

## NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER No 3

30<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

With only a few weeks to go until Christmas, the school is now very busy rehearsing for the Christmas Plays and preparing for the upcoming festivities. We do hope that you will be able to join us in celebrating at the various events over the next few weeks.

### **A Few Thank You's!**

Thank you to Gemma O'Keefe for organising all the various activities that took place in school for Children in Need last week.

Thank you to Mrs Bullimore (Mum to Kaitlyn in Robins class) for donating a tree trunk mini doorstop for use in our library area.

Thank you to ACG Builders Sussex Ltd (01903 716895) for agreeing to provide Forest School with wood for burning on an ongoing basis.

Thank you for all your kind comments around our super new Christmas tree and decorations around the school. We would again like to thank Schlich Limited (George Schlich), FEPIS and the Co-op for their very generous donations in purchasing these.



### **Poppy Appeal**

Thank you to everyone who bought poppies and wristbands in support of this year's poppy appeal. As a school we collected **£326.15**.

### **Children in Need**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the events which took place during Children in Need week. In total we raised a fantastic **£1,083.67**.



## Staffing news



We are pleased to tell you that Mrs Louisa Houghton (Wagtails teaching assistant) is expecting a baby at Easter next year. I am sure you will join us in wishing Louisa, her husband Phil and their son Isaac, best wishes for their forthcoming bundle of joy!

Some of you may remember Mr Adrian Brown our premises officer who retired in March 2015. Sadly Adrian passed away earlier this month following a short illness. Mrs Owens and myself attended his funeral today and I am sure you will join us in sending our condolences to his family at this sad time.

## Change of INSET day

Due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to change our INSET day on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 to **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019**. Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 will now be a normal school day.



## Campfire Carols – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

This year we will again be having 'Campfire Carols' in Forest school, where parents and children are invited to come along and share a mince pie with us round the fire and join in with a few familiar carols. This year we will also be joined by East Preston Junior School Choir and Bellacapella adult choir. Letters have been sent out about this already and tickets are on sale from the office.

## Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December

This year the staff have again decided to support Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Campaign and will be wearing Christmas jumpers to school and making donations to this charity. On this day, we would like to invite the children to wear non-uniform and a festive/winter jumper, or they can decorate a jumper with a Christmas theme, if they would like. Children do not need to make a contribution to the charity unless they wish to do so. If you would like to make a donation, please place the same in an envelope and give it to your child's teacher or the school office. Thank you.



## Christmas Plays – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December



Letters have recently been sent out giving you information about this year's Christmas Plays in order that you can request tickets for your preferred performances. Unfortunately, for health and safety reasons we have to restrict numbers in the hall and, therefore, it is not possible for us to cater for younger siblings, so please make alternative child care arrangements. **Siblings will not be admitted on the day – please do not bring them as sadly we will have to turn you away, which causes distress.** If you do have problems with child care for these dates please speak to Mrs New or Mrs Owens. The local playgroups will be visiting to watch our Y1/YR dress rehearsal on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December.



## Open Morning – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December



This term's Open Morning takes place on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December between 9.00am and 10.00am**. Although teachers will need to call their class together for registration, you are welcome to enter the classroom with your child on this morning and wait quietly whilst the register is taken. Once this is completed you will be free to spend time together, looking at their work and the work of others on display in all areas. Please do have a good look around the whole school, venture into other classrooms and the hall and don't forget to have a look at the amazing Christmas tree from the atrium and the library views!

## Church Service – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December



On **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 1.45pm** the whole school will be attending a Christmas service at **St Mary's Church**. The service will last approximately half an hour. If you would like to walk down to the Church with the children, please speak to the class teacher who will give you timings for leaving school.

## Pantomime – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

The Bard & Troubadour Theatre Company will be visiting the school to perform the pantomime 'Thumberlina' on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am**. For this we ask for a contribution of **£3.00 per child** towards the cost. Could you please either pay via Parentmail or at the office.



## Children's Christmas Parties – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December



This year the children's Christmas parties take place on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**. We ask that the children bring their party clothes to school in a named carrier bag and they will have the opportunity to change into them at 1.00pm after lunch. Classes will then have party games and disco music in the hall and their classrooms throughout the afternoon. Home time will be as usual at 3.15pm.

## Spotlight on Safeguarding

This month we are focusing on attendance and the part it plays in safeguarding children.

Good attendance at school is, of course, crucial for children, as research has clearly shown that regular attendance has a positive impact on children's achievement. Being at school regularly helps your child build friendships with other children, and your child can feel "left out" after an absence.



However, we also monitor attendance closely for safeguarding purposes. Unreported absence from school can be a warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities. The statutory DfE document “Keeping Children Safe in Education” states that

“Children going missing, particularly repeatedly, can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities. This may include abuse and neglect, which may include sexual abuse or exploitation and child criminal exploitation. It may indicate mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, risk of female genital mutilation or risk of forced marriage. Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risks of a child going missing in future.” (page 16)

There have been a number of past Serious Case Reviews where absence from school and a lack of follow-up from the staff has led to children being put in serious harm’s way. The statutory guidance sets out our role to follow “a process of reasonable enquiry”.

At East Preston Infant School if a child is not in school and the parents have not made contact we follow the procedures set out in our attendance policy which can be found on the website.

1. We contact the first main contact person for the child by telephone to find out why the child was absent. If contact is made and we are satisfied with reason we would update attendance records with the appropriate code. If the member of staff has concerns about the child’s absence they will speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
2. If contact couldn’t be made we would move to the 2nd and further contact persons. If contact is made and we are satisfied with reason we would update attendance records with the appropriate code. If the member of staff has concerns about the child’s absence they will speak to the DSL.
3. If no contact can be made over the phone after 24 hours then the DSLs will visit the home to ensure the welfare of the child and their family. Appropriate action can then be taken based upon what the concern is.
4. If we were not satisfied with the reason given for the absence then it would be recorded as unauthorised on the registers.

Possible outcomes/ actions we may take as DSLs are

- To work with the family to improve their child’s attendance.
- To get external agencies involved to help support the family for a short period of time or there maybe a requirement for more long-term assistance.
- To make a referral to MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub)

## **School Council**

This term the School Council have designed their own badges to show the other children they are the class representatives. We have also been busy helping the school fundraise for different charities. We have sold poppies, bracelets and badges to raise money for the British Legion. We have sold badges, wristbands and headbands to raise money for Children in Need. We have also designed posters for a bake sale to raise money for UNICEF to help Refugee children in Syria. Finally, we had fun organising a craft stall at the East Preston Village Christmas Celebration day on 24<sup>th</sup> November. We were really pleased that the stall was busy and we raised £58.

## Reminders:

### Junior School Transfer/ Reception 2019



Please note that the **deadline for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019**. For those of you who have younger children due to start school in September 2019 please make sure that you apply for your place by the closing date of **15<sup>th</sup> January 2019**. 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.

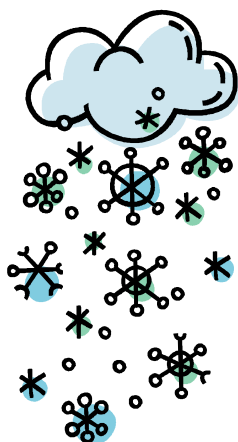
### Cold Weather Clothing

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.



### School Closure Procedures



It's that time of year again when the weather forecast starts to hint at snow falling in our area! 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 website or listen to Spirit FM, Splash FM 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 the 'ParentMail' alert system. 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.

### Governors Corner

I'm pleased to report that over the past few weeks we have had a good level of response to our recent advert for new governors enabling us to fill our current vacancies. We really appreciate the time, commitment and skills that people from the local community have offered the school. On behalf of the Governors I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

*Sue Nelson*  
*Chair of Governors*

## Dates for Your Diary

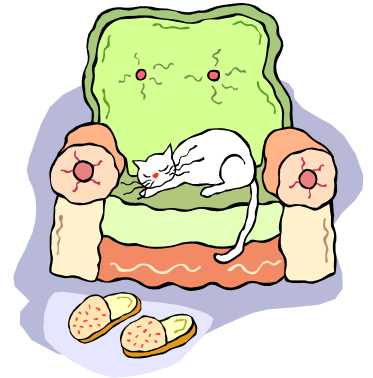
Attached are some dates for you to note on your calendar. Please check each newsletter for any updates or amendments.

## 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. With the lead up to Christmas there are lots of events happening at school, so please look carefully at the diary dates section of this newsletter.

*Claire New*

Claire New (Mrs)  
Headteacher





## Diary Dates

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	-	5.30 – 6.30pm Campfire Carols
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	-	FEPS Christmas Fair at EPJS
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	-	9.30am KS1 Christmas Play 2pm YR Christmas Play
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	-	9.30am YR Christmas Play 2pm KS1 Christmas Play
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Christmas Jumper Day Whole School Christmas lunch
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	-	9-10am Open Morning – all welcome
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	-	1.30pm Christmas Service at St Mary's Church am whole school Pantomime pm Christmas parties Terms ends at 3.15pm
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	-	<b>INSET day - school closed to pupils</b>

**The term will restart for the children on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019**

**Other INSET days:-**  
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019**  
**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019**  
**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019**



## Friends of East Preston School

### FEPS Christmas Fayre - Friday 7th December

This term has been a busy one for FEPIS and now the **FEPS Christmas Fayre** is only a week away! It promises to be a really fantastic evening. There are some amazing prizes in our **Grand Raffle**, including a Family Bounce at Flip Out in Chichester; 2 Child Passes to Drusilla's; a Back, Neck and Shoulder massage at Something for the Weekend and lots, lots more. The ever popular '£5.00 prize every time' stall returns plus 'Adopt a Furry Friend', our brilliant Bottle and Chocolate tombola's, pamper room, wrap a present, Santa's Storytime – the list goes on!



**Raffle Tickets!**

There is still time to buy extra tickets for the **Grand Raffle**, please ask in the office or alternatively drop us a message via our Facebook page or email us at [fepis@epinf.co.uk](mailto:fepis@epinf.co.uk)

In addition to all the fun on the night, and for the first time, we have a **Silent Auction** running this year too! If you haven't already checked out what prizes are up for grabs make sure you do very soon as all bids must be made by 9am on Friday 7 December.

The link to our Auction page is:

[https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/auction/detail/auction\\_id/2908/allow\\_bid/1](https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/auction/detail/auction_id/2908/allow_bid/1)

The fantastic Auction prizes on offer are:- Afternoon Tea for Two at Hilton Avisford Park; a Family Ticket to see Cinderella at the Regis Centre; a Family Ticket to Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre, a Harbour Park Annual Pass, a voucher for a Wash, Cut and Blow dry at Curtis Diamond in Rustington and an MOT and Valet at Hares Garage in East Preston. It's a great opportunity to grab a Christmas present for a friend, something for the whole family or maybe a treat for yourself!

A very big thank you for your support for this event, and especially your generosity on our donation days. It wouldn't happen without your help and we hope to raise lots of money to help both our schools.

### Film Afternoon





Since the last FEPIS newsletter we have had our termly **Film Afternoon** at the end of September. The children enjoyed their afternoon watching Nut Job 2: Nutty by Nature and we were pleased to raise £260.00.

### **Glow in the Dark disco**

At the beginning of this month we held our **Glow in the Dark disco**. Both disco sessions were really busy and a lot of fun! As well as plenty of dancing the children particularly enjoyed the lucky dip! They sampled the delicious cakes on offer thanks to your generous donations as well as sweet treats and most went home sporting a tattoo or two! The evening raised an amazing £690 so thank you again for supporting us!

### **Bags of Support**

As well as the disco and the film afternoon we have also had our termly '**Bags of Support**' collection which raised £115.00. This was less than last term's so we are hoping our next one scheduled for 23rd January will prove more popular.

We have also been selling our pre-loved uniform and we raised a few extra £'ss with our Friday afternoon cake and sweet sale after half term.

### **Thank you!**

If you have volunteered at any of our events this term we extend our gratitude and thanks. There is still time to offer support for our Christmas Fayre – we can never have enough volunteers so don't hesitate if you can spare some time, even if it's just half an hour, it all helps!



For our last FEPIS meeting in early November we had asked Mrs New for a wish list from her staff team, thinking particularly about the things they would love that sadly the main school budget just doesn't stretch to. The list included a set of 30 glockenspiels, a music trolley, a workshop in African or Indian music, Geography books, globes, boards and magnets, Design and Technology supplies, Science resources, Art collage materials, watercolours, sand trays and number puzzles, plus a set of role play equipment for Robins class as they were the only Reception class not to have any.

All of the above totalled just over £3,000 and after a discussion and taking into account the funds available to us at the time, the committee voted to fund everything on the list, much to the delight of Mrs New and latterly, the staff.

Many of the items have already been purchased and are being enjoyed by the children and staff. The children in Mrs Payne's class were so pleased with their new 'role play' equipment that they took time to write thank you letters.

It was great to be able to do this and it certainly wouldn't have been possible without the help and support from everyone that supports FEPIS events, so a very sincere thank you. The money raised really does make a difference to our children's experience in school.

### **Christmas shopping? Don't forget Easyfundraising!**

With Christmas soon upon us please bear FEPIS in mind if you are buying gifts online and check out **Easyfundraising.co.uk**



Easyfundraising is the UK's biggest charity shopping fundraising site. It's simple to use and it's free! For all your online shopping use Easyfundraising to shop, at no extra charge to you, with over 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Booking.com, Ebay and M & S to name just a few!

To get started simply log onto their website <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> and choose **FEPIS – East Preston Infant School – West Sussex** as the cause you wish to support. It is completely free to do this. The next step is to visit your favourite retailers via the Easyfundraising website and every time you shop FEPIS will receive a free donation based on a percentage of the amount you spend.

If you need any help finding us on Easyfundraising's website please just ask and happy shopping!

#### **Next term....**

Taking a look forward to next term we are planning a 'Fashion and Fizz' event in February; an Easter Bingo night in April, which will be a completely new event for FEPIS, as well as the usual fun for the children with our regular Film Afternoon and Disco!



We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Fayre next week at the Junior School and we hope that lots of you are lucky enough to win some of the fabulous prizes on offer!

Very best wishes.

**FEPIS**