might be, domestically abusing a member of your family, there's help available. Contact the NSPCC Helpline by calling 0808 800 5000 or emailing help@NSPCC.org.uk

Respect offers information, advice and support- 0808 802 4040 (Monday – Friday 9am-5pm).

Philippa Moulson
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Governors Corner

Dear Parents and Carers

You will recently have received an email from Mrs New regarding the consultation on reducing the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) at East Preston Infant School from 90 to just 60 children from September 2027. This consultation is now open.

However, the Governors of the school are concerned that a reduction of this scale would significantly reduce the school's funding, potentially resulting in staff redundancies and a further impact on our already constrained budget.

We, as Governors, therefore strongly encourage you to complete the consultation via the link below and register your disagreement with the proposal to reduce the PAN at East Preston:

<https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions-2027-2028>

The survey takes only a couple of minutes, and your participation could make a real difference to the future of our school.

Thank you in advance.

Amy Kimber-Roberts
School Governor

Reminders:

Junior School Transfer/ Reception 2026



Please note that the **deadline for applications is 15th January 2026**. For those of you who have younger children due to start school in September 2026 please make sure that you apply for your place by the closing date of **15th January 2026**. 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.

Playtrail before and after school

Please remember that children are not permitted on the play equipment before or after school. Children should remain on the playground close to their parents/carers and not be running around as the site is very busy at this time. Thank you for your support with this.

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

Tuesday 9 th December	9.30am – Y2 Christmas Play 2pm – Y1 Christmas Play
Wednesday 10 th December	9.30am – Y1 Christmas Play 2pm – YR Christmas Play
Thursday 11 th December	9.30am – YR Christmas Play 2pm – Y2 Christmas Play
Friday 12 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 15 th December	Christmas Services at St Mary's Church -details to follow
Wednesday 17 th December	Open Morning for current parents – 9am to 10am
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Lunch PM – Year Group parties
Friday 19 th December	Pantomime – Sleeping Beauty - Whole School School finishes at 3.15pm
Christmas holidays- Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January 2026	
Monday 5th January	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 6 th January	School restarts for pupils
Tuesday 13 th January	Open Morning for 2026/27 intake 9-30am – 11.30am
Monday 16 th - Friday 20 th February	February Half-term
Monday 23rd February	Inset Day – school closed to pupils



INSET DAYS:

Monday 5th January 2026
 Monday 23rd February 2026
 Monday 13th April
 Friday 22nd May 2026