

Newsletter September 2020

Welcome

Welcome to our new families, new children and new staff. We hope you will be happy here at East-the-Water Primary and enjoy your first term with us. If you are a new parent please ensure you keep us updated of any changes with your mobile or email contacts. This way we can communicate with you in an emergency and keep you up to date with school information.

We are really looking forward to seeing all our children again on Monday and working in a fairly normal way.

Many thanks to everyone

Thank you for your gifts, cards and words of encouragement last term. We appreciated your kindness very much. Well done to everyone who attended school, we all got to the end of the term safely and in good health!

COVID 19 test packs for schools

The Government has announced that it is providing schools this term with a small number of tests for families who have a barrier to reaching a test centre eg significant health concerns. We will not administer these tests ourselves, testing will remain the responsibility of parents. We will hold these tests in reserve for parents who have emergencies or unable to access a testing centre. We will continue to alert parents if their child who becomes unwell with the intention to send the child home. We will continue to instruct parents to collect their child, take their child to be tested and update the school of the test result before returning their child to school. This way everyone is safe.

Cabin Provision

We will continue to review arrangements for Cabin's breakfast and afterschool clubs and hopefully have the provision up and running in the near future when it's safe to do so. We will give you plenty of notice.

Dropping off routines

We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday. Below is a quick reminder about how the dropping off and picking up will work this term. It is important that children and staff are exposed to as little stress as possible at the beginning and end of the school day. We appreciate your concerns but these arrangements are to keep children safe. If driving to school, please avoid parking in front of the Alverdiscott Road or Mines Road school gates, again we need to keep children safe while being dropped off.

- **Transition Videos**

There are some transition videos for next year's Reception, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 (current Nursery, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4). These videos explain which entrance to use and where to go on the first day.

- **Arriving**

Nursery and Reception

You will have already received instructions in your packs regarding drop off arrangements using Alverdiscott Road entrance. Reception initially will arrive at 9.00am for first few days and Nursery will arrive between 9.00-9.15am.

Yr1, Yr2 and Yr3

Gates will open 8.40-9.00 am. Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 will use the Alverdiscott Road entrance. Please use the one way system in place, say your goodbyes before you get to the gate to avoid crowds and drop your child at the gate. Staff will be at the gate to welcome your child, parents will not come into the school grounds at this time. If you have any questions or need to pass information to the school please phone the school office as talking to a member of staff at the start of the day will cause a build-up of parents. If you also have children in Year 4, 5 or 6, who do not walk on their own, you may bring them to this entrance. Gates will close at 9.00am, it is extremely important that children are not late as this will cause unnecessary congestion at the office entrance. Late pupils arriving after 9.00am will be redirected to Mines Road. It is imperative that reception and nursery drop offs are not interrupted by late arrivals from other year groups.

- **Y4, 5 and 6**

Gates will open 8.40-9.00 am. Y4, 5 and 6 will use the Mines Road entrance. Please use the one way system in place, say your goodbyes before you get to the gate to avoid crowds and drop your child at the gate. Staff will be at the gate to welcome your child, parents will not come into the school grounds at this time. If you have any questions or need to pass information to the school please phone the school office as talking to a member of staff at the start of the day will cause a build-up of parents. If you also have a child in Reception, Y1, Y2 or Y3 then you may bring all children to the Alverdiscott entrance. Gates will close at 9.00am, it is extremely important that children are not late as this will cause unnecessary congestion at the office entrance.

End of Day

Gates will open at 3.00pm and the collection period will be from 3.00pm-3.15pm. Only one parent should enter the school. Please use the same entrance that you use in the morning (see above). You will need to walk to your child's class and wait outside, away from the door until your child is sent out. If on the first day you are unsure where to go there will be staff outside who will be more than happy to direct you.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ms Isaac who was married at the beginning of August and is now Mrs Huggons. We are so delighted that the wedding went ahead despite restrictions and a delightful celebration took place.

Ms Couch had her first baby, a lovely little girl called Niah. Both Ms Couch and Niah are doing well.

School Council Election

Since our new members joined we have been unable to meet as a Council. Mrs Smart is thinking of creative ways for our council to support school business and to involve new voted members Blake and Michelle!

New teaching careers!

Ms Baker and Ms Lewis had such a successful trainee teacher year that they are returning to their own classes this term in Year 4 and Reception. We wish them good luck in their future teaching careers.

Key dates for your diary

Please note that you can print your own school calendar with holiday dates for 2020, 2021 and 2022 from our school website.

Autumn term Monday 7th September

Autumn half term 26th-30th October (this is not an extended break as in previous year)

Christmas break 21st December -4th January 2021

INSET Friday 12th February- school is closed for training day

Spring half term 15th – 19th February 2021

Bank Holiday - Friday 2nd April

Easter Break 5th – 16th April

Bank Holiday -Monday 3rd May

Summer half term break 27th May- 4th June

Summer break begins Monday 26th July